

# ACROJOU

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## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS 2017

### ~ The Wheel House ~

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A video of *The Wheel House* is available at <https://vimeo.com/109732643>

Thank you for having us at your event, we are looking forward to working with you. The following information is a description of the technical requirements for ***The Wheel House***

**IMPORTANT:** If you have previously been provided with a technical document for *The Wheel House* please read this document as important details have changed/ been added.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any technical aspects, please contact Rich Mowbray at rich@acrojou.com or +44 (0)7833 475078

### **Company History**

Acrojou are an experienced circus company with a track record of ten years of touring performances to both indoor and outdoor events.

We have been touring *The Wheel House* continuously since 2008 and have so far taken it to 100+ events in England as well as 15 countries internationally.

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## **Show Description & Programming Tips**

The Wheel House is performed by two acrobats in a large wheel with a house set built inside it.

The show is non-interactive and is performed 'fourth wall'. Created for outdoor performances in open spaces, it is an intimate, narrative promenade performance, which happens inside and around the wheel as it rolls along. It travels at a gentle pace, as the audience walk alongside.

The story is communicated through non-verbal theatre and acrobatics, unfolding over a series of scenes, set to a soundtrack which plays from an integrated PA system. The set looks best when programmed at dusk, as this shows its built in lighting to full effect, giving a very atmospheric performance. The show is also suitable for daytime performances.

*The Wheel House* is accessible and appropriate for all ages. It is not specifically a children's show, though is suitable for them. This is a very intimate show, and for the optimum audience experience and sight-lines, we suggest an audience of up to 250 people. The optimum viewing is from the sides of the wheel.

## **Space Requirements**

The wheel needs an even and level surface and a straight route to roll along, **with space for the audience to walk unobstructed alongside to view the show**. This is the most important technical requirement and is essential to the show working.

Minimum performance route length: 40 metres

Minimum height clearance: 2.5 metres

Performance route width: Recommended minimum width 10 meters (6 metres performance width plus space for the audience beyond this). We can manage with a minimum of 8 meters (by prior arrangement). This affects the audience size we can cater for.

The route needs to be even, level and clear of obstructions. We can manage the wheel on a very slight up/downhill gradient but not on lateral slopes, as they are a tip hazard.

The Wheel House can be performed on most surfaces including: paving, concrete, carpet, gravel, and grass as long as it is straight, flat, even and reasonably hard (i.e. not recently waterlogged). Examples: wide pavements, roads closed to traffic, pathways through parks, waterfronts. Bumpy cobbles, uneven, curved, sloped or cambered surfaces are unsuitable.

If in doubt as to the suitability of your space, please contact us; we may ask you to email a floor plan, photos or Google Earth link. We can do site visits when necessary, but please be aware that we are a small team and this is not always an option, and associated costs would need to be added onto the expenses costing. If you do not have enough space available, we will either adapt the performance to fit with prior notice and discussion, or suggest an alternative.

Please note that we can also provide a non-narrative 'walkabout' version of the Wheel House, which is more flexible in terms of the space it needs, and the performance duration. The soundtrack for this can be tailored to fit event themes with notice.

## **Technical Requirements**

### **Stewards**

5 event stewards are required. This is to ensure the audience retain a safe distance of 2 metres from the sides of the wheel. Four stewards are needed to hold/ walk with rope barriers (provided by Acrojou), while the fifth is available within the performance space. The ropes are carried parallel to each side of the wheel, maintaining a safe distance, and stopping the audience from 'funneling' in, when the wheel starts to roll. The stewards need to be fully alert at all times. At very crowded events we recommend extra stewards.

During the performance, the only people that should be within the performance area are the stewards and Acrojou performers / staff – any other parties should be removed from the space. The wheel is very heavy, and cannot be stopped suddenly.

As the show is designed to be viewed from the sides, the stewards should encourage the audience to follow alongside the wheel as it rolls, keeping the ends of the wheel clear.

The Acrojou team will need to brief the stewards during the rehearsal, ~2 hours prior to the first performance. It is important that the same stewards that attend the rehearsal, also attend the shows, as it's essential that they know the format of the show.

The wheel needs to be pre-set at the start of the performance route 20-30 min prior to the first show. A steward needs to monitor the set for this period, and between performances.

The stewards are solely responsible for the safety of the audience members/ public. It should be emphasised that the stewards are present to watch the audience, not the show.

**IMPORTANT: Steward briefing notes are enclosed in the booking pack. Please ensure that they are followed, as both the safety of the audience and the quality of the shows are dependent upon them. The safety of the audience is the sole responsibility of the event host/ stewarding team.**

## **Rehearsals**

30 minutes rehearsal time is needed, at a suitable point, a minimum of an hour before the first performance. This needs to be on the performance route, with the stewards who will be attending the show

## **Weather**

For safety reasons, the show cannot be performed in rain or strong winds. We will always be flexible with scheduling in the instance of bad weather, and will do our utmost to try to ensure all shows still go ahead.

