

The Festival of Wonder

Volunteer Evaluation

Rebekah Caputo

Working as a volunteer at The Festival of Wonder I have had an incredibly rewarding and inspirational experience, which will have long lasting affects my own practice and the work I create.

During the festival I worked with The Forman Brothers as one of nine puppeteers manipulating a giant puppet, 7.5 meters tall and 1.1 tonnes. I worked the left foot. This was a challenging but enlightening experience. Firstly, it was incredible to realise the same processes of communication and complicité are involved in manipulating a puppet this size as to manipulating a table top puppet and it was rewarding to apply my knowledge of rhythm and cooperation to a puppet of this scale. Secondly, much of the direction and communication happened in Czech so it really challenged me to follow what was being said and find new ways to communicate with the other puppeteers.

The Forman Brothers then invited me to assist on their other production Aladdin. Here I was able to see behind the scenes and the mechanics of a large-scale puppetry production. The attention to detail was magnificent and has inspired me not to think too small or too simply in my own work.

It was also excellent to see how another company works, question them about their process and watch a partnership at work. I run my company alongside another woman and we can learn a lot from the shared responsibility and divided roles The Forman Brothers practice.

Equally, I was able to meet other local companies, theatre professionals and puppeteers local to Aarhus. Having just moved to Denmark this festival has been an excellent springboard to making contacts and starting work as a puppeteer and theatre maker in Denmark.

Alongside this, I managed to see around ten shows from all over the world. The diversity and richness of the program offered me a feast of stimulation and inspiration. The quality and ingenuity of the work will offer lifelong memories.

Thank you Ulla and everybody at The Festival of Wonder.