SUN.ERGOS, A COMPANY OF THEATRE AND DANCE

"Working Together" - Moving the Human Spirit

founded in CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA, 1977

from THE BROOM
and LEGEND OF JUMPING MOUSE

ROBERT GREENWOOD and DANA LUEBKE

banyan and buffalo

a SUN.ERGOS, A COMPANY OF THEATRE AND DANCE production

e-mail: waltermoke@sunergos.com

Visit our web-site: www.sunergos.com

SUN.ERGOS MAY BE CONTACTED THROUGH THE WALTER MOKE ARTS AGENCY, TEL: 1-800-743-3351 FAX: 403-931-1534

FUNDED IN PART BY ALBERTA LOTTERIES, ALBERTA FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS, ALBERTA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Design by Robert Greenwood *Photos by Kevin Oke, Pender Island* *Logo Design by McKim Advertising Ltd.* *Printed in Canada by SECentris*

banyan and buffalo

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"SUN.ERGOS'S DOUBLE BILL LAUDABLE"

"SUN.ERGOS' new show...link[s] the cultures of Southeast Asia and native North American through the universality of folklore. [Greenwood and Luebke] revel...in the variety of characterizations the tales offer...with relish."
THE CALGARY HERALD

FOR GRADES 1 - 6, 4 - 9 **LENGTH: 50-MINUTES, PLUS 10-MINUTE QUESTION PERIOD**

SPECIAL CURRICULUM APPLICATIONS: Folklore, story-telling, mask-work, pantomime, role-playing, physical awareness, multi-culturalism, social studies, music, language arts

FESTIVAL AND GENERAL AUDIENCE VERSION IS ALSO AVAILABLE IN ONE-HOUR OR 90-MINUTE PRESENTATION (WITH 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION FOR GENERAL AUDIENCES)

BANYAN AND BUFFALO is a comparison of legends and folk-tales from the cultures of Southeast Asia with those of North American Indians. Using wonderful textures, brightly colored sarongs, handsome tapestries, exotic music from culture much older than those of the West, Robert Greenwood and Dana Luebke re-create stories of grunting Thai boatmen, Kings, potbellied Vietnamese usurers, Balinese simpletons, wise Ghost Chiefs, coyotes, eagles, jealous medicine men, giants and mosquitoes -- all characters that illuminate the human spirit and who are relevant to our own society today. The show provides laughter and wisdom in equal dollops of good humour and touching, thought-provoking moments.

"This colourful and charming show of stories, legends and dances [is] an entertain for the whole family...hilarious [and] priceless."

THE SUNDAY INTERNATIONAL, Calgary, Alberta

INFORMATION SHEET

Suggestions for selling to your community

TITLE OF SHOW: ***BANYAN AND BUFFALO***
LENGTH OF SHOW(S): 50-minutes, plus 10-minutes for Question Period
TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS: **[see enclosed tech sheet]**

THEME [describe in one sentence]: The common and different heritages of Southeast Asia and North American Native cultures that resonate human chords in all of us.

CONTENT [brief description of pieces in show]: The first half of ***BANYAN AND BUFFALO*** is a compilation of stories and legends from Indonesia, Thailand, Bali, Vietnam, Kampuchea. While the second half is a series of legends from the Lakota, Pima, Blackfoot, Tlinglit. The stories have been chosen to give a wide variety of cultural backgrounds, but to bear witness to the similarities in all cultures. The tone of the first half is folksy and earthy. In the second half, running through Coyote's hilarious antics is a more profound and thoughtful view of humanity, but still witness its sense of humour. The Trickster plays a large role in the development of cultural humour, be he the wily Coyote, the fat, money-grubbing Usurer or the cunning Spider-Man, as does the fool, like the block-head Belog or the grumbling Boatman. But there are thought-pieces, too. The sadness of "Where the Buffalo Go" and the beauty of "The Creator's Gift", the lesson of Karta whose greed is repaid in full by "The Queen of the Sea" and the foiling of the Robbers in "The Pot of Gold", all these and more create a wonderful adventure of unusual and exotic stories that linger in the memory.

GOAL [what is the purpose of this show]: To show that all cultures have similar values, similar feelings and ideas, needs and wants and that humour and human values of each culture are what saves them and allows them to develop and grow.