Decisions on weather cancellations are a matter of performer safety and are at the discretion of the performance team.

## **Lighting**

Lights are integrated into the set and operated by the performers. The atmosphere created by the lighting means the show works particularly well at dusk.

For both safety, and audience viewing reasons, if shows are required after dusk, the entire route should have sufficient ambient lighting. If this is the case, please liaise with [rich@acrojou.com](mailto:rich@acrojou.com) .

## **Sound**

The sound is run through a PA system, integrated into the set, and operated by the performers. Please avoid placing the show in areas that present a 'sound-clash'. For bookings of more than a day, we require access to mains electricity with which to recharge the PA system. The system is portable.

## **Set-up area**

We will need a small area with vehicle access (approx. 3 meters x 3 meters) in which to assemble the set. The set-up area can be a different area to the performance area, but please be aware the set will need to be rolled to the starting point and cannot be rolled for long distances.

## **Photographers**

No photographers should be allowed within the performance area AT ANY TIME, without permission from, and briefing by, the Acrojou TSM/ performers. Aside from photographers tendencies to walk in front of/ too close to the wheel, flashes are distracting to the performers, and can easily cause them to miss a handhold/ lose balance etc.

## **Logistical Requirements**

### **Storage**

Once assembled (1-1.5 hrs), The Wheel House can be placed in a convenient spot near the performance route. Dry and secure overnight storage space will be needed for the equipment, for bookings of more than one day.

Assembled, the set measures 2150 mm diameter x 750 mm depth. Deconstructed it can be stacked into an area measuring 226cm length x 74cm width x 121 cm height.

Please note this set will not fit through a standard door frame, once constructed, and cannot easily be moved up or down stairs.

### **Moving the wheel**

The wheel structure weighs 150kg, and takes a lot of effort to move between locations. We advise that the amount of rolling around is kept to a minimum for this reason (and also because it lessens the impact of the performances). In the instance that the set needs to be moved distances further than a couple of hundred meters between locations on site, please provide a stage hand to assist, and a steward, to ensure clear, safe passage.

### **Dressing Room**

One clean, warm and secure dressing room with sink and toilet facilities, and access to clean drinking water.

### **Vehicle Access**

If no vehicular access is possible at the performance space, please contact [rich@acrojou.com](mailto:rich@acrojou.com) to make alternative arrangements.

### **Accommodation/ food**

The touring team for this show is two to three people: for intensive periods of touring we include a technical manager in the team to assist the two performers. In general, we need a team of three on international shows. When accommodation is necessary we require:

- Two-person team: two single rooms (preferred) or a twin room
- Three-person team: three single rooms (preferred) or a twin room plus a single

Please check the touring team size for your particular event with [admin@acrojou.com](mailto:admin@acrojou.com)

### **Scheduling**

20-25 minutes per performance x2 performances per day (unless agreed otherwise)

Please allow the performers a minimum break of 60 minutes between the end of one performance and the start of the next.

## **Setup**

We can be ready to go in minimal time when necessary. We usually arrive 3.5 hours prior to the first show, to allow time to liaise with the client, event stewards, check the performance route, rehearse, warm up and get into costume/ make-up. Please see table below for our ideal set up:

Time allowance	Action	Persons
60 minutes	Liaise with client/ park van/check performance route	Acrojou and event team
60 minutes	Unload, construct set and prep props. Brief stewards. Warm up	Acrojou and event stewards
30 minutes	Run through the the performance route.	Acrojou and event steward.
60 minutes	Costume and make up, and physical preparation. Set wheel on route ready to go 30 min prior to show.	Acrojou
First performance		

Pack down: 1 hour.

We can set up / pack down on the same day as the performance for most one day bookings.

## **Transport**

### **By road**

We are based near Dover, so transportation for European bookings is convenient / cost effective.

*The Wheel House* fits into a van alongside all the kit for Acrojou shows *Vessel*, *Frantic*, *All At Sea* or *Lifted*, allowing them to be booked together with little effect on the travel costs.

### **By air**

1 box, approved for international transportation. Dims: 2.1M x 0.8M x 1.4M. Weight: 300kg

We have a reliable and reasonably priced cargo company with whom we have worked with previously on long haul international bookings. Please get in touch if you would like us to provide you with some prices for this. Please note: To ensure that the set arrives in good time, and to allow for any cargo delays, storage will be needed for upto a few days, prior to the performances.

### **Basic Structure Specifications**

Assembled: 1 x 215 cm diameter x 80cm depth steel Acrobatic/ German Wheel with a house set built inside it. Weight: 149kg

Deconstructed it can be stacked into 226cm length x 74cm width x 121 cm height