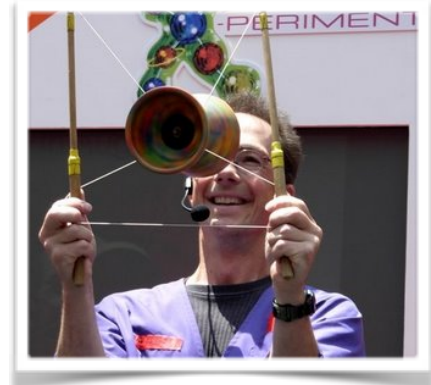


# SCIENCE CIRCUS

## Primary Contact:

Rhys Thomas  
6647 NE Going St.  
Portland, OR 97218

rhys@jugglemania.com  
503-282-1429  
www.sciencecircus.org



## Show Description

“For every action there’s an equal and opposite reaction.  
For instance, I’m fascinated and you’re losing interest.”

- Rhys Thomas

Not anymore!

The Science Circus teaches Newtonian physics using a rare blend of science, comedy and circus arts. Students learn surprising things about gravity (through bowling ball juggling), gyroscopic stability (through glass bowl spinning), centripetal force (with cowboy lariats), center of balance (with a tall unicycle) and inertia (with the old tablecloth pull). Add the irresistible force of levity and that’s what the Science Circus is all about.

Gollyology is the sequel to Science Circus and adds lessons on the scientific method as well as how archaeology, mathematical modeling and Chemistry have informed juggling culture.

Both shows work on so many levels that they’re often compared to Pixar movies.

## Minimum Production Needs

The Science Circus and Gollyology are modular stage shows that can run anywhere from 15-90 minutes. They are easily presented, needing only a 12’x12’x12’ area with basic lighting and a PA (which can be provided).



## Quotes

*"Wonderful"* - Smithsonian Institution

*"In touch with your inner buffoon"*  
- Wall Street Journal

*"a good laugh"* - LA Times

*"A gifted educator"*  
- Oregon Museum of Science Industry

*"Your clumsy student"*  
- Arno Penzias (Nobel Laureate)

*"The quality and content were superb!"*  
- Children's Museum, Amman Jordan

*"Our 7 museum network marveled at how he REALLY entertained all ages."*  
- Arkansas Discovery Network

*"Now everybody wants to be a juggler but will settle for being mere physicists."*  
- Skyline Elementary, Portland, OR



## Select Clients



Smithsonian Institution, DC  
Space Center Houston  
Science Centre Singapore  
SciTechNoFest, Trinidad  
Abu Dhabi Science Festival  
AT&T Bell Laboratories, NJ  
First (Robotics) Championship, AZ  
American Assn. of Physics Teachers  
Childrens Museum, Amman Jordan  
Kidzania, Cairo  
Intel Science & Engineering Fair  
Arts Across Nebraska  
Arkansas Discovery Network  
Confederation of School Administrators  
Taco Bell Discovery Science Center, CA  
Hoover Presidential Library, IA

## Artist Bio

Growing up in rural Oregon, Rhys learned to juggle in high school to impress a girl and then lost the girl and juggled to forget. He went to the University of Oregon and claims to have an M.F.A. (Master of Frivolous Arts). Paying off his college loans as a rain soaked street performer, Rhys created Science Circus to get an indoor gig at Seattle's Pacific Science Center. This led to museums in 7 countries and hundreds of school shows. Rhys also created his "tour de farce" of circus tricks called JuggleMania to get onto cruise ships and in to theaters and international festivals in 30 countries.



Since 1987, Rhys has performed his unique blend of hilarity and dexterity ...

- as Artist in Residence at The Smithsonian Institution (where he once arrived early enough to see them vacuuming the elephant in the foyer);
  - as Best American Act at the World Cup Street Performer Competition in Shizuoka, Japan;
  - on a live world-wide television broadcast teaching the mathematics of juggling;
  - on Mediterranean and Caribbean cruise ships;
  - as a command performance at The European Juggling Convention;
  - inside a 4,000 year old Egyptian tomb alongside paintings of ancient jugglers;
  - as the first juggler to win an Oregon Arts Fellowship
- and at theaters, festivals, museums, schools and banquet halls on four continents.

Highly respected in the juggling world, Rhys is a recipient of the Ben Linder Memorial Award for Inspiration, has twice been profiled in "Juggle" magazine and appears on several DVD's including "The Jugglers That Jugglers Watch." Rhys was the first juggler awarded an Oregon Arts Fellowship.

Rhys' greatest accomplishment was to marry Maria Slayter. Their greatest creations are daughters Isabel and Matilda who not only juggle on stilts, but act, draw, play music, sculpt, sew, and set fashion goals for the many who admire them.

True or False:

Rhys once had a man die watching his show.

Rhys saved an audience from being trampled by clydesdales.

Rhys holds the record for tallest unicycle ridden on frozen ocean.

Rhys once set ice on fire during a hockey game halftime show.

Rhys was asked to "dumb it down" 3x in a national TV interview.

## Tech Rider

### Show Lengths

The Science Circus and Gollyology are modular stage shows that can run anywhere from 15-90 minutes. The average full show runs 55 minutes.

**Space:** a minimum 12'x12'x12' area with audience access to stage

**Lighting:** A well lit area is best for juggling. Basic is fine. In a theater, a general wash with some back light filling downstage center. A gap at center so artist can look up without being blinded. Audience volunteers must be able to see way onstage.

### Props and PA

All props are usually provided, but for flying gigs some heavy props and consumables may be requested (e.g. bowling ball, ceramic plates, carrots and celery). We use our PA (unless flