

The Crick Crack Club Presents

THE GODS AND MONSTERS SHOW

by Pandvani 108



UK TOUR 2018-19

THE GODS AND MONSTERS SHOW

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Epic Performance Storytelling - Ben Haggarty, Emily Hennessey, Mikael Oberg
Music - Jonah Brody, Sheema Mukherjee



ACCESSIBLE. FUN. MULTICULTURAL.

Storytelling, gone rock and roll...

'Phenomenal' WONDERFUL BEAST



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



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'playful, powerful, dynamic'

DAVID AMBROSE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, BEYOND THE BORDER FESTIVAL

THE GODS AND MONSTERS SHOW

INTRODUCTION ...

The Gods and Monsters Show is a fun, accessible introduction to world myth and epic, told live by some of the UK's leading narrative performers.

In *The Gods and Monsters Show*, the Pandvani 108 collective perform short (8-12 minute) episodes from international myth and epic in short form 'jukebox' style accompanied by music, and interjections from a *ragi* - who acts as the voice of the audience - driving the story ever onwards. This lively form of stories-with-music is a contemporary remodelling of a traditional central Indian epic singing tradition - *Pandvani* or *Pandavani*.

Pandvani 108 has developed a unique ensemble style to best present the best global epic stories in a way that is entertaining for contemporary audiences of all ages, with no need for prior experience of storytelling or knowledge of the material.

For promoters wishing to explore programming contemporary performance storytelling for the first time, *The Gods and Monsters Show* is a lively and engaging way to introduce audiences to a multicultural landscape of great stories.

For those already programming storytelling, the show's radical approach to the art form is a refreshing addition to existing work by world-class storytellers.

In both cases, it gives audiences access to unusual culturally diverse material which is rarely adapted for live arts.

The Gods and Monsters Show is ideal for small-medium sized arts venues (100-350) and will appeal to audiences ranging from teenagers (14+), Millennials, right through to older adults, and has been particularly attractive to male audiences aged 25-35.

Previous venues include: Soho Theatre, Rich Mix, The Forge, Smugglers Festival, Aldeburgh, Bestival, Secret garden Party, Larmer Tree, Cranborne Earthouse, Beyond the Border festival.



CREDITS

Created by Pandvani 108

Presented by The Crick Crack Club



RURAL TOUR AVAILABILITY

Main availability will be in March-April 2019; Summer/Autumn 2018 dates also available on request.

Current 2018 bookings include: Blue Coat Liverpool, Northern Stage, LitFest Lancaster, York Theatre Royal, More Music (Morecambe), Cranborne Earthouse, Rich Mix, Kirkgate Arts Cokermonth, The British Museum.

CURRENT SHOW COPY

The stage is set for a high voltage mythological mash-up!

Inspired by a 3,000 year old Indian epic-singing tradition, international ensemble Pandvani108, combine performance storytelling, music and song to turn on the epic jukebox and bring us a wild night of unbawdlerised global myth and epic in untamed short form style. Gods, monsters, giants, warriors & divas from Greece, Ireland, the Scandinavian North, the Indian heat and beyond, are all hauled centre stage.

Far from sedate spoken word this is more like organised chaos with added deities. Brash, exuberant, and with more experimental excitement than you can shake a stick at, this is the Short Myth Massive - live and irresistibly direct!

“Rather fantastic” HUGH LUPTON, UK Storyteller

PROMOTIONAL FILM

Made as part of a commission from the Ancient Technology Centre, Cranborne Earhouse:

https://youtu.be/jU_16AOqat0

NB: Footage is from a site specific show so venue dominates: the performance would normally be given end-on on a bare theatre stage. A further film, set in a theatre, will be produced in spring 2018.

IMAGES

A selection of performance images is available via the following link

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/j0t9jzrs9g348cj/AABiKg6swvZyYD6-K0ZeLJSYa?dl=0>

More images will be available in Spring 2018.



'You were stellar!' Facebook Comment, SMUGGLERS FESTIVAL

AUDIENCES

The Gods and Monsters Show appeals to a diverse range of audiences including:

Existing storytelling audiences

Immediate appeal - a new and different experience to anything encountered before.

General interest

Very accessible - immediate access to international myth and epic in short form, with lively musical accompaniment.

Building storytelling audiences

No prior knowledge required, so good for building audiences for other storytelling events.

Cultural Diversity

International range of material, musical styles and forms, encouraging the breaking down of boundaries to culturally diverse work.

Specific Target Audiences

- Young adults 25-35 - proven appeal to men (traditionally under-represented)
- Theatre / Experimental theatre crossover audiences
- Multicultural audiences and cross cultural interest groups
- Classics / mythology interest audiences
- Those who find the formality of standard theatre a barrier to engagement
- Seekers and thinkers looking for a different type of live art entertainment
- cross over world music audiences
- cross over comedy audiences
- comic book/graphic novel, Literature and Literature festival audiences
- Storytelling audiences / those who already know about the *Pandvani* form
- Those who enjoy cross-arts and music festivals and events

Some Audience Quotes

'Fantastic! Engaging & atmospheric!' WONDERFUL BEAST

'A highlight - Great fun and so much energy!' Twitter Comment, SMUGGLERS FESTIVAL

More detailed Audience Development information available on request.

