



Mintfest

Friday 28th –
Sunday 30th
August
Kendal UK



Supported by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Mintfest

Friday 28th – Sunday 30th August, Kendal UK

Once again X.TRAX is working with Mintfest to promote the festival to promoters and bookers. This year, programmers will have the opportunity to see 40 UK and international companies including some new shows and some established festival favourites.

Programme highlights include:

International shows from Trukitrek (Spain), Antipodes (France), Theatre Irrwisch (Austria) **La Sonambula** (Spain), Los Gingers (Spain) UK premiere of Circenses by **Circus Ronaldo** (Belgium) Salamandre (France) **Zapik Puppet Theatre** (Slovenia) and a fabulous fire installation from the wonderful Carabosse (France) New shows The Troll's Kitchen by Plunge Boom! and The Cabaret of Dr Caligari by Artizani, both commissioned by Lakes Alive, New and classic shows from over 35 UK groups

Professionals attending will be invited to the opening reception on Friday evening at 7pm at the Brewery Arts Centre and will receive complimentary entry to ticketed shows subject to advance booking.

**Registrations ARE OPEN NOW on the X.TRAX website
but for more information please email info@xtrax.org.uk**

Hotels

Kendal is a popular tourist destination and accommodation is already quite full as the festival is on a bank holiday. If you plan to come we advise that you book soon. X.TRAX will forward you a list of hotels when we receive your registration. PLEASE NOTE THE HOTEL LIST IS ATTACHED

Travel

There are regular trains to Kendal running from both the north and the south, with the journey taking less than four hours from London.

International connections can be made via train from **Manchester or Liverpool airports.**

Mintfest will be an opportunity to meet and network with others working in the outdoor theatre sector from the UK and internationally.

Programme information:

Aqueous Humour (UK) Charred Grizzle

A street theatre show of fire, food and fun. A performance that combines colourful and grisly props with grotesque performance and pyrotechnic effects by larger than life chefs.



Antipodes (France) Escale

They could be characters from a Edith Piaf song.

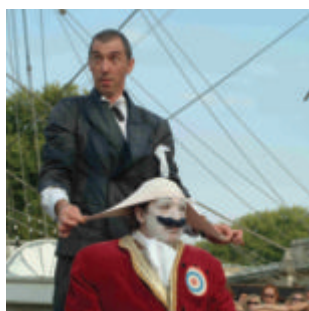
He returns from faraway, she is waiting to depart from an imaginary quay.

They meet during a dance-time...

Artizani (UK) The Cabaret of Dr Caligari

A brand new commission for Lakes Alive.

The chaotic Dr Caligari arrives in town to perform his timeless cabaret and gets the audience to help create a unique auditorium. Oddities, eccentrics and acrobats are conjured out of thin air to entertain, but once out of the box they refuse to disappear! An afternoon of cabaret with music, dancing, comedy and spectacle.



Avanti Display (UK) Spurting Man

The show dissects the unequal relationship between the famous speciality performer, 'The Spurting Man', and his downtrodden assistant. The assistant despises his master. The master ignores the assistant. The bizarre and unequal relationship lays the basis for a series of comic interactions. Each trick the "Spurting Man" performs culminates in a display of squirting water.



Avanti Display (UK) Waiting to Happen

A group of workmen arrive and start to set up their equipment.

Could it be a circus; or maybe simply a team of painters and decorators? Whoever they are, they are certainly pushing their luck climbing into mid-air like that. Accidents are bound to happen.

Axial Dance (UK) Lance and Brenda commissioned by Lakes Alive

A Sixties dance duet that arrives on an iconic 1963 Lambretta. Lance and Brenda get off their scooter to express their 'so cool' Sixties passion for one another to their favourite Sixties tunes. They then hop back on their scooter and cruise on to another destination to while away their day, loved up.

Baked A La Ska (UK)

Baked A La Ska are fronted by an un-holy trio of singers: Mr Frank "the Skank" (smooth Sinatra vocals), Tommy Robot (MC) and the soft lilt and harmonica magic of Robin Sunflower (vegan). Baked A La Ska feature one of the tightest rhythm sections in Manchester with the "chops to make you drop".



Betty Brawn, The Strongest Lady Alive! (Australia)

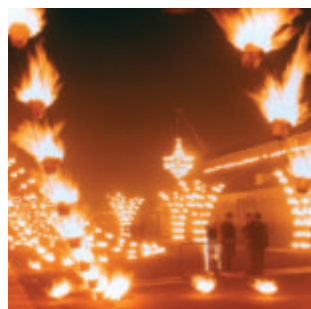
You will laugh, gasp and wonder as books are torn, a metal bar bent and other incredible feats of strength unfold before she attempts "The Human Carousel" a stunt that must be seen, to be believed!



