

BREAD+PUPPET

“Medium Big Tour” Fall 2025 - Basic Information Booking Release

Booking inquiries please contact

Paul Bedard

802-318-4604

breadandpuppettour@gmail.com



Photo by Matthew Nelly

Bread & Puppet's 2025 Fall Circus Tour

September 10 - October 19, 2025

Touring Vermont to Chicago to Montreal and back!

The circus is coming! The circus is coming! The 62-year-old, Vermont-based Bread and Puppet Theater is currently seeking venues to present its iconic puppet circus. This raucous spectacle attempts to address the heart of the current moment with a bright barrage of acts spanning many moods, from slapstick to the sublime, all powered by a riotous brass band.



The show is recreated each summer and we expect to have a title and the broad themes of this year's circus in by July.

After each show, Bread and Puppet will serve its famous sourdough rye bread with aioli, and Bread and Puppet's "Cheap Art" – books, posters, postcards, pamphlets and banners from the Bread and Puppet Press – will be for sale. Show Length: Approximately 1 hour.

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WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

In order to have a successful tour stop, we're looking for the following things:

- **An audience!** We love playing to crowds large and small, adults and children, students and everyone else! We rely on our hosts to get the word out.
- **Space.** Our show is BIG and we play outdoors if space and weather permit. Fields work great, but we can also play in built-in amphitheaters. When possible, we like to drive our bus directly onto the performance space to use as the divider between the performance ring and the backstage. It's good practice to have a rain venue for every outdoor venue. When playing indoors, we set up our backdrop from boxes on the floor. The show takes up roughly 40'Wx40'Dx20'H, plus room for the audience is needed. Theaters, gyms, and halls tend to work well.
- **Electricity.** If we are playing outdoors we will need to either play before sundown or have access to electricity. We bring our own lights (conventional clip lights) and a single outlet will be sufficient. Often we run a long extension cord from the nearest building.
- **Housing.** We will be a group of 15 puppeteers. We love beds, but we're also a rustic bunch and happy to sleep on couches, mats, etc. We can also camp, but will need at least a few beds for the elders/stilters/bus drivers we are traveling with.
- **Funding.** Bread and Puppet's financial goal is to walk away with as close to \$5,000 per performance as possible. This can happen in many ways!
 - Sometimes we receive a full performance fee (and then the show can be advertised as free).
 - Sometimes we receive a partial performance fee and try to make up the difference with donations from the audience (typically \$10-\$25 suggested)
 - In places where a performance fee is not possible, we sell tickets in hopes of getting the full amount from the audience (typically a \$20 ticket).
 - We can make many models work and are eager to find a mutually beneficial situation.
- **Food.** We love it!

A NOTE ON POLITICS

We are an explicitly political theater company and we never censor our shows. Much of our work is on youtube and you can also find links to previous circuses later in this document. Please do not reach out asking for a list of political stances we take, nor a request for us to leave out a particular issue. As our director Peter Schumann says, “We have two types of puppet shows: good ones and bad ones, but all of them are for good and against evil.”

THE BOOKING PROCESS

1. Initial conversation with Paul, the B&P tour booker. Paul will ask about each of the items above, as well as for photos of the spaces (outdoor and rain backup).
2. Paul drafts an MOU. Usually there is some back and forth while details are being figured out. Once we feel good about the MOU, we both sign it. At this point you can advertise that Bread & Puppet is coming (using photos and materials from old shows).
3. As soon as possible, but usually a month or two before the tour begins, Paul sends a

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title, marketing blurb, image, and other marketing assets that are specific to the show.

4. About a week before show, Paul connects you with our housing and food coordinators traveling with the company. They can answer questions about food & housing allergies.
5. As B&P approaches on the day of, we'll be in text contact to give ETA.
6. Then the show happens! It's a huge success!
7. Following the show, Paul will ask for any lingering payments to close out the booking.

