



Houyhnhnms and Yahoos

to be followed by
Gulliver`s World

Swift`s `Gulliver's Travels` for
21st Century Street Performance
by Neighbourhood Watch Stilts
International - a not so `modest`
proposal –initially seeking R&D
funding, bookings, expressions
of interest and collaborators.



Performance package offering the
possibility of city-scale involvement,
associated commissioning and sustainable
benefits

[Neighbourhood Watch stilts](#)
[International](#)

ONE IDEA:

CONNECTED SHOWS

1. Houyhnhnms and Yahoos

launch Summer/Autumn
2015

A medium scale
walkabout for 7/14
performers,
exploring themes of
human /animal
relations through
role reversal

Estimated touring Fee
£1500/4200 depending
on size

Houyhnhnms and Yahoos first show in the Gulliver's travels series . Provisional scenarios

Houyhnhnms, flaneur time travel tourists from the 17th Century imagination of Jonathon Swift visualised as dressed centaurs with horse heads accompanied by their yahoos, humanoid pet slaves.

Houyhnhnms in 17 century clothing in a carriage pulled by yahoos, plus walking houyhnhnms and yahoo slaves-human but behave like dogs. The less well trained with neck funnel collars to prevent self harming, muzzles to stop them biting their masters and harnesses and leads. They howl occasionally and get excited but are generally submissive. The Yahoos are controlled with buzzing illuminated neck bracelets.

scenes .

Snacking: The houyhnhnms are needing a snack so the yahoos are sent to raid (previously hung) public flower displays, these are brought whole to the houyhnhnms who eat them politely with utensils. Yahoos are rewarded with thrown titbits. which they eat of the ground.

Houyhnhnms feed and groom their Yahoo pets.
Retrieval: yahoos retrieve yahoo toys thrown by their masters.

Discipline: Yahoos get excited by each other and other things and have to be restrained.

Shopping: Yahoos raid shops for apples carrots etc and deliver newspapers with their teeth.

Hunting and taming a wild yahoo: -A member of the audience (planted) is hunted by a pack of yahoos caught in a net and trained and dressed as a yahoo and tied into the carriage pulling team.

Yahoo games: an area of the street is marked out for yahoo `point to point` and `dressage` yahoos compete and given ribbons etc.

Houyhnhnms awarded trophies

Routines discovered through repeated performance and interaction with different contexts.

Special new use of volunteers and volunteer organisers

HOUYHNHNMS AND YAHOO'S 2014

The first Houyhnhnms prototype to be made by Tim Davies see see below with his spider puppet

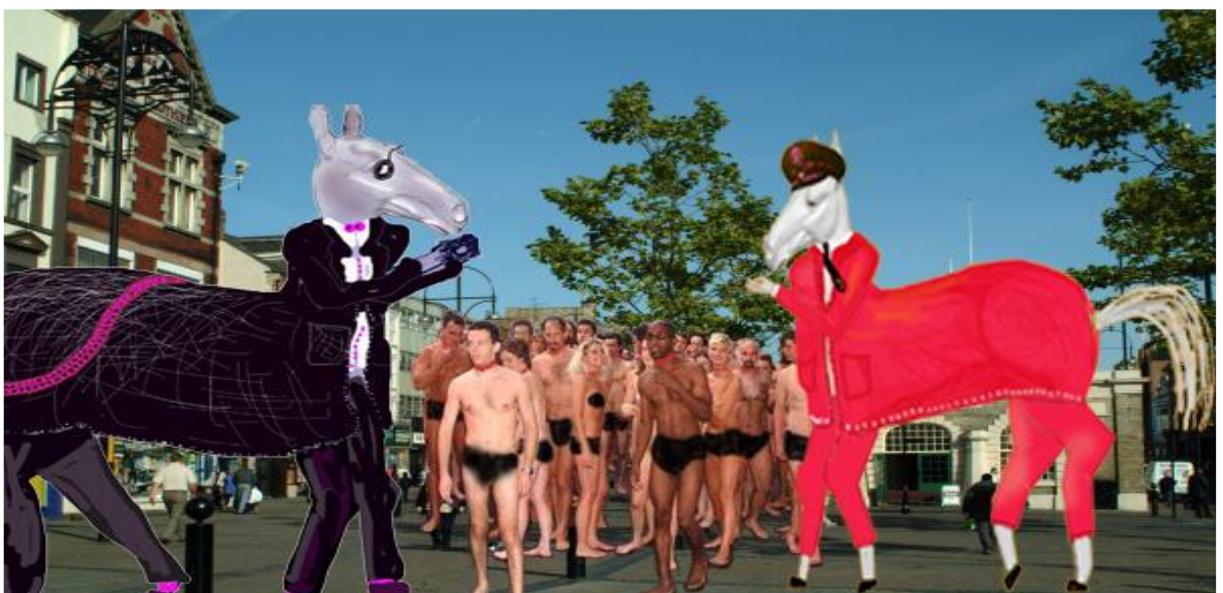


The Houyhnhnms, time travel tourist from the 18th Century are visualised as centaurs, with horses heads. They are accompanied by their yahoos, humanoid pet slaves.