POINT OF VIEW OF ARTISTS [brief description]: As they have travelled around the world, Bob and Dana have become more and more aware that, even though cultural differences are strong and often lead to great divisiveness. It is the haunting similarities that make human resonances wherever they go. All people understand kindness, beauty, greed, cruelty, anger, frustration, the need to cry, the need to laugh, and it is essential that the universality of the human experience be celebrated and never forgotten. The idea of the show came to Bob and Dana while they were in Bali at the Canti Dasa Ashram. They notice a striking similarity between the Vedic scriptures and prayers that were chanted four times a day and the Lakota prayers said to the Four Directions during the sweat lodge and vision-seeking ceremonies. Why not combine the stories of these two cultures into one performance?

CLASSIFICATION [*i.e.*: ADULT, FESTIVAL, FAMILY, YOUNG AUDIENCE]: Festival and Family, 6 year and up.

PRESENTATION [skills used to present show]: The stage is hung with erosion-cloth which resembles the roots of the banyan tree of Southeast Asia, with a coyote pelt and wall-hangings and rugs from Sumba and Suliwesi, Indonesia, and from the Navajo of the Two-Grey Hills Reserve and patterned with light shining through jungle leaves and the spare branches of trees and the tall grasses that grow on the prairies of North America. It is a richly textured visual world of earth tones, muted maroons, indigo and root-dyes. The costumes for the first part of the performance are all made of fabrics from Singapore, Indonesia, India and Bali, glittering with golden embroidery, glowing with crimson, turquoise, saffron silks. Several characters are portrayed through the use of carved, wooden masks from the countries of their stories. And, in the Native legends, great war-bonnets, proud coup-sticks, fawn-like costumes patterned with black and red designs of the Blackfoot, the Cayuga, the Ojibwa create an atmosphere of wonderment and oaf the long ago and far away. There is no dance in this production per se, but movement plays a very strong role in the development of story lines and character traits, and vocal skills add to the rich variety and colour of ***BANYAN AND BUFFALO***.

more...

TARGET AUDIENCE [*i.e.*: Seniors, multi-cultural groups, etc.]: Festival and Family audiences have greatly enjoyed this production. There is a more gentle, quiet atmosphere to many of these stories which appeal to families that still like to do things together. While adults roar with laughter and really get the messages, the children love the colour, the characters and the lively movement. It is a bright, colourful, rich-looking show that really has intrigued its audiences and left them with a whole new experience in theatre and story-telling.

CAST [see Bios]: Robert Greenwood (actor) and [Mr.] Dana Luebke (dancer-actor)

LANGUAGE(S) IN WHICH SHOW IS PERFORMED: English

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS AVAILABLE:
Poster blanks
Coloured slides
Black and White photos
Colour photos
Preview articles
Reviews

WHERE SHOW HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY PERFORMED OR WORLD PREMIERE, ETC.: ***BANYAN AND BUFFALO*** was first premiered in Calgary, Alberta, during Sun.Ergos, A Company of Theatre and Dance, Subscription Seasons. The show was a centre-piece of a one-week residency at Holy Family School in Edmonton, Alberta, has played as part of Fort Calgary's Performance Series, at SUNSHINE THEATRE in Kelowna, B. C., in THE FESTIVAL FOR YOUNG PEOPLE in Kowloon, Hong Kong, Victoria and as the opening performance of INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEEK in Medicine Hat, Alberta.

REFERENCES FOR SHOW:
Marie Whelan, Principal, HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL, Edmonton, Alberta
George L. Palmer, Director-Designer, Calgary, Alberta
Greg Tuck, Artistic Director, SUNSHINE THEATRE, Kelowna, British Columbia

WORDS WHICH HAVE BEEN USED TO DESCRIBE THE SHOW:
quality, folk-lore, universality, hilarious, skilled, remarkable, colourful, charming, priceless, memorable, professional, entertaining

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR MATERIALS, PLEASE CONTACT:

Administrative Assistant
SUN.ERGOS, A COMPANY OF THEATRE AND DANCE
130 Sunset Way
Priddis, Alberta, CANADA T0L 1W0

TEL 403-931-1527 TOLL FREE 1-800-743-3351
FAX 403-931-1534
e-mail: waltermoke@sunergos.com

banyan and buffalo

SUN ERGOS
A COMPANY OF THEATRE AND DANCE

BANYAN AND BUFFALO

Technical Requirements for School Performances

1. Sun.Ergos **requires** the gymnasium or performance space to be clear of equipment and the floor to be clean upon arrival.

