

Ramshackle Theatre

presents

SCI-FI DOUBLE FEATURE

a cardboard science fiction puppet show



PRESENTER'S KIT

SHOW DESCRIPTIONS | PICUTRES | TECH NOTES | WORKSHOPS | AND MORE!

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Created by: **Brian Fidler & Edward Westerhuis** Music and Sound Design: **Jordy Walker**



Ramshackle Theatre

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Whitehorse, Yukon Territory
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“ **Vancouver's Top Ten Theatre Productions of 2013** ”
- theatreisforsuckers.com

What does it look like?

Sci-Fi Double Feature is a magical **collision of puppetry and film, scored with an original soundtrack.**

You will see a small-scale puppet show captured live and simultaneously projected onto the big screen, creating a full-blown 1960s action-adventure B-movie. This true **all-ages show** is filled with the wit, anarchy, and whimsy that sells out Midnight Performances and Kid's Matinees alike.

What's the story?

Sci-Fi combines **two fast-paced puppet shows**, linked by an original stop-motion animation film.

Act 1: Attack of the Slime-O-Trons Two intergalactic lovers must save earth from a hoard of vengeful invaders.

Act 2: Last Day on Earth A professor and his dog travel back in time on a quest to prove the existence of a 3-headed dinosaur, only to find they've arrived minutes before an impending meteorite threatens mass extinction.



Cast & Travel

3 performers & 1 stage manager
3 people in Whitehorse, YT
1 person in Vancouver, BC

2 shipping containers
Med - 54" x 19" x 48"
Sml - 48" x 22" x 39"
Weight 400 lbs

Direct summer flight between
Frankfurt and Whitehorse

Technical Requirements

Min stage 15' deep x 30' wide

Large projection screen, ideally 7'
above stage

3,000 lumen projector in booth
accessible to stage manager, with
both video (Component) and laptop
(VGA or HDMI) inputs

4 hour tech rehearsal

Other Details

All ages, 60min show

Multi-Day Kids Shadow Puppet
Workshop

Optional Free Popcorn at
Performances

Audiences encouraged to dress-
up "Sci-Fi"

Currently versioning into French



Sci-Fi Double Feature is a **Ramshackle Theatre Production**

Created by **Brian Fidler** and **Edward Westerhuis** | Original Music and Sound Design by **Jordy Walker**

Brian Fidler

Artistic Director, Ramshackle Theatre
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What is Video Puppetry?

Video Puppetry Technique

Sci-Fi Double Feature is a collision of theatre, film, and sound performance, where a small-scale puppet show is captured live and simultaneously transformed into a full-blown action-adventure movie.

The audience has the option to look at the “making of” in the puppet world, or to watch the movie unfold within the frame of the silver screen.

Using dynamic camera techniques, zooming in and out, moving to different sets, and creating in-camera effects, cinematographer Edward Westerhuis captures and enhances Brian Fidler’s live puppetry. Jordy Walker harmonizes this medley by composing original sound effects and music to match the action. Together the trio of puppet, camera, and sound, blend to create a one-take movie that is performed, captured, and projected in front of a live audience.

Style and Materials

The show is made almost entirely out of cardboard and tape, with a lot of the detailed work fashioned out of paper, string, wire, hot glue, and shish kabob sticks.

By limiting the work to these simple materials, the show alludes to low-tech effects used in 1960s sci-fi B-movies. Think of the flying rocket ship held by a string, or meteorites made of scrunched tin foil. *Sci-Fi Double Feature* invites the audience to peek behind the curtain to see how the low fi special effects are actually made while simultaneously allowing the viewer to watch the finished film on screen.



A scene from *Last Day on Earth*
Mama and baby pterodactyls fly around in a prehistoric shadow world

Show Synopsis

Act 1: “Attack of the Slime-O-Trons”

10 min

The serene and peaceful planet of Hasbro is famous for its board games. But after designing the game of Trouble after the iconic bubble-top of their interplanetary neighbors, the Slime-O-Trons, their paradise is quickly thrown into peril. Offended by their depiction, the slimy-green nation destroy Hasbro, following the royal family and their escape pod to earth. In the heat of a burning metropolis, and on the brink of utter destruction, an alien princess and a terrestrial nerd meet and fall deeply in love. But before they are able to consummate their attraction, they must first save each other from the gooey grips of their vengeful invaders.

