

**Q&A with Max Humphries, Puppet Designer**

The dinosaurs were designed and created by puppet maker **Max Humphries**, who is known for his experimental mechanisms and novel puppet forms. Along with *Dinosaur World Live*, Max and his team have produced work for the National Theatre, the Royal Opera House, the Royal Ballet and many others.

We asked Max a few questions about his work on *Dinosaur World Live*…

**What are the dinosaurs made of?**

*They’re made of a skeleton of very light aluminium metal. The more complex moving parts are a mix of nylon, steel, aluminium and birch. Then over that is a skin of super-lightweight foam for the muscles and then the skin is either made out of cloth or treated fur for the feathers.*

**How did you come up with the designs?**

*After agreeing which dinosaurs we were going to be making and what each were going to do, we studied the anatomy and settled on a final drawing of each dinosaur.*

*Then we worked out how the puppeteers would fit inside and how all the parts moved. From that I worked out the skeleton and mechanisms whilst the rest of the team worked on sculpting the outside.*

*Then after the outside and inside were finished we joined them together. That is why good planning is so important; everything needs to meet together.*

**How long did it take you to make the dinosaurs?**

*From the first drawings to the first show was a little over 9 months!*

**What was the biggest challenge in making the dinosaurs?**

*Keeping them light and strong. There are no electronics or hydraulics in our puppets, everything is people-powered by our great team of puppeteers, so you have to maintain a workable weight whilst also packing the most stuff into the puppets as possible.*

**What is most important when making puppets?**

*Passion and dedication to your craft.*

**What is your favourite part of puppetry creation and design?**

*Working with my team.*

**What is your favourite dinosaur?**

*Hard question, in my heart Thalassodromeus Sethi but technically she’s a pterosaur and not a dinosaur. So I’ll probably say Amargasaurus Cazaui? But in the show I think it’s probably Tamora!*

**Discover more at dinosaurworldlive.com**