



Information sheet

The Messenger

This 5.5m, awe-inspiring archangel from the future has come to deliver a message of love and compassion for all.

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Built in Australia for Melbourne's International event, White Night, this striking, full-motion, luminous figure is a crowd favourite and was conceptualised, constructed and performed by the team at A Blanck Canvas. The Messenger captivates audiences of all ages.



Construction & Fabrication

This large-scale puppet has been formed from light-weight foam and is textured with a metallic chrome finish reminiscent of an antique suit of armour. It is internally lit with DMX controlled LED lights that change colour from deep reds and purples to cool blues and greens that highlight the movement of the sectional body construction of The Messenger as it performs. The design is striking during the day, and completely transforms for night performances.

Projection appears on the face, under the hooded head of the puppet displaying transitions between faces of different ages, genders and nationalities. When extended, the 6-metre-long wings are also projected with dreamscape patterns.

The Messenger is operated by a counterbalanced, boom-arm chassis which gives it the ability to walk and fly off the ground. Mounted on the chassis are large speakers that fill the immediate area with ambient, electronic music that synchronises with the projection and lighting components.

The Team

There are 12 members of The Messenger team, including:

- 8 professional puppeteers
- 2 technical specialists
- 1 puppetry director
- 1 production assistant

A minimum 30-minute break for our puppeteers is required after each performance, with a space where they can stretch and warm up. A Blanck Canvas has skilled educators who can equip and train local artists to perform The Messenger in your region.



Performance

- The Messenger performance duration is 45 minutes. The puppet can kneel on one knee, stand and walk and even fly above the audience. The Messenger is ideally performed in large open spaces on even ground free of overhead obstacles.
- In addition to the original soundtrack, The Messenger speaks quotations from a variety of different religious leaders, artists, musicians and authors.
- The Messenger can execute roving or static performance or a combination of the two. It moves slowly and purposefully through a space, almost as though it is on the moon. Crowds will often follow The Messenger as they travel through a space to witness the next paused moment in the performance.
- The Messenger looks breathtaking at night, but the beauty of the puppet is apparent even in daylight. Children and adults alike have appreciated the scale, artistry and message of this large-scale roving puppet and have eagerly followed The Messenger throughout each performance.

Technical Requirements

- The street gradient should be easy to moderate. Surface cannot be soft, e.g. sand, mud, thick grass; if path/road surfaces can't be used The Messenger will require tile such as a portable roadway or a temporary footpath to be laid on the intended performance path.
- Minimum 4-metre-wide path with a minimum 7-metre-high clearing.
- Surface must be able to support 800kg+ weight (Puppet, Puppeteers and Low-base Chassis).
- Currently 2400 watt (Can be converted).
- Charging Station to power batteries in-between performances; Can perform for up to 2 hours on one charge. The Messenger can carry a spare set of batteries to increase performance to 4 hours before recharging.
- Length - 5m, Width - 3m, Height - 5.5m.
- A storage area where The Messenger can be secured from the weather and be safely put to charge.



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

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