Animated Short Film: “Meanwhile Backstage”

10 min

As the cast of *Attack of the Slime-O-Trons* wind down in the make-up room, the princess goes missing, Tom the nerd launches into diva-style rant, and the Slime-O-Trons can’t seem to break out of their menacing characters. While the animation plays, the stage is reset for the next act.

Act 2: “Last Day on Earth”

30 min

A Professor and his dog Marty are on the verge of a major archeological discovery. But when they present their theories of a 3-headed T-Rex to their peers, their imagined fame and fortune are replaced only by laughter and ridicule. On a mission to prove them wrong, Marty and the Professor jump into their time machine to collect more evidence. Together they crash-land in the Cretaceous period, only to find a hungry tri-rex at their heels and an impending meteorite threatening mass extinction.

Show and Tell

10 min

Audience is invited to come on stage for a close look at the puppets and set pieces. Performers demonstrate the puppet intricacies and answer questions. This is also a great time for audiences to snap and post pictures.

Total Run Time

60 min

WATCH THE TRAILER ONLINE!
visit ramshackletheatre.ca



Director Statements

Director's Statement: Brian Fidler

Before creating *Sci-Fi Double Feature* I had watched dozens of science fiction movies from the 1950's and 60's as research for another project. I not only loved the low budget quality of these films, but their resemblance to the world of puppetry: the rockets with visible strings, the crappy models of distant planets, and the creatures with their obvious masks appealed to my ramshackle nature. I began to think about the puppetry that went into the making of these B-movies.

I was inspired to go behind the curtain of the finished film, and to create a hybrid show that reveals and emphasizes the use of puppets for low-grade special effects.

This is where Edward and cardboard came into the picture.

Our plan to film a live cardboard puppet show and project it simultaneously has taken many twists and turns. The joyous collaboration that has resulted in *Sci-Fi Double Feature* has roots in the science fiction genre, but also in the kid inside who just wants to make things with his friends out of cardboard, hockey tape and hot glue.

Director's Statement: Edward Westerhuis

Filmmakers guard their work. At least I do.

In film, there is a gulf between capturing and presenting. This gap, known as editing, sorts through the endless possibilities and eliminates the bad ideas, producing a polished and seamless narrative. The mistakes stay behind, not to be seen.

But in *Sci-Fi Double Feature*, there is nowhere to hide. Our flaws are on display, ready for the audience to enjoy. Everyone can see our cardboard cutouts, our attempts to grab camera focus, and the fact that the show could fall apart at any minute.

Which is why working on this project has been so exciting. By dropping our guard and entrusting the audience with our imperfections, the show cordially invites goofs and bloopers.

My hope is that as you watch, you not only pick out our shortcomings, but relish them.



A puppet from *Attack of the Slime-O-Trons*

One of the vengeful aliens who reek havoc on planets across the galaxy

Workshops

Join the creators of **Sci-Fi Double Feature** for an imaginative workshop developing your own **shadow puppet play**.

Come build your own dinosaur with flesh-tearing jaws! Construct a princess with moving eyes! Or design a monster with retractable claws!



Through a mix of **theatre games** and **craft sessions**, students will learn the valuable stages needed to take an original idea and develop it into a small shadow play. Special emphasis is placed on **communicating in groups** as well as **controlling puppet movement**.

The workshop can be accomplished in one day or spread out over two days.

The instruction will focus on three principles: **building**, **writing**, and **performing**.

Other workshops available upon request.

Building Students will carve, glue, fasten and construct their own original puppets from simple materials. We will provide cardboard, paper and all the necessary building materials for students to construct shadow puppets with moving parts.

Writing Students will form small groups, build their own shadow puppet screen and devise their own stories based on the puppets they have built. We will walk them through the basics of what makes a good story and guide the students through the writing process.

Performing Once they have created their puppets and story, students will rehearse their short play. Under the direction of the instructors, the participants will practice their stories in their groups. At the end of the course students will present their short plays to parents, family and friends. The final presentations will be filmed and students will be given electronic links to their productions.

Audience Engagement



It's an Event!

