

Art Ambulance Visual Guide

Clay and Paper Theatre



Image Description: Two puppeteers working outdoors are dressed all in white with the performer on the left wearing a blue surgical mask. Together they operate a two foot high puppet to make it look like it is singing.



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Image Description: A stilt walker outdoors in a park. The stilt walker is dressed in long, billowy red pants and a yellow & green top with puffy red sleeves. The top has giant dollar signs printed on it. The stilt walker holds a rolled up scroll in their right hand which they use to point at the audience off camera.

Welcome

This visual guide was created to help you better prepare for attending a performance of the show Art Ambulance presented by Clay and Paper Theatre. We are the resident theatre company of Dufferin Grove Park and we perform outdoors in public space. This guide will be helpful if this is your first time watching one of our shows.

If there is any information in this visual guide that is missing or needs clarification please contact clayandpaper@gmail.com



Image Description: Three performers walking in a line hold giant two dimensional yellow saxophones as if they are playing them. They are dressed all in white with red and gold vests, as they parade energetically down a city street.

About Clay and Paper Theatre



Clay and Paper Theatre creates and performs original, multi-disciplinary, community driven theatrical works, using narrative theatre and large scale puppetry in public spaces for large and diverse audiences. Since 1994 we have produced plays, pageants and parades with and within the community grounded in the idea that performance in public space is an act of cultural transformation. Our practice of building, rehearsing and performing in full public view is an attempt on our part to reunite art with the daily life of the community, and to make art accessible to all. Clay and Paper Theatre has been the resident theatre company in Dufferin Grove Park for over twenty-eight years.



Image Description: An audience sitting on a park lawn watch three puppeteers animate a five foot wide by four foot high giant fox head that is painted in rich red and orange colours and has a flowing rust coloured transparent cloth body.



Play Introduction

Art Ambulance is an all ages show that pops out of custom built bike trailers and presents to audiences a series of short theatricals with puppets, masks, crankie movie, original songs, live music and plenty of satirical twists. Art Ambulance pokes fun at our harsh, modern world and reminds us to cherish human connection and fight for the Earth in all its beauty. Art Ambulance is "Good Medicine for Hard Times."



Image Description: Three performers working outdoors are wearing all white costumes and blue surgical face masks. The performer in the center has their hand raised pointing their finger upward.

Play Introduction



The bike trailers were built by co-artistic director David Anderson. The artwork on the bike trailers is designed and painted by muralist Erin McCluskey. We sometimes call these trailers a 'mobile mural'. Erin wanted to capture the joyous and excited energy that Clay and Paper Theatre brings to their performances. The design on the bike trailer show people from all walks of life, moving and dancing. All the figures are different geometrical shapes, sizes and colours.



Image Description: Four bike trailers and bikes are all lined up together on a park lawn. Each bike has a wicker basket attached at the front with flowers inside. The design on the bike trailers show people from all walks of life, moving and dancing. All the figures are different geometrical shapes, sizes and colours.



Play Introduction

The Mother Earth Puppet, Gaia, was painted by illustrator, Kathryn Durst. Kathryn was inspired by traditional folklore designs. The imagery on the hands and face are different plants and vegetation to evoke the sense of Mother Earth.



Image Description: Illustrator Kathryn Durst stands outdoors in a park beside the Mother Earth puppet, Gaia. The puppet's face is painted a sky blue, the lips are a light pink, the eyes are a forest green, and the hair is painted a darker blue. The hair is painted with colourful flowers, leaves, and vegetation. The back of the hands are turned outward to the viewer and are also painted a dark blue with illustrations of flowers, leaves, and vegetation.

Scene Summary

Scene 1: When Art Ambulance begins, a giant pair of hands stand on stage, covering a giant face. Performers enter from the audience singing, "I Believe in Being Ready" as other performers appear from behind the giant mask. Divided in pairs they each pick up a giant hand and reveal the face of Mother Earth. The hands gesture towards the audience with open palms. As the song comes to an end each hand is brought to stand at downstage left and right.

