

# IAN MCFARLANE



Performer, Puppeteer,  
Scenographer

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MFA Contemporary Arts,  
Interdisciplinary Studies

31 Chapel St., Parrsboro NS

CELL: (604) 442 6259

[ianfmcfar@gmail.com](mailto:ianfmcfar@gmail.com)

[ianfmcfar.weebly.com](http://ianfmcfar.weebly.com)

I am a multifaceted theatre maker whose unique practice of landscape poetics, junkyard theatrics, and performative alchemy explores the unexpected correspondence between the performing body and the performing of the world. Expanding on the disciplines of puppetry, ecoscenography and sensory ethnography as foundations for creative inquiry I create works for the theatre, outdoor spectacles and community-led projects.

## Education

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- 2018 **MFA Contemporary Arts, Interdisciplinary Studies**, Simon Fraser University
- 2016 **Banff Puppet Intensive**, The Old Trout Puppet Workshop
- 2015 **Apprentice - Bread and Puppet Theater**
- 2015 **Toronto School of Puppetry Intensive**, The Puppetmongers, Clunk Puppet Lab
- 2013 **Interrarium 2013**, Springboard Performance
- 2011 **OYR Summer Lab Intensive**, One Yellow Rabbit
- 2010 **Bachelor of Fine Arts in Multidisciplinary, with Great Distinction**, University of Lethbridge

## Performance Creation (selected)

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- 2022 ***A Gorgon's Tale***, North Barn Theatre Collective // Nova Scotia tour
- 2022 **The River Clyde Pageant: *Gathering Tides*** // New Glasgow, PEI
- 2021 ***Troubling Joy: A Bicycle Puppet Circus***, North Barn Theatre Collective // Nova Scotia tour
- 2021 **The River Clyde Pageant: *Turn of the Tide*** // New Glasgow, PEI
- 2020 ***Late Night Radio***, North Barn Theatre Collective // Antigonish, Ross Creek Centre for the Arts
- 2019 **The River Clyde Pageant: *In the Wake of the Tale*** // New Glasgow, PEI
- 2018 ***Weather Patterns #6: The Funeral Pageant*** // MFA Graduating Project, Simon Fraser University

- 2018 **The River Clyde Pageant: *Catch a River by the Tale*** // New Glasgow, PEI
- 2017 ***Weather Pattern #1: An Object Opera*** // Simon Fraser University, Vancouver BC
- 2016 ***River: A Puppet Myth***, Mudfoot Theatre // Calgary, AB
- 2015 ***The Hudson Bay Epic***, Mudfoot Theatre // Calgary, AB
- 2015 ***Shortcut to Nirvana***, Swallow-a-bicycle Theatre // Calgary, AB
- 2014 ***Eavesdrop: The Coffeeshop Show***, Swallow-a-bicycle Theatre // Calgary, AB
- 2012 ***Death of the Freakshow***, Swallow-a-bicycle Theatre // OYR, High Performance Rodeo, Calgary, AB
- 2012 ***Junquatica***, Mudfoot Theatre // Calgary, AB
- 2011 ***The House Project Performances***, Mudfoot Theatre // Calgary, AB

## Puppetry and Material Performance (selected)

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- 2022 ***The River Clyde Solstice Walk***, The River Clyde Pageant – Puppet design and construction // New Glasgow, PEI
- 2020 ***The Flock***, Art in the Open // Charlottetown, PEI
- 2020 ***Diagonal Life Circus***, Bread and Puppet Theatre // North American Tour
- 2019 ***Diagonal Life: Theory and Praxis***, Bread and Puppet Theatre // New England Tour
- 2019 ***The Honey Let's Go Home Opera***, Bread and Puppet Theatre // Festival Mondial de Marionnettes de Charleville-Mézières France
- 2018 ***The Grasshopper Rebellion Circus***, Bread and Puppet Theatre // Simon Fraser University, Vancouver BC
- 2018 ***The Anti-Gardener*** // Simon Fraser University, Vancouver BC
- 2017 ***Iinisikimm***, Canadian Academy of Mask and Puppetry // Treaty 7 Territory
- 2017 **The River Clyde Pageant: *Wake the River Clyde*** // New Glasgow, PEI
- 2017 ***The Danube*** // Simon Fraser University, Vancouver BC