2. The space **must** be free of all other activity during set up and take out. Absolutely *no* use of gym equipment or balls!

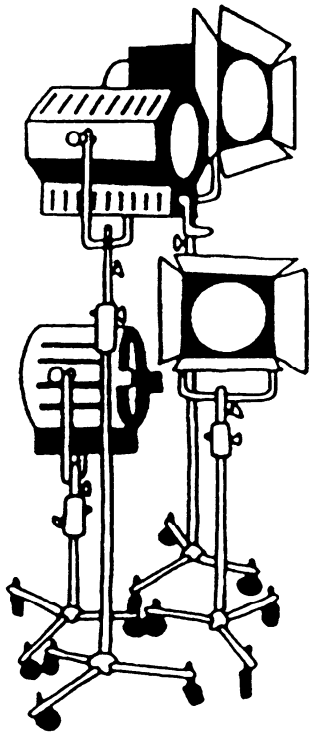
Set-up Time Required: Two hours

Take-out Time Required: One hour

Helpers: Two - three helpers are required, ready to assist Sun.Ergos upon arrival at the school to unload and set up. The same helpers are required to assist in packing up after the performance.

Performing Area Required: Sun.Ergos performs on the gymnasium or community hall floor and requires a minimum performing area of 11m (36')W x 8m (26')D x 3.6m (12')H. Refer to the scale plan on the reverse for details of seating and set-up. Sprung, wooden floor preferred to reduce potential injury to performers.

Dressing Area Required: Access to a staff washroom and mirror is all that is required.



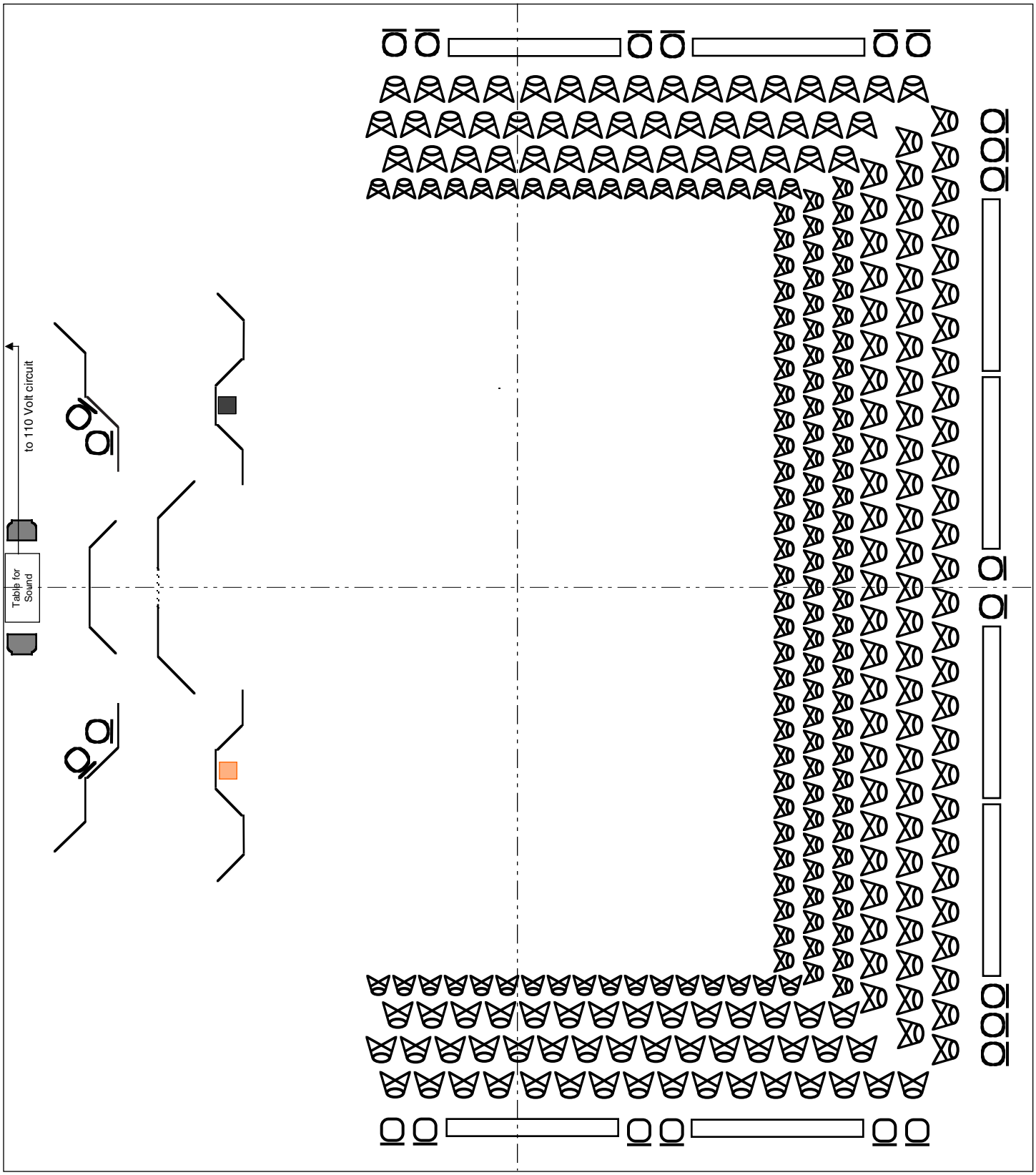
Electrical Requirements: One 110-volt circuit for sound system.

