

Gnomus, Caretaker of the Earth

By Puppets with GUTS & Nick Barnes Puppets

A big puppet walking tour spectacle

Gnomus the giant caretaker of plants and stories, unearths untold facts about climate change and the environment, engaging family and festival audiences in themes of extinction and conservation through a devised site-responsive big puppet spectacle.

Gnomus can engage with local landmarks, historic buildings, heritage sites, botanic gardens, and similar as a bespoke site-responsive work.

Gnomus is available as a walkabout act to street theatre festivals and outdoor arts events; characterfully interacting with family audiences.

Shows per day: 6
Show length: 15 mins
No. on the road: 6
Video link: click [HERE](#) to view



Show Fees

Walkabout: £1900 plus on costs
Bespoke guided tour: £10k -12k for 2 week residency developing a site-responsive work
Target Audience: Family, Children, Local Audiences, Young People
Genre: Outdoor, Street Theatre, Guided Tour, Walkabout, Puppetry
Scale: Small-scale interactive puppet (40-150 families every 15 min outing)
Dev. stage: Fully developed, touring show

Originally commission for the BBC Learning Department for the BBC Proms Ten Pieces 2017 and is a collaboration between Nick Barnes Puppets and Puppets with GUTS, and then recommissioned for Kew Gardens in 2018.

Book for 2019: bookus@puppetswithguts.com

Creative Team

Creative Producer: Ivan Thorley
Designer: Nick Barnes
Director: Andrew Dawson
Writer: Andrew McCaldon
Costume Designer: Alison Alexander
Consultant Producer: Robin Morley
Consultant Director: Claire Rafferty
Puppet Makers: Charlie Tymms
Maia Kirkman-Richards
Oli Simonon
Seb Mayer
Jo May

Cast: Caroline Bowman
Sam Clark
Iskandar Sharazuddin
Katrina Wesseling
Richard Booth
Bertie Harris
Ethan Catchpole



Further Info

After a hugely successful 52 day run at Kew where 35,000 audiences were engaged in 2018, Gnomus is available for touring from 2019 onwards.

Each bespoke, site responsive work uses the performance structure created for 52 days of shows at Kew in 2018, including Gnomus – an eccentric bumbling caring character; which is a large four meter high bunraku puppet, operated by four puppeteers. Alongside Gnomus is a human tour guide character who performs on a 2ft stand. Gnomus and the Tour Guide each have four mini rig speakers for vocal amplification; both are very mobile.

We consult local experts about the site and devise a responsive script. The resulting performance can be up to x 15min walking tours of the site that engage directly 40 to 150 family audiences per performance, many more indirectly. We find ideas about the site, how, why it was built, interweaving stories, finding a contemporary context for the work.

Each site-responsive commission requires two weeks total to create the work; one week consulting, devising, writing; one week rehearsal with puppeteers and creative team. Gnomus has been presented at Kew, engaging 35,000 family audiences with themes of extinction, challenges plants face, compelling a new generation of environmentalists.



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The Company

Puppets with Guts is a high-quality, big puppet theatre company. Our mission is to inspire people, have fun, and explore new ways people can experience and reflect on the world we live in through big interactive spectacular puppetry. In 2018, our work we reached over 40,000 people in outdoors settings.

We're committed to developing educational methods and community engagement, providing workshops and interactive presentations to inspire and develop young people's creative practice, engaging hard to reach communities. Throughout 2016-17 our '*Kids Create*' programme worked with children at risk of gang grooming in one of the UK's most deprived wards. We also run short intensive workshop programme and provide interactive making objects for festival settings.

