

Gobbledegook Theatre present

# EAR

A joyful  
journey into  
Sonic Geology

# TRUMPET



**EAR TRUMPET** is about listening. It's about the sound under the ground. The noises that you would miss if you didn't listen for them.

A team of sonic investigators have managed to track an exceptional auditory occurrence, which they have discovered, runs under the ground. Eons worth of sound, both ancient and modern, is harmonically bound together, trapped inside our ancient rocks. Occasionally these sounds bubble up and erupt to the surface.





This team invite members of the audience to select a series of beautifully made 'Ear Trumpets' in order to listen in on incredible sonic phenomenon.

Audiences actually hear enchanting contemporary classical music composed by Robert Lee (*National Theatre, BBC, Cambridge University Press*) some of which is specially created for each new site we visit. These listening devices - as if by magic - make the barely audible sound loud and clear.

Ear Trumpet is a playful installation that allows audiences of all ages to delight in the discovery of the secret music under their feet.

*“It opened my eyes to all the history that must have occurred in the past... the unavoidable urge to dance emerged from some of the melodies I encountered. It definitely enhanced my experience of the gardens.”*

AUDIENCE MEMBER, LOWER GARDENS, BOURNEMOUTH

*“Couldn’t help but feel a sense of child-like excitement and wonder during and after the piece. A great experience for all ages.”*

BRIGHTON ARGUS

*“...one of the highlights of the Festival’s outdoor programme. Over 1000 people experienced it over the two days it was with us and I can’t recommend it highly enough.”*

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, SALISBURY INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

*“The moment in which participants first discovered a subterranean sound source... audience members themselves described these moments of attraction as ‘surprising,’ ‘amazing,’ ‘exciting,’ or ‘beautiful.’”*

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*“So excited to have discovered a new sound – such a joyful feeling... Very mysterious sounds – full of stories. It makes you wonder and dream.”*

AUDIENCE MEMBER, WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL

*“A beautifully engineered sonic experience. Made me appreciate sound in a different way.”*

AUDIENCE MEMBER, QUEENS PARK, BRIGHTON

*“Lots of beautiful eruptions were occurring and it has changed my outlook on life...the world is so beautiful. I cried at the sounds.”*

AUDIENCE MEMBER, BELL MEADOWS, CHELMSFORD



## WHERE CAN EAR TRUMPET BE PERFORMED?

The ideal site for this site-responsive piece is a place of relative quiet, away from the busiest part of the festival or amplified sound sources. Ear Trumpet can only be performed on 'diggable' grassland.

Ear Trumpet was first performed in the ancient ceremonial landscape of the South Dorset Ridgeway AONB.

After its Dorset debut, Ear Trumpet has been to numerous UK sites and festivals, including Hadrian's Wall in Northumberland for English Heritage, Winchester Cathedral, Greenwich and Docklands International Festival, Salisbury International Arts Festival, Brighton Festival and Winchester Hat Fair.

Ear Trumpet has also been performed at Seoul Street Arts Festival, South Korea and at the Pforzheim Festival, Germany.





## EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

Gobbledegook have a strong track record in delivering workshops to school groups of all ages. Please speak to us about extending the Ear Trumpet experience for students.

# TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

## THE SET UP

The set comprises a large field tent (4.2m by 6m), and a listening area cordoned off with flags and rope.

We must be able to dig into the ground, but we do not dig any further than a spade's depth. We are very careful with soil and reparations and are used to digging in sensitive environments. We usually require a site visit to take place before installation.

We lay out our site with rope and pin to create a boundary.

The field tent acts as the entrance, and is an essential part of the set. We prefer a relatively level area on which to pitch the tent, but we can easily accommodate slopes or hills for the listening 'hot spots'. We have up to 16 sound spots for the audience to listen to.

## WHAT WE REQUIRE FROM A PRESENTING FESTIVAL VENUE

Although we have an adjustable footprint, the minimum area required is 50 square metres.

We don't need power, but a nearby dressing room is required.

Overnight security for the site is essential.

We are a company of 5 people.

## ACCESS

A touch tour of the set and the Ear Trumpets can be provided for visually impaired audience members before the performance, on request. The sound-based installation has been successfully received by visually impaired audience members.

Cast members are happy to wear radio aids for hearing-impaired audience members if supplied (audiences who use hearing aids are often intrigued to see the antique ear trumpets which form part of the set).

We tour with a set of folding chairs for audience members who find it hard to reach floor level in order to listen to the ground. We supply different shaped Ear Trumpets for wheelchair users.

Gobbledegook are keen to support other access arrangements. We are committed to being flexible and accommodating for those with additional needs.



# GOBBLEDEGOOK THEATRE

Gobbledegook make innovative, cross-artform work for unusual places. With theatre at its core, our live performance, music and installation work is frequently inspired by Earth Sciences, and almost always takes place outdoors.

We are Associate Artists for Inside Out Dorset and Lighthouse Poole.

Lorna Rees is Artistic Director of Gobbledegook.  
[www.gobbledegooktheatre.com](http://www.gobbledegooktheatre.com)

 @thegobbledegook     @gobbledegooktheatre

For more information and a short film of Ear Trumpet please visit  
[www.gobbledegooktheatre.com](http://www.gobbledegooktheatre.com) or [gobbledegooktheatre.blogspot.com](http://gobbledegooktheatre.blogspot.com)

Ear Trumpet was co-commissioned by Without Walls, Ageas Salisbury International Festival, Winchester Hat Fair and Bournemouth Arts by the Sea Festival.

It was first commissioned by Activate Performing Arts for the Inside Out Dorset Festival and Dorset AONB. It was supported through Grants for the Arts using public funding by Arts Council England.

# CONTACT

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