

MIDWAYVILLE/ MYSTIC MIDWAY

Barron Scott Levkoff testimonials

'The Museum of Wonders's Mystic Midway on the top floor plays host to our inner change. All manner of goblin and fairy will ask and remind us what terrible, whimsical, and magical events have made us who we are. The Edwardian Ball is not a costume ball, it is not a performance. It is a metamorphosis of guests and performers alike.'

-THEATERSTORM.com

'For those who were craving more interaction the fourth floor was the place to be. There at the Mystic Midway Edwardians could collect "whimsical" or "terrible" dollars by telling performers stories and then spend those dollars on activities such as, getting their fortune told, purchasing trinkets or speaking to a mystical creature. '

-Fshnmagazine.com

'What's also inspired Levkoff is San Francisco's costume-driven Cosplay culture and events like Burning Man. 'I also love good production value and commitment to craft, narrative and a guest experience...My real passion is to create immersive worlds where everyone can come in costume and participate.'"

~VARIETY

'But the third floor was my favorite of all: the Museum of Wonders. With live music by ever-changing bands, guests were entertained by all kinds of performers: a lady with arms full of feathers that seemed to reach the sky, actors playing out characters that made us do different tasks (like telling magical stories in exchange for currency that could be traded for items at the Trading Post), fortune tellers mystifying wide-eyed patrons and so much more...'

-CURIOUS CREATURES

"The Mystic Midway employs classic Circus, Carnival, Sideshow, Medicine Show imagery, narratives and archetypes as means for flirting with possibility and permission. Wonder, curiosity, and a sense of adventure open the doors as guests explore the Midway and its odd characters..."

— ArtsVegas.com

"The Mystic Midway is a community, a performance troupe, a roving carnival, and a strategy for connecting people in a whimsical, playful and creative way. It's made up of professional actors, dancers, clowns, mystics, social activists, musicians, costume designers, graphic artists and more..."

— Shareable.net

'I will say from a production standpoint that your work was outstandingly put together, very thoroughly thought out, with remarkable attention to detail and presentation. The characters you enlisted really seemed to live the parts and added a wonderful twist to the ambiance of The World's Faire. The Mystic Midway has the ability to completely transform many a space, especially ones where people can see, hear, and experience the mystery inside!'

-Justin Katz, Producer-Creator, EDWARDIAN BALL

'Scott and his Mystic Midway never fail to deliver enchanting, heartfelt and deeply moving experiences at all levels of resource and infrastructure. He thinks deeply about the experience he creates, engages performers who are able to embody and transmit his vision, and transports participants into endlessly creative, exquisitely moving and inventive alternative worlds.'

-Dana Harrison, Managing Director at Theater Bay Area

'The organization was very professional, and the costumes were immensely creative. The audience's participation of costume and spirit, seemed as though it was a collaboration with the production itself. The little details, from artistically designed faux money for games, to the performances on stage, finally topped off with the beautiful former Freemason Temple, today called the Regency Ballroom. This venue was the perfect setting which induced an atmosphere that transported us, the audience -- to another time and reality.'

-Huffington Post

'...I'd been feeling in such a funk all week, and embodying Lady Fortuna as a golden mirror with a simple assortment of Story cards was a perfect way to get me out of my own head and into something deeper and richer. People loved reflecting on their stories and sharing them.'

N, a Mystic Midway Ensemble player

'The cards were really speaking to people's soul potential, and urging people to dive deep within to cull their inner depths for transformation. Urging people to tap inside themselves for unmined gold!'

J, a Mystic Midway Salon guest

'In our evening's explorations, whimsy unexpectedly lead into profundity and offhand remarks transmute into clear insight and soul truths. Trust your Carnival Barker, Master Puppeteer, and dear Professor to plunge higher into the depths of hilarity and the heights of glittering darkness. Most of all, relinquish your need to understand everything before acting in the rich sweetness of the moment... Submit, lovingly, achingly, to the Mystic Midway!'

Mystic Midway Salon guest

'Don't worry if you don't know what to expect... You started life without knowing what to expect, either! The Mystic Midway is a jam-session for the soul. Just bring your imagination and heart, and suspend your disbelief at the door.'

Mystic Midway guest

'If the whole world is the new temple, and if our friends are the handmaidens of our initiation, then the Mystic Midway is the stage where it all gets down and rocks out. From the Professor's soul-workout riddles to Mr. Nobody's hunger for your dead ideas, there couldn't be a more profoundly playful, or perfectly modern, rendition of the tasks once carried out by the ancient mystery schools. Seriously, the magic thickens the air and makes me weepy every time. So enjoy a draught of the medicine of your own juicy life, because in the Mystic Midway it becomes clear that what we transform in ourselves, we really do with - and for - the whole of Humanity.'