WHAT OUR SETUP LOOKS LIKE IN OUTDOOR SPACES



WEATHER

In general, we will perform through a light rain, pause a performance if heavy rain comes, and end a show prematurely if heavy rain persists. If consistent heavy rain is forecasted for the scheduled time of a performance, we may decide to cancel in advance.

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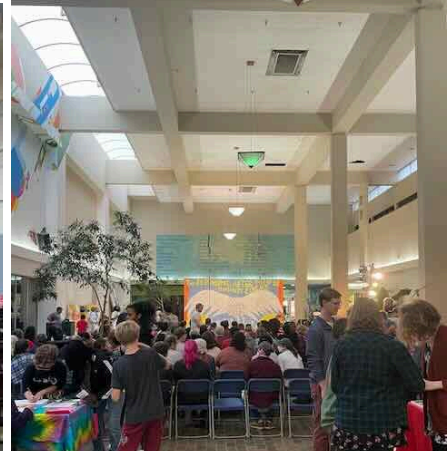
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WHAT OUR SETUP LOOKS LIKE IN INDOOR SPACES



THE B&P PRESS STORE AND CHEAP ART EMPORIUM

After each show, we sell books, banners, posters, and crafts made by the puppeteers. When possible we try to borrow at least 8 tables from our venue hosts.



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VIDEO

Full circuses are viewable at:

- 2024: *The Beginning After the End of Humanity Circus*
(https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GL3wwc1GerU4pN4J_iCOiVw7uKCWtrMI/view?usp=sharing)
- 2023: *The Heart of the Matter Circus*
(<https://youtu.be/05sP0ZtcJno>)
- 2022: *The Apocalypse Defiance Circus*
(https://youtu.be/XX_9T1_Pug8)
- 2021: *Our Domestic Resurrection Circus* (<https://youtu.be/gnT62z8Bgil>)
- 2020: *The Insurrection & Resurrection Circus*
(<https://youtu.be/OW561BOGV60>)
- 2019: *The Diagonal Life Circus*
(<https://youtu.be/Q71cZHjOQol>)



Short videos:

- Highlights of the 2024 circus at the Lotus Festival
(<https://vimeo.com/1036146622>)
- Circus workshop at The Orange Show in Houston, TX in 2022 (<https://youtu.be/7mJ06335wT4>)
- Excerpt for the HONK! Festival, with two circus acts and our raucous band at <https://vimeo.com/463240597>.
- Bread and Puppet Theater: Small Town, Big Story, a 15-minute documentary about the Bread and Puppet farm (<https://youtu.be/EUrbyGqQDtc>)

DATE AVAILABILITY:

For the most up-to-date availability for this tour, please see BreadAndPuppet.org/Tour#Circus

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BREAD AND PUPPET THEATER

The Bread and Puppet Theater is an internationally celebrated company that champions a visually rich, street-theater brand of performance art filled with music, dance and slapstick. Believing that theater is a basic necessity like bread, the company frequently brings its work to the streets for those who may not otherwise go to the theater. Its shows are political and spectacular, with puppets often on stilts, wearing huge masks with expressive faces, singing, dancing and playing music.

Bread and Puppet is recognized throughout the world and has won distinction at international theater festivals in Italy, Poland, Colombia, and Yugoslavia, beginning with their break-out performances at the 1968 Nancy Festival in France. Notable awards include the Erasmus Prize of Amsterdam, 4 Obies, the Puppeteers of America's President Award, and the Vermont Governor's Award. Bread and



Puppet is

constantly active, performing at its farm in Glover, VT, and in local churches, schools and parades. It regularly tours Europe, Canada, and the United States and has recently visited El Salvador, Haiti, Russia, and Korea.

Founded in 1963 by Peter Schumann on New York City's Lower East Side, the theater has been based in the North East Kingdom of Vermont since the early 1970s and is one of the oldest, nonprofit, self-supporting theatrical companies in the country.

Based on the Biography of Bread and Puppet that accompanies the Bread and Puppet Archives at the University of Vermont, Burlington. Full text here:

<http://cdi.uvm.edu/findingaids/collection/bredpupt.ead.xml>