As much as possible, we create festive atmosphere surrounding our shows. We advertise “free popcorn for dressing up sci-fi,” encouraging audiences to arrive in their most zany attire. We also give them the chance to make their own last-minute costumes at our decked out craft table. Then after the show, we invite the audience to join us on-stage. Here they can get a closer look at how the puppets work, ask questions, and snap and share photos using the #scifidbl hashtag.

Technical Requirements

Equipment supplied by Ramshackle Theatre

In Booth

- Laptop with QLab
- Cable needed to connect laptop to projector
 - VGA and HDMI cables
 - Adapters

On Stage

- Video Camera
- Tripod
- Cable and equipment needed to connect from camera on stage to the projector in the booth
 - 300' of CAT6 Cable
 - Short component cables
 - Video baluns
 - Adapters

Equipment supplied by Presenter

In Booth

- 3,000 Lumen projector with component inputs (YPbPr) and laptop inputs (vga or hdmi)
 - Needs a lens with enough throw for the projector to sit in the booth
- Sound board
- Lighting board

On Stage

- Projection Screen, hung 7' above stage
- Risers 2' high x 4' wide x 4' long
- Low Bench 1' high x 2' wide x 4' long
- Table 29" high x 30" wide x 72" long

Lighting

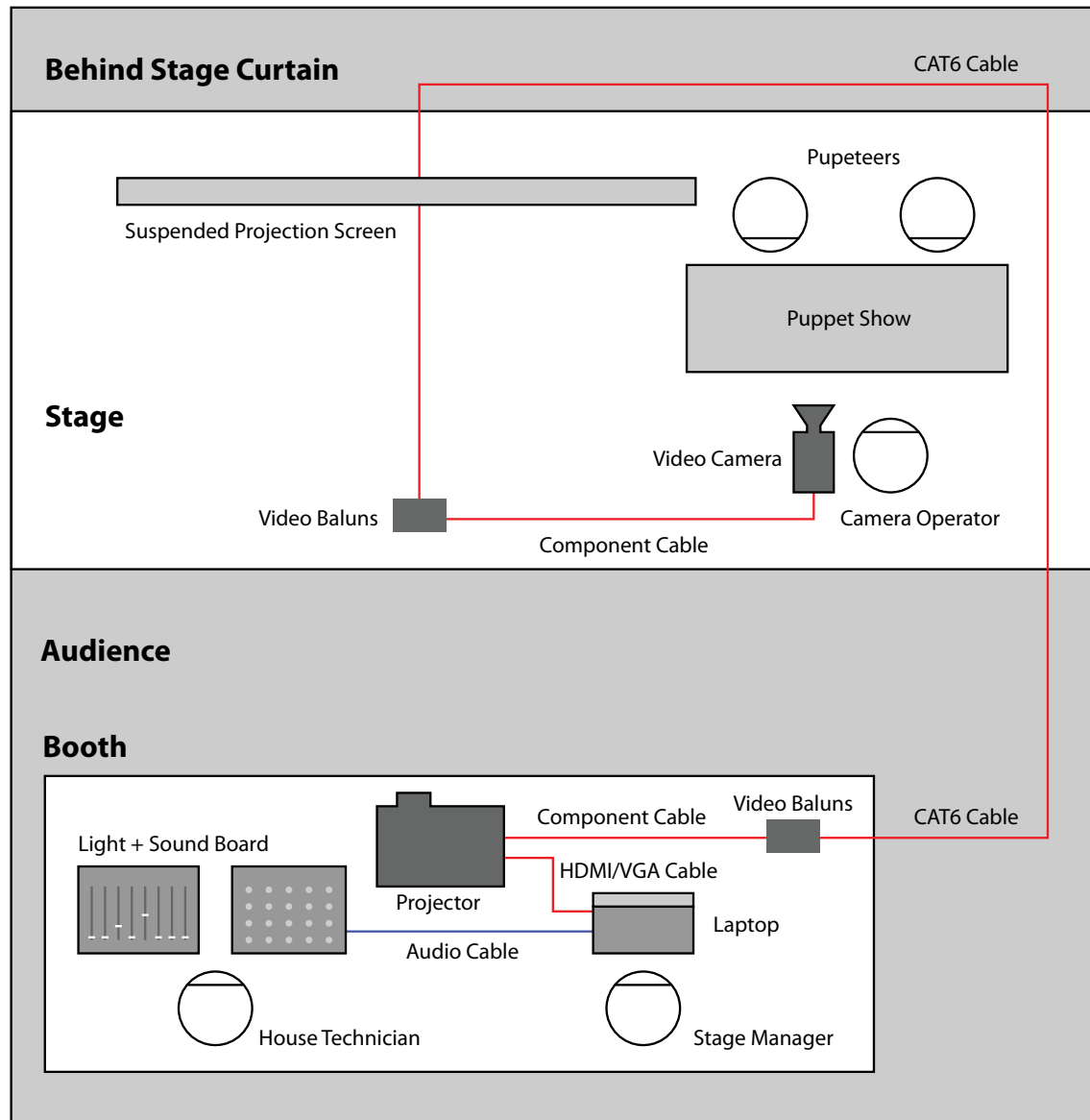
- 2 general pools of light on stage left and right
- 2 special lights on stage on stands
- 2 special lights hung stage right
- 1 extension cord stage right connected to light mixer



