



presents

ROCK POOL

By Inspector Sands

*A crustacean Waiting For Godot.
(With rock music and splashy dancing)*



A brand new show for anyone over the age of 3.

Commissioned by Farnham Maltings and Arts Partnership Surrey in association
with Take Art.

Supported by Arts Council England. With thanks to artsdepot.

Industry on Rock Pool

Childrens' centres and audiences delighted in the result.

Gavin Stride, Director Farnham Maltings

With dry humour for the adults and water splashes for the kids, everyone is willing Prawn and Crab to catch the wave home. This is a great piece of devised theatre for young audiences and shows us how versatile Inspector Sands are.

Kerry Andrews, Artistic Director artsdepot

There is a really fresh idea at the heart of it that could really stand out amongst the current childrens' theatre scene in the UK. I really enjoyed the irreverent direction and the chaotic aesthetic.

Paul Fitzpatrick, Catherine Wheels Theatre Company

Audiences on Rock Pool

A magical performance

Very entertaining – brought a tear to my eye

A great combination of music, slapstick humor and storyline. Absolutely brilliant.

Samuel Beckett for kids!

The actors were amazing and inspiring to the children.

Absolutely loved it. Very imaginative. Perfect for pre-schoolers. Great performers.

Thank-you. We'd like more of this type of thing!

The Press on Inspector Sands

They are brilliant and reckless, precise and inventive, intelligent and frank. They are kaleidoscopic creators. Don't miss them!

New York Theatre Guide

...plays, tenderly and mischievously, with notions of humanness...funny, touching and full of lightly worn wisdom

The Times (on Mass Observation)

A young company with a big talent...Acutely observed, often surreal and sometimes painfully funny comedy about the dysfunctional links between modern neuroses and the all-too-human need for love.

The Times (on If That's All There Is)

Brilliant, slippery, deliciously sharp and witty

The Guardian (on If That's All There Is)

A rib and mind-tickling delight

The Times (on Hysteria)



The Show

When a big storm whips up the sea, two very different creatures are left stranded in an isolated rock pool, far from the open water. As their little pool starts to drain away, Prawn and Crab don't have long to find a way of getting on and getting home. Funny, tender, exuberant, partially-submerged theatre from award-winning company Inspector Sands.

In 2012 Inspector Sands were awarded the Sprout! Commission, to create and tour a new piece of theatre for young children. *Rock Pool* is the company's first show for this age group. We're extremely excited to have crossed over into this field together with our outstanding creative team, including designer Laura Hopkins (Frantic Assembly, The National Theatre), composer Tom Mills (Royal Court, Donmar Warehouse, Soho Theatre) and our long-term sound-design collaborator, Elena Pena.

Background

Commissioned by Farnham Maltings, Take Art and Arts Partnership Surrey's Sprout! Programme, the show was made in Spring 2013 to tour to children's and arts centres in Surrey and Somerset. Responses from audiences and venues alike were excellent. A number of audience members commented on the fact that even though the show is well pitched for this age group, it still has a strong appeal to adults and is equally entertaining to both parents and children.

Future

Inspector Sands will be reworking and touring *Rock Pool* in Spring 2014 to theatre and non-theatre spaces.

The Synopsis

Prawn and Crab could not be more different. They look different, act different, and when Crab gets hungry (about every 5 minutes) it's all Prawn can do to stop herself from eating him.

And now they are stuck together, washed up in a lonely little rock pool.

The sea is ages away and in between there is nothing but dry rocks, hot sand and dead seagulls. So now all they can do is wait for the next big wave to come in and take them back home. In the meantime – dawn by dawn, dusk by dusk – they must find a way of getting on.

And they do, sharing Prawn's packed lunch, dodging hungry gulls, playing a world championship game of Flying Fish Catch and slowly building a friendship. Above all, they discover a mutual passion for jamming on air guitar and drums – please welcome, for one night only to the Rock Pool Stadium – Shell Shock!!

