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By ANNE MANCUSO

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'Bronx Rising!': Screening and Discussion (Friday) For those with ties to Puerto Rico, the pre-Lenten Carnival in Ponce, which is several centuries old, is as joyous a celebration as Mardi Gras in New Orleans. And while Carnival is not such a big deal in New York, the Puerto Rican Day Parade is. Scattered among the marchers at the annual parade in New York are devilish figures known as vejigantes, wearing colorful and often fierce-looking masks similar to those found in Ponce.

The masks are the focus of an event at 8 p.m. at the Bronx Music Heritage Center Laboratory, 1303 Louis Nine Boulevard, at Freeman Street, Crotona Park East. Sponsored by the center and City Lore, the evening, part of a monthly series devoted to the cultural life of the borough, will feature a screening of "Caraballo, Masks and Carnival (the Ponce Carnival Masks, According to Miguel A. Caraballo García)," a documentary about a master Puerto Rican mask maker, in Spanish, with English subtitles.



Photo credit: Olga Ayala

Several experts will discuss the art, including Felipe Rangel, a Puerto Rican-born mask maker who now lives and works in New York. Néstor Murray-Irizarry, an educator and director of Casa Paoli, an arts center in Ponce that produced the documentary, will also take part.

The percussionist Bobby Sanabria, a co-curator of the event with Elena Martínez of City Lore, will be the moderator. whedco.org/arts/bmhclab; \$5 donation. (Anne Mancuso)