## Scenography and Design (selected)

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- 2022 ***Shadows in the Cove***, Mulgrave Road Theatre – Set and Lighting Design // Guysborough, NS
- 2021 ***Hansel und Gretel in: der Garten von Edible Horrors: A Terrible Parable***, Villians Theatre – Set Design // Antigonish and Halifax, NS
- 2020 ***Playbuilding***, Ships Company Theatre – Set Design // Parrsboro NS
- 2018 ***They Won't Pay? We Won't Pay!***, Simon Fraser University – Set Design // Vancouver BC
- 2016 ***The Underneath***, Theatre BSMT – Set Design // Calgary AB
- 2015 ***How to Leave***, Theatre Outré – Set Design // Lethbridge AB
- 2015 ***I Hate Hamlet***, Morpheus Theatre – Set and Lighting Design // Calgary AB
- 2014 ***Cowboy vs. Samurai***, Chromatic Theatre – Lighting Design // Calgary AB
- 2013 ***Razzle Dazzle***, New West Theatre – Set Design // Lethbridge AB

2012 ***Straight On 'Til Morning***, Red Phone Theatre – Set Design // Calgary AB

## Theatre Production (selected)

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2016-2018 **Carpenter / Scenic Painter**, Great Northern Way Workshop // Vancouver, BC

2018 **Technical Director** for *Books*, Simon Fraser University // Vancouver, BC

2015 – 2017 **Stage Carpenter / Scenic Painter**, Alberta Theatre Projects // Calgary, AB

2016 **Lighting Technician**, Alberta Theatre Projects // Calgary, AB

2015 – 2016 **Carpenter/ Scenic Painter**, Productions Canada // Calgary, AB

2015 – 2017 **Scenic Carpenter**, Theatre Calgary // Calgary, AB

## Teaching and Workshop Facilitation

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2022 **Workshop Facilitator**, Cardboard Construction and Willow Pageantry, King's Theatre // Annapolis Royal, NS

2022 **Workshop Facilitator**, *Willow Pageantry: An Introduction to Sustainable, Large-scale Puppet Construction*, The Canadian Academy of Mask and Puppetry // Calgary, AB

2022 **Workshop Facilitator**, Puppet Construction workshop, Perform! Theatre Nova Scotia, Halifax Grammar School // Halifax, NS

2021 **Workshop Facilitator**, Puppet Construction Workshop, Theatre Antigonish // Antigonish NS

2019 **Workshop facilitator**, **Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space**, Canadian Academy of Mask and Puppetry

2018 **Term Lecturer**, Simon Fraser University, School for the Contemporary Arts

- Department of Production and Design

2018 **Guest Instructor**, Simon Fraser University, School for the Contemporary Arts

- CA 170, Introduction to Production and Design

2017 **Teaching Assistant**, Simon Fraser University, School for the Contemporary Arts

- CA 170, Introduction to Production and Design

2017 **Teaching Assistant**, Simon Fraser University, School for the Contemporary Arts

- FPA 285, Interdisciplinary Collaboration

2016 **Presenter and Workshop Facilitator**, Puppet Power Conference, *WP Puppet Theatre* // Calgary, AB

2015 **Guest Lecturer**, University of Lethbridge // Lethbridge, AB

## Publications

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2022 [Bringing Trouble: An Account of a Travelling Bicycle Puppet Show](#), *Creating Puppet Solidarities*, edited by Sarah Plummer, HowlRound Theatre Commons, Emerson College, Boston MA.

- 2018 [Weather Pattern #6: The Funeral Pageant](#), Graduating extended essay / Research Project , Simon Fraser University, Vancouver BC.
- 2017 [Book Review: Lutz Koepnick, On Slowness: Towards an Aesthetic of the Contemporary](#), CMA Journal, Issue four, Simon Fraser University School for the Contemporary Arts, Vancouver BC.

## Media

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- 2021 [Antigonish based theatre collective brings travelling puppet show to New Glasgow](#) – Saltwire
- 2020 [Puppets take centre stage in Antigonish hayfield for drive-in performance](#) – CBC
- 2020 [The Flock](#) – Vimeo
- 2018 [The 2018 River Clyde Pageant: Catch a River by the Tale](#) – Vimeo
- 2016 [Junk Art Documentary / Mudfoot Theatre](#) - Youtube