The Invisible Museum

Production Pack

An exciting and interactive show for 7 – 11 year olds and their families.

“Fun, entertaining, inclusive”
Audience member
Swindon Fringe

“Inspiring and very entertaining”
Audience member
Swindon Fringe

“Better than swimming!”
Audience member
Reading Fringe

“Fun, informative, dazzling”
Audience member
Swindon Fringe

Touring in the Sept 2019 – July 2020

Fully portable performance, suitable for rural touring and small to mid-scale venues. Also suitable for classroom performances.

Knapsack productions
Big ideas: portable performances
The Invisible Museum

The Play

Have you heard of the Invisible Museum? No? Well, in that case you may not have heard of the people whose stories are told inside it either...

A fun, fast and interactive show aimed at 7 – 11 year olds and their families, The Invisible Museum reveals some of the hidden voices of history through object handling, interactive experiments and storytelling.

Synopsis

The Curator of The Invisible Museum is a time-traveler. She visits people from history who, despite their great contributions, are not well known. She talks to them about their lives and stories and takes the artifacts they give her back, to the museum for display.

The Curator and her best friend Tam created the time-travel pack, but it has stopped working, and now she is stuck. She knows how to tinker with the device, but Tam is the genius behind it. The big problem is that communication is broken, The Curator can’t even contact Tam to ask for help.

She has already visited Lilian Bader, one of the first black women to qualify as an Instrument Repairer in the WAAF. Unfortunately, the pack malfunctioned again before Lilian could complete her advice and The Curator is trying to figure it out herself.

The Curator needs the audience to look through the artifacts she has collected on this trip, carry out experiments based on the work of the women she has visited and help her to work out how to fix the time-travel pack so that she can get home.

The Curator

Part Lara Croft, part Indiana Jones and part Dr Who, The Curator’s exuberance always rubs off on the audience.

She is excitable and child-like, adventurous and strong. She is a little arrogant at times, but also so keen to share her extensive knowledge and learn from those around her.

She is passionate that all those who have contributed to the human story should be fairly represented and have their stories told. She also knows how privileged she is to have the job she does, and although she doesn’t always stick to the rules at work, she’d hate to lose the job she loves.
The Invisible Museum

Ruth Hill

Ruth is the writer and performer of this one woman show. An experienced youth theatre director, writer and educator, this is her first solo show and she is loving being The Curator.

Ruth has always worked with children and is interested in the power of storytelling. She is also passionate that all children should see role models who they can relate to.

Inspired to write The Invisible Museum by her children and by a talk by Libby Jackson of the UK Space Agency, Ruth wanted to tell the story of some of the women of science whose stories are often not taught in school.

Praise for Ruth’s previous work

"I just wanted to say thank you for a great show this morning. You were very dynamic and the children really enjoyed all the activities. I loved the “imaginary” trip to the theatre in the hall!” Sue Kettler, teacher

"We've had the fortune to indulge in "Will's World", for both my younger children and teenager. It's wonderful to see children so engaged, using all their senses and having something to remember fondly for years after. Thank you for bringing Shakespeare into their lives.” Georgina Ward (Parent)

"Ruth is inspiring and engaging. She skilfully took children across a range of age groups and brought Shakespeare to life. Parents and children alike thoroughly enjoyed the day and learnt a great deal. Thank you.” Chantelle Mussard (Parent)

"I could talk about the perfect pace, content or venue. However, I think nothing expresses better how successful the day was in bringing the wonderful history of Shakespeare’s writing to life, than my children still speaking about their experience two years later. I simply cannot recommend the day enough.” Lorna (Parent)
The technical stuff

The Invisible Museum is a show from Knapsack Productions. The Knapsack moto is “Big Ideas: Portable Performances”

All the performances are totally portable. Other than the odd table, none of our shows need more than the bits and pieces we bring, and all of them work successfully in both traditional theatre spaces and other, less traditional venues.

The Invisible Museum doesn’t require any special lighting, although a simple wash would be lovely if you have lighting. The show begins and ends with music; it’s great if that can come over your sound system, but this isn’t a deal breaker.

The performance space doesn’t need to be big, although the interactive nature of the show does benefit from a more intimate space, and we could do with a table, but if you don’t have one, we can work around things.

This truly is a one-woman-show, so Ruth does not come with any crew or techies, just a knapsack and few extra boxes – oh, and a dress maker’s dummy!

Key information

Running time: 55 minutes
Cast: One
Crew: None
(Extra facilitators if workshops are booked)
Tech needs: Basic
Performance space: Flexible

Performances so far...
Learning/Wrap around activities

There are several options which can be added to the show if you would like to add an extra interactive element.

Curator Q&A
At the end of the show, submit your questions for The Curator. These will then be answered by her in a 20-minute Q&A session a short time after the show. If you want to provide an interviewer/MC then that would be great, we can also bring an interviewer if you wish.

Be bold
A drama-based workshop aimed at taking the spirit of those pioneering women and bringing that confidence and bravery to audience members.

Hedy’s inventors’ workshop
Solve everyday problems with scissors and glue! Spend some time creating inventions which will solve problems which you encounter every day.

Costs involved
Extra activities do come at an extra cost. These range from a small extra charge for extended time, to a fee for resources and/or extra facilitators.

All workshop leaders and facilitators are insured and have DBS checks

Education

Ruth has taught for over 20 years. She has a Master’s in Education and has worked across primary, secondary and SEN provision.

All workshops can be tailored to the specific needs of an audience.
Contact Us

We are based in Wiltshire, and the show is available to tour in the South West throughout 2019 and 2020.

Shows at more distant venues may also be possible, by arrangement.

If you are a school or youth group, why not talk to us about ticket splits to help you raise money for your school?

Email: KnapsackUK@gmail.com
Telephone: 01249 476400
www.knapsackproductions.co.uk

Get Social With Us

Facebook: @theinvisiblemuseumshow
Twitter: @knapsackUK
Instagram: @Knapsack_product
Thanks!
Science advice by Paul Hill, Sirius Astronomy
Photography by The Little Photo Company