



Information sheet

# Crabs

The Crabs are two body worn puppets that represent the Christmas Island Red Crab.

Prepared by:  
Joe Blanck

*Founder and  
Creative Director,  
A Blanck Canvas*

A Blanck Canvas initially designed The Crabs in Melbourne, Australia for the Jakarta Aquarium. They have since been built to a more sophisticated standard, performing in The Waterhole; a performance based on Australia's award-winning author Graeme Base and Wyndam's 2019 Pet Expo.



## Construction & fabrication

The Crabs are two body worn puppets that represent the Christmas Island Red Crab.

They are constructed with a lightweight aluminium frame and hand sculpted in a polyethylene foam. The crabs are painted in high quality tautflex paints, that blend vibrant colours such as yellows, reds, oranges, whites and blues.

The puppeteers wear the creature suit harnessed to their body while the crab's head sits at the highest point of their back. Its eyestalks are internally sprung for ambient movement, as well as having internally lit captivating green eyes.

The puppeteers rely on inbuilt stilts in the crab's front claws to stabilise them when in motion, which is notably side to side alike to the movements of a crab. They also wear a hand sculpted foam-helmet which represent the underbody of the crab, this allows the performer to be hidden at all times.

The Crabs can be manipulated to appear as if they are scurrying sideways, have full control of their pinches and articulated claws which can grasp objects and are able to roam and interactive with audiences if required.

The Crabs are customisable and can be repainted to suit client's needs. If a different species of crab is required, we can paint them. e.g. black, blue, gold, etc.

Please note more crab suit puppets can be made for an extra cost.

## Message

The Crabs create a sense of fun. They convey realistic crab-like movements that are unpredictable and playful which interest audiences young and old.



## Performance

There are two giant crabs that perform and interact with audiences. Performance options are endless, they can approach and cheekily chase individuals, grasp at objects with their claws and even pick up rubbish.

The Crabs move sideways during the performance as the puppeteer's head is tucked down, restricting frontward viewing. Scurrying sideways allows them to use their peripheral vision also creating an authentic performance.

Their eyes illuminate and flash as they communicate with the crowd and surroundings.

Each performance runs for 45 minutes and our performers require a 30 minute between shows\*.



## The Team

There are 4 members of The Crabs team, including:

- 2 professional performers
- 1 puppetry director
- 1 production assistant



To discuss how you can work with us to deliver your event, please get in touch for an obligation-free quotation.

**Contact:**  
**Joe Blanck**

*Founder and  
Creative Director,  
A Blanck Canvas*

+ 61 4 10 654 601  
+ 61 3 90412300

[info@ablanckcanvas.com](mailto:info@ablanckcanvas.com)  
[ablanckcanvas.com](http://ablanckcanvas.com)



[View case study](#)

[Watch performance video](#)