





## Creative outline

The tale of Reynard the Fox follows the woodlands most infamous scoundrel who prides himself on being the trickster of the forest. But when the Woodland Court announces the theft of the King's Crown Jewels the animal kingdom immediately blame the fox. Reynard must do everything he can to prove his innocence and avoid certain death, as well as maintaining his devious persona. Will the gift of his silver tongue be a shade too bright against his roguish red fur to save his own tail?

Reynard the Fox, is a new piece of engaging outdoor theatre for family audiences of all ages, using The Fabularium's unique aesthetic, strong imagery and all performed upon their traditional wooden cart. It features storytelling, puppetry, original live music and The Fabularium's bespoke animal headpieces.



**Established in 2010, The Fabularium** has produced work for outdoor events, festivals, carnivals and processions for over 6 years. Their initial 4 years saw them producing work annually for the Coventry Mysteries Festival, and since then they have been developing work for national and international touring in the forms of stories presented upon a traditional medieval pageant wagon and street walkabout acts.

**Following the success of The Town Band of Bremen**, The Fabularium have begun to devise new pieces of theatre from a range of old tales with more challenging morals for audiences, creating more complex stories filled with both vibrant comedy for all ages and a more mature edge.

**Company managers Gareth Price-Baghurst and Joshua Patel**, both freelance actor-musicians specialising in outdoor theatre for family audiences, are working closely with associate director Glenn Noble, Former Director of Spike Theatre, to produce new original work adapted from classic folklore.

Both Gareth and Joshua have extensive training in their artistic field, having both graduated from Coventry University and are both musicians with a passion for outdoor performance.

Gareth has worked closely with companies such as Stuff and Nonsense and Wooden Spoons Theatre which has gained him valuable experience in touring, outdoor performing and business management.

Previous companies Joshua has worked with include Teatr Biuro Podrozy, Frantic Assembly, the Lions part, the KILN Ensemble, Slingshot Effect Ltd, and ACLE, building his experience in physical, outdoor and devising performance.

Through The Fabularium they have both worked closely with the Lions part artistic director Sonia Ritter, and Strangeface artistic director Russell Dean.



**Associate Artist, Jessica Rowe** is a freelance actress, practitioner and choreographer. Jessica's practice lies within devising, directing, musical theatre and outdoor performance with an ever growing interest in puppetry and clowning.

**Glenn Noble – Associate Director**

Glenn is Senior Lecturer and Course Director for Theatre at Coventry University. He established Spike Theatre in Liverpool in 1993 and was Artistic Director until 2009, directing and devising all of the company's work during that period. He specializes in directing and actor training in physical styles of theatre performance and performs and researches long form improvisation. He instigated the Fabularium in 2010 as a training and performance project for undergraduates, and continues to act as a mentor for the company as it continues as an independent entity.

**Lou Lomas – Independent Outdoor Producer**

Lou has worked with Talking Birds Theatre Company for the past five years as a Freelance Producer, Project manager, and she is a Tour Booker for companies regionally and nationally having worked with : Appetite Stoke (The Kitchen Programme), Making More Outdoor Arts, Imagineer Productions, Pif-Paf, The Bone Ensemble, Everybody Dance, Theatre Absolute, The Fabularium, Highly Sprung and many more.



## How audiences engage with the work

The Fabularium's medieval carts deliver an exceptional spectacle to the eye and sits naturally in public spaces. Along with the visual aesthetic, the sound of live music and the energy given from the group of performing players, they offer a friendly and fun atmosphere that compels the public towards the performance space, and are welcomed by the players to process with them and attend the show.

Reynard the Fox offers exciting visuals with music and comedy to shape the world of animal tales that greets the public and invites them to join in the musical charade. The Fabularium strives to continue delivering highly engaging work that is accessible to all and captures the attention of a wide target audience.

## Performance history

The Fabularium has presented a number of shows for the Coventry Mysteries Festival, including The Ship of Fools and Reynard the Fox, which toured to three venues in Coventry. Following this, the company presented The Carnival of Animals and The Tale of Fulke Fitz Waryn, two static shows accompanied by multiple walkabout acts taking place around Coventry City Centre, including stilt-walking trees, animal character vignettes, and a naughty flock of sheep, to list a few.

