Bread and Puppet’s 2024 Circus Tour

September 1 - October 13, 2024
Touring Vermont to Wisconsin and back!

The circus is coming! The circus is coming! The 61-year-old, Vermont-based Bread and Puppet Theater is currently seeking venues to present its iconic puppet circus. This raucous spectacle attempts to address the heart of the current moment with a bright barrage of acts spanning many moods, from slapstick to the sublime, all powered by a riotous brass band. Help is provided by stilt-dancers, blue horses, paper maché clouds and tigers. Building on the tradition of the Circus as popular spectacle, performed in the round, and somehow encompassing the ecstasy, sadness and absurdity of the world as a whole, Bread & Puppet's circuses have become an iconic form in their own right, 53 years running!

After each show, Bread and Puppet will serve its famous sourdough rye bread with aioli, and Bread and Puppet’s “Cheap Art” – books, posters, postcards, pamphlets and banners from the Bread and Puppet Press – will be for sale.

Show Length: Approximately 1 hour.

Find a more info, photos, and video of The Bread and Puppet Theater at breadandpuppet.org
BREAD AND PUPPET THEATER
The Bread and Puppet Theater is an internationally celebrated company that champions a visually rich, street-theater brand of performance art filled with music, dance and slapstick. Believing that theater is a basic necessity like bread, the company frequently brings its work to the streets for those who may not otherwise go to the theater. Its shows are political and spectacular, with puppets often on stilts, wearing huge masks with expressive faces, singing, dancing and playing music.

Bread and Puppet is recognized throughout the world and has won distinction at international theater festivals in Italy, Poland, Colombia, and Yugoslavia, beginning with their break-out performances at the 1968 Nancy Festival in France. Notable awards include the Erasmus Prize of Amsterdam, 4 Obies, the Puppeteers of America’s President Award, and the Vermont Governor’s Award. Bread and Puppet is constantly active, performing at its farm in Glover, VT, and in local churches, schools and parades. It regularly tours Europe, Canada, and the United States and has recently visited El Salvador, Haiti, Russia, and Korea.

Founded in 1963 by Peter Schumann on New York City’s Lower East Side, the theater has been based in the North East Kingdom of Vermont since the early 1970s and is one of the oldest, nonprofit, self-supporting theatrical companies in the country.

Based on the Biography of Bread and Puppet that accompanies the Bread and Puppet Archives at the University of Vermont, Burlington. Full text here: http://cdli.uvm.edu/findingaids/collection/bredpupt.ead.xml

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WEATHER
In general, we will perform through a light rain, pause a performance if heavy rain comes, and end a show prematurely if heavy rain persists. If consistent heavy rain is forecasted for the scheduled time of a performance, we may decide to cancel in advance.

VIDEO

Full circuses are viewable at:
- 2023: The Heart of the Matter Circus ([https://youtu.be/05sP0ZtcJno](https://youtu.be/05sP0ZtcJno))

Short videos:
- Circus workshop at The Orange Show in Houston, TX in 2022 ([https://youtu.be/7mJ06335wT4](https://youtu.be/7mJ06335wT4))
- Excerpt for the HONK! Festival, with two circus acts and our raucous band at [https://vimeo.com/463240597](https://vimeo.com/463240597)
- Bread and Puppet Theater: Small Town, Big Story, a 15-minute documentary about the Bread and Puppet farm ([https://youtu.be/EUrbyGqQDtc](https://youtu.be/EUrbyGqQDtc))
“Medium Big Tour” Fall 2024 - Basic Information Booking Release

Booking inquiries please contact Paul Bedard 860-918-0850 breadandpuppettour@gmail.com

WHAT WE’RE LOOKING FOR
In order to have a successful tour stop, we’re looking for the following things:

● An audience! We love playing to crowds large and small, adults and children, students and everyone else! We rely on our hosts to get the word out.

● Space. Outdoors if weather permits. Fields work great, but we can also play in built-in amphitheaters. When possible, we like to drive our bus (see below) onto the performance space to use as the divider between the performance ring and the backstage. It’s good practice to have a rain venue for every outdoor venue. When playing indoors, we set up our backdrop from boxes on the floor. The show takes up roughly 25’x25’20’, plus room for the audience is needed. Theaters, gyms, and halls tend to work well.

● Electricity. If we are playing outdoors we will need to either play before sundown or have access to electricity. We bring our own lights (conventional clip lights) and a single outlet will be sufficient. Often we run a long extension cord from the nearest building.

● Housing. We will be a group of 12-15 puppeteers. We love beds, but we’re also a rustic bunch and happy to sleep on couches, mats, etc. We can also camp, but will need at least a few beds for the elders we are traveling with.

● Funding. Bread and Puppet typically receives a performance fee to cover our touring expenses, and at most shows we “pass the hat” for a suggested donation from the audience. Our goal is to walk away from each show with at least $5,000. We can make many models work and we are eager to work with you.

● Food. We love it!

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TOUR SCHEDULE

- Saturday, August 31 – Last show on our farm in Glover, VT
- Sunday, September 1 – Middlebury, VT (Town Hall Theatre)
- Monday, September 2 – Lawrence, MA (Bread & Roses Heritage Festival)
- Thursday, September 5 – Brooklyn, NY (The Old Stone House)
- Friday, September 6 – Easthampton, MA (Park Hill Orchard)
- Saturday, September 7 – Portland, ME (Fort Allen Park, hosted by Mayo St Arts)
- Sunday, September 8 – Cambridge, MA (Cambridge Common)
- **Tuesday, September 10** – Hudson Valley, NY - Seeking a venue
- Wednesday, September 11 – Hudson, NY (Churchtown Dairy, hosted by Time & Space Limited)
- **Thursday, September 12** – Ithaca, NY - Seeking a venue
- Friday, September 13 – Rochester or Buffalo, NY - Seeking a venue
- **Saturday, September 14** – Lorain or Cleveland, OH - Seeking a venue
- Sunday, September 15 – Detroit, MI (Detroit Puppet Company)
- Wednesday, September 18 – Possible workshop or performance, must be very close to Detroit
- **Thursday, September 19** – South Bend, IN - Seeking a venue
- **Friday, September 20** – Chicago, IL - Seeking a venue
- Saturday, September 21 & Sunday, September 22 – Mazomanie, WI (Wild Rumpus)
- **Tuesday, September 24** – Dubuque, IA - Seeking a venue
- Wednesday, September 25 – Des Moines, IA
- **Thursday, September 26** – Iowa City, IA - Seeking a venue
- Friday, September 27 – Urbana, IL (Crystal Lake Park, hosted by UCIMC)
- **Saturday, September 28** – Indianapolis or Louisville - Seeking a venue
- Sunday, September 29 – Cincinnati / Covington - Seeking a venue
- Tuesday, October 1 – Bloomington, IN (Loesch Farm, hosted by Lotus Festival)
- **Wednesday, October 2** – Columbus, OH - Seeking a venue
- **Thursday, October 3** – Pittsburgh, PA - Seeking a venue
- Friday, October 4 – Reading, PA (GoggleWorks Center for the Arts)
- **Saturday, October 5** – Washington, DC - Seeking a venue
- Sunday, October 6 – Baltimore, MD - Seeking a venue
- **Tuesday, October 8** – Philadelphia, PA - Seeking a venue
- Wednesday, October 9 – Hudson Valley, NY or New Haven, CT - Seeking a venue
- **Thursday, October 10** – Hartford, CT - Seeking a venue
- Friday, October 11 – Ogunquit, ME - Seeking a venue
- Saturday, October 12 – Belfast, ME
- **Sunday, October 13** – TBD - Seeking a venue

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