

Take Art's Programme for Rural Touring Promoters in 2021/22

Menu 1: Totally Local menu (see below) offering outdoor performances for Summer 2021 by Somerset based companies only

Menu 2: produced in April/May will offer performances for Summer 2021 by national and international companies

Menu 3: produced in July/August will offer indoor performances for Winter/Spring 2022

Menu 1

Welcome to Totally Local - a new outdoor offer to rural touring promoters connecting you directly with Somerset performance companies.

Following the impact of the pandemic on community rural life, the aim of **Totally Local** is to:-

- Encourage people to safely re-emerge and reintegrate with their neighbours and community, thus building public confidence to socialize and make new memories
- Support the fragile Somerset arts sector (mainly freelancers) recover their lost business and transform into a new way of working locally

On the following pages there are 17 local shows available to book for outdoor events between June-Sept 21. They vary in length and some can be repeated several times in one day so you can shape an event to suit your locality. Some possible event models include:-

- **Trad1:** 1 performance for a single small audience group
- **Trad2:** 2 performances of the same show for 2 different audiences (ie afternoon & evening)
- **Trad3:** 3 companies performing, one after the other for one audience group
- **Mini-Festival:** 3 companies performing at 3 different times during the day
- **Promenade Safari:** 4 companies performing 4 x 20 mins shows - the audience were divided into groups and each guided on a walk through their village to 4 'green stages' to enjoy 4 different short performances.

Costs: Take Art has a small budget available to help with the costs, if you need it. Some shows cost more than others, depending on a number of variables including the costs involved in actually making the show in the first place. We have shown below the actual fee that Take Art will pay the company and the minimum return that we expect from you as promoters. If after the event you have made a profit, then we would expect 80% of that surplus to help towards the true cost of the company.

How to Book: You are welcome to contact the companies direct to discuss any details. All their phone numbers and emails are given below. Then email Sarah Peterkin, sarah@takeart.org, with an outline of how you see your event working, which show/s you would like to book and a range of dates. It would be great to hear your plans by **Easter Monday, 5th April**, however, these shows will all still be available after that date. Once Take Art's budget has all been allocated, you can still book a show and pay the full cost.

Publicity: If printed tickets are required, then we could order these for you. We cannot produce posters or fliers but we can publicise your events on our website and social media.

AVAILABLE SHOWS:

- Show 1** A Walk on the Wild Side by Shoebox Theatre Company
- Show 2** A Real Fiction by aKa Dance Theatre Company
- Show 3** Boxes by Kerchief Theatre
- Show 4** Doubles by Joe Garbett Company
- Show 5** The Rime of the Ancient Mariner by Tor Theatre
- Show 6** Number 13 by aKa Dance Theatre Company
- Show 7** The Adventures of Madame Carol Sell and Mr Popsy by Tall Tails
- Show 8** The Holland Handkerchief by Kerchief Theatre
- Show 9** The Reduced Ring Cycle by The Bluebirds Theatre Company
- Show 10** The Instruments of Joy or Swing Quartet by Tim Hill
- Show 11** Pirate Taxi by Pirates of the Carabina
- Show 12** The Litter Twitter Trio with Sharon Jacksties & Jem Dick
- Show 13** The Rum Tale of the Moonfleet Diamond by Tor Theatre
- Show 14** Whispering Willows by Wassail Theatre
- Show 15** The Charming Rat by Wassail Theatre & Tall Tails
- Show 16** Ernie's Journey by Clementines Live Arts
- Show 17** The Musician of Bremen by The Bluebirds Theatre Company

Show 1: Walk on the Wild Side



<https://www.facebook.com/shoeboxtheatresomerset>

www.leelabunce.com

Shoebox Theatre Company: Leela Bunce, mail@leelabunce.com, 07904334222

A Walk on the Wild Side is a promenade walking tour about nature, with a difference.

