



Los Kaos

Cutting Edge Street Theatre



Created with support from
Arts Council England

P R E S E N T S

MEET THE DINOSAUR

General stuff

'Meet the Dinosaur' is an interactive performance in which the audience are invited to feed and pet our dinosaur and to share their knowledge of dinosaurs. The show is presented by a palaeontologist who presents a lively and interactive natural history show and encourages the audience to come up with palaeontological theories of their own.

Our ideal audience is a mixed family audience of all ages and abilities of between 100-250 people.

To date this show has been performed in a large number of spaces including high streets, museums, parks, exhibition halls, shopping centres and holiday parks. We always arrive at the venue with plenty of time to check the areas and have never been unable to perform because we have not found a suitable space. However being well prepared is always advisable so please do read this technical guide carefully. If in doubt call us, we are always happy to talk it over - we are very nice really!

'Meet the Dinosaur' is not a walkabout performance; we always perform an interactive show from our set. Our dinosaur is only available for 'meet and greet' at private events with limited public access.

We perform 3 x 25 minute or 2 x 30 minute shows per day, with a minimum of 30 minutes break between each show for the performers to rest. All the shows are the same in format so spacing them out is advisable.

Technical Stuff

--Arrival

We travel in a long wheel-base van 2.6 metres high. Please make sure that a parking space is reserved for us and that there is somewhere for us to unload as close to our backstage area as possible. Please bear in mind that our van won't fit under any height restricted car parks, i.e. multi-storages.

We arrive at the venue approximately one and a half hours before the start of the first performance. In order that we have enough time to set up please make sure that we have very clear directions on how to find our unloading/parking area and that we have the contact phone number of the person who has been assigned to meet us and show us to our unloading and backstage area – we may not have visited your town or venue before!

Our dinosaur travels in a wheeled steel frame 1.6 metres long, 1.1 metres wide and 1.5 metres high. There is no way that we can lift this so please make sure that we can unload as close as possible to our backstage area, that there is room for our ramps behind our van and that there are no steps, narrow doors or tight corners between our unloading and backstage areas. Lifts are fine as long as the frame will fit into them.

--Backstage area

We can use all kinds of spaces as backstage areas including service corridors, storage rooms, empty shop units and marquees: we aren't too fussy, the most important things are that there is enough space for us, that the floor is dry and clean and that we are not visible to the public and that there is light for us to see by. If you are providing a shop unit, please make sure that the windows are covered over.

Our backstage area must have a minimum ceiling height of 2.16 metres. We have changed in areas as small as 3.5m x 2.5m, but its a bit of a squeeze!

If we're changing in a marquee please make sure that all four sides are provided and any gaps or windows are covered over. The minimum size of marquee that we can use for a backstage area is 3m x 4.5m. Please make sure that the marquee has been erected prior to our arrival.

We have our own marquee available to hire for £250 + VAT per day, please make sure you let us know if you would like to hire it.

Once our performer is inside the dinosaur we are limited as to how far they can walk. Ideally our backstage area will be immediately behind our performance area, or within ten or so paces. If this is not possible we have a wheeled trolley the dinosaur can climb onto to be transported to the performance area, in which case we can travel over flat, smooth surfaces for a hundred paces or so (not soft ground). Please bear in mind that travel time may cut into our show times, which start when we leave the backstage area and finish when we return.

The dinosaur itself is 1.9m high and is 1.05m wide so make sure that we can get out through doors and under the sides of the marquee.

--Performance area

As the show is interactive we like our audience to be immediately in front of our performance area. We don't usually perform in areas with seating (sitting on the floor is fine but we will get everyone on their feet during the show) or from stages. We may sometimes perform from low stages but only by prior agreement with us!

We need a firm (not muddy!), dry, level and clear area for the performance. We will set up our set between one hour and thirty minutes before the start of the first performance and take it down between fifteen minutes and forty-five minutes after the end of the last performance.

The set consists of an oval area backed by our inflatable 'Jurassic Jungle' and fronted by a plastic chain-link fence (see attached plan). We can use an area of between minimum of 5.5m x 5.5m or a maximum of 6.5 x 8m in diameter (see our attached plan below) but bear in mind that our dinosaur is 3.5 metres from nose to tail and needs space to turn around, so we like to have as much room as possible! Also, the bigger the circumference of our set is, the more people can see us.

Our inflatable is weighed down by internal sandbags. If we are performing outdoors it can also be pegged into grass or tied down.

We supply a portable 900w PA and use two radio microphones for use in our show. The two fans that inflate our set and our PA require a 13 amp, 240v power supply, one domestic 3 pin plug point will be sufficient. We draw less than 1Kw total. We use a constant supply.

--Barriers and stewards

Providing barriers is extremely helpful for us so that we can keep the back of our set and our PA and cables safe and out of the way of the public in between performances. As our set is a colourful inflatable children may mistake it for a bouncy castle and it is not designed to be jumped or sat on. If you are unable to provide barriers then please provide a member of staff or steward to look after the set in between performances while we aren't there.

A steward or member of staff assigned to aid us with the show is necessary as audiences can get very excited when they meet a dinosaur. The dinosaur performer has limited vision and our palaeontologist has only one set of eyes (in the front of her head) so a steward is necessary to help with crowd control and safety, particularly when getting to and from the performance area.

If you are unable to provide a steward please let us know in advance so that we can provide our own. We charge £150 per day for the additional person.

--Weather

We don't perform in the rain (or snow, sleet or hail!) so make sure you have a wet weather contingency plan in place in the case of outdoor performances. We are however very realistic about British summer and will often be able to do all our performances around rain breaks, as long as we can be flexible with times and have some way of keeping our PA and electrics dry during the rain, so that we don't have to take down our set.

