



Animal Cracker Conspiracy Puppet Company:
RE: The Collector: a cautionary tale
Mixed Media Puppet Performance

Dear

Please find attached ACC's press kit materials for your review. These materials are provided as Adobe Acrobat PDF files. If you do not have the Acrobat Reader software required to view and print these materials, you can download the software online free of charge at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>.

Also, if required, you can access each of these press kit files in our online Press Room located at <http://www.animalcrackerconspiracy.com/pressroom>.

Please advise if you prefer that I postal mail and/or fax this press kit to you, as it will be my pleasure.

If, after reviewing these materials, you have further questions please get back in touch with us.

I appreciate your interest in Animal Cracker Conspiracy, we look forward to speaking with you. Thank you in advance.

Regards,

Iain Gunn and Bridget Rountree

Animal Cracker Conspiracy

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Animal Cracker Conspiracy Puppet Company:
The Collector: a cautionary tale

About the Show:

"Prepare to enter another dimension...A dimension not only of sight and sound, but of mind and puppetry"-KPBS

"The dexterous puppeteers...so invested with their own emotion that you half-expect them to drop their puppets and interact with each other"-SF Weekly

The Collector

The Collector is one of the Animal Cracker Conspiracy's most acclaimed performances and the end product to a unique artistic exploration made by Bridget Rountree, Iain Gunn and Margaret Noble. The Collector is a genre-stretching, surreal, multimedia tale about a lowly debt collector who travels through the urban landscape, undergoing a radical transformation of spirit. As he travels through the urban landscape the boundaries between object and self collide.

Performed with toy theatre, table-top puppets, object theatre, and stop motion animation, the story unfolds into a multidimensional mixed media performance through Orwellian, neo-Victorian lenses. Recognized as a contemporary puppet theater work, *The Collector* enfolds the audience in a gritty environment of toy theater, animated objects, miniature protagonists and antagonists engaging in dialogue-less mystery, all underscored by original film and constructed soundscapes.

"Visually stunning, sonically sublime, a performance by Animal Cracker Conspiracy is an invitation into the undercurrents of the human experience. Detailed imaginative worlds created from a variety of puppet materials are seamlessly integrated with film and other transitions allowing the audience to discover the depth and heart of the poignant stories being told."
Bryan Brown ARTEL/ Schkapf

"Their work is like visual poetry!"
Nancy Smith, Director Great Arizona Puppet Theater

"The Animal Cracker Conspiracy's performance of The Collector expertly fuses hand-crafted whimsy with a macabre sensibility. This is their hallmark: by combining two seemingly disparate perspectives, they're able to illuminate the beauty in the mundane. This is true storytelling at its best."
-Heather Silva, Programming Manager Arts & Lectures at UCSB

"...genre defying and ruthlessly avant-garde..."
SF WEEKLY

"...high marks for theatrical daring..."
Brad Schreiber Huffington Post

About the Company:

San Diego based artists Bridget Rountree and Iain Gunn are Animal Cracker Conspiracy, a contemporary collaborative hybrid puppet company invested in peering under the surface of things and pushing the boundaries of live kinetic performance. Joining forces in 2004 with a shared desire to collaborate with one another and create performances that would radically decenter expectations, open new avenues of thought and invoke the uncanny. Their ongoing performance practice is based in devising hybrid performance, as well as creating frameworks for

collaboration, investigation, and discovery of the stories hidden amongst us. Their shared interest and exploration of where fine art, puppetry, performance art, physical theater, and mixed media intersect is a continued source of inspiration for their work. ACC seek to create emergent structures: layering symbols, images, film, sounds, movement, and puppets on stage; Traversing abstractions of movement from the material to immaterial, folk to contemporary, and intellectual to intuitive. They actively cultivate the suspension of disbelief by employing immediate choreography, embracing the unknown, and using the manipulation of puppets in the creation of mystery.

