

CARNESKY'S TAROT DROME

an immersive, all-skating, rock opera Tarot experience



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Carnesky's Tarot Drome by Marisa Carnesky with Carnesky Productions

Tarot Drome is a wildly entertaining tarot reading experience in which the major arcana are brought to life through interactive installations, skate routines and a live score.

Carnesky's Tarot Drome is a one or two-hour large-scale promenade and stage show where surreal living installations, a live art-rock band and a highly-charged roller-skating troupe take you on a personal journey through the tarot. This show utilises the ancient archetypes of the Marseille tarot pack to explore the power of performative rituals as transformative tools.

Tarot Drome is created to be flexible and can be structured in response to a variety of settings and audiences. It can take place in festivals, theatres, circus venues or site-specific indoor or outdoor spaces such as greenfield sites, disused railway tunnels and industrial spaces. The two elements can be booked separately and have also been run simultaneously (doubling the amount of performers required).

Tarot Drome begins with an introduction from Marisa Carnesky explaining the form of the show and how you might navigate your journey, your tarot reading. Audiences are split into groups who are guided through a series of 'penny arcade' style set-ups where each tarot character offers up individual interactive opportunities that you can decide to take, or not. Once you have experienced all of the installations the second section begins - a sit-down show featuring choreographed routines delivered by skilled skaters from cabaret and circus backgrounds. These routines, performed to an original rock score played live, represent the non-figurative tarot cards. 5 artists/costume and set designers were commissioned in the creation of Tarot Drome lending it a distinctive, dramatic, and high-end aesthetic.

Tarot Drome playfully doffs its cap to the aesthetics of Jodorowsky and 70s psychedelic art whilst turning its gaze directly on the present, particularly in its exploration of gender tropes. The most commercial of Carnesky's shows to date, it uses the ethos of the fairground and the spectacle of West End theatre as a holding structure with which to explore Carnesky's continued personal interest in the currency of archetypes and symbolism in culture. This show is entertaining to people of all ages and can be enjoyed on many different levels. Audiences take from this show what they like – it is an interactive surrealist pantomime as well as a work that encourages thought about agency and ones ability to make choices.

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Age restrictions - none

DOCUMENTATION

Footage from Tarot Drome's last showing in Amiens, France at the Cirque Jules Verne as part of 'British Eccentricity' with Crying Out Loud: <http://vimeo.com/102014135>

QUOTES

'Carnesky's Tarot Drome invites and enables us to embrace agency and change. Just pick a card'
Time Out London

'A self-consciously surreal circus'
Libby Purves, The Times

'It was everything and more, a very special and creative show... I loved watching the audience engage and become spellbound'
Tania Harrison, Arts Curator, Latitude Festival

'Critics' Choice'
Time Out London

DOWNLOAD PRESS REVIEWS

<http://carneskystarotdrome.com/files/carneskys-tarot-drome-press-reviews.pdf>

COLLABORATORS TO DATE

Performers:

Duncan DeMorgan, Vicky Butterfly, Suri Sumatra, Phil 'The Playboy' Bedwell, Jason Karl, Rhyannon Styles, Claire Rabbitt, H Plewis, Chi Chi Revolver, Traumata, Nina Davies, Rowan Fae, Marusha Geymayer-Oblak, Nona Pinkie, Rhys Cook, Daniel Thomas-Ash, Emily Bath, Olivia Pointing, Molly Beth White, Beatrice Brown, Harry Clayton-Wright, Isobel Palmer, Bella Kinetica, Lala Morte, Sue Hart, Sara Jane Lundst, Ruby Blues.

Artists and Designers:

Natasha Lawes – Headdresses and wig design

Claire Ashley – Costume design

Rebecca Stevenson – Sculpture

Louise Riley – Embroidery and set design

John Bishop – Programme Illustration

Pony Ltd – Flyer and logo design

John Wigzell – Web and programme design

Amy Ridler – Hair and make-up design

PARTNERS

The creation of Carnesky's Tarot Drome was supported by a Grant for the Arts from the Arts Council England. The presentation of the show was further supported by the Arts Council through Carnesky Production's NPO status as well as by The Old Vic Tunnels.

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WRAP-AROUND

Carnesky has been teaching devised cabaret, physical theatre and performance workshops for over 15 years. This has included regular programs over a two-year residency at The Roundhouse, visiting workshops at drama and performance programs at Universities including Sheffield, Goldsmiths, Queen Mary, Essex, Lancaster and Exeter. She has also run international courses, most recently at the City of Women Festival in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

The interactive elements of the show were developed in workshops led by Marisa at the Roundhouse, London and at the Mladinsko Theatre in Slovenia. For this show Marisa can offer a range of workshops and open rehearsal sessions which adapt according to context and can lead to participation in the show.

BIOG

Founded by artistic director and Olivier Award winner Marisa Carnesky, Carnesky Productions is committed to creating high-quality interdisciplinary performance events with emphasis on blurring the line between audience and performance. Carnesky Productions has a strong reputation for actualising imagined landscapes where live-art and experimental theatre combine with popular entertainment forms to create immersive spectacles.

Marisa Carnesky has been making performance work for over twenty years, past solo shows include Jewess Tattooes (toured internationally including ICA, BAC, Riverside Studios, LA International Festival, Scena Contemporanea Madrid, City Of Women, Slovenia, Acco Festival Israel) and past collaborations include the Olivier Award winning 'C'est Duckie' (touring includes Barbican, PS122 New York, Philippe Starck Building, Tokyo)