Bootworks (UK) The Little Box Of Horrors

Sit inside The Box and experience a terrifying nightmare from your intimate perspective and, like an old fairground ghost train, The Little Box of Horrors will have you clinging to your seat with dread.

(Supported by Without Walls)



Carabosse (France) Installation du Feu

Fri 28, Sat 29, Sun 30th

A magical, sensory experience awaits you as Noble's Rest is transformed into a glowing fairytale environment where fire sculptures dance in trees, mysterious fiery engines hide behind bushes and cascades of candles line the pathways, all accompanied by seductive live music. Spend 30 minutes or the whole evening enjoying this gloriously atmospheric feast for the senses from French alchemists Carabosse.



The Cautley Carollers (UK) A World of Song

The Cautley Carollers are well known in their native Sedbergh where each December they take their songs on a walk through the winter landscape singing on the doorsteps of cottages cradled in the Dales – and also in many places on the continent where their performances have included drinking song competitions, choral festivals and alpine festivals.

They sing three and four part harmony arrangements of songs from countries where many people sing as naturally as they talk.



Chol (UK) Not for all the tea in China

Lord Ogilvy-Smythe is hosting an elegant tea party. You are invited to partake of afternoon tea and cake in honour of the recent medal-winning successes of the 1908 British Olympic team in London. But under the surface of the finely pressed tablecloths is there more than tea brewing? Join Chol Theatre at this Edwardian tea party with a difference!

Chol Theatre is a critically acclaimed intercultural theatre company based at the Lawrence Batley Theatre in Huddersfield.



Circus Ronaldo (Belgium) UK premiere of Circenses

Circus Ronaldo is one of the most exciting contemporary circus companies in Europe, if not the world, with sell-out shows wherever they go. Circenses brings together three generations of the Ronaldo family in a show which plays on the key ingredients of the (great) circus tradition – curiosity and illusion - in the intimate setting of their own Big Top. Experience Ronaldo's unique blend of razor-

sharp wit, visual poetry and breath-taking physical skill in a show of literally two halves where things may not always be quite as they first appear... Recommended for anyone and everyone over 14.

A licensed bar serving European beer and other beverages is available in the tent.



Curious Cargo (UK) Lost Luggage Porters

Travel back in time with The Lost Luggage Porters to a world of monochrome, wonderment and curiosity. Join these silent movie characters in their quest to find the railway station, and experience the bizarre contents of their cargo along the way.



Dans La Poche (UK) Razor Sharp Bananas

A giant fly riding a unicycle crash-lands onto stage - revealing the one & only daredevil Barnaby who will whip you into a frenzy with fearless acrobatics and razor sharp bananas!



Dans La Poche (UK) Tricks and Tales

For 2009 Gracie draws inspiration from Match Girls. Roving through the streets with their tiny wares these hardy yet glamorous characters are icons of the British women's movement, being the first to organise an all out strike; they use fire and matches, flash and ficelle, match boxes, roses, feathers and very female magic.



Deli Babies (UK)

Deli Babies play a tasty mix of klezmer and Greek Music on clarinet and guitar – traditional dance melodies and improvisations- soulful, energetic and lively tunes with a twist



Dennis Teeth (UK) Musical Saw Extraordinaire.

Your ears won't believe your eyes! Dennis is one of Europe's most accomplished virtuosos of this unusual and hypnotic instrument. Heart-melting melodies, comedy numbers and classical music are all played expertly by this duck-suited maestro.

Encore (UK)

Visually stunning, fantastical characters, part man, part woman bring a pinch of absurdity and a little magic everywhere they go. There will be lots of sound and plenty of laughter.

Fairly Famous Family (UK) Anyone for Tennis

One immaculate court, an umpire but only one player, no ball boy, and who is going to present the trophy?

Green Door (UK)

Entering into the spirit of the festival Green Door will be drawing on the wealth of culture and beauty of the immediate local area with an ongoing visual spectacle that will grow over the duration of the festival and reflect the interests and passions of the artists and festivalgoers.



Helen Kane (UK) Frankie Chalet

Welcome to the world of Frankie Chalet, where everything can be just a little bit French! A beatnik accordionist who embodies (quite literally) the entire sex drive of France. Romantic, atmospheric and very, very French.



Kausary (UK)

From Trujillo on the North Coast of Peru, now based in the UK, Kausary has a repertoire of traditional Andean and contemporary Latin sounds. Kausary in Quechua (the Andean language) means To Revive. As suggested in their name Kausary promises to revive the Andean culture through the music so that we can feel its universal message.



La Sonambula (Spain) LA MUERTE ES MENTIRA (Death is a lie)

A beautiful and atmospheric night time spectacle combining live music, dance and photography. An audio visual treat!



Los Gingers (Spain) Perlas Y Plumas (Pearls and Feathers)

To the sound of music and dancing, four characters radiating glamour galore, perform several numbers, incorporating horizontal bar, tightrope walking, juggling and acrobatics techniques with humour being the predominant element throughout the whole show.