A scene from Attack of the Slime-O-Trons

The royal family from the planet of Hasbro gifts one of their subjects with a new leg

Theatre Visualisation



Description

Two performers enact a small-scale puppet show on stage, while the camera operator captures the action on stage with a video camera. A long CAT6 cable connects the camera's video feed to the projector, which sits in the booth. The projector displays a live feed of the camera on a screen suspended above stage.

The stage manager (SM) uses QLab software on a laptop to play pre-recorded sound. This sound is sent to the sound board and played through the house speakers. The SM also uses QLab to call the lighting cues to the house technician.

Between the two acts, the SM dowses the projector and switches video feeds from the camera to the laptop. The SM then plays a three-part animation film, sending both video and audio. While the animation plays for the audience, the performers prepare the stage for the next act.

Crew and Bios

Crew*

Created by	Brian Fidler & Edward Westerhuis
Produced by	Brian Fidler
Music and Sound Design	Jordy Walker
Assistant Puppeteers	Claire Ness, Genviève Doyon, & Sam Bergman-Goode
Stage Manager	Emily Farrell, Ryan McCallion

*This is a list of all the people who have participated in past shows. Each performance only includes 3 performers and 1 stage manager.

Biography

Brian Fidler

Brian Fidler is a theatre director, producer and creator who blends puppetry, dollar store crafts and physical performance and puts them on the stage. As artistic director of Ramshackle Theatre, he stages productions throughout the year, including his infamous Theatre in the Bush, a site specific theatre event presented in the Yukon wilderness. Fidler also created *Cam and Legs*, a hand-puppet show which set the groundwork for *Sci-Fi Double Feature*.

Edward Westerhuis

Edward Westerhuis is filmmaker, animator, and media artist who seeks out collaborations that intersect art forms. He is fascinated by the nexus of creativity and technology, specifically in discovering work flows that extend creative expression. While having a diverse output, his work generally revolves around narratives that tread the line between absurdity and tragedy, often reflecting on connection between identity and space. Edward is also a founding member of the SOFIA Collective, which presents hybrid art events in Surrey, BC.

Jordy Walker

Jordy Walker has been working with music and sound for over 15 years. As a multi-instrumentalist and composer, he employs elements of post-rock, electro-acoustic, noise, improvised music, electronic music and sound design and marries a clear sense of space, texture and melody with a distinct use of rhythm. Currently Jordy is composing music and doing sound design for theatre and film. He has recorded, collaborated and/or performed with Jesse Zubot, JP Carter, Tanya Tagaq, Mary Margaret O'Hara and Christine Fellows among many others.

