

LUMIERE & SON

present

TRICKSTER

TRICKSTER

TRICKSTER

Robert Whyatt writes music for Lumiere & Son's new show

The Trickster is a figure from ancient North American Indian myth. Tales of his exploits were regularly recounted by story-tellers to provide an antidote to the often stiflingly rigid structures of tribal society.

Trickster is innocent yet diabolic. His mind is so unformed that his right hand will attack his left hand with a knife. He carries his penis in a box at his back and can change it into useful plants at will. He can assume animal form and converse with trees. While at one moment he is depicted as the protector of his family, the next he will kill off small children in order to satisfy his constant and voracious hunger. He is wild, amoral, bi-sexual and unconscious..

Trickster is as old as the hills - he stands as the ancestor of the jester, the fool, the clown and Punch. Jung saw him as: 'an absolutely undifferentiated human consciousness, corresponding to a psyche that has hardly left the animal level... In picaresque tales, in carnivals and revels, in sacred and magical rites, in man's religious fears and exaltations, the phantom of The Trickster haunts the mythology of all ages... He is both sub-human and super-human, a bestial and divine being whose chief and most alarming characteristic is in his unconsciousness.'

Lumiere & Son have adapted the myth into a flexible performance piece in which the elements of farce, anarchy, absurd sexuality, surreal shape-shifting, clowning, idiocy, malice, benevolence and vulgarity are retained intact. The piece ranges from the burlesque to the

INSIDE & OUT SHOWS

Administration: John Ford

29 Kingsford Street, London NW5

ceremonial and clearly demonstrates the continuing relevance of this ambiguous figure to our understanding of our own experiences in a society where taboos are still strong and demanding.

Lumiere & Son are joined by Robert Whyatt in their new project. Long-time drummer, vocalist, lyricist and composer with the Soft Machine, an honorary member of the College of Pataphysicians, founder of his own band Matching Mole, and currently working on a new solo album for Virgin records, Robert Whyatt is composing a tape score to accompany performances of The Trickster. He became involved with the company after being impressed with their recent appearance at the Bush Theatre.

The Trickster can be immediately adapted to any location, interior or exterior, and suited to any time-span. For instance, the cycle of episodes could be contracted to an evening's theatre piece; or most of the 76 episodes could be enacted in greater detail in a series of different performances over the course of a week; or again, appropriate episodes could be expanded to make the most of any topographic or public situation - streets, parks, beaches, festival, landscapes, shows and exhibitions. Whenever possible, The Trickster can use and add to his surroundings with structures and special effects as an integral part of the performance.

Lumiere & Son's previous show 'Jack... the Flames!' played successfully in Holland and Germany prior to a three week season at the Bush Theatre, London. ('Animated Dali with a dash of self-mockery' - Evening Standard; 'Compellingly performed' - Financial Times; 'Visually extraordinary... genuinely new and unique' - Time Out). The basic company currently consists of Hilary Westlake, David Gale, Cindy Oswin, Jo Bartholemew and Julian Hough. The Trickster can be developed in a larger context to include as many as a dozen performers. Members of the company would expect to earn £5 a day in addition to reasonable travel, accomodation and running expenses. Since the scope of The Trickster varies and adapts to any situation, please contact Lumiere & Son to discuss how exactly it could be best presented for your particular circumstances.