But, as the sun gets hotter, the water starts to drain away and no wave comes, Prawn and Crab's chances of ever returning home begin to look slim. They sing the blues as they hit rock bottom.

When Prawn starts to turn pink in the heat of the sun, Crab realises that only she can save the day. No matter how delicious Prawn in Prawn Sauce on a Bed of Prawn might sound, she must overcome her desire to eat him once and for all. Instead, she must find her inner hero and, more importantly, some water to stop Prawn drying out. She must brave the epic journey to the sea and back.

Only when Crab proves she will risk life and limb for her new friend does the big wave finally come and sweep them back to sea. Though they might never see each other again, Prawn and Crab will always have the memory of how, together, they made the rock pool rock!

A crustacean Waiting For Godot. With rock music.



About Inspector Sands



Inspector Sands are a multi-award winning, UK based theatre company, whose work has toured both nationally and internationally to critical acclaim. The company are Ben Lewis, Giulia Innocenti and Lucinka Eisler. Their most recent, site-specific, show, *A High Street Odyssey*, is a 25-minute, promenade audio tour about the Great British High Street, dissecting its characters and staring deep into its soul. The show, commissioned by Without Walls, is currently performing at festivals throughout the UK and receiving excellent audience responses.

Inspector Sands are also in the final stages of developing *Mass Observation*, which was conceived in response to being awarded the Edinburgh International Festival Fringe Award in 2009 – a commission to develop work on a larger scale.

Mass Observation tells a story spanning 75 years, starting in 1937 at a rally for the nascent Mass Observation movement and ending in the garden of an old peoples' home in 2012. The show was created with support from the National Theatre Studio and opened at the Almeida in Summer 2012, ahead of embarking on a UK tour in Spring 2014.

Rock Pool is the company's first children's show, and enjoyed a extremely successful inaugural tour, receiving much praise from its young and adult audiences alike.

Inspector Sands make devised work with a focus on an integrated creative process, working with designers from the earliest stages. Thematically a strong interest is in the way that global events and trends manifest in the detail of everyday life.

Past projects include *A Portrait of the Ordinary Festival Goer*, which was developed for the South Bank Centre's 60th Anniversary in 2012; *Hysteria* (Total Theatre Award, 2006) and *If That's All There Is* (Edinburgh International Festival Fringe Award, 2009) both of which toured extensively across the UK and internationally (China, Russia, USA, Armenia, Romania and Germany). *Hysteria* and *If That's All There Is* were also part of the British Council Edinburgh Showcase 2007 and 2009, and *Hysteria* was selected for the London International Mime Festival 2007. In Edinburgh, previous work has been staged at the Traverse, Assembly Rooms, Pleasance and Aurora Nova, with sell-out shows at all venues. London partners have included Almeida, Lyric, National Theatre Studio, Southbank Centre and BAC. Current work in development includes *A Life in 22 Minutes* (a solo piece).

Inspector Sands company members have wide experience of making work for children as individuals, including projects with Told By an Idiot (for RSC), Catherine Wheels, Wonderful Beast, Theatre By Design, Naomi Cortes and others.

The Team

Created by	Inspector Sands
Director	Lucinka Eisler
Writer	Ben Lewis
Performed by	Giulia Innocenti Thomas O'Connell
Designer	Laura Hopkins
Associate Costume Designer	Yukiko Tsukamoto
Sound Designer	Elena Peña
Associate Sound Designer	Pete Malkin
Designer	Tom Mills
Composer	Andy Purves
Lighting Designer	
Production Manager	Helen Mugridge
Technical Stage Manager	Chris Marsh-Hilficker
Produced by	China Plate



Technical

Running Time:	45 minutes
On the road:	2 cast, 1 technician, 1 producer*
Playing space:	End on. Minimum size 6m x 6m Flat stage required
Please note:	The show contains water. The company will need access to a tap.
Access:	We will require parking and easy access to the performance space.
Get in:	3 hours.

**Please note that we only require a producer for international touring.*



Get in touch:

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