The Fabularium have returned to Reynard the Fox to devise a new version with three performers.

Reynard the Fox was first piloted in Spring/Summer 2016, with a promoters sharing in the Birmingham Hippodrome, followed by shows at the Wandsworth Arts Fringe, Warwick Folk Festival, Bridport Arts Centre, Kendal Calling and Just So Festival. The company continue to tour their productions across the UK to various events and festivals, and have now began touring internationally, including performances in Cork and Dublin, Ireland, and Taurage, Lithuania.

## External Practitioners

Reynard the Fox was devised by The Fabularium with external direction from Niki McCretton (Stuff and Nonsense) and Sonia Ritter (the Lions part). The puppets were designed and built by Andrew Kim (Thingumajig Theatre), the set was designed and hand painted by Jonny Dixon, and was built by Marcus Rapley (MJR Theatre Services).



**The Fabularium** is entirely self-contained and managed by the company.

**Cart Size** - 4.5m wide, 3m deep, 4.7m high (an additional 1m-1.5m depth must be allowed for a backstage area)

**Get-in time from arrival** - 1 hour

**Get-out time** - 1 hour

**Outdoors:**

The cart is situated on four wheels with a turnable front axle, allowing the cart to process on most terrains. It can be pulled and processed throughout public spaces, on roads, through town centres, into parks where the performers can interact as they process and attract interest and followers from the public.

**Site** - The Fabularium is best suited on flat paved areas, grass and public squares. It can be processed into position or stationed in the designated performance space and does not require any technical support. Although the cart is highly portable, vehicle access to site is required to ensure a safe setup of the show.

**Weather** - The actors cannot perform the show on the cart during rain due to health and safety

**Number of shows per day** - Maximum of 3 shows (Although additional walkabouts can be included)

**Audience capacity** - 400+ per show (Additional walkabouts are available)

**Lighting** - During the day no lighting is required however for evening shows, lighting would need to be provided by the event organisers.

**Sound** - No amplification is required, all instrumentation is acoustic, however for larger audiences amplification and radio microphones would need to be provided by the event organisers

**Accessibility** - The show has been designed to fit into accessible public spaces so that it is available to everyone. Due to access for the cart, processional routes are designated only along pedestrianised areas and closed roads. Our actors are highly skilled at tailoring performances to individual audience members and can take specific access needs into account.

**Indoors:**

In the event that the cart cannot fit through doors to reach the stage, it can be disassembled with the wheels and front axle removed so that it can be carried to the performance space through small corridors and doors.

**Performance space** - The Fabularium Cart requires an indoor space that is a minimum of 5m high for full effect, however the Show Banner can be removed for the performance to shorten the height of the set, making the height requirement 4m. The total playing space for the cart and performers is 5.5m wide by 4.5m deep.

**Number of shows per day** - Maximum of 2 shows (Although a pre-show walkabout outside the auditorium can be included)

**Lighting** - Theatres and Arts Spaces must supply lighting and a technician.  
In rural touring spaces the company will bring their own basic lighting.

**Sound** - Amplification is dependent on the size of the auditorium and the audience capacity. In small spaces instrumentation can be acoustic and vocals without microphones, however for larger audiences' amplification and radio microphones would need to be provided by the theatre/arts team.

**Crew / Front of house** - 3 performers and all stage managing is operated within the company

**Total in team on tour** - 3

**Insurance** - The Fabularium is fully risk assessed and has public liability insurance to the value of £5 million



### Links

Website - [www.fabularium.co.uk](http://www.fabularium.co.uk)

Trailer - <https://vimeo.com/169553003>

Facebook - TheFabularium

Twitter - @fabularium

Instagram - TheFabularium

### Fee

Please contact us for information

Our daily rate includes 2-3 outdoor performances a day (or 1-2 indoor performances) and we offer discounts for longer runs (i.e: more than a single day). Accommodation for 3 people is required for overnight stays.

### Contact Information

For Bookings please contact Lou Lomas (Tour Producer)

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### Referees

*Sonia Ritter – the Lions part*

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*Cathryn Peach - Creative Producer, Just So Festival*

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