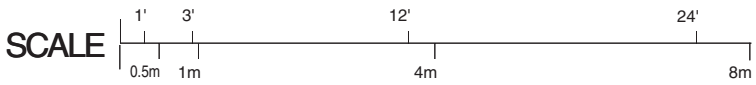
Other Requirements: One table approx. 1.2m (4')L x 0.6m (2')W for sound equip.

Enough chairs for school staff and guests.

Benches for older students (if available).

Contact: 1-800-743-3351





Sun.Ergos set-up for *banyan and buffalo* in school gyms

Students seated on floor, Chairs for teachers

Benches for oldest students where available

Table or two desks provided by school

Table for Sound

1' and 2' pylons

6' and 8' book-flats

Bose speakers

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SUN ERGOS

A COMPANY OF THEATRE AND DANCE

presents

banyan and buffalo

with

ROBERT GREENWOOD and DANA LUEBKE

THIS PERFORMANCE IS DEDICATED TO IBU GEDONG OKA OF ÇANTI DASA ASHRAM, BALI, INDONESIA,
AND TO THE MEMORY OF FRANCES FRASER, OF HIGH RIVER, ALBERTA, BA THAKKAR OF SURAT, INDIA,
AND PETER T'SANG OF EDMONTON, ALBERTA

[FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS - SELECTIONS TAKEN FROM THE FOLLOWING]

OVERTURE - VIETNAMESE SINGING

Traditional story from Thailand
THE KING, THE BOATMAN AND THE MINISTER

Traditional story from Vietnam
THE JAR

Traditional story from Bali
THE BROOM

INTERLUDE - INDIAN SINGING

THE KACHINA BOX
Traditional story from the Zuni

COYOTE, IKTOME AND IYA THE ROCK
Traditional story from the White River Lakota

THE BEAR WHO STOLE THE CHINOOK
Traditional story from the Blackfoot as retold by Frances Fraser
With permission of the Estate of Frances Fraser

SUN.ERGOS wishes to express it thanks to Ibu Gedong Oka, the Çanti Dasa Ashram, to Peter T'Sang and to the villagers of Tangenan, Bali, and to Frank and Gordie Fraser of High River, Alberta
Sarong, Ubend, Lungi from Bali and Singapore Balinese shirts and Indian Costumes by Carol Case
Tapestries from Suliwesi and Tsumba, Indonesia Navajo rugs from the Two Grey Hills Reserve
Feathered Headdresses from Carol Smith, The Glenbow Museum

SUN.ERGOS, an Equity Co-operative, is a registered, non-profit organization performing under the jurisdiction of Canadian Actors' Equity Association

NO CAMERAS OR RECORDING DEVICES ARE PERMITTED

SUN.ERGOS reserves the right to alter the programme without notice
ALL RIGHTS TO THIS MATERIAL ARE RESERVED

e-mail: waltermoke@sunergos.com **Visit our web-site: www.sunergos.com**

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