

Of the Deep: Meditations Upon the Death of a Blue Whale

What does it mean when a massive whale carcass washes up on the shore of a coastal town? Created by members of the ISU Theatre community, this series of short shadow-puppet films will reflect on the consequences and complexities of environmental crisis.

Project Description:

The bulk of this project will be created by individuals or small teams of participants who will create very short films using shadow or 2-d puppets.

To create cohesion within the project, each person or team will work from a “recipe” that provides source material and guidelines on form. Teams will determine the working structure and overall creative approach for their puppet film based on what works best for their schedules, skill sets, and energies. For example: teams could involve a writer, director, designer, and puppeteer, all serving separate functions; teams could also involve one or two people who work on all of these functions together.* Teams might also involve sound designers, musicians, animators, etc.

Regardless of the team’s structure, physical distancing/working virtually will be necessary in each process to ensure everyone’s health and safety.

Resources:

Faculty and student facilitators will be available to assist with each step of the project, including design, construction, and performance/filming. Small shadow puppet theaters, lighting instruments, and cameras will also be available, (though participants are also welcome to experiment with building their own theaters and filming strategies if they prefer).

General Timelines:

Story and puppet development will occur in the first half of September 2020. Workshopping, rehearsals, and filming will occur in the latter part of September and early October 2020. Timelines will be flexible to allow for the unique circumstances of this semester.

Credit Availability:

1-3 Credits of Theatre 301x available.

Getting Involved:

Anyone who is interested in participating is welcome to join the project. There is no audition or application process, though we would like you to fill out the [Project Participation Form](#) so we know you want to work on the project and in what capacity.

“Of the Deep” Project Recipe

Project should:

- Be 1-3 minutes in length
- Reflect/meditate on one or more of the following sources:
 - ***Just Another Fish Story*** <https://beta.prx.org/stories/3155>
 - **“A Whale Of A Problem: Town Faces Threat Of Exploding Carcass”** <https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2014/04/30/308346341/awhale-of-a-problem-town-faces-threat-of-exploding-carcass>
 - **“Moby Dick, In Reverse: Whale Haunts Town”** <https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4818157>
 - **“This Pregnant Whale Died with 50 Pounds of Plastic in Her Stomach”** <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/04/deadpregnant-whale-plastic-italy/>
 - **“Excavator Removes Carcass of 5,500-pound Whale from Old Orchard Beach”** <https://www.pressherald.com/2018/07/23/excavator-needed-to-remove-whale-carcass-at-old-orchard-beach/>
 - **Poem – “Her/My Arctic, Corpse Whale” by dg nanouk okpik (found in the book *corpse whale* by dg nanouk okpik)**
 - **“Whale Worship: Exploring the Role of Whales in Vietnam's Coastal Lore”** <https://saigoneer.com/saigon-culture/13047-whale-worshipexploring-the-role-of-whales-in-vietnam-s-coastal-lore>
- Have no spoken dialogue. Original music or other sound effects may be used.
- Use shadow or other 2D-puppet forms exclusively (see a few examples of these types of puppets in action below)
- Use puppets created from discarded materials
- Use one puppeteer per piece, except in cases where puppeteers live in the same house, apartment, dorm room, etc.)
- Be workshopped/rehearsed/completed using strict physical distancing measures, (provided by facilitator).
- Be filmed.

Looking for inspiration? Here are some recent, contemporary examples of shadow and 2D puppets on video from various artists and teams:

- <https://vimeo.com/22318672> Shadow puppetry by Katherine Fahey
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JYrNBbVqQGE> – Shadow puppet “crankie” by Katherine Fahey

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QW5CfkUh_uw “Candyman” Trailer, Shadow puppetry by Manual Cinema
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yedD4JsZyTO> music video for “Little Dragon”
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJ2dRFy5BmQ> Shadow puppetry by Hobey Ford
 - <https://vimeo.com/332322244> Shadow/2D puppetry by Kallie Melvin
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zwvjQ7_-Mn0 puppetry from Teatro de Sombras
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9wBiyaoFb_g&feature=emb_logo puppetry by Andrew James Benincasa
 - <https://vimeo.com/121423877> Shadow puppetry by Lyon Hill
 - <https://www.facebook.com/BukuKukuKu777/videos/279916119782015/?v=279916119782>
- 015 Shadow puppetry by Buku Kuku-ku
- <http://manualcinema.com/multitudes/> 2D puppets by Manual Cinema
 - https://www.facebook.com/frans.hakkemars/videos/2995331413849836/?eid=ARDXoN5jeErjUhODqsPaiZ37Ar5AesUYvAP_ZeWYZQICJkam5gKTfUF2W-9ejnraBT-VuVC6i1SjuTtI 2D puppetry by Frans Hakkemars