They have participated in both national and international artist residencies conferences and workshops with the La Jolla Playhouse, Bread and Puppet, North American Creative Laboratories, La Pocha Nostra, Rosenclaire, The Old Trout Puppet Workshop, Handspring Puppet Company and The Eugene O'Neill Center's National Puppet Conference. They have performed and/or exhibited as ACC or in collaboration at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego and Santa Barbara, the La Jolla Playhouse, HERE ARTS NYC, Exit Theatre San Francisco, The Museum of Photographic Arts San Diego, for Arts and Lectures at Cal State San Marcos, for Art Power at UCSD and At the Performance Annex in City Heights. They have received support from the San Diego Foundation, Jim Henson Foundation, Puffin Foundation, Guthman Foundation, Sator Arts Foundation, Synergy Arts Foundation, and The Puppet Slam Network.

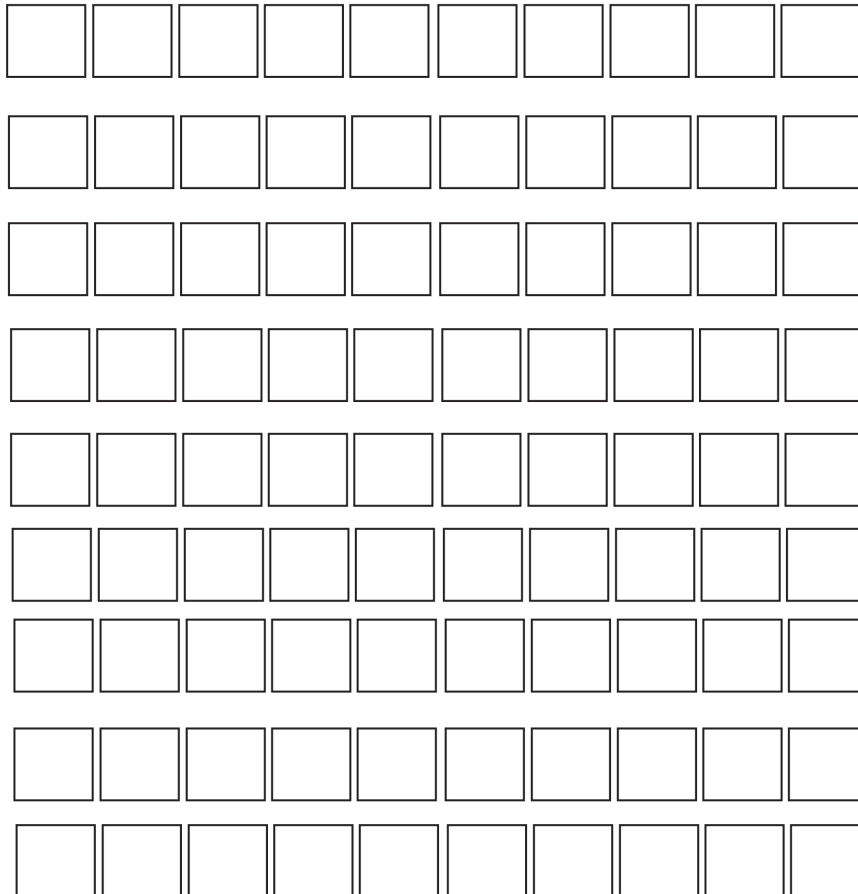
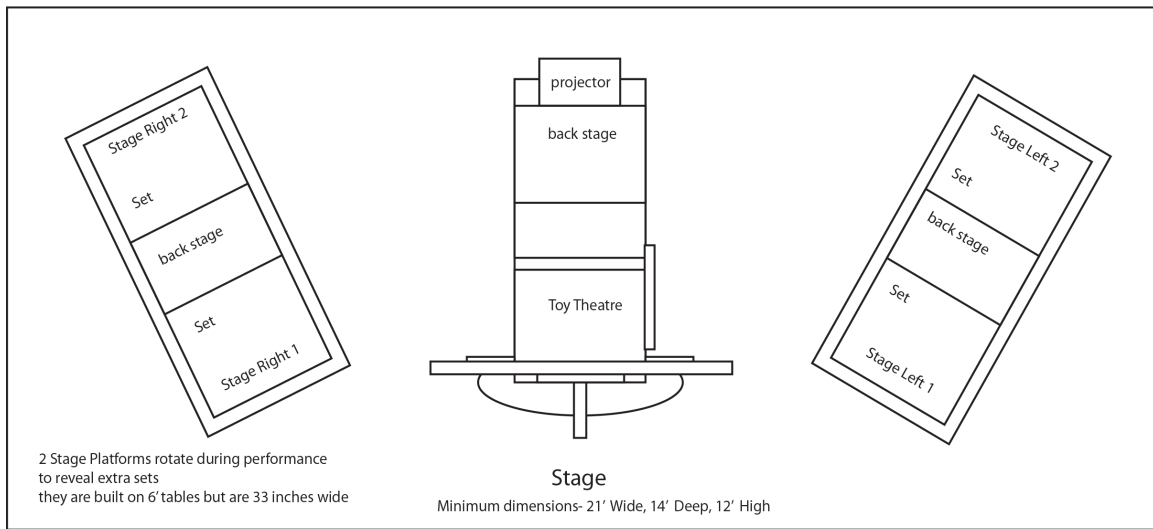
LINKS: Excerpts in Video: <https://vimeo.com/58765077>







