

A Secret Garden Contact Amanda Drago: amandadrago@me.com / 07944 994405
www.greencroftonthewall.com

A Secret Garden - Touring Information

Green Croft Arts

About

- Part performance, part workshop, part game, part dance.
- Fully inclusive, playful, creative movement activities.
- Suitable for children aged 3-10 years with and without learning difficulties.
- Takes part in enclosed pod with 4 sides. One side is a rear projection screen, 2 sides are covered with fabric and 1 side acts as entrance and exit.
- Intimate small group sessions - maximum of 8 children per session

A Secret Garden is an interactive installation for children aged 3 - 10 years. The children enter a specially adapted pod which creates an immersive and non-distracting environment in which they experience a series of open ended, playful and creative movement activities. Finding a secret gate they enter a neglected garden and their job is to nurture and tend the garden. Facilitated by a dance artist, the experience takes them through a series of activities and tasks, motivated by engaging and visuals and specially composed music and sounds.

Video Links & Reviews

<https://www.greencroftonthewall.com/a-secret-garden>

Floor Plan

Room size required: 5.5m width x 7m length x 2.6m height

https://5fda15ba-9f67-4ad3-a9f8-74f8e0410919.filesusr.com/ugd/f9673a_3964b441be134834917fb9a8508b6160.pdf

Who

The installation has been created for children with special educational needs aged 3-10 years and their families however it can have wider appeal and be a general family friendly activity.

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Where

- Available for small scale touring, rural touring
- Ideal for school halls, village halls, libraries, community spaces and gallery spaces.

Booking Information

Available:

February 2020 onwards

Fee:

X1 Day - £1,100 plus x2 return trips at 45p per mile from our base CA8 7EL

X2 Day - £1,925 x4 return trips at 45p per mile from our base CA8 7EL

We are not VAT registered

Accommodation (1 double and 1 single) may be required depending on travel time, get in time and number of days. We can discuss this when booking.

- 4 x 45 minute sessions per day repeated throughout the day for groups of up to 8-10 children.
- For children with multiple and profound learning difficulties, we can offer small group work sessions that can be shorter in length and scheduled throughout the day. We can work with you to schedule the sessions to accommodate the needs of the children.
- 3 artists - 2 dance artists to facilitate and 1 digital artist / technician

Technical Requirements & Logistics

- Set up – 1.5 hours maximum / Strike Down – 45 mins
- Parking space or access to parking required for 2 cars. Please tell us if you have an electric car charge point.
- Access to a 13amp power socket.
- All equipment has been PAT tested.
- Please provide a table and chair for the computer that runs the installation.
- We can supply a risk assessment and floor plan.

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Background

The installation is fully inclusive and Dance Artist, Amanda Drago and Sound Artist, Kit Haigh initially developed A Secret Garden in conjunction with the Therapies Department of Edinburgh's Royal Hospital for Sick Children. The Therapies team needed motivating & distracting activities for a diverse range of young patients including children with multiple and profound learning difficulties, and activities that helped them test & develop physical ability whilst having fun. Therapists working in the hospital helped design and test the activities, visuals and sounds to ensure they were appropriate for their day to day needs. To create this touring version we worked with various special schools in Newcastle and Carlisle who helped us test out the pod, the activities and gave us invaluable feedback.

We are able to adapt the installation for gallery spaces to turn A Secret Garden in to a user led experience without facilitation. Get in touch to discuss your idea.

About Green Croft Arts

Green Croft Arts, is a not for profit organisation, offering arts, culture and wellbeing activities to visitors and rural communities on the Northumberland / Cumbria border.

- We are inspired by the landscape and heritage
- We are motivated to ensure rural communities have the same access to high quality activities and services.
- We are keen to offer experiences for visitors to engage with local communities more deeply.

We do this by creating installations, and immersive experiences that engage people more deeply in a place or a space and offer activities that connect the mind with the body.

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Amanda Drago - Director / Producer / Lead Artist

Amanda graduated from Northern School of Contemporary Dance and has had a career performing, teaching, producing and choreographing dance. She has performed works by Wayne McGregor/Random Dance, Ben Wright, Charlotte Vincent and Gillie Kleiman. Working with partner Kit Haigh their installations can be found in Columbia Grange Special School, James Cook University Hospital, Middlesbrough, Edinburgh Royal Hospital for Sick Children and toured to Rich Mix and Lille 2000 Festival. As a Creative Producer, Amanda has produced Art In the Barn, Great

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North Run Culture's 40th Anniversary Celebrations and Newcastle Mela. She is also a yoga teacher offering accessible and inclusive yoga sessions within the community.

Kit Haigh - Director / Composer / Lead Artist

Kit works in visual, sound and mixed media art, his musical career having spanned multiple genres and instruments. He is known for his work as guitarist and co-producer with Northumbrian piper Kathryn Tickell, and he composed the soundtrack for the Emmy & BAFTA Award winning Channel 4 documentary *The Boy Whose Skin Fell Off*. Working with Amanda Drago he has created responsive and generative music for numerous interactive art installations including *Secret Garden* for the Royal Hospital For Sick Children in Edinburgh. Recent sound art commissions include *Fall Of Iron* for *Art In The Barn*, Northumberland and *Song for #Untitled10* at The Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle.

Susie Tate - Dance Artist / Facilitator

Susie lives in the North Pennines, an area of outstanding natural beauty which acts as a base for her freelance dance career working in healthcare, education, and community settings. She trained in classical ballet, gaining a degree at the Royal Academy of Dance and later, an MA in choreography at Middlesex University. She has worked with a variety of dance companies including English National Ballet, London Contemporary, Birmingham Royal Ballet, The Royal Ballet School, Anjali and Corali, developing, leading and managing dance projects in schools, the community and health care settings. At Candoco as Youth Dance Manager she was responsible for setting up and running the Youth Dance Company. She is currently developing the arts programme, *Healing Arts*, at North Cumbria University Hospital Trust embedding arts offer within the hospital.

www.susietate.co.uk

Partners & Funders

Arts Council England, Kirkgate Arts Centre, Cockermouth, Dance City, Newcastle and Tullie House & Museum, Carlisle