

# About The Trollsons

The Trollsons have been entertaining audiences at festivals, special events, theatres and Children's Festivals throughout the world since 1995. These extraordinary characters make mouths drop, and tourists flock to get their photos taken with them. They are professional performing Trolls, and are extremely flexible - they tailor themselves to each event.

When roving, they chat, tell jokes, sing songs, dance, play music (with accordion, drum and bells), matchmake, and generally cause mischief and merriment.

The Trollsons have several 30-minute festival-stage shows which feature masks, music, physical comedy, improvisation, and a special kind of audience interaction. They also perform a 60-minute indoor family show featuring the stories of Hans Christian Andersen.

The incredible masks were made by award winning mask designer Melody Anderson. The Trollsons are usually seen two at a time, though there are six characters, including five trolls and one reindeer!

For more information, contact +1 (604) 875-8316 or email [info@trollsons.com](mailto:info@trollsons.com).



## Selected Performance History

- Canal City Fukuoka, Japan
- Singapore International Children's Festival
- Singapore Arts Festival
- Shanghai International Children's Festival
- China Puppet Theatre (Beijing)
- Vancouver Folk Music Festival
- Vancouver International Children's Festival
- Calgary International Children's Festival
- Surrey Children's Festival
- Nanaimo International Children's Festival
- London, Ontario Children's Festival
- Burnaby Village Museum
- Whistler Village (summer & winter)
- Vancouver International Comedy Festival
- Filberg Festival of the Arts, Comox
- Bella Coola Discovery Coast Music Festival
- Nordic Festival, Libby, Montana
- Qualicum Beach Family Day
- Ikea - *Family Day* and *Knut Celebrations*
- Peach Festival in Penticton
- Semiahmoo Resort, Washington, USA
- Private events: eg. Chief of Police 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
... and many, many more!

# The Trollsons - Current Shows

## The One-Eyed Troll & The Selkie



**The One-Eyed Troll & The Selkie** are two 30-minute storytelling shows. Two storytellers (without masks), bring these unique and comedic tales to life with music, physical comedy, and improvisation. Audience members get swept into the action and become a part of the unique storytelling style. In **The One-Eyed Troll**, based on Scandinavian folktale, an evil troll has taken over the forest. Everyone is terrified, but a young boy out looking for some firewood just might have a solution.

**The Selkie** is based on traditional folklore that appears in many different parts of the world. An Irish fisherman watches in awe as a seal removes her seal-coat to transform into a beautiful, mysterious woman. He falls instantly in love, and determines that she will be his wife. The two tales are portable, low-tech, and flexible, and have been performed in many environments, from a full theatre with technical support, to impromptu street performances.



## THE STORYTELLER - Theatre for Young Audiences

**THE STORYTELLER** is a 50-minute, indoor, sit-down play suitable for ages 4 to 11. Two actors play all of the characters, and are accompanied by a live musician. Come deep into the forest as a family of trolls bring Scandinavian folklore to life. It's Grandpa Trollson's 200th birthday party, but he refuses to come out of his tree stump to celebrate! When audience participants join the action onstage, Grandpa cannot resist the power of storytelling. Join us for three truly interactive tales based on stories by Hans Christian Andersen, featuring live music, incredible masks, physical comedy, improvisation, and good old-fashioned troll trouble!



## The Trollsons - Roving

**Roving** is the Trollson's specialty! Let the trolls bring some comedic magic to your special event. The Trollsons mingle with the crowd, tell jokes, matchmake, sing songs, dance, play music (with accordion, drum and cowbells), read rune stones, and generally cause mischief and merriment. The Trollsons roving act is extremely flexible - we will be happy to entertain line-ups, direct crowds from one area to another, or simple to create a little forest magic where it's needed most.

