

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to nominate my dad and boss, Robert Rodriguez, for the 2013 IFEA Hall of Fame. He is a highly accomplished producer of the Florida Renaissance Festival. He has been producing festivals and events for over 25 years. I believe he is a great nominee for this prestigious award because of what he has accomplished by himself, in producing such a large-scale event with over 100,000 patrons. In addition to the production of the event, he consistently gives his time to the community and is always looking for new things to do that will benefit the community including indigent or abused children and women in need. Read more below for additional information!

Individual Submitting Nominee:

Name: Jackie Love
Organization: Bobby Rodriguez Productions & Florida Renaissance Festival
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Nominee Information:

Name: Robert Rodriguez
Position: President and CEO
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Nomination Questions:

1. Explain how the nominee has made a difference to the festivals and events industry.

Bobby Rodriguez is truly what some would call a "Renaissance man."

In addition to creating and producing two Renaissance festivals in Florida and producing one in Ohio, Bobby has been an award-winning actor, musician, singer, event and theatrical producer and director for more than 30 years. The Bobby Rodriguez Orchestra, an 18-piece big band, is a fixture on the South Florida music scene performing in front of thousands. He frequently

produces concerts where his orchestra will perform, and donate the proceeds to his top local charities, such as the Prestige Club of Broward.

Working with his clients, Bobby and his company have helped produce the Florida Winterfest month-long celebration for several years, produced the Carbonell Awards Show for the South Florida Entertainment Writers Association for four years (South Florida's version of the "Tony" Awards), have co-produced VIVA Broward! (Formerly the area's largest Latin-Jazz and Hispanic Heritage festival) since its inception in 1989. He has produced hundreds of events for his non-profit, social and corporate clients. In 1992, Bobby created the multiple, International award-winning Florida Renaissance Festival (FLARF), the largest in the state. But his orchestra and events are not his only passion. Bobby also takes time to volunteer in not-for-profit charities several times a year, including the Prestige Club, 16th Century, Susanne B. Anthony, A Child is Missing, James Jr. Fund, Doctores Sin Fronteras and also participates in Holiday events such as the Toy Run. Bobby has also helped develop not-for-profit events within 16th Century that provides renaissance-themed classes, free to the public. The classes range from dancing, acting, herbs for health, and more.

Additionally, Bobby has created amazing facets within his own Florida Renaissance Festival that focus on children. He has created a school program for children of all ages to visit the festival, which includes a renaissance-themed curriculum guide, novels and movies that effectively portray the renaissance era, and other important facts in our history pertaining to the 16th century. He also created the award-winning Scout Program, which allows girl and boy scouts of all ages to enter the festival free of cost, and participate in a "challenge" that allows the scouts to earn a Renaissance Festival patch at the end of their quest.

This coupled with his passion and dedication to serve our community and consistently donate his time to improving the festivals and event industry makes him the perfect candidate for the Hall of Fame Award!

2. Submit a general overview of the nominee's career, including organizations they have worked for, positions held, titles, awards, etc.

Bobby has been producing and directing events for over 30 years. He established Bobby Rodriguez Productions in 1981 to provide a full-service entertainment and event company. This will become the base of his award-winning events in the future. In 1992, Bobby created the world-renown Florida Renaissance Festival, and grew the show from 1 one weekend festival to a six weekend festival averaging over 100,000 patrons, and now a second location in Miami that runs for three weekends.

The Florida Renaissance Festival has gained prestigious recognition, including:

- Selected as one of Southeast Tourism Society's Top 20 Events
- Special Events Magazine Gala Awards "Best Festival", "Best Wedding"
- IFEA Pinnacle Award "Best Event", IFEA Pinnacle Awards for 2005- "Best Photo"
- FFEA Award - "2010" Best Website
- FFEA Award – "2010" Program Within An Event for Pet's Weekend
- FFEA Award – "2005 SUNsational Professional of the Year" Awarded to Bobby Rodriguez, Producer; 2006 – Best Partnership Program
- FFEA Award - "Best"... TV ad... Radio spot... Souvenir... Event Photo... Brochure... Promotion Award, Community Partnership, Commemorative Poster Award, Best T-Shirt Award, Best Web Site Award
- South FL Parenting Magazine – Named "Best Outdoor Event" 7 years in a row
- South FL Parenting Magazine – Named "Best Family Festival"
- Southeast Tourism Society – Named "Top 20 Events"
- Biz Bash – Named "Florida's 50 Hottest Annual Events"
- Boca Life Magazine – Named "Best Festival for Kids 2005"
- South Florida Blood Bank- Named the "Everyday Hero"
- The New Times- Named "Best Festival in Broward"
- Gala Award Winner – 1993

Bobby has also won an array of prestigious awards, including:

- "Professional of the Year" by the Florida Festival & Events Association.

Bobby's leadership skills have resulted in his being named to the board and/or an officer of many organizations including:

- Living History, Inc. (Founder and President Emeritus)
- Festivals Association of Broward (FAB-past president)
- Florida Festivals & Events Association (FFEA)
- International Special Events Society (ISES)
- Professional Actors Association of Florida (PAAF)
- Florida Motion Picture & Television Association (FMPTA)
- Interested Members of the Performing Arts Center Team (IMPACT)
- Light of the World Clinic
- International Special Events Society
- Prestige Club

His commitment to his community and his industry has led him to be a member of:

- Screen Actors Guild (SAG)
- International Festivals & Events Association (IFEA)
- American Federation of Musicians (A. F.of M.)
- Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce
- Broward County Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Fort Lauderdale's Convention and Visitors Bureau
- National Association of Catering Executives
- Hospitality Sales & Marketing Association International (HSMAI)
- Deerfield Beach Chamber of Commerce
- Visit Florida (FLAUSA)
- Greater Fort Lauderdale Lodging & Hospitality Association
- Rotary Club Fort Lauderdale
- Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Miami Festival and Events Association

3. Describe the level of involvement the nominee has had with the IFEA.

Longtime member of IFEA

4. What void would there be if he/she were not an event professional.

With Bobby as an event professional, there would be a great void in our community and the State of Florida. He has personally participated in many events that have helped shape the culture of our community and without him there would not be such a rich history. The Florida Renaissance Festival and tourism in South Florida for the Renaissance Festival would not be what it is today, it would not exist. The charitable organizations that he dedicates his time and resources to would definitely have a large void without him. Not many people step up to the plate when it comes to participating or producing something wholly to benefit the community; but he does, and without a second thought. He is a successful producer that uses his talents and resources in many ways to make the communities of South Florida better overall.

On top of being a brilliant producer and philanthropist, he is a family man, a great father and grand-father. His family is always important to him and a main focus despite his busy schedule. This is a quality that I believe is important in every position, including that of event professionals, where the hustle and bustle of events can often prevail over normal family functions. Not only is this commendable, but this shows the community what kind of person he is and directly defines his events.

For these reasons and many many more, I nominate him!