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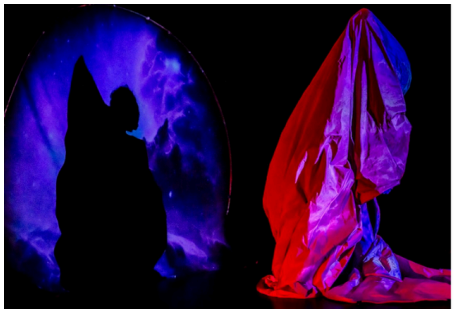


General Provisions

Baby Space Opera is designed to welcome the active participation of babies who can sit, crawl and slowly walk. Parents/caregivers sit with their children at the front and slightly on the sides of the performance space, on mats, at the same level as the performance space. The venue requirements, communications ahead of the performance, sound, light and projections, maximum number of children, welcome notes, and house management are also essential elements to allow for full participation and safety.

Company Size:

- Baby Space Opera is a performance for 3 dancers.
- The performance travels with 1 stage manager, 1 technical director and 1 artistic director (6 people total).
- During the performance, the stage manager and technical director manage projections, light cues, and music cues using QLab on our computer(s), as well as any coordination with FOH regarding house management, and if applicable, during reset.

Maximum participants/audience members:

- This performance welcomes 20 babies/toddlers and 30 adults maximum in larger venues or 15 babies/toddlers and 20 adults maximum in smaller (ex. 800 square foot minimum) venues

Recommended age groups:

- 6-21 month olds and their caregivers (ideal age) - up to 24 month old if preferable for your festival/context.
- Siblings or other children outside of these age groups are welcomed and may be asked to stay close to their accompanying adult

Props and set:

- The set includes a black backdrop with an arch with hooks that supports a costume/prop element during the performance (see stage plot).
- Some costumes are set and placed behind the backdrop for quick changes during the performance. See Stage Plot - we need 5 feet behind our backdrop, in front of the black drapes of the venue (see stage plot below).
- All materials from the company arrive in 4 suitcases and one ski bag. Parking near the loading bay is welcomed.

First Aid:

- Dancers need access to ice for load-in and performances in case of injury.

Staff provided by presenter/venue:

- One technician
- Front-of-house staff/volunteers for relaxed performance settings where the audience might exit and re-enter the venue.

Venue Requirements

Black Box Theatre:

- Black Box Theatre with black drapes all around
- The floor surface must be flat, smooth, black, and mopped before each performance.
    - Sprung floor necessary.
    - Marley floors are nice but not essential, IF the surface of the floor meets the above requirements (black, sprung, smooth).
- Room size - minimum 800 square feet
- Pipe and drape uprights (2)
    - Minimum 8 ft high with slots at the top to hook our crossbar + 2 base plates. We bring our own crossbar (12ft)
- Additional Blackout Drape
    - 8ft height x 12 ft total length to drape our backdrop
- Sandbags to secure the backdrop, light trees, speakers on stand, etc (up to 10)
- Glow tape for minimal spiking

Green Room:

- Warm dress room for artists / locked space to secure belongings, change, and store costumes.
- Bathrooms and mirrors.
- Coat racks and hangers for costumes
- Coffee, tea, milk, fruits, and healthy snacks. Lunch appreciated (soup, hearty salad, etc)

Seating (mats):

Mats are set in a slight U shape on the same level as the performance area, to allow easy entrance into the performing area by the babies (see tech rider).

- 1st 3 rows: typical preschool interlocking puzzle mats (24'x24') for babies/toddlers in front with a parent just behind. Gym mats options also possible. We may be able to bring ours if transportation allows.

- 4rd row (optional for smaller spaces):
    - **4 folded gym mats** to form higher seating spots or,
        - Please source from schools or other partners
            - Gym mats dimensions must be 4 x 2 ft, height: between 5 and 10 inches. We provide covers

    OR

    - **Yoga bolsters (6 to 8)**
        - We can provide small bolsters with covers for smaller venues if transportation allows. We provide covers for the yoga bolsters.