A clown show (think Laurel and Hardy type clowns more than circus clowns) about connection. Our connection with nature and the natural world around us, our connection with each other. How we can easily become disconnected, but how there is always the chance to find a way back. The show is playful, funny, poignant and life-affirming. It is aimed primarily at the grown-ups, but is absolutely suitable for all ages with no inappropriate content. It is entirely technically self-sufficient.

The show can be done as a promenade piece (with a simple route agreed with each venue), but can equally be staged in a static stage area. Two versions are available, one 30 mins and one 50 mins. Staging is adaptable to fit any existing/returning Covid restrictions.

Shoebox Theatre are Somerset-based Leela Bunce and Ged Stephenson. Their last show *The Library of Lost Memories* toured the SW in 2019. "*Brilliantly crafted, performed, thought provoking....a delight*" and "*A wonderful piece of theatre - exquisite clowning and storytelling with real emotional punch.*" Audience Feedback

Ged and Leela also recently performed as Prince Charming and Dandini in the online film *In Search of Cinderella - a pantomime for Somerset*.

Dates	Length	Space Reqs	Target Audience	No. Performers/Tech	Actual Fee
Generally available June-Sept 21	30 mins or 50 mins versions (can do 2 shows in a day)	Promenade or end on.	Aimed at grown ups, but suitable any age 5+	2	£250
					Minimum Return to TA
					£200

Show 2: A Real Fiction



<https://www.facebook.com/akadancetheatre/>

<https://akadancetheatre.yolasite.com/>

aKa Dance Theatre , Jennifer Grant, akadancetheatrecompany@gmail.com, 07908593601

Fasten your seatbelts, **A Real Fiction** is coming and it is filled with fun, funk and foam bananas!

A Real Fiction has been whipping up a storm and collecting memories on the way through! Loaded with current affairs, childhood nostalgias and one hit wonders this work has been co-created with the community, for the community. A hyperactive mix of dance, theatre, meme and pop culture. You can expect the unexpected as you lose yourself in other people's memories, whilst we guarantee you'll have an unforgettable time. For ages 7-107!

Available from August 2021 **A Real Fiction** is completely self-contained. aKa require a total performance space approximately 7m x 7m to include the audience who sit on chairs in a circle and the performance takes place in and around the circle.

A great fun, immersive and intimate performance. The company can be very flexible and fit most spaces provided and most surfaces.

"Very very funny, very very entertaining, very clever." Mary Duke, audience member

Dates	Length	Space Reqs	Target Audience	No. Performers/Tech	Actual Fee
Aug-Sept 21 (apart from 26-29 Aug)	45 mins excluding interval & wrap around activity	7m x 7m incls audience seated on chairs in circle around performance	All ages	1 + 1 technician	£500
					Minimum Return to TA
					£300

Show 3: Boxes



<https://www.facebook.com/kerchieftheatre/>

<https://www.kerchieftheatre.uk/>

Kerchief Theatre, Esme Patey-Ford, epateyford@gmail.com, 07889 690833

Boxes is a dynamic piece of theatre about the need for, and value of, hope.

Two actors use storytelling, movement and music to create an energetic piece that is sometimes funny, sometimes grotesque, and which explores our experience of challenging times, along with the role hope has to play in getting us through.

Inspired by the Greek myth of Pandora's Box, Kerchief Theatre's new show for 2021 will appeal to adults and children alike, as it asks its audiences to consider their own responses to life's challenges, and the ways in which hope creates resilience.

Can perform on either a hard or grassy surface and need access to power with a dry, level area for the musicians to be set up and plugged in.

Family friendly but with some darker themes which might not be suitable for very young children.

Dates	Length	Space Reqs	Target Audience	No. Performers/Tech	Actual Fee
Generally available June-Sept 21	20 mins or 40/45 mins versions (can perform several times in a day)		Family-friendly but include some darker themes which might not be suitable for younger children	2	£300
					Minimum Return to TA £200

Show 4: Doubles



<http://joegarbett.yolasite.com/pr.php>

<https://youtu.be/05f1DyQxflk>

<https://doublesdance.yolasite.com>

Joe Garbett Dance, Joe Garbett, joegarbett@hotmail.co.uk, 07871391838

Doubles brings bursts of colour to the streets in a collision of dance and ping pong. Watch as the dancers spin and slide in this playful pop up performance that smashes expectations of dance and advocates the importance for safe, positive and accessible public spaces. Grab a bat and join in!