Mystic Midway Stories of Gold Salon guest

'It was an intense pleasure and honor to experience the Mystic Midway, first hand! I think spaces like you created, for deeper unfolding and growth, are what I came to California to find, though I never dreamed they would take such organic, magickal and creative forms. You have quite a formula that is working wonders, and I'm excited to see it unveiled itself even further.'

Mystic Midway Stories of Gold Salon guest

'excitement wonder comfort and ability when playing the game with awesome allies, only two of whom I hadn't met before but felt right at home with. Swaying down the Midway with magicians on a possibility-filled evening. I see how the Mystic Midway synthesizes the talents of each one of its players. I had been looking for ways to synthesize gifts... and when you said you wanted to take it out to the streets and such, R became excited that his longtime vision of a pop up theater could be watered, and the shaman's work of souls, while in playtime, could be clocked in for. '

Mystic Midway Stories of Gold Salon guest

*'So wonderful to see the grand experiment in action.
It worked in so many "weird" ways.
Everyone was amazing!'*

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'What a great night! Thank you all so much.'

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'The cards were really speaking to people's soul potential, and urging people to dive deep within to cull their inner depths for transformation. Urging people to tap inside themselves for unmined gems!'

'I asked, "Are you ready for an adventure, a journey?"...the response was, "Yes!"...I asked, "Where would you want to go?"...the response was, "to the land of visions and dreams". I also had a great conversation about each individuals 'mystic fire' and what characterizes that. I loved hearing all the different responses and giving my own as well.

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'I really look forward to more tea parties.'

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'I loved that there was a thin veil between guests and performers. I got asked just as many Midway questions as I was asking'

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'Thank you to THE MYSTIC MIDWAY for creating a forum in which our alter-egos can have a voice!'

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'Encouraging guests to make tea-puns. After offering to pour a cup of invisibili-tea from the emp-tea pot, people were enthusiastic to start whole conversations of puns with the nobili-tea. That was unplanned but it took off and was a small way for plain clothes guests to feel good about their contributions to the party ambiance.'

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'There were many who were arrested by the question we asked of leaving something old at the door. Some made the gesture of emptying their brain thoughts into the fire. Others joined words to the motion. Those who shared long stories changed their physical gait as they joined the party, letting go of the previous moment and stepping freely into the Midway. Still others came back to the fire during the party to think a little more, share, or examine their present feelings and emotions during the salon. It was a great treat to greet and to listen.'

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'Monsieur M' wanted me to let you all know that he enjoyed discussing time travel with everyone while drawing parallels between 18th century France and the alien spaceship in a future time continuum where Rococo.co is currently based for the startup incubation. He also reveled in some engaging repartee regarding the mysterious power of black holes – and other massive astronomical bodies – to warp the very fabric of time and space.

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'People were packed pretty tight to the "stage" so we had to move people aside to get through. People are very responsive to us in this crowd. They're our kind of crowd. They react to what we're doing. I could look in their eyes without fear. Everyone was really in the zone with us. I think something S. said about "The language of the Midway" got me to really try out some more syllables and consonants when I sang. People laughed and cheered and cried with us. They were right there with us. They were so ready for us. I can't really explain it in words. The girls danced around us as we sang. I felt so joyous and happy and free. I can't believe this is the life I

get to live. It's a magical life. I felt like we were fairy warriors from the far reaches of the galaxy set upon the earth to enchant people with our music. What a perfect art form for us to fully express ourselves! This is the life I always wanted to lead, and here I am, living it!!!!!! It's really awesome, let me just say that'

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'Thank you for creating a space and your mythic work to share with the world. I am so glad to be a part of all of this. Thank you to everyone. I loved my many interactions in the lovely tea tent that 'A' held space in. Many magical occurrences. People really got in touch with their journeys both real tangible and fantastic. Interacting with fellow characters and assisting where I could while being a part of the salon in a role where I could experience what attendees experience was really amazing. Powerful magic, storytelling! All awesome!'

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What a beautiful event! I loved all the pieces everyone brought, both attendees and Midway players. Feeling really honored to be a part of this community, putting the "We" in "Weird", feeling part of SF's lineages while still being present in the now. I'd been feeling in such a funk all week, and embodying Fortuna as a golden mirror with a simple assortment of cards was a perfect way to get me out of my own head and into something deeper and richer. People loved reflecting on their stories and telling them (or, in a couple cases, not telling, but I could feel the richness of something too deep to be told in words.) Thank you, thank you, thank you, everybody.

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