Marcelo De Ramos (UK)

Awesome Brazilian acrobat and stuntman



Motionhouse (UK) Underground

Motionhouse's festival piece performed by four dancers within a rocking tubular structure. Underground uses stunningly physical dance, poignant imagery and surprising aerial encounters to explore the new reality of train travel.



Murphy's Marbles (UK) Celtic at its best

The Marbles are fast, charismatic, with a fantastic live show. They are songwriters and recording artist in their own right. When it comes to providing fine music and humour, with audience participation they are supreme.

Pif-Paf (UK) Under the Floorboards

Join our lost hero on a time travelling romp through the mysteries beneath our feet with Pif-Paf's inimitable blend of fact and fiction...expect giant trilobytes, a belching volcano and a confused giant sloth...

Plunge! Boom! (UK) The Troll's Kitchen

Recently Troll's have hit hard times, with increased urbanisation making it hard for them to find a varied diet. Fortunately our chef is creating an elaborate meal for the local troll – hand plucked spider legs, Billy Goat seasoning, magic beans and lots more will all be cooked into a nourishing and entertaining treat!



Reckless Invention (UK) Break

Turbo Jones scratches and breaks in this one man break-dance sensation. Watch him headspin to NNNNNNNineteen. All his favourite current artists grace his decks. Mc Hammer makes an appearance. Vanilla Ice keeps it real and Run DMC puts the boot in to Aerosmith. It's lino time!



Ric Taylor (UK)

A funny, quirky, family-friendly show combining impressive juggling feats and audience participation.



Rimski Piano (UK)

Rimski and his bicycle piano have reached Kendal. It's been an arduous journey, but he is ready to refresh himself with music and your good company. Meanwhile, Violet, a singer of dubious reputation, is in hot pursuit...Will she ensnare him? One thing is certain... Rimski has a long way to go on his piano!.



Salamandre (France) The Passage

A fiery theatrical spectacle from French company Salamandre.



Science in a suitcase (UK)

Two Scientists One Piece of Luggage Infinite Possibilities
Expect the unexpected, as two unconventional comical scientists unpack their cases revealing unique and bizarre experiments.



Shazia Mirza (UK)

Award-winning British Asian comic; challenging and hilarious.



Shifting Sands (UK) Mean Streets

A clowning celebration of hardboiled detectives, femme fatales and Raymond Chandler. When bodies are discovered everyone is a suspect. No one leaves until the crime is solved!

Strictly Dumb Prancing (UK)

With more than a smidgen of mischief, this over sequinned couple combine their superbly skilled acrobalance with dubious tango dancing in this hilarious battle of skills, wills and cheesy smiles.

Theatre Irrwisch (Austria) Wegenstreits Guests

Artists on their stilts and poets in their hearts. They don't stop at anything or anyone - they climb into other people's apartments on the first floor, exchange a bicycle for a piece of furniture and hi-jack buses and trams. But they give everything back - usually to someone else, just to give pleasure and that, amidst the chaos they create.

The Mudjumping (UK)

Baldrian, Ferdinand and Schtan are tramps. They are always on the move and are nowhere at home - and they look like it too. They live from showing what they can do, and they can do a lot. Skippers, storytellers, acrobats, drummers, singers....



Theatre of Adventure (UK) Random Acts of Jazz

You never know when or where the Jazz Juju duo will get ya! Turning ordinary life into a comedy musical they are utterly, absolutely and down right portable! Creating anarchy with air trombone solos.

The Evolution Booth (UK)

You are invited, by the dashing Waste Warriors, to see inside the 'Evolution Booth' and witness the possible futures of Mankind. Do you dare enter the Booth and have your body parts recycled?



Thingumabob & the Thingumajigs (UK)

A Salfordian vaudeville cabaret musical entertainment show. A mish-mash of different musical styles blended with a show tunes for a good time sing-along vibe.

Three Bonzos and a piano (UK)

This new show will delight everyone, but especially fans of the Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band. All the recorded favourites are brought to life by three of the original members, recreating the atmosphere of the Bonzo's formative years way back in the Sixties.



Trukitrek (Spain) Hotel Crab

Hotel Crab is a unique and distinctive puppet show for people of all ages. A story without words that makes use of the style of silent film.

Wright Stuff Puppet Theatre Co (UK)

Ruff Daddy and Bad Mutha - brilliant comedy animation from the Wright Stuff Puppet Company.

Zapik Puppet Theatre (Slovenia)

A warm and intimate performance that includes puppets and music, and with the audience not only observing but taking part.

Also

Digital Funfair

Hank Wangford

More to be announced....

For more information contact nicole@xtrax.org.uk

Mintfest is part of Lakes Alive 2009 www.lakesalive.org

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