“Joe Garbett’s playful table tennis mash up...thrived in the open air” The Guardian. “Eye-catching and high energy work”.

This family friendly dance show, **Doubles**, has toured internationally and across the UK pinging between urban art festivals, rural fairs, school playgrounds and prestigious sporting events.

Doubles can be performed as a duet or quartet, (but if a quartet then the costs are doubled), 20 mins long there is an additional 10 mins of playing and learning dance moves with the performers after the show, if required. Can be performed twice in an afternoon/evening. A hard surface/concrete is preferred and it suits the sports theme more. If on grass it needs to be cut short and a flat surface.

The table tennis table and equipment for 25+ people is left out all day and between shows for people to have fun and play ping pong games. The table is at an accessible height for younger players and wheelchair users.

Dates	Length	Space Reqs	Target Audience	No. Performers/Tech	Actual Fee
Generally available June-Sept 21	30 mins	Space to set up table and perform around it	For all - mainly for families and younger audiences (3-15 yr olds)	2	£550
					Minimum Return to TA £300

Show 5: The Rime of the Ancient Mariner



<https://www.tortheatre.co.uk/>

Tor Theatre, David Reakes & Angela Laverick, tortheatre@tiscali.co.uk, 01458 832023

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner a one-man re-telling of Coleridge's classic poem. Let the Mariner take you with him on his journey: across the ocean, into the soul, and through the beer gardens and village greens of rural Somerset.

A cautionary tale of a thoughtless act and a life of suffering; of cruelty, penance and redemption. Dare you listen? And what will you learn?

Comments from previous audiences: *"Vibrant and mesmerising... a fantastic performance. Brought to life an old local story that I've never been able to engage in as a reader. Genius use of space."*

WINNER: 'Best In Fringe' Award at the Shaftesbury Fringe Festival, 2016.

Performed as part of Take Art's outdoor shows last summer, this was very popular at both Curry Mallet and Goathurst villages.

Dates	Length	Space Reqs	Target Audience	No. Performers/Tech	Actual Fee
Generally available June-Sept 21	45-50 mins		All over 11 yrs	1	£150
					Minimum Return to TA
					£100

Show 6: Number 13



<https://www.facebook.com/akadancetheatre/>

<https://akadancetheatre.yolasite.com/>

aKa Dance Theatre , Jennifer Grant, akadancetheatrecompany@gmail.com, 07908593601

Knock Knock

Who's there?

Your date

Your date who?

Your date who is nervously waiting out here, if you could please just open the door!

Number 13 - unlucky for some, it certainly seems that way for this chap! Watch as he waits nervously for his date to answer the front door.

In true aKa style they've created a work that will have you grinning from ear to ear. **Number 13** invites you to watch as a young man hopelessly waits for his dates reply at the front door. Initially crafted for Spiltmilk Dance's rural and community tour of *The Little Love Cabaret*.

If performing more than once, then a speaker charging point may be required in between shows and a short recovery time for Joe, the performer.

Performed as part of Take Art's outdoor shows last summer, Norton Sub Hamdon promoters loved this show.

Dates	Length	Space Reqs	Target Audience	No. Performers/Tech	Actual Fee
Generally available June-Sept 21 (apart from 17 July, 26-29 Aug)	15 mins (can be repeated 3 times)		All ages especially families	1 + 1 Technician	£300
					Minimum Return to TA
					£200

Show 7: The Adventures of Madame Carol Sell and Mr Popsy



<https://www.facebook.com/TallTailsTheatre/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNBw6-JmcyY>

Tall Tails Theatre Company, Abby Young, talltailstheatre@gmail.com, 07595897893

The Adventures of Madame Carol Sell and Mr Popsy

When Madame Carol Sell first encounters Mr Popsy she wonders if anything will ever be the same again.

