

# A Bit of Crow

## Touring Pack

This daytime show takes the form of a strange music gig, as three hapless musicians perform haunting, melancholic tunes to accompany a series of absurd cabaret acts. And there's a basket of crows!



## Show Description

Three musicians set up their technical equipment but one chair remains empty. They wait. A series of mics amplifying their nervous rustling. They try various tactics to keep the audience engaged and eventually they start up a series of comic and melancholic numbers. There are haunting songs of crows and eggs, of the mysteries of the universe. An onion is cut and distributed. Tears are shed. Hugs are shared. And the musicians depart.



**[Listen to a studio version of \*Carrion Crow\*](#)**

## Background

Avanti received a Without Walls Blueprint commission to create *Crow*, which was extended due to the Covid Pandemic. The creative team worked in isolation and met on zoom but were able to come together for a week of development and the creation of a short film, which contributed to the award of a full Without Walls Commission. This protracted process led to the creation of a curious piece of work which contains both deep thinking and light touch performance.

Some bookers asked for a daytime offer and 'A Bit of Crow' was born. While some of the material is duplicated in the night time show, this piece has developed into an intriguing stand alone performance.

A Bit of Crow was performed 4 times at the Norfolk and Norwich Festival and twice at Stockton International Riverside Festival.

# Creative Team

Performers: Bill Palmer  
Paschale Straiton  
Seaming To or Semay Wu

Design: Bill Palmer

Music Composition: Seaming To  
Bill Palmer

Lyrics: Lou Glanfield

## Accessibility

This show is highly visual but the later music contains lyrics. We have used Talking Bird's Difference Engine, a useful tool that produces captions for audiences to read from their mobile devices. We can provide a script for the system and lend our experience, but an event looking to use the Difference Engine would need to provide someone to operate it during performances.

We can provide a touch tour for blind or visually impaired audiences and a script for an audio describer.

## Basic Requirements

- There are 3 people on the road.
- Access to a secure dressing room with mirrors close to the performance site
- If performing over 2 days, we need access to electricity to recharge batteries
- Accommodation - 3 single rooms with breakfast.
- Catering to be provided by the organisers

## Timings

- The performers need 1 hour to arrange kit beside the performance area and to get changed.
- The performers arrive on stage with their kit and strike the kit at the end.
- The show lasts approximately 20 mins.
- It can be performed 2-3 times per day. NB if it is booked alongside a night-time performance of Crow, we can only perform A Bit of Crow once per day. This is due to the cast needing to be present for the set up and sound check.

# Technical Requirements

A Bit of Crow is a flexible pop up performance that requires a minimum amount of technical support. It can also act as a trailer / taster to the evening show.

## Performance Site

- Flat area 4m wide by 4m deep. Hard standing preferred.