Basic Stage Setup for "The Collector"- Top View





Animal Cracker Conspiracy Puppet Co. presents

THE COLLECTOR

SF World premier
Experimental hybrid puppet theatre
Directed by Lisa Berger
Sound design by Margaret Noble
recommended for mature audiences

"...high marks for theatrical daring."
 Brad Schreiber- Huffington Post



WED September 5 9:00 PM
 SAT September 8 2:30 PM
 MON September 10 7:00 PM

WED September 12 8:30 PM
 THUR September 13 10:30 PM
 SAT September 15 7:30 PM

@ EXIT on Taylor (between Eddy & Ellis Streets)

Tickets \$10 277 Taylor Street, San Francisco, CA, 94102

tickets and info www.thecollectorshow.info

Funding made possible by grants from the Jim Henson Foundation,
 the Sator Arts Foundation, and the Puffin Foundation





Curriculum Vitae

Selected Performances

2016 Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre in Balboa Park *Circus Hilarious*, San Diego CA
 2016 San Diego Fringe Festival, Paper Cities, San Diego, CA
 2016 Skirball Puppet Fest at Skirball Cultural Center *Desire to Fly*, Los Angeles CA
 2016 City Heights Performance Annex *World Day of Puppetry Event*, San Diego, CA
 2016 Low Gallery Installation and performances *Paper Cities*, San Diego, CA
 2016 Coyote Gulch Performance of Paper Cities
 2015 Old Globe Workshop Production: *When it Comes* San Diego, CA
 2015 City Heights Performance Annex *Paper Cities*, San Diego, CA
 2015 La Jolla Playhouse Without Walls Festival *Gnomesense*, San Diego, CA
 2015 La Jolla Playhouse 2nd Workshop Production: *Paper Cities*, San Diego, CA
 2015 Mingei International Museum *Breakfast with Beuys*, San Diego, CA
 2015 Old Town Temecula Theater *SD Ballet: Carnival of the Animals*, Temecula, CA
 2015 San Diego Puppet Festival *The Collector*, San Diego, CA
 2014 La Jolla Playhouse Workshop Production: *Paper Cities*, San Diego, CA
 2014 Balboa Theatre *San Diego Ballet: Carnival of the Animals*, San Diego, CA
 2014 Lightning in a Bottle Festival *Gnomesense*, Lake San Antonio, CA
 2014 Helmuth Gallery *Valuable Content*, San Diego, CA
 2013 HERE *The Collector*, New York, NY
 2013 Great Small Works Toy Theater Festival *Way of the Mask*, Brooklyn, NY
 2013 Bedlam Theater *The Collector*, Minneapolis, MN
 2013 Museum of Contemporary Art *The Collector*, Santa Barbara, CA
 2013 Museum of Photographic Arts *Adult Puppet Cabaret*, San Diego, CA
 2013 Arts & Lectures CSUSM *The Collector*, San Marcos, CA
 2013 Art Power UCSD *The Collector*, San Diego, CA
 2013 Kroc Center *San Diego Ballet: Carnival of the Animals*, San Diego, CA
 2012 Salvage Vangaurd Theater *The Collector*, Austin, TX
 2012 New Orleans Fringe Festival *The Collector*, New Orleans, LA
 2012 Museum of Photographic Arts *Adult Puppet Cabaret*, San Diego, CA
 2012 EXIT Theater *The Collector*, San Francisco, CA
 2012 Museum of Contemporary Art *44th & Landis (Design)* San Diego, CA
 2012 La Jolla Playhouse *TEDx Talk and Presentation*, San Diego, CA
 2012 Artworks Theater *The Collector*, Los Angeles, CA
 2011 Museum of Photographic Arts, *Adult Puppet Cabaret*, San Diego, CA
 2011 Synergy Arts *The Heard*, San Diego, CA
 2010 Via de Valle *Coyote Tales*, Ensenada, Mexico
 2009 Sushi Performance Arts *La Pocha Nostra New Barbarians Collection*, SD, CA
 2008 New Village Arts *Circus Hilarious*, San Diego, CA
 2008 The Mingei Museum *The Noble Deer*, Escondido, CA
 2007 Idylewild Festival *Desire to Fly*, Vashon Island, WA
 2007 Centro Cultural De La Raza *The Myth Project II*, San Diego, CA
 2007 San Miguel de Allende *The Myth Project I*, Guanajuato, Mexico
 2006 Museum of Contemporary Art *The Noble Deer*, La Jolla, CA
 2006 NTC Arts *The Myth Project I*, San Diego, CA

Grants and Awards

2017 Jim Henson Foundation
 2010-16 *Puppet Slam Network Grant*
 2015 *Network of Ensemble Theatres Ensemble Exchange Grant*
 2015 *Jim Henson Foundation Project Grant*
 2014 *Leo S. Guthman Foundation Grant*
 2013 *Creative Catalyst Fellowship- awarded to both Iain Gunn and Bridget Rountree as individual artists*
 2012 *Best of San Francisco Fringe*
 2012 *Techies Choice Award San Francisco Fringe*
 2012 *Curated Choice New Orleans Fringe*
 2012 *Puffin Foundation Grant*
 2012 *Jim Henson Foundation Project Grant*
 2011 *Synergy Art Foundation Grant for professional development*
 2010 *Jim Henson Foundation Seed Grant*
 2009 *Sator Arts Foundation Grant*

International Residencies and Workshops

2016 *Eugene O'Neill Puppetry Conference*, Emerging Artists, Waterford, CT
 2015 *La Jolla Playhouse Artist Residency*, San Diego, CA
 2015 *Eugene O'Neill Puppetry Conference*, Waterford, CT
 2015 *Art and Ecology Residency*, Michoacan, Mexico
 2014 *La Jolla Playhouse Artist Residency*, San Diego, CA
 2013 *Artist Residency*, Montagnana, Italy
 2012 *Banff Center Puppet Theatre Intensive*, Alberta, Canada
 2011 *Cultural Exchange Workshop*, Johannesburg, South Africa
 2008 *The Spiritual in Art Practice Workshop*, Montagnana, Italy
 2006 *Commedia Dell' Arte Workshop*, Rome, Italy
 2006 *North American Cultural Laboratory*, Highland Lake, NY
 2004 *Cultural Exchange Workshop*, Cape Town, South Africa

Press

2016 *La Jolla Light*, artist review, June
 2016 *SD Reader*, artist mention, Feb.
 2015 *Voice of San Diego*, artist mention, Nov.
 2015 *SD Downtown News*, artist mention, July
 2015 *SD City Beat*, artist mention, Sept.
 2014 *San Diego Union Tribune*, artist review, June
 2014 *La Jolla Light*, artist review, June
 2014 *SD City Beat*, artist interview, April
 2014 *SD City Beat*, artist mention, Dec.
 2013 *The Current*, artist mention, Sept.