The Adventure begins when Mr Popsy, a hot air balloon, becomes the newest attraction in the Georgian gardens where the Carousel resides. Driven by competition the two spiral out of control with acts of sabotage, revenge and the occasional dance off, only to find themselves no better off then there were at the start. Will the pair of attractions ever find a common ground?

A humorous pantomime exploring how respect, friendship and cooperation can overcome rivalry and jealousy.

The show can be signed using Makaton to provide an accessible performance for the deaf community.

Dates	Length	Space Reqs	Target Audience	No. Performers/Tech	Actual Fee
Generally available June-Sept 21	30 mins or 50 mins versions (can do short version twice)		Children and their families	2	£300
					Minimum Return to TA
					£200

Show 8: The Holland Handkerchief



<https://www.kerchieftheatre.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/kerchieftheatre/>

Kerchief Theatre, Esme Patey-Ford, epateyford@gmail.com, 07889 690833

Holland Handkerchief a lonely girl and her sad, rich father live alone in their big, fancy house. When he finds out she has fallen in love with the wrong man, he takes drastic action...

Kerchief Theatre's *The Holland Handkerchief* brings this eerie and surprising 18th-century folk tale to life for a modern audience. Two actors use storytelling and movement to take us on a journey, woven together by mesmerising, live, original music from sister folk duo Currer Bell.

Currer Bell is made up of sisters Faron and Merle – for this show last year, they went by the name of Faron & Merle.

Family friendly but with some darker themes which might not be suitable for very young children.

Performed as part of Take Art's outdoor shows last summer, both audiences at Lamyatt and Norton Sub Hamdon loved this show.

Dates	Length	Space Reqs	Target Audience	No. Performers/Tech	Actual Fee
Generally available June-Sept 21	20 mins or 40/45 mins versions (can perform several times in a day)		Family-friendly but might not be suitable for younger children	2 actors + 2 musicians	£400
					Minimum Return to TA £250

Show 9: The Reduced Ring Cycle



<http://thebluebirds.org.uk/>

The Bluebirds Theatre Company, Sasha Herriman, sashaherriman@gmail.com, 07770933681

A performance, supported by Arts Council England, in the Bluebirds beautiful mobile pop-up theatre space The Popera House.

The Reduced Ring Cycle is a comic Poperatic version of the entire Ring Cycle by Wagner arranged for two opera singers and puppets. It's a funny and dramatic tale of gods and monsters with film animation sequences and amazing puppets bigger than you could possibly imagine. Expect fire breathing dragons and dwarves in smoke filled caverns.

It's perfect for a family or adult audience with a choice of two running times. With a great creative team the script and film is by Philip Kingslan of Four of Swords Theatre, music arrangement is by Somerset composer Martin Emslie, puppets are by Forkbeard Fantasy.

Currently in production, Bluebirds are aiming for school and community performance in the school summer term. They just need a space to put the wagon and for audience to gather safely. Can perform the shows more than once if time scale permits. The Popera House can be located on grass (so long as it isn't boggy!) or hard surfaces. It can also be put undercover, so for example in a large open barn space. Also now able to provide a large awning which ties between trees or poles to give some audience shelter.

As there are 5 people involved in this show, Bluebirds have suggested two definite touring weeks, however, they are available at other times if they can get the whole team free at the same time.

Dates	Length	Space Reqs	Target Audience	No. Performers/Tech	Actual Fee
21-27 June, 19-25 July (other dates may be possible to discuss)	90 mins full version or 60 mins shorter version	Flat surface for Popera Wagon	Adults and families	5	£600
					Minimum Return to TA £400

Show 10: The Instruments of Joy or Swing Quartet



Tim Hill, milton3hill@yahoo.co.uk, 01823490219

The Instruments of Joy are a highly mobile mini marching band playing music to delight in and dance to. They can come to people as well as play around villages, lead processions as well as play fixed concerts, they can run workshops and participatory sessions.