Image Description: The Mother Earth puppet, Gaia stands on a park lawn in front of green leafy trees. The palms of the puppet's hands are painted light blue and are facing outwards to the viewer. The puppet's face is painted a sky blue, the lips are a light pink, the eyes are a forest green, and the hair is painted a darker blue. The hair is painted with colourful flowers, leaves, and vegetation.



Scene Summary

Scene 2: A Narrator announces a brief exclamatory welcome and intro to the show. Almost immediately afterwards, four performers run out with flags and perform a simple flag routine as they vigorously hum the song, "When the Saints Go Marching In." There is musical accompaniment during the flag performance.

Image Description: A performer dressed all in white and a blue surgical face mask has their arms raised while holding a green flag. In the background is a park setting where colourful bike trailers and bikes, a drum, and two performers stand. One performer is dressed in white and a fancy green jacket, the other performer who is a wheelchair user, is wearing all white and a bike helmet.



Scene Summary

Scene 3: The Narrator then introduces the character of the Worker who has been labouring very hard throughout the pandemic. The Worker launches into the original song, "I'm Working for the Post-Apocalyptic State," that describes the absurdity of work life in the modern age. When the worker sings there is musical accompaniment.

Image Description: A performer dressed in all white and a blue surgical face mask also wears a theatrical half mask that is light brown. The performer gestures with their hands as they speak to the audience off camera. The performer is outdoors in a park, standing in front of colourful bike trailers, flags, and a performer who is a wheelchair user wearing all white, a blue surgical mask and a bike helmet.



Scene Summary

Scene 4: The Narrator introduces the character the Oligarch who has made \$1 billion dollars off of the pandemic. Performers off stage sing the Oligarch's song, "Let Me Make the Case," while the Oligarch puppet dances and menaces the audience.

Image Description: A performer in a park setting is in a giant puppet and has their puppet arms gesture wide towards the audience off camera. The puppet is draped in long black cloth and has a face that is painted dramatically in grey, black and white. The face also has dollar signs for eyes and their mouth is opened wide and has sharp teeth painted white.



Scene Summary



Scene 5: The Worker confronts Oligarch and a battle begins between them. The Worker wins the battle and is victorious. Music plays throughout the confrontation.

Image Description: A performer who is in a giant puppet, gestures with their puppet arms as they run after the Worker character who is wearing all white and a theatrical half mask. They are performing outdoors in a park in front of an audience seated on the grass. In the background are apartment buildings, trees, and a bike.



Scene Summary

Scene 6: The narrator introduces Blue Skies, who has been in isolation for a very long time. Two puppeteers lean over a bike trailer and bring out a white box with a red cross painted on it. One of the puppeteers knocks on the box and Blue Skies responds and emerges from isolation. Blue Skies is ecstatic to see the daylight and so many people. She then begins a melancholy rendition of the song Blue Skies. When the song comes to its conclusion, Blue Skies hesitates but then disappears back into the box.

Image Description: Two puppeteers dressed all in white in a park setting, animate a two foot high blue faced puppet. One puppeteer is wearing a blue surgical mask and the other puppeteer is singing without a mask. Behind them is a colourfully painted bike trailer with a red flag.



Scene Summary

Scene 7: All the performers drum their hands on top of a bike trailer creating a drumroll sound as the Narrator introduces the World's Best Brass Band. Each performer grabs a brass instrument and they create a cacophony of sound that does not resemble anything tuneful or remotely musical. When they finish the performance, the musician plays a beautiful solo that is clearly masterful. The rest of the performers begrudgingly praise them.

Image Description: Three performers wearing all white are intently playing various brass instruments outdoors in a park. Standing upright to the right of the performers is the six foot high blue and green face of the giant Mother Earth, also known as the Gaia image. In the background are bikes, colourful trailers, flags, pine trees and the facade of one apartment building.