The Crick Crack Club produces shows with a range of audience appeal and we are happy to discuss **other** possibilities with specific venues.

CREATIVE TEAM

BEN HAGGARTY

Having been trained in mime, and in theatre direction at East 15, and apprenticed as an image-maker with Welfare State, Ben is one of the world's leading contemporary storytellers, renowned for his passionate and physical performances. He tours widely, has been a guest artist in over one hundred International Storytelling Festivals in 25 countries and was for 10 years the official storyteller with Yo Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble.

www.benhaggarty.com

'The Nick Cave of storytelling' REMOTE GOAT

'I was spellbound - I don't use the word lightly' THE TIMES

EMILY HENNESSEY

After completing a Drama & Theatre Studies degree at the University of Kent, Emily completed a storytelling apprenticeship with storyteller Dr Vayu Naidu., and later trained with Ben Haggarty. She's also had the privilege of training with Indian Pandvani performer, Ritu Verma, and studying Kathakali dance-drama in Kerala . As a storyteller, Emily has toured in India with the British Council and performed at the Delhi Storytelling Festival.

www.emilyhennessy.co.uk

'Emily is an outstanding performance storyteller' THE LATEST

'A wonderful piece of theatre' THEATRE BUBBLE

MIKAEL OBERG

Mikael is a Swedish performance storyteller and member of the Fabula Storytelling Company in Stockholm. Mikael tells stories, myths and epics from traditions around the world, and his energetic and experimental style has won him fans across Europe. Mikael also performs with the physical theatre group Theatre Slava, and is also the co-artistic director of Cistern.se, organising experimental sonic events and cross-arts festivals.

www.storytelling.se

' Epic, energetic storytelling ... an enthralling performer' EXEUNT

SHEEMA MUKHERJEE

Brought up between Britain and India, Sheema studied sitar and Indian classical music under the tutelage of her uncle, the late Pandit Nikhil Banerjee, then with the late Ustad Ali Akbar Khan. She has a rich background to draw on in her own compositions and collaborations, and today she is an established sitar player and composer; a regular in Transglobal Underground and a formidable collaborator with international artists from many genres.

www.mukherjee.co.uk

JONAH BRODY

Jonah is an international award-winning composer and multi-instrumentalist, playing Bass, Guitar, Gamelan, Japanese Koto, and Harmonium. He trained at SOAS, winning the 2010 Darmasiswa music Scholarship, was a founding member of contemporary folk outfits Sam Lee and Friends and Super Best Friends Club, and is a composer at London's The Yard Theatre. Having studied musical accompaniment of the Ramayana during his MA, Jonah carries deep knowledge of improvised Eastern traditions, and is himself an accomplished improviser.

THE CRICK CRACK CLUB is England's premier promoter and programmer of performance storytelling. Since 1987 it has led the revival of performance storytelling in the UK - focusing on contemporary performance of international folktale, fairytales, myth & epic for adult audiences.

In London, the club currently programmes regular sell-out performances at [Soho Theatre](#), [Rich Mix](#), the British Library and the British Museum. In Bristol, it has a new residency at the Cube Microplex, and works actively with theatres, arts centres, festivals and music venues across the UK including Northern Stage and York Theatre Royal. In 2015, it hosted a Fairytale Festival on London's South Bank, and in 2017 curated a Wild takeover at the Wellcome Collection. www.crickcrackclub.com

The UK's most vivid and exciting Storytelling organisation'
Ian Macmillan, THE TIMES

MARKETING and PR RESOURCES

Print: A5 flyers, and A4, A3 or large format posters
Production images
Video clip/trailer (new trailer to be made Spring 2018)
Social media campaigns (Twitter & Facebook)
Crick Crack Club dedicated email shots
sample press releases
Direct mail templates (on request)

Our team are always happy to give advice on target audiences (generic for the artform & specific for the production) and strategies for reaching them.

COSTS

Fixed fee bookings only:
1 show/£1000; 2 shows / £850 each; 3+ shows / £750 each

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Ideally suited to a wide range of venues including very small and non-traditional performance spaces with limited technical capabilities.

PERFORMANCE SPACE

Minimum dimensions 5m x 4m (3m headroom), with at least 2 x power sockets.

Configuration: Audience end-on ideally, although the show has played in the round and in various festival locations so can be flexible.

GET-IN

At least 2 hours (preferably 3) prior to house opening.

GET-OUT

1 hour

RUNNING TIME

120 mins (2 x 50 min + 20 min interval) though alternative running times can be discussed

LIGHTING

Ideally, a 'pre-show' state and 'show' state with directional light on the performers.

SET

The performance to take place in front of black backdrops/tabs where possible. If not available free standing supports and drapes can be provided by the company.

1 X riser (1m x 1m minimum) required by sitar player

SOUND EQUIPMENT

In smaller spaces the ensemble can be self sufficient for amplification, with musicians using portable amps and storytellers performing without microphones.

CONTACT DETAILS

TOUR BOOKINGS

Laura Sampson / laura@crickcrackclub.com / 078320089081

PRODUCTION & other CRICK CRACK CLUB PROGRAMMING

Kate Norgate / kate@crickcrackclub.com