They play tunes for these times like *Come Together* and *Happy*, and a range of folk, jazz and funk. They can also create bespoke performances for special spaces, using backdrops and lights etc.

Tim Hill also has a Swing Quartet playing music from the 30s and Disney tunes etc.

The number in the band can vary from 3-7 and the costs would vary accordingly. The costs below are for the Trio.

Tim is very interested in all sorts of collaborations with villages and artists to create bespoke and new work. His bands can perform anywhere and create bespoke performances for spaces like woodlands and parks.

Dates	Length	Space Reqs	Target Audience	No. Performers/Tech	Actual Fee
Generally available June-Sept 21	15-60 mins versions all possible		All ages	3	£300
					Minimum Return to TA
					£200

Show 11: Pirate Taxi



<https://www.piratesofthecarabina.com/>

Pirates of the Carabina, Shaena Brandel, shaena@piratesofthecarabina.com, 07771 998181

Pirates of the Carabina present **Pirate Taxi**, a self-sufficient, two-person outdoor mobile circus show.

From the makers of international hit circus show *FLOWN*, this is a mid-length aerial circus show with live music, performed in, on and around a traditional London taxi.

Performed by Barnz Munn and Shaena Brandel, **Pirate Taxi** weaves together their personal circus story about how they came to settle on a remote farm in Somerset, with themes of travel & displacement, reminiscent of birds' annual migration.

Sometimes serious, but more often funny, **Pirate Taxi** is a family friendly show suitable for adventurers of all ages.

Dates end June-Sept	Length	Space Reqs	Target Audience	No. Performers/Tech	Actual Fee
Generally available June-Sept 21 (not 10 or 31 July, 23-31 Aug, 11-12 Sept	20 mins, can perform 3 times or 40 mins version	10m x 10m space	All ages	2	£600
					Minimum Return to TA £350

Show 12: The Litter Twitter Trio



<https://www.facebook.com/events/d41d8cd9/litter-twitter-trio/504209276784242/>

<https://www.sharonjackstories.co.uk/>

Litter Twitter Trio, Sharon Jacksties, sharonjacksties@hotmail.com, 01458 259553

The Litter Twitter Trio consists of 3 giant animated puppets doing street theatre performances about eco issues and plastic pollution.

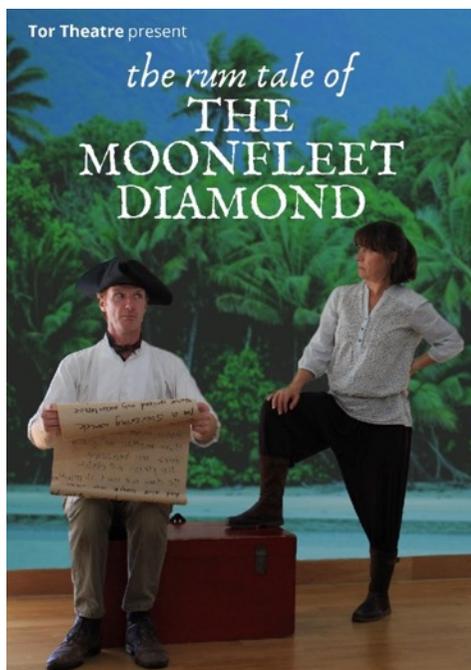
The trio include the Litter Twitter Bird who is born entirely of plastic rubbish, The Cleaning Lady at the End of Time has imprisoned a human hostage until the human race gets its act cleaned up, and all efforts are thwarted by her Naughty Daughter. The Litter Twitter Trio offer fun interactive promenade performances ideal for outdoor events and festivals. During a day we would expect to provide 4 appearances with 2 different shows.

