

Laura Heit's

THE MATCHBOX SHOWS

Run time 55 min.

Laura Heit walks on stage with a glass of wine, wearing a sequined top. She takes her place behind a table and begins to bring to life her miniature cabaret. Playing the part of raconteur, sequined pyromaniac, and miniature mastermind, Laura Heit performs teeny tiny puppet shows inside matchboxes. A dead boyfriend, a sausage fairy, a tiger whisperer, a perfectionist, a bath-loving ghost, and many others play their parts in these uncanny micro plays. The miniature stages come to life with crankies, fire, and pop-up paper engineering. The puppet shows are projected onto a screen behind the table, making the little details of this portable variety show larger than life.

Celebrating the 25th anniversary of this show, which was first performed at Theater Danks Puppet Festival at Links Hall in 2000 (Chicago). New shows are added frequently, old shows get retired (and brought back), and favorites are repeated. The Matchbox Shows have played in six countries and across the US in living rooms, theaters, galleries, and, most recently, a Mall.

CREATIVE TEAM:

Written by: Laura Heit

Directed by: Laura Heit

Puppet Design & Construction: Laura Heit

Projection Design: Laura Heit

Set Design, Costume Design: Laura Heit

Producer and tour manager: Laura Heit

Camera Operator and Show Assistant: Sam Deutsch

BIO:

Laura Heit earned her MFA from the Royal College of Art in London England, and her BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC). A multimedia artist her work has exhibited and screened in the US and abroad, at venues including Track 16 (Los Angeles, CA), Boise Art Museum (Boise ID), Adams and Ollman (Portland, OR), The Schnitzer Museum of Art (Eugene, OR), The Schneider Museum of Art (Ashland OR), Center for Contemporary Art & Culture (Portland OR), She Works Flexible (Houston, TX), REDCAT (Los Angeles, CA), Walker Art Center (Minneapolis, MN), MoMA (NYC, NY), Millennium Film (NYC, NY), Pompidou (Paris, France), TBA Festival (Portland, OR), and the Guggenheim Museum (NYC, NY), Walt Disney Hall (Los Angeles, CA), and Detroit Institute of the Arts (Detroit, MI) among others. She has a professor of animation at SAIC, Pacific Northwest College of Art, and Cal Arts where she was co-director of the Experimental Animation Department. Her book Animation Sketchbooks was published in 2013 by Thames and Hudson. She currently lives and works in Portland, Oregon.

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