Performing as a dinosaur is a very hot occupation; we've never yet had to miss or delay a performance due to excessive heat but we do reserve the right to do so if we feel that the safety of our performers is threatened. Providing shade when hot weather is expected would be very kind!

PR Stuff

Please respect the fact that we work very hard to make our creatures look, feel and act like real animals and don't refer to our dinosaur as a puppet or animatronic anywhere in your publicity material or on posters or websites, or in press releases.

Our audiences enjoy the illusion that they are meeting a 'real' dinosaur, and we enjoy providing that illusion, and we find that a little bit of mystery is a great for pre-event publicity teaser. You don't have to say that it's a 'real' dinosaur; just say that it's a dinosaur-- people can make up their own minds!

The following is a guide for publicity and press releases. Any press releases or images must be approved by Los Kaos before printing or publishing online.

"Meet the Dinosaur! A fern-filled show for people of all ages.

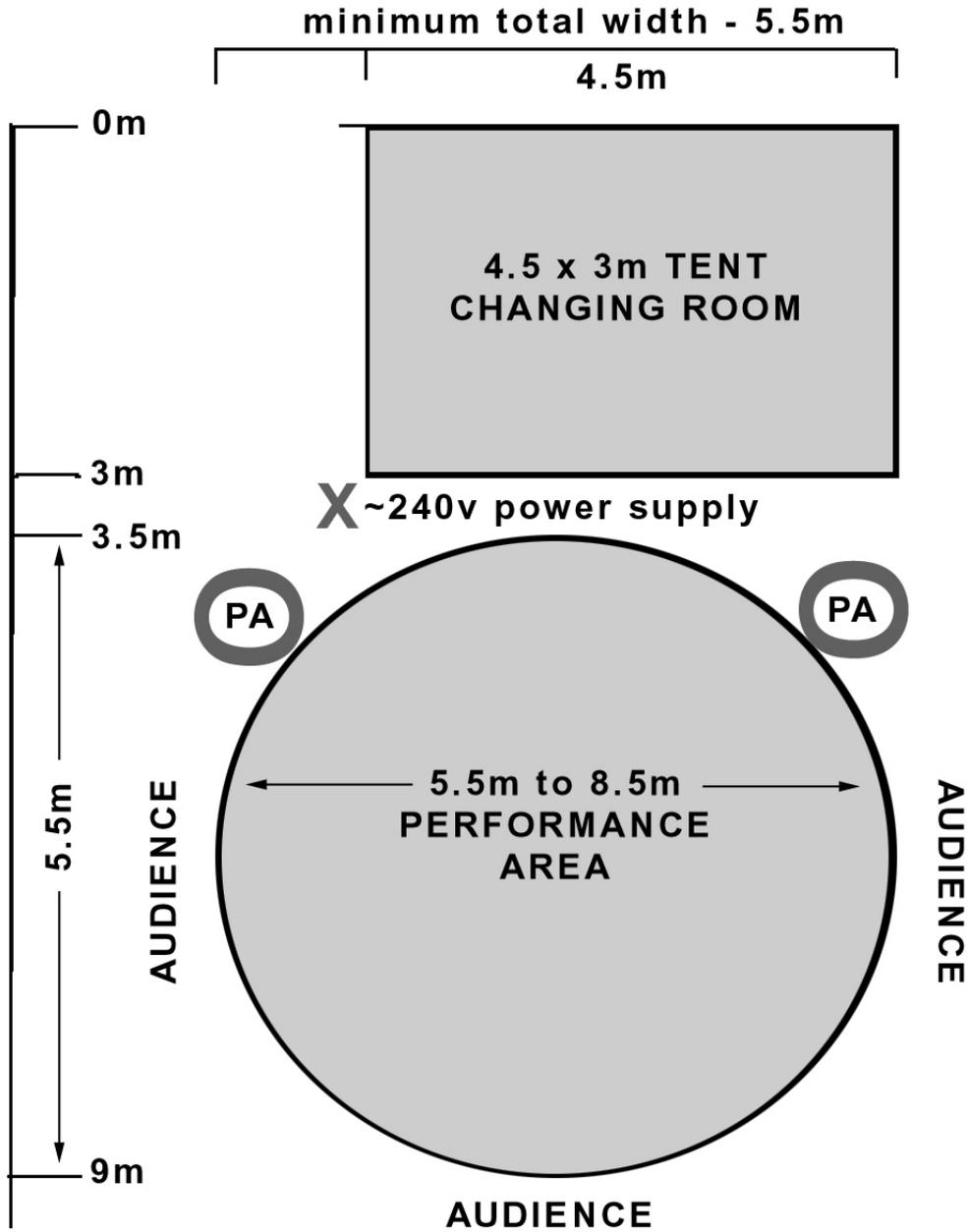
Come and meet Tiny, a 125 million years young dinosaur brought to life by the wonders of modern science. You can pet her, you can feed her, you can talk to her in dinosaur language; just make sure you avoid the dreaded Thagomizer or you might end up extinct yourself!

Our dinosaur is accompanied by a palaeontologist who presents a lively and informative natural history show in which audiences are encouraged to share their knowledge of dinosaurs and to come up with some scientific theories of their own – comparative anatomy has never been so much fun.

This is an amazing opportunity to get up close & personal with a 'real live' dinosaur for the first time since the Cretaceous Era and to find out a few things about how they lived and why they disappeared. For example, dinosaurs aren't quite as extinct as you might think; if you look out of your window you might see one right now!"

This technical specification is considered to be a binding part of any contracted performance of the Stegosaur, and we reserve the right to cancel a performance with full fee still payable in the case of inadequate technical provision.

STEGOSAUR PERFORMANCE SPACE (outdoor)



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