Apart from solo performance storytelling, between the 3 performers we comprise storytellers, musicians, workshop leaders and giant animateurs. It would be possible to follow the Litter Twitter Trio appearances with 'Nature's Tales' storytelling sessions - although complimentary, either performances can be booked separately.

The giant puppets can perform on grass or a hard surface.

Dates	Length	Space Reqs	Target Audience	No. Performers/Tech	Actual Fee
Generally available June-Sept 21	20 mins giant puppet promenade theatre and up to 2 hrs with stories		Families	3	£450
					Minimum Return to TA
					£300

Show 13: The Run Tale of the Moonfleet Diamond



<https://www.tortheatre.co.uk/>

Tor Theatre, David Reakes & Angela Laverick, tortheatre@tiscali.co.uk, 01458 832023

The Run Tale of The Moonfleet Diamond is a story of daring-do and dastardly deeds! A tale of ancient mystery and new found love! A triumph of laughter, heartbreak and song!

A two-handed family show set in the South West and specially made for the wide outdoors. Get caught up in the adventure as Jennifer and Jonathan strive to discover what really happened to The Moonfleet Diamond!

Tor Theatre are David Reakes and Angela Laverick based in Glastonbury. Well loved for performing in schools across Somerset and on both Take Art's rural touring scheme in the past and as part of the outdoor summer shows in 2020.

Angela has another life performing for nationally acclaimed mask theatre company Vamos and as well as radio voice over and acting, David is also a spoken word poet and famed for his one-man show Rime of the Ancient Mariner.

Dates	Length	Space Reqs	Target Audience	No. Performers/Tech	Actual Fee
Generally available June-Sept 21	45-50 mins (can perform the show twice at extra cost)		Family audiences of all ages	2	£250
					Minimum Return to TA
					£200

Show 14: Whispering Willows



Wassail Theatre Company, Nick White, nick@wassailtheatre.co.uk, 07875714995

A family show about the willow industry using puppets and music . Wassail and The Brewhouse Theatre present **Whispering Willows**, a non-verbal piece of theatre using music and puppetry.

Created in collaboration with young people, **Whispering Willows** is told through the eyes of a willow farming family, against the backdrop of World War II in Somerset. What is our relationship with nature, and how does that influence how we live our lives? What happens when forces destroy that? How can young people take control their future?

Directed by Jesse Briton, puppet direction by Helen Foan, original music by Greg Hall, design by Julie Read, this adds up to a great creative team.

<https://www.wassailtheatre.co.uk/>

Dates	Length	Space Reqs	Target Audience	No. Performers/Tech	Actual Fee
Generally available June-Sept 21	30 mins (can perform the show twice)		Families	3	£500
					Minimum Return to TA
					£300

Show 15: The Charming Rat



<https://www.wassailtheatre.co.uk/>

<https://youtu.be/v7CvA9lLvF4> (trailer of film version)

Wassail Theatre Company & Tall Tails, Nick White, nick@wassailtheatre.co.uk, 07875714995

Cooper the rat is having a very strange day... Asha has been invited to an important event and it's up to Cooper to get her there on time and ready to party! Will he pull it off without getting caught by Rats All Folks Exterminators? You are invited to join in this epic adventure and help him along the way...

The Tale of the Charming Rat is a 20-minute outdoor pantomime for audiences of all ages, featuring high levels of access provision. We will be touring the shows to villages and towns across Somerset this year. Expect a Somerset-inspired retelling of the classic Cinderella story, following the adventures of her beloved coachman rat when he is transformed into a human for just one night. The show involves song, dance and all the fun of panto. It has also been made as a short film – see trailer.

The company has worked with an access and inclusion consultant in the development of the show in order to embed high levels of access and ensure best practice at every stage. The performance will be supported by sign to help understanding and in place of captioning, scripts will be available beforehand to download and print, as well as plain English versions.

