

My Shadow and Me

Tour pack 2017



Performed by Drew Colby

Commissioned by Junction, Goole, and funded by the Arts Council England

Junction Goole
Town
Council



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My Shadow and Me

The performance

A fun and engaging show for children and family audiences made out of shadows and reflected light.

My Shadow and Me is like a cartoon created live out of nothing but darkness and light. One person (and his shadow) meet and go on an incredible, imaginative, shadowy journey where creatures emerge, engage and transform beautifully. The show uses minimal language in combination with electronic music, a kazoo, a shaker and non-verbal voice effects. Little encounters between characters are explored and tiny stories unfold. Many are funny, some are sweet. The ever fascinating and adorable hand shadow bunny makes an appearance as part of a simple magic trick, and the show ends with a colourful and impressive finale in which multiple shadow characters appear all at the same time – made with just two hands!!

A simple, theatrical blend of amazing skill, simplicity, humour and shadow magic. Suitable for children aged 4 and over.

This is the third production commissioned by Junction, Goole, with funding from the Arts Council England. The production focuses on the idea of our shadows and our relationship with them, inspired by the poem “My Shadow” by Robert Louis Stevenson.

My Shadow and Me will premiere at Junction in Goole, East Riding of Yorkshire, on the 16th of September 2017.

Watch the trailer here: vimeo.com/224125270

Watch the premiere showcase here: vimeo.com/237434434



Touring information

Performance Specifications

Running Time:	45 minutes, no interval
Age Suitability:	4+
Language:	Non-verbal
Audience size:	Flexible and subject to venue capacity
Cast:	1 performer

Technical Requirements

Space / stage:	3m wide, 3.5m deep, 2.5m high minimum
Lighting:	The show is self-sufficient. Requires a full blackout space and access to power sockets
Sound:	Mini-jack required onstage
Equipment:	The show is self-sufficient. We provide the onstage lights and screen; where possible we would use the venue screen if it is towards the back of the stage.
Technical support:	Minimal requirements such as advance information about the space
Get-in time:	1.5 hour prior to the performance
Get-out time:	30 minutes

Logistical details

Cost:	Between £250 - £550 per performance; total costs are subject to number of shows, venue capacity and location
Venue provisions:	Stage / space for the performance and marketing support
Access:	Audio description, British Sign Language interpretation and/or captions can be included in the performance subject to your venue access policy and provisions
Tour 2017/2018:	Available for bookings from September 2017 onwards
Additional activities:	Workshops for children and adults (go to page 5)

We are happy to discuss with you suitable arrangements to meet your venue and programme requirements. Please get in touch.

Workshops

We can offer a choice of activities for your venue in conjunction with the show.

Workshops can include specific ideas and activities for:

- creating individual animals with your hands,
- techniques for animating hand shadow creatures, and
- methods for giving the shadow-puppets a character.

From a simple activity where participants learn three easy animals, to more advanced sessions focusing on movement and technology, the workshop sessions are a natural follow-on from the performance, as audience members are always keen to have a go themselves.

The flexible format of the workshops makes it possible to introduce a theme or topic to the session and to tailor it for children or adults.

We can discuss your preferences and requirements to create a bespoke workshop suitable for your space, programme and audience.



School workshops, Goole, June 2017

Quotes

“Met you at the Lime. I was just sitting there after your performance. Gobsmacked by such a clever talented showman. Keep it up. You are awesome and everyone should go and see you.”

Sue Gould, Audience member (June 2017)

"I saw a workshop at a school and a public show and thought both were excellent. They engaged well with all the children. To keep an audience from 3 to 70 engaged and entertained – at times squealing with delight – was no mean feat. The puppetry was inventive, the storytelling accomplished and the music fantastic."

Ellen Thorpe, Blaize Rural Touring



Reviews

Nature brought alive by shadowplay

By Sharad Kohli, The Times of India, 7th February 2015

<https://tinyurl.com/TimesofIndia-SharadKohli>

Hunting the duck – a hand shadow workshop

By Kristin Fredricksson, Animations Online, 20th March 2013

<https://tinyurl.com/AnimationsOnline-Fredricksson>

About Shadowgraphy

What is it?

Hand Shadows (or Shadowgraphy) is the art of creating and animating shadow images using little more than the performer's own hands.

It is also known as 'shadowgraphy' or 'ombromanie'. It has been described as "cinema in silhouette". Performers of the art are often called 'shadowgraphists', 'shadowgraphers' or 'hand shadowgraphers'.

How old is it?

Hand shadows are an ancient form of puppetry, probably as old as humans. The artform has evolved over time and through many generations, sometimes handed down like an oral tradition, sometimes added to by the discovery of a new shape or technique."

How do you create 'shadowgraphy'?

The puppeteer uses his or her hands to cast shadows of animals, people and objects onto a flat surface.

The light source used for hand shadows is small and bright - a candle, a torch (with the lens and reflector removed) or any very small light (e.g. an LED light with no reflector or lens). The shadows are projected onto a white screen either from the front or the back. The performer sits or stands between the light source and the screen.

The performer watches the shadows being cast rather than his or her hands during the performance, as this helps to create the shapes and movements accurately.

Who is it for?

Everyone! The magic of light and dark, shadows and shapes captivates young and old alike. Hand shadow puppets are a particularly engaging form of puppetry. Audiences watch the screen and instantly try to shape their hands into what they see. It is the only puppet show you can take the puppets home with you literally in your hands at the end of the performance!

In Drew Colby's hands the art-form is a source of comedy, beauty and wonder.



About Drew Colby

Drew has worked with puppets for over 30 years.

He began with glove puppets and marionettes at the age of 12, whilst at school in Namibia, performing regularly at functions.

From 1995 to 1998 he worked at the Playhouse Puppet Company in Durban, South Africa. From this experience he developed work using open-stage short-string marionettes and rod puppets. The culmination of this period was a performance of "Madipetsana and the Milk bird" at the 1999 International Festival of Marionette Art in Prague, Czech Republic.

Drew returned to the UK in 2000 and worked at the Little Angel Theatre, in London, notably with Steve Tiplady on "Jonah and the Whale" in 2002-2003. During this time, he also created "Little Red Riding Hood", a performance that contained his first exploration of hand shadows. The show had only one pre-made puppet, and this led Drew to explore "instant puppetry", where there are no pre-made puppets, only everyday objects being brought to life to tell a story.

In 2011 Drew was awarded the Puppet Centre Trust professional development bursary to travel to Azerbaijan and work with Georgian hand shadow theatre Budrugana Gagra.

Drew has performed in venues and at festivals across the globe: Austria, Czech Republic, France, Finland, Germany, Romania, Slovenia, the UK, Egypt, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda, India, Turkey, Israel, Canada and Chile

His handshadows have been featured in television programmes on the BBC and Channel Four. He has also created shadow sequences for B&Q, Nintendo, Lodoira, Suso and Sainsburys.

