

**RAT**

**THE RAT AFFAIR**

**TOUR PACK 2021**

## MARKETING COPY



**The Rat Affair are proud to present RAT - The Pied Piper of Hamelin reimagined through live music and shadow puppetry.**

Amidst a musical score that shifts between sensationally boisterous Eastern European folk and sparse reflective piano works, RAT tells the tale of a curious man who offers to rid a corrupt town in crisis by driving its vermin infestation away. It questions the very nature of theatre by removing speech from the narrative, choosing instead to adopt the use of exquisite puppetry and projection to present a powerful spectacle of light and sound.

RAT brings together a host of outstanding artists working in theatre and performance, promising to be one of the most exciting experiences of 2021.

**“it awakes our senses and imagination, provoking those fundamental questions of human condition”**

Agnieszka Blonska, Theatre Director & Senior Lecturer at Falmouth University

**“fiercely beautiful imagery with extraordinary music and a biting political comment”**

Mike Shepherd, Artistic Director of Kneehigh

**“that’s what being in love sounds like - dramatic and blistering and gorgeous”**

Sarah Gosling, BBC Introducing

**“a creation of great skill, great beauty and light and music, to be recommended to all”**

Simon McBurney, Artistic Director of Complicité

[TRAILER - <https://vimeo.com/411349902>]

Suitable for audiences 10+

[www.therataffair.com](http://www.therataffair.com)

@therataffair

## **OVERVIEW**

**Available** - From November 2021

**Duration** - 55 minutes (additional opening 30 minute act can be arranged)

**RAT** started with The Pied Piper of Hamelin.

We wanted to create a show with no spoken word that reimagined the folk tale through live music and shadow puppetry. There was something unique and mystical about the story that seemed to reflect the strange and divisive times we live in.

The movement of people.

The shifts of power.

The deceit and corruption.

From the very beginning we thought of how the word rat can be applied to people. A rat can be a rodent, a deserter, a snitch, and everything in-between. The world of The Pied Piper encompasses all of these definitions and by removing speech from the narrative it enabled new ways of interpreting these rat like characters.

On July 27th 2019 Donald Trump described the Baltimore district of Cumming as “a disgusting, rat and rodent infested mess” leading to the trending hashtag #TrumpisaRat. This example of political behaviour is exactly what our show touches on, questioning the definition of rat from different perspectives in society.

The true story of The Pied Piper is one of people and migration. RAT has brought together more than twelve international artists over a two year period. Some of those involved are old friends, some are family, and others met for the first time while developing the work. Without the free movement of people this project would never have been produced and within the current political climate we are immensely proud to have made a show that comments on this side of humanity. Everything was devised at the same time in the same space and influenced all elements of the show. It is for this reason that we call ourselves a band of musicians, theatre makers and visual artists.

**Watch the films here...**

**RAT Trailer** - [www.vimeo.com/411349902](https://www.vimeo.com/411349902)

**Making RAT** - [www.vimeo.com/338665635](https://www.vimeo.com/338665635)

**Listen to the studio album here...**

**RAT** - [therataffair.bandcamp.com/album/rat](https://therataffair.bandcamp.com/album/rat)

**RAT Production photos**







## **PRODUCTION INFORMATION**

55 minutes long

For ages 10+

8 performers on stage, 1 stage manager, 1 lighting operator, 1 sound operator

4 hour get in (on morning of performance)

1.5 hour strike

We arrange our own travel/accommodation, however should accommodation be available it would be brilliant to discuss further.

## **RAT Technical Requirements**

Playing space minimum: 5 metres deep by 5 metres wide, 3 metres tall

Lighting rig

Amplified sound

Black out is essential

When touring we do our best to be self-sufficient and tour our own technical equipment, only requiring power. We will let you know should we need any technical assistance well in advance. A black out is essential.

## **Marketing Summary**

We will provide:

- A5 flyers, A4 and A3 posters
- Production photos
- Trailers
- Press release

We are active on Instagram, Twitter and have an up to date website. Our album RAT is available to stream on all music services.

[www.therataffair.com](http://www.therataffair.com)

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## **Target Audiences**

Communities where English is not the first language (due to lack of spoken word)

Audiences for contemporary theatre/puppetry/visual arts/live music

**If you are interested in booking this show, or have any enquiries, please contact** - Louis Gulliver King // [therataffair@hotmail.com](mailto:therataffair@hotmail.com) // or contact via website