- 4th row: 6-8 chairs

House Management

Running time:

- The running time is approximately 40 minutes without intermission.
- The performance can be presented up to two times in a day

Load in/Strike:

- Load in takes 8 hours, the day before
- Strike is 1 hour and starts one hour after the last show.
- Please pre-install the black Marley floor if needed in your venue.

Audience Welcome:

- A welcome message is delivered at the start of the show (delivered by the artistic director and the presenter or FOH).
- Doors open 5-7 min max before the performance starts.
- Latecomers can be accepted, up to the end of the welcome message, or by judgement from FOH, Stage Manager or AD
- Front-of-house personnel let families out and back as needed.

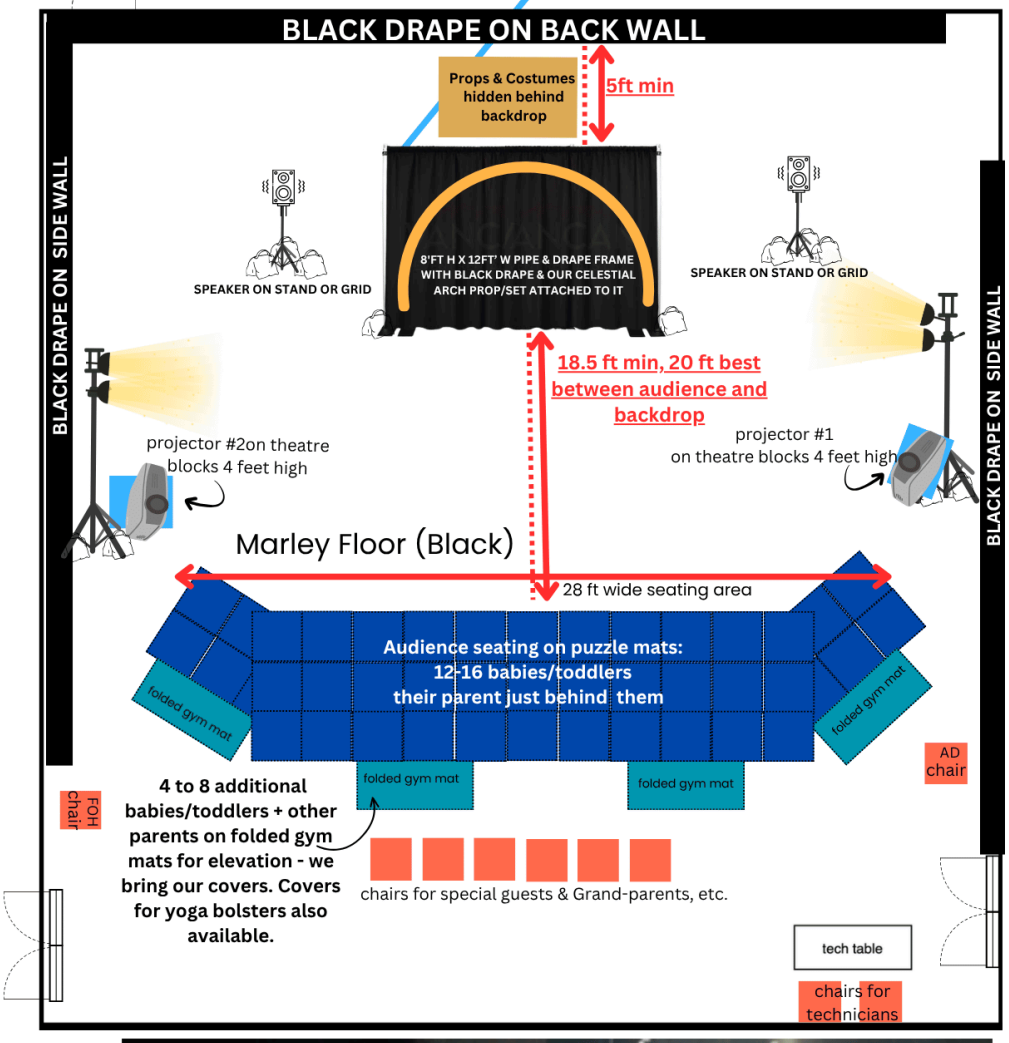
Lobby:

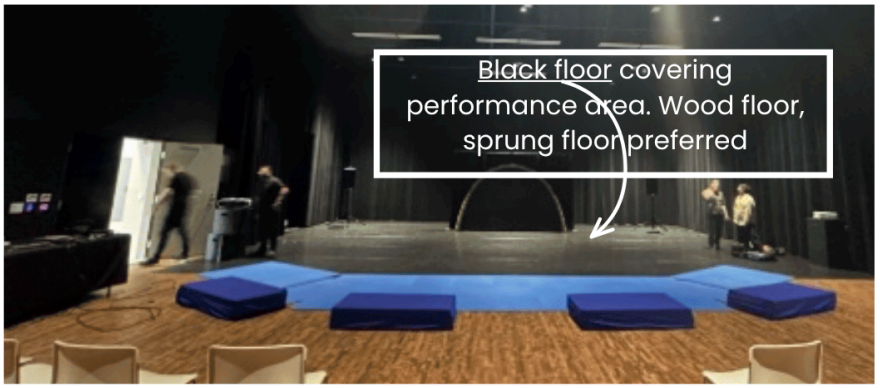
Secured and monitored by staff/volunteers during the show

- Coat racks for the audience outside the performance area. We ask audience members to leave coats, shoes/boots outside the performance to free up space in the seating area.
- Shoe rack
- Stroller parking
- Poster space (board or wall suitable) - the 3 posters (8.5 / 11 inches) contain information about the performance, education guide QR codes, and artists' biographies.

