



Information sheet

The Guardian

This 10m long, roving mythical creature covered with glowing, crystal shards is transported here to protect its kingdom.

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Built in Australia for Melbourne's International event, White Night, this huge, mesmerising, luminous creature is a crowd favourite and was conceptualised, constructed and performed by the team at A Blanck Canvas. The Guardian has been performed both locally and internationally to audiences of thousands.



Construction & Fabrication

The Guardian's exterior crystal shell is fabricated with a semi-translucent, lightweight foam which creates a mesmerising, luminous glow when internally lit.

Utilising cutting-edge technology, the creature is not only programmed with RGB UV LED light progressions but also remote controlled sound effects and operable smoke emitting devices which are concealed inside its mouth and body.

Constructed with engineered aluminium framework, this iconic puppet is supported by A Blanck Canvas' signature low base steel chassis system which allows for graceful, purposeful movements.

The Guardian accurately embodies the movements of a lion, made successful by eight talented puppeteers and their manipulation of the creature's limbs, tail, head, neck and jaw. It can explore its environment; sit, walk, roar, paw at the air, jump and fly.

For our performance at the World Expo 2020 in Dubai, the Guardian became the Golden Guardian with a shiny gold makeover. Upon its return to Australia, the Guardian has a new specialised iridescent pigment coating that allow it to change colour in different light, increasing its beauty in both full light and night time performance.

The Team

There are 12 members of The Guardian 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 Guardian in your region.



Performance

- Each roaming performance of The Guardian runs for 35 minutes.
- The lighting sequence is pre-programmed to rolling waves of colour which progress through the lions' entire body from soft pastel blues to fiery reds. There are hundreds of LED lights fitted throughout the interior, creating an impressive impact which is favoured when performed in a darker environment.
- Walking at an elegant pace, the guardian can cover up to 1km distance in the performance time, without audience interaction stops.
- The puppeteers will assess the audience for interaction possibilities. The creature may look in certain directions or at a certain crowd of people, it can playfully raise its giant paws to imitate a swatting action or simultaneously open its mouth to sound a roar and breathe smoke.
- The Guardian also performs static. Onlookers love the opportunity to get up close to the creature and marvel at its scale. When static, puppeteers can activate lights, sound and smoke and puppeteer the head, mouth and neck.

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 Guardian 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 5-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 Guardian can carry a spare set of batteries to increase performance to 4 hours before recharging.
- Length - 10m, Width - 3m, Height - 4m.
- 2 smoke machines, 20+ RGB Pars.
- A storage area where the guardian can be secured from the weather and be safely put to charge if not required as a static installation.



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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