## Access

- Set up is quick / plug and play

## Power

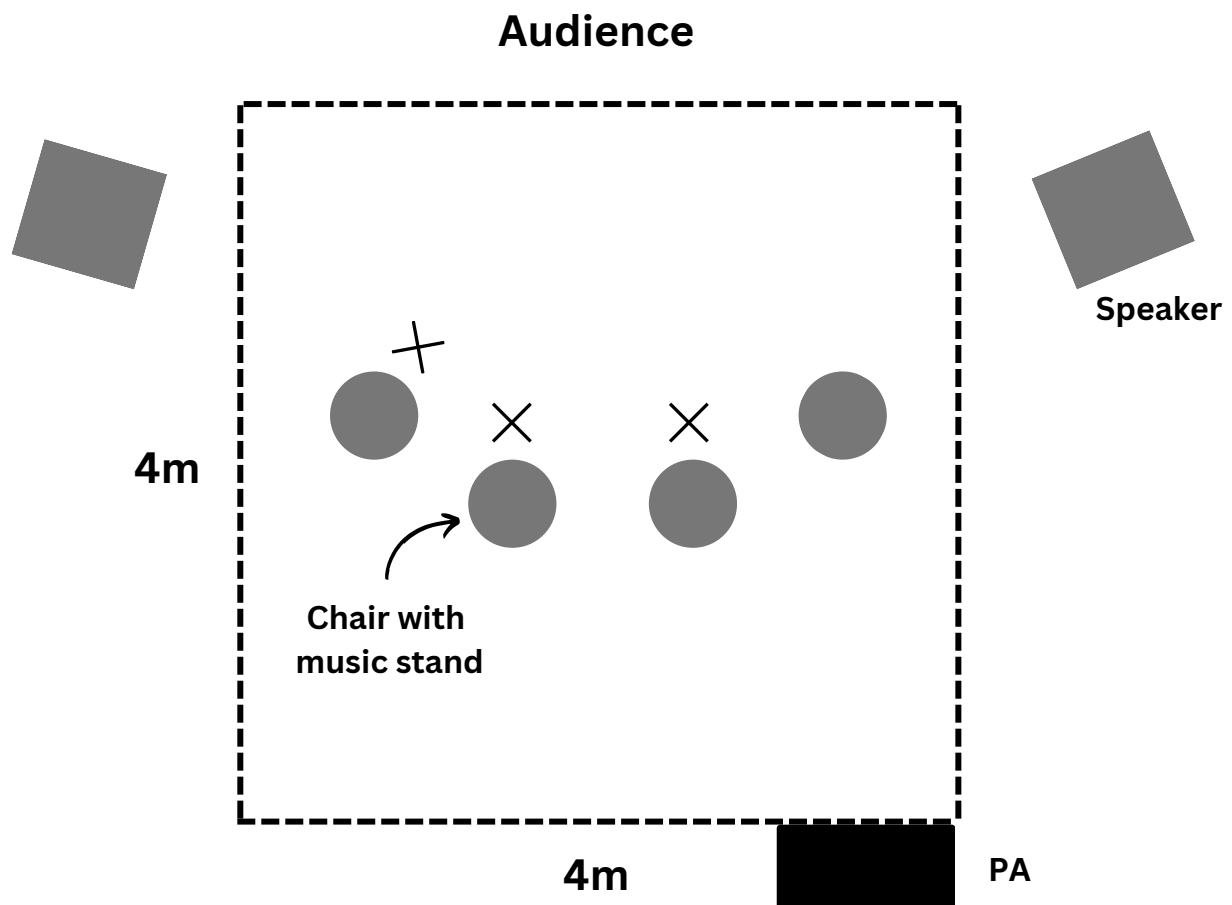
- Electrical power for two small amplifiers.

## Sound System to be supplied by the Festival Organiser

- PA High quality speaker system appropriate to audience e.g. E.V. ZLX 12P or similar
- Mixer with 5 Mic Inputs and 2 x DI inputs

## Personnel / Local Crew

- A sound technician at the site from the host organisation.



# Marketing

## 150 word copy

Three musicians set up their equipment but one chair remains empty. They wait. A series of mics amplifying their nervous rustling. They try various tactics to keep the audience engaged and eventually begin a series of comic and melancholic numbers. Each piece accompanies a cabaret style routine and each routine is absurd yet oddly profound. The musicians resolutely complete their set with the help of the audience. An onion is cut and distributed. Tears are shed. Hugs are shared. The audience are laughing but are not sure why.

Avanti Display is one of the UK's longest established outdoor performance companies, which has created over twenty original shows. This production features collaborations with a range of artists including music by Seaming To and words by Lou Glanfield (IOU). The show was conceived by Bill Palmer, developed and performed by the company: Bill Palmer, Chris Squire, Paschale Straiton, Seaming To and Semay Wu.

## 50 word copy

Three musicians arrive but one chair remains empty. They wait. After some percussive restlessness, they begin a series of absurd music and cabaret routines. An onion is cut. Tears are shed. The audience are laughing but are not sure why. Created by Avanti Display, one of the UK's longest established outdoor performance companies.

## Programme credits:

Commissioned by Without Walls and SIRF  
Music - Seaming To  
Conceived and devised by The Company

[Link to images on GoogleDrive](#)

[Link to promotional video](#)

[Link to Instagram](#)

# Testimonials

I was lucky enough to be one of hundreds of people outside the Forum as part of the opening Saturday of Norfolk and Norwich Festival 23 to experience a totally intriguing, bemusing and attention grabbing 20 minute performance, A Bit of Crow. The quality of the performers in both their specialisms as musicians and street clowns was evident and made me change my plans so that I would stay on in Norwich in order to see the full length Crow.

Bill Gee, BGA Projects and co-Artistic Director, Inside Out Dorset Festival

a brilliant mix up of hauntingly beautiful music and absurd deadpan comedy

Chris Squire, Impossible Arts