

Frolicked
PRESENTS
THE
RAT RACE



The Rat Race is a surreal and darkly funny commentary on modern life – as told by rats. Housed inside a giant wedge of cheese, a set of especially intelligent puppet rats highlight the absurdities of society in order to show an audience of humans what it's really like to be in the rat race.

Through the holes in a gigantic emmenthal, the rats give us an entertaining insight into their take on our very human culture. Once inside, a lucky few participants will be thrust into a surprising series of sticky situations and, with help from our insightful rodents, they'll attempt to complete the increasingly ludicrous tasks required to escape... there's even a surprise in the form of our very own giant rat!

The Rat Race is both an outside- and an inside-the-cheese experience, taking place over the course of around an hour.

OUTSIDE is a 25 minute performance piece for an audience of 150+ people

INSIDE is a 5 minute experience for up to 3 people at a time (which we can run for up to 25 minutes) making an exclusive audience of up to 15 people after each outside showing

Four performers run the Rat Race up to **three times a day**

Please talk to us if you require more flexibility – we are more than happy to negotiate timings and frequency of both the outside and inside elements individually



Drawn by one of our audience members



Frolicked is a theatre company specialising in puppet-orientated experiences for unusual locations. Captivating people of all ages and nationalities, and featuring beautifully crafted characters, our self-devised shows and games are interactive, engaging and a little bit magical.

As well as producing a number of original puppets (including a well-travelled octogenarian couple, a hygiene-obsessed usher, a moon-carrying Norse goddess and a giant-fly-pestered Alchemist), we've devised a series of puppet interventions: a darkly different nature trail in woodlands across the North of England, a town-wide gaming experience featuring a flock of rare birds, a rat infested murder mystery, a five day, cross-county treasure hunt, and a ratty commentary on modern society housed inside a giant wedge of cheese.

Frolicked develops puppetry that translates easily across international borders and we have toured our shows to delighted audiences across Europe. Our work often combines interactive performance, game design and simple technology in surprising ways.

Beka Haigh is a director, puppet maker and performer based in Yorkshire. As well as designing and performing for Frolicked, she has worked as a deviser, maker and performer for a number of theatre companies and arts organisations in the outdoor arts sector.



Drawn by one of our audience members



Accessibility

The Rat Race is primarily visual and non-verbal. It is appropriate for family audiences and aims to be accessible for all. It can take place in a wide variety of open spaces / locations and is weatherproof.

How audiences engage with the work

The performance begins through the holes of an intriguingly large piece of cheese, and an announcement that a puppet show (with a difference!) is about to begin. The rats present their insights to a gathered seated or standing audience and then invite a select few to join the rats on the inside of the cheese at the end of the show (via an in-show lottery system).

With original puppets, an original soundtrack, larger than life sound and low tech special effects, The Rat Race is sure to entice the curious and entertain the masses.

Performance history

The rats started life providing cameo appearances in one of Frolicked's previous performances, but as they proved to be such popular personalities (and their contracts weren't yet expired), we decided they needed a 'vehicle' of their own. And what better vehicle for their particular brand of rodent propaganda than a giant piece of cheese?



Drawn by one of our audience members



Technical Requirements

Our cheese is a 14ft long x 10ft high x 8ft wide solid structure, which is housed on its own trailer (a caravan chassis). We need a performance space that is at least 16ft square and can only perform on relatively level ground in areas where we can load and unload with enough space to manoeuvre the cheese safely.

We will need a safe place to park the cheese overnight before the first performance day (either at provided accommodation or on the performance site), and overnight security for runs lasting longer than one day.

The performance space will ideally be large enough for an audience of 150+ people, without obstructing the flow of any general outdoor pedestrian traffic.

The space will also ideally be in a public place which does not have piped music, or a place in which it is possible to switch off the piped music during the performance.

Practical requirements

- A space to change / eat lunch / take comfort breaks
- A relatively flat 16 ft square area for our cheese
- 120 minutes to get in / 90 minutes to get out



Drawn by one of our audience members

"Great fun... Under pressure from a rat!"

Audience member

"If only the human race ran as well!"

Audience member

"Eek, squeak and proper fun!"

Audience member

"It's so ratalicious!"

Audience member

Frolicked

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