Dates	Length	Space Reqs	Target Audience	No. Performers/Tech	Actual Fee
Generally available June-Sept 21	20 mins (can perform the show twice)		Families	2	£300
					Minimum Return to TA
					£200

Show 16: Ernie's Journey



<https://clementineslivearts.co.uk/>

Clementines Live Arts, Jackie Clementines, jackieclementines@gmail.com, 07491863839

Ernie's Journey is a magical circus theatre adventure for family audiences. The seamless integration of story-telling, circus, physical theatre, stage magic, poetry and puppetry will nurture and excite your inner-child.

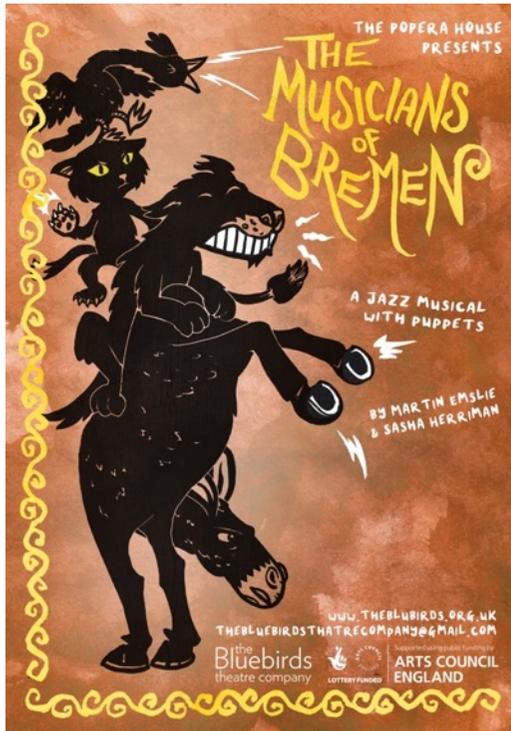
An original live concert-harp score takes the tale from the dreamy realms of distant shores to the most raucous of sea shanties!

This show is particularly enchanting for 4-11 year-olds but the high-skill circus will amaze even the most cynical teenagers! A young boy sets sail one day in search of happiness. He doesn't find it! Or does he?

The company have made their entire annual plan about creating an outdoor feature length rural touring package and have a tent (possibly two!) a battery powered sound-system. It is possible to perform the show 3 times in a day or twice with a workshop. Also happy for other performers programmed on the same day to use the tent.

Dates	Length	Space Reqs	Target Audience	No. Performers/Tech	Actual Fee
Generally available from 3 July-Sept 21 and we have particularly reserved 20-22 Aug for Somerset (not available 17, 28, 29 July or 14, 15 Aug).	55 mins with optional interval (can perform up to 3 times in a day)	Company can bring a large tent to cover audience in wet weather (additional £100)	Families 5 yrs+	2	£700
					Minimum Return to TA
					£400

Show 17: The Musicians of Bremen



<http://thebluebirds.org.uk/>

The Bluebirds Theatre Company, Sasha Herriman, sashaherriman@gmail.com, 07770933681

The Bluebirds are also offering **The Musicians of Bremen** in The Popera House, a new jazz musical for younger audiences. It is for two performers who take on the multiple roles.

Based on the Grimm Brothers tale of four abandoned animals seeking a new life, the show celebrates the musical potential of everyone. The animals: donkey, dog, cat and chicken, all decide to go to Bremen to become musicians to escape. After a scary experience with a bunch of wicked robbers, they abandon their quest and instead resolve to live as musicians together.

It's a joyful tale with some great dramatic characters brought to life with puppets on The Popera House stage. Puppets by Forkbeard Fantasy, music by Martin Emslie, Directed by Nick White (Wassail Theatre), produced and performed by Sasha Herriman and Amy Hardwick.

The Bluebirds could also offer a children's music and theatre workshop before the show.

Dates	Length	Space Reqs	Target Audience	No. Performers/Tech	Actual Fee
Generally available June-Sept 21 (apart from 4-15 Aug)	60 mins	Flat ground for Popera wagon	Primary aged children and families	2 + 1 Technician	£400
					Minimum Return to TA
					£250