

The Snow Flea

By Patrick Sims

Introduction

“The Snow Flea” is a fantastic puppet opera about a tiny insect’s journey between the earth’s polar extremes. At the present day magnetic North Pole, a forever wandering location, the tiny snow flea, **Keruguq**, is hiding out from Baron Tugar Von Torngark, a mean flea circus ringmaster who wants to turn Keruguq into an ice cream preservative. The Baron, accompanied by his sidekick, Wayne, a greasy French-fry eating seagull, operate a foul ice cream industry powered by the fleas from his circus.



Meanwhile, an old, hiccupping Inuit shaman named Simmiktartog, vows to protect Keruguq and teaches his over-imaginative children how to “eat the weather”. Keruguq gets lost from his home when he falls down a great opening in the earth and suddenly finds himself at the other end of the world - in the Antarctic and desperate to return. Along the way home he meets a host of eccentric animals, insects and micro-organisms who help him on his return, sharing meals, adventures and stories. He eventually returns back to the magnetic North Pole and things have turned upside down. Transforming robots and Inuit totem pole dance, costumed children fly, fleas, worms, lice and mosquitoes have a jazz band jam session under the northern lights! The snow flea is a story of science fiction fantasy mixed with Stone Age mythology and real geophysical anomalies! Part flea circus, part ancient Inuit ice cream ceremony, a tragic-comedy puppet opera for children of all ages!



Director's Notes

The Snow Flea is based on several Inuit and western mythologies about the North Pole, peppered with outrageous elements of real scientific facts. Mixed storytelling techniques through masks, puppets, machines and objects combined with this outrageous story and a glacial setting will be a wonder for children of all ages. The soundtrack is composed by Ergo Phizmiz an English musician, and based on traditional Inuit throat singing, recordings of whales and the sounds of melting glaciers. The show presents a positive, optimistic picture of beautiful resilient life thriving in the Arctic



Conception, direction, scenography, puppets, music and text by Patrick Sims

Original music by Ergo Phizmiz

Masks, puppets and decor by Josephine Biereye

Costumes and sets by Mafalda Camara

Stage, machines and props by Richard Penny

Lighting design by Julian Weare

Automats and sound – Oriol Viladomiu

Puppeteers- Patrick Sims, Mafalda Camara, Richard Penny, Philippe Hauer

With the aid of the Théâtre Massalia (Marseille) la Ville de Marseille and DRAC PACA (Ministry of Culture)

Study pointers:

Fairytale structure
Inuit culture and mythology
Astrology
Geography / Geology (magnetics)
Global warming
Genetic engineering



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