Past Performances & Residencies

Performances:

Banff Children's Festival, Margaret Greenham Theatre, Banff, AB. May 17, 2014

Winterlab, Intrepid Theatre, Metro Studio, Victoria, BC. Jan 30 & 31, 2014

rEvolver Festival, Up in the Air Theatre, The Cultch, Vancouver, BC. May 14-18, 2013

Northern Scene, National Arts Centre, Ottawa, ON. May 4, 2013

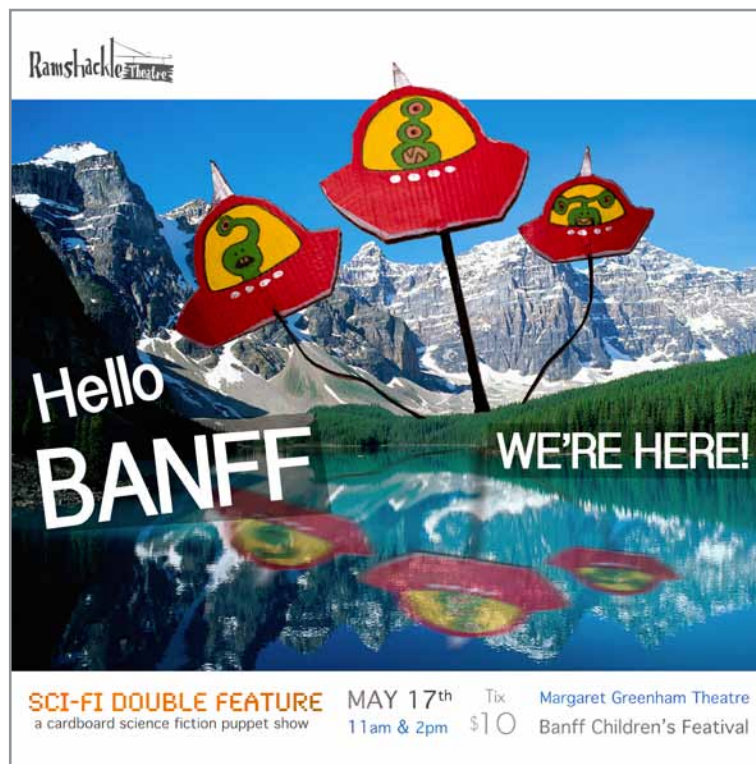
Yukon Arts Centre, Whitehorse, YT. Mar 8 & 9, 2013

The Guild Hall, Whitehorse, YT. Dec 7-10, 2011

Longest Night, Yukon Arts Centre, Whitehorse, YT. Dec 20 & 23, 2010

Residencies:

Summer Works Program, The Banff Centre, Banff, AB May 10 -16, 2014



Social media post promoting Banff Children's Festival
For each performance, we create a unique image to share online
#scifidbl

Press Coverage

Newspapers

Adrian Chamberlain. (2013, Jan 22). Winterlab festival becomes seasonal attraction. Times Colonist. <<http://www.timescolonist.com/entertainment/winterlab-festival-becomes-seasonal-attraction-1.798631>> [Accessed: Sep 21, 2014].

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Blogs

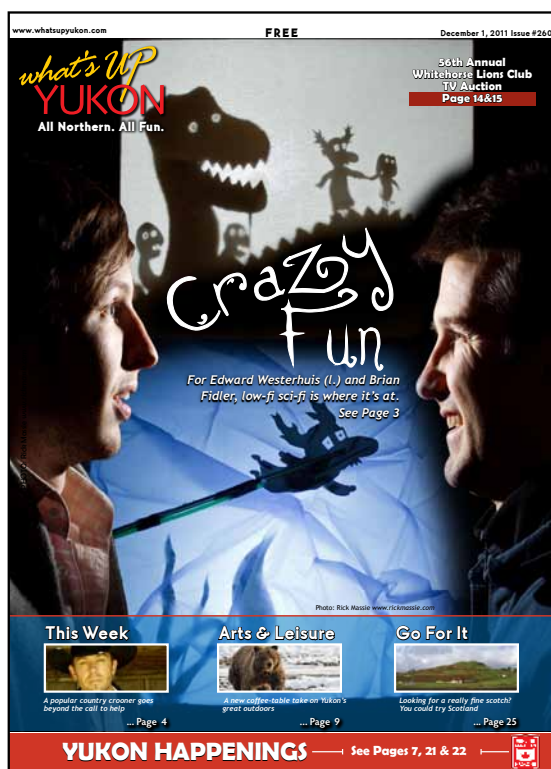
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In the Press

(Clockwise from left) On the cover of *What's Up Yukon*.
Feature article in *The Georgia Straight*, Vancouver's premiere arts & culture newspaper.
Sitting down for an interview on CBC's *Airplay*.



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