## The Two Header - Festival Stage Show

**The Two Header** is a 30-minute festival stage show starring two trolls and a musician, featuring live music, physical comedy, improvisation, and a lot of audience participation. Two young lovers (picked from the audience), must overcome an evil two-headed troll (played by children) ... if anyone gets too close to the Two Header, they are *danced to death*! The show is very flexible, and is suitable for outdoor festival stages, "circle" busking shows, gyms, or indoor stages, and can be tailored to suit the needs of your event.



# What people are saying...



It is always a joy having the Trollsons on stage for our festival. The children are mesmerized and the adults are thoroughly entertained as members of the audience are pulled up on stage to be part of the act. The Trollsons professionalism and skill at audience engagement, either on stage or roving, make it an easy decision for me to invite them back year after year.

**Marnie Perrin - Artistic Director, Surrey Children's Festival**

LOVED watching every face in the crowd totally captivated! Master story tellers in action as every child was hanging on your every word! Absolutely excellent modeling of story telling through drama. THANK YOU!!!!

**Diana Clark - Blakeburn Elementary, Port Coquitlam, BC**

A unique show that engages and enthralls. The cleverness of their staging, the artistic flair and their inimitable talent make performing for young audiences seem easy and effortless.

**Ruby Lim-Yang, Artistic Director, Singapore International Festival for Children**

The Trollsons were a tremendous hit... Children and adults broke into smiles whenever they spotted these lovable characters. We sincerely hope that the Trollsons will return every year to add colour and charm to our Festival!

**Jay Blue - Site Manager, Calgary International Children's Festival**

Fantastic group, the kids loved them! Their show at our outdoor entertainment was great, a real hit with the crowd. I wish we could have them back every year.

**John Desch - Libby Nordicfest, Montana**

You were the HIT at Family Day today. We loooooooovvvvvved your performances. You are both a delight to work with and I hope somehow we can do it again together.

**Veronica von Conruhds - Qualicum Beach Family Day**

I am the Trolls biggest fan! The characters are totally charming and both children and adults are enchanted by their magic.

**Diane Stewart, Promotions Manager - IKEA Vancouver, BC**



# ***The Trollsons - Meet the Artists***

## **Heidi Specht – Performer, Writer, Creator**

Heidi has been working as a professional actress, director, teacher, choreographer and producer for twenty years. Her performing and training in theatre have taken her to Europe, Asia, Russia and all over North America. The Trollsons were inspired by her Scandinavian heritage and love of folklore. Her performance experience and training is very diverse, ranging in styles from masked theatre to circus to Noh theatre and Chinese opera. Heidi is the Artistic Director of Pangaea Arts, an award-winning intercultural, interdisciplinary, world arts company based in Vancouver. Heidi has extensive experience performing and creating Theatre for Young Audiences, and is a graduate of Studio 58.



## **Lenard Stanga – Performer, Writer, Creator**

Lenard specializes in comedy, improvisation and interactive theatre. He has regularly performed improv (including an improvised soap opera), and interpretive educational theatre. He has worked as an actor on major stages throughout BC and Alberta, including Blackbird Theatre, Pangaea Arts, Bard on the Beach, The Gateway Theatre, The Firehall Theatre, Bard in the Vineyard, Western Canada Theatre, Theatre Calgary, Alberta Theatre Projects, Theatre Junction, Lunchbox Theatre, Pleiades Theatre, and Green Fools Puppet Theatre. He has toured extensively to Alberta schools with theatre for young audiences. He also works as a writer, teacher and director. Lenard received his training at the University of Calgary and Mount Royal College.



## **Judy Specht – Composer, Musician, Soundscape**

Judy is a composer whose works have been performed in Canada, Australia, Great Britain, Singapore, China and Spain. She has written concert music for solo instruments, ensembles and choirs, and musical scores for theatre and dance. Her grandparents were immigrants from Norway, and passed down to her their stories, songs and dances. It was thus that Judy inherited a love for the accordion, which she learned as a child in order to accompany the old songs and folk dances. Along with the accordion, Judy is a multi-instrumentalist, and performs a live soundscape with accordion, auto-harp, flute, saxophone, didgeridoo, drum, cowbells, and found objects.