Berizo models a prototype armature of a Houyhnhnm costume.. In this R & D model a unicycle supports and drive the rear legs and flips the tail.



Tim Davies special leg movement design





2. GULLIVERS WORLD FOR 2015/16 SWIFT MEETS ORWELL'S DYSTOPIA.

1. Houyhnhnms meet Gulliver

Houyhnhnms, hyper rational centaur horse creatures, time- tourists from the 17th Century, arrive (with special effects) in their retro, high tech time machine with their slave entourage of Yahoos. They encounter Gulliver as an armless human statue, a Struldbrug of Luggnagg, a human that wants to live forever. He narrates with objects and floating foam words, hung from wire or helium balloons.

2. Gulliver in Lilliput. The King of Lilliput greets the royal military. A ten metre Gulliver is wheeled in seated on a trolley. His 4 metre dog causes mayhem and releases him. (Puppets either solid or inflatable

3. Lilliput/Blefescu War. The war is started by a (William Burroughsesque) random word generating machine, an installation that spreads lies as foam words floating in the air. These words closely parallel communiqués leading to the declaration of the Iraq war. This Lilliput war is an absurd mix of inflatable tanks, drones, pyrotechnic effects, silhouettes and light projections.

5. Post war fascism and cultism.

The Houyhnhnms re- appear as a quasi Nazi cult, against a backdrop of Inflatable, or projected, neo classic structures; red, black and white flags; fire jets and menacing horse images. Yahoos are trained to worship a giant inflatable Houyhnhnm, intended to culminate in the ritual slaying and eating of a yahoo. Yahoos rebel and pull down the giant effigy... celebratory ending).

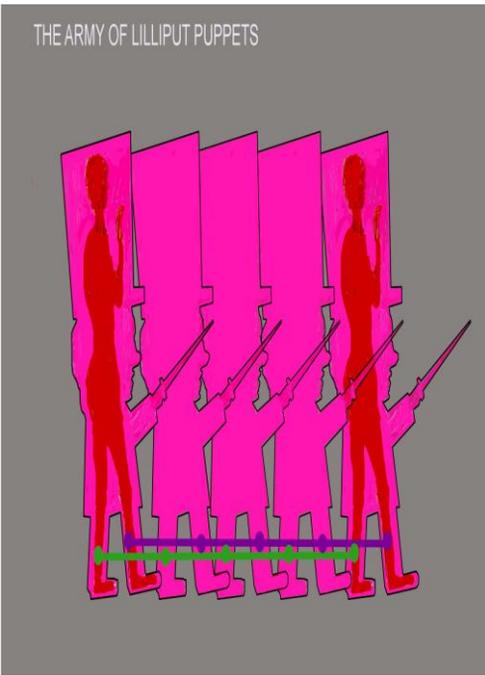
A full scale night-time spectacular -a critique of our society from cynical petro-wars to religious bigotry and proto fascism.

We have planned a version of Gulliver's Travels for many years as the **imagery suits our skills. We now have a working scenarios for a 21st Century satire**

Some ideas for full scale civic participation

1. Event lead in Civic commissions of permanent artefacts on the subject of scale. Eg miniature town children's playground. Giant chip or sunglasses or footprint sculpture.
2. Making Giant puppet by local engineering company and keeping in the town as a permanent resident, who can go on holidays visiting other giants and giant festivals worldwide, partake in functions etc.
3. Civic event welcoming the puppet and bring to the site of the spectacle with local dignitaries brass bands etc.
4. Annual parade legacy

THE ARMY OF LILLIPUT PUPPETS



Technique becomes metaphor

The Miniaturised Royal army of Lilliput achieved by performers with hats obscuring most of their bodies and large heads at waist height. Two performers operate a whole army of puppets. Here puppetry expresses the de-personalisation of the soldier.

Frank Wilson and Jan Doherty are interested in hosting the premiers in 2013 and 2014 at Stockton International Riverside festival.

Neil Butler has offered to present this idea to `In Situ`.

Pax Mindi, The Centre for Carnival Arts, and Tim Woolliscroft, Green Top Circus, are interested in facilitating from the carnival and circus angles.

Helen Davenport, Richard Broderick and Tim Davies, Carnival artists and sculptors, have all expressed interest

`Novak` immersive lighting artists Newcastle are interested.

Fura dels Baus have offered to collaborate with their crane operated giant puppets, which could make an interesting alternative to the inflatable Gulliver and dog.

All our in house team of artists, makers, performers etc

Swift`s popularity should help attract many bookings in the UK and worldwide. We are looking for immediate interest from potential bookers to strengthen the application.

