

William Todd-Jones.

Todd trained as a dancer and actor in the UK, at the Welsh College of Music and Drama and in the USA, at Bard College, New York.

From the start of his professional career he discovered himself drawn to physical theatre, involving himself in dance pieces that were usually highly energetic and visceral, using anything he could find to convey the desired effect. This interest expanded hugely when he spent two years living in New Mexico, working with an established puppet performer. There he discovered the potential of performing an inanimate prop to a point where it can convey, often in the simplest and most direct way, meaning and story.

On returning to the UK he took up a position working for The Jim Henson Organisation, both as a builder and a performer of their puppets and special effect creatures. His time there was very much an apprenticeship, which he used to hone and expand his technique under the watchful and generous eyes of the Muppet puppeteers.

Alongside his extensive list of performance credits Todd has also been the creature movement co-ordinator for several TV and Feature Film projects, a role akin to that of Assistant Director.

Within his schedule he has had occasional opportunities to give workshops, through which he has endeavoured to show to others the technique he uses, in the hope that they might find it useful on a professional level. Beneficiaries of these include dancers from the Royal Thai Court in Bangkok, students at The Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts and of Circus Space.

He has had a significant association with the UK/US charity Save The Rhino International for whom he wrote, designed and directed a huge and highly acclaimed environmental theatre piece, that was seen by an audience well in excess of ten thousand.

He draws much inspiration from the native peoples he has met, both in Africa and in the US, who achieve in their story-telling: a conveying of all the truths of human existence with the fewest props and the barest of effects.

He lives in Devon with three children, two dogs, one cat, a boa constrictor and an extremely patient wife.

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PRINCIPAL PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE:

Feature Film:

- 2004 **Vogon Performer & Movement Consultant**
“*Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy*”, Directed by Garth Jennings.
Starring; Sam Rockwell, Martin Prentice, Zoe Dechanel & Mos Def.
- 2001 **Goose Performer**
“*Jack and the Beanstalk*”, Directed by Brian Henson.
Starring; Mathew Modine.
- 1998-99 **Principal Rat Performer & Puppet Co-ordinator.**
“*The Tale of the The Rat That Wrote*”. Directed by Billy O’Brien
Bafta nominated for best short film 1999.
- 1997-98 **The Robot & Spider Smith Shadow**
“*Lost in Space*”. Directed by Stephen Hopkins.
Starring; Matt Leblanc, Gary Oldman & Heather Graham.
- 1996-97 **The Scylla & The Enchanted Pig (Creature co-ordinator).**
“*The Odyssey*”.
Starring; Armand Assant, Isabella Rossellini.
- 1996 **Puppeteer.**
“*101 Dalmatians*”.
Starring; Glen Close.
- 1995-1996 **Principal Puppeteer.**
“*Pinocchio*”. Directed by Steve Baron.
Starring; Martin Landau & Jonathon Taylor-Thomas.
- 1995 **Special Effect Creature Performer.**
“*Fierce Creatures*”. Directed by Robert Young
Starring; John Cleese, Jamie Lee Curtis, Kevin Kline & Michael Palin.
- 1994 **ABC Robot Choreographer.**
“*Judge Dredd*”. Directed by Danny Cannon.
Starring; Sylvester Stallone.

Further Puppeteer/Creature Performance credits on:

- “*Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein*.” Directed by Kenneth Branagh.
“*Muppet Treasure Island*”. Directed by Brian Henson.
“*The Never Ending Story III*”. Directed by Peter Macdonald.
“*The Muppet Christmas Carol*”. Directed by Brian Henson.
“*Batman*”. Directed by Tim Burton.
“*Who Framed Roger Rabbit?*”. Directed By Robert Zemekis.
“*Little Shop of Horrors*”. Directed by Frank Oz.
“*Labyrinth*”. Directed by Jim Henson.
“*Dream Child*”. Directed by Gavin Millar.

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Television:

- 2002-2004 **Gunge, Policeman, Scab and Movement Supervisor**
"Fungus the Bogeyman"
Produced by BBC & CBC
- 2003 **Frank the Ferret**
"The Queen's Nose"
Produced by Film & General for CiTV
- 2000-2002 **Mopatop.**
"Mopatops Shop". (Jim Henson Productions)
For CiTV, Pre-school educational programming.
- 1999-2000 **Elephant, Piano and Tele.**
"Dog and Duck". (UP Productions)
For CiTV, Pre-school educational programming.
- 1998 & 99 **Slo Norris.**
"The Slow Norris". (HTV)
For CiTV, Pre-school educational programming.
- 1994-2002 **Jook.**
"Cats Eyes". (BBC)
For BBC Schools, Primary Science educational programming.
- 1991-1994 **Eustace Gristle.**
"The House of Gristle"&"Dizzy Heights." (BBC)
- 1992-1993 **Puppeteer.**
"Whats Up Doc". (STV)
- 1991 **Rhinoceros & Snake.**
"Scarfe on Sex". (BBC)
- 1990 **Howard.**
"The Winjin Pom". (Spitting Image)
- 1989-1991 **Aslan, Glenstorm & The Dragon.**
"The Chronicles of Narnia". (BBC)

Recent Commercials:

Fairly Odd Parents for Nickleodeon. The Eircom Mouse for Eircom. The Troll for Lloyds Bank. Mars Celebrations. Cheetos. Pot Noodles. Supergrass.

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Stage:

- 2004 **Performer & Guest Speaker**
 “Mythic Journey’s”
Produced by the Mythic Imagination Institute, Atlanta, Georgia, USA.
- 2003 **Designer & Performer of: The Satyr, Trollp & Fool**
 “Sedona Faerieworlds Festival”
Produced by Imaginosis Productions & The Sedona Cultural Park, Arizona, USA.
- 2002-2003 **Creature Designer, Performance Coach & Story Advisor**
 “The River of Kings IV”
Produced by her Royal Highness Princess Ubolratana in Bangkok, Thailand.
- 2002 **5m Skeleton Rod Puppet, Designer & Performer**
 “Mexican The Day of the Dead”
Produced by The Eden Project & Cornwall Promoters Consortium.
- 2001 **Performer of Devil, Pig & Fool**
 Daughters of Elvin
Medieval musical theatre tour.
- 1998-2001 **Conceived, Wrote, Produced & Directed**
 “Spirit of the Rhino Drum”
Produced by Save the Rhino International.
- 1991-2000 **Kermit the Frog, Mopatop & Goober Fraggle (Walkabout suits)**
 Jim Henson Organisation.
- 1990 **Animal Movement Choreographer,**
 “Born Again”. (Based on Enesco’s ‘Rhinoceros’)
 The Peter Hall Company.

Festival appearances include:

Glastonbury, Womad, Edingburgh, Virgin, The Green Gathering, Kimberley

Other:

Todd was part of the six man team who walked the 300miles from sea level Mombassa, Kenya to the summit of Mt Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, wearing a thirty pound Rhinoceros costume. He has also successfully completed three London marathons as a rhino.