Scene Summary

Scene 8: The performers waltz into the space playfully while singing the original song "Let's Pretend that We Can Consume Forever," with musical accompaniment. The song makes fun of consumerism at the cost of the environment. While the performers sing directly to the audience, a person in stilts enters the space and joins them. At the climax of the song the stilter unfurls a six foot long scroll that looks like a giant bill.

Image Description: A performer wearing a yellow and green top with puffy red sleeves and long red pants, holds a rolled up scroll and enters the scene on stilts. To their right, another performer wearing all white and a black face mask also enters. Behind the performers are a bike trailer and a giant blue faced puppet, known as Gaia. The puppet also has green eyes, light pink lips and dark blue hair covered in colourful illustrations of flowers, leaves, and vines.



Scene Summary

Scene 9: The performers prepare to set up for the Crankie Movie. A Crankie Movie is a box that looks like a miniature theatre and there is a long roll of paper threaded into it. The roll of paper has pictures illustrated onto it as different scenes. The narrator will crank the paper and reveal a new picture scene during the narration of the story.

Image Description: A box that looks like a miniature theatre sits on top of a bike trailer. It has painted red curtains and a blue arch that has the words Clay and Paper Theatre written on it in black. Inside the box is an illustrated scene on a piece of paper. The illustration is of an unfurled green, blue and pink cloth and written beside it is the description, "The Fine Clothes of Truth."



Scene Summary

Scene 10: The Narrator introduces the story, The Naked Truth, and its two main characters, Truth and Lies. The story is an allegory about Lies stealing Truth's clothing. Lies is then able to dance around towns, cities and countries with Truth's clothes, convincing people of their many lies. At the end of the Crankie Movie, the Narrator asks the audience directly, "Will truth ever return?"

Image Description: A performer dressed in fancy green coattails, a black surgical face mask and white pants, gestures their hand towards the crankie box. The crankie is a miniature theatre set on top of a colourful bike trailer. To the right of the crankie stands the performer playing the character, Truth. They wear a green, blue and gold shawl as they smile at the audience. Beside them crouches the character, Lies, grimacing and wearing a top hat with red ribbon and feathers. In the background are flags and trees.



Scene Summary

Scene 11: The performers launch into the original song, "It's Time to Change Direction," appealing to the audience to honour the Earth. The song is performed as a call and response between the performers.

As they sing the song, the six foot high face of the Mother Earth puppet, Gaia is moved downstage in front of the audience.

Image Description: Three performers in a park are wearing all white clothing and blue surgical face masks. They gesture with outstretched, open hands to an audience that is off camera. Two of the performers are standing and one is a wheelchair user who is wearing a white bike helmet with a red cross. In the background are flags, a colourful bike trailer, and a bike.



Scene Summary

Scene 12: The Narrator thanks the audience for coming out to support Clay and Paper Theatre and our 2022 summer show, Art Ambulance. The entire company of performers sing the original song, "Thank You All for Coming," which is also a comical appeal for donations.

Image Description: A performer in a park setting, who is a wheelchair user, is wearing all white and a grey cloth face mask. They are speaking to the audience, off camera. In the background is a bike trailer that is colourful, a blue bike, and a musician who is wearing different shades of green and holding an accordion.



Thank You

We hope you enjoyed Art Ambulance by Clay and Paper Theatre.

If you have any questions, please email at clayandpaper@gmail.com

Photos that appear in the Visual Guide are by: **Tamara Romanchuk, Soka Lazara and Kat Rizza**

Image Description: Three performers dressed all in white and who are also wearing blue surgical masks and white bike helmets, ride on a bike path with bike trailers. Blue, red and green flags are attached to the trailers in an upright position.



Contact Information

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Image Description: Founder and Co-Artistic Director, David Anderson, plays a red accordion in front of a blurred background of a brown brick building, a nine foot tall red puppet with open mouth. He is wearing black framed glasses and a black top hat that is decorated with orange and red and white striped ribbons.



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