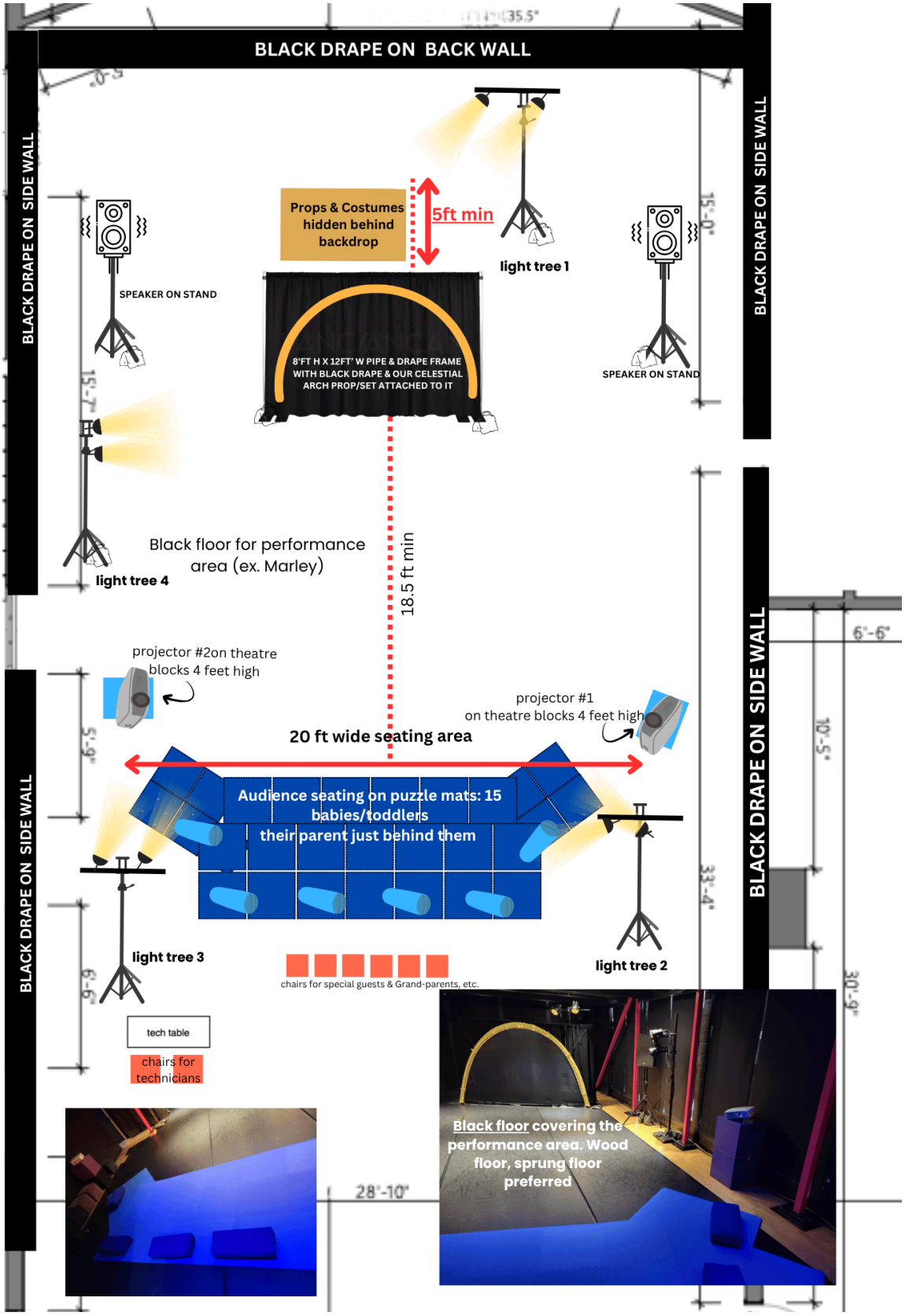
Stage Plot - venues with a grid

Stage Plot: Baby Space Opera / Grande Ourse - Petite Ourse for venues with a grid (based on Maison de la culture Mercier, Montreal)
Width: 43" - Depth: 45"





Stage Plot - smaller venues without a grid



Lighting, Sound, and Projection

Projection requirements from venue and company:

We project videos of stars and nebulas on the floor, costumes, props and backdrop using QLab on our own computer.

- Provided by the venue: 2 black theatre blocks, 4 ft tall (see stage plot)
- Provided by the venue whenever possible: 2 projectors & cables,
- Extra cables may be required depending on where the tech booth is located, these would need to be provided by the venue

Lighting requirements from venue:

Our lighting plans will be adapted to each venue; our preference is to use the venue's lighting board when possible and program during load in. Our SM will run the show on their own, or can call the show for a venue technician.

For venues with a grid:

We also need audience lighting

- Colour changing LED from above, can be house fixtures focused to include the audience area, minimum 8 fixtures.
    - If there is no grid but the venue has house lights above the audience, we can use blue gels.

For venues without a grid:

- Lighting trees (4)
    - Orcan4, Colorsource PARs or similar, (8 or 12)
- Data cables to connect every light, 25’ long, plus a few shorter ones.
- Long extension cords with multiple plugs (one per light, 8 - 12)
- Sandbags to secure lighting trees

Tech booth or tables provided by venue:

- Up to 2 tables may be needed for our SM and TD
- 2 chairs
- 2 power strips
- lamps

Sound amplification provided by venue:

The music is entirely recorded in separate tracks and is run on QLab by our SM or TD.

- Mixer with at least 2 channels available (1 mono, 1 stereo)
- 2 long XLR cables
- PA system
    - 2 speakers with stands (placed behind or beside our backdrop, please see stage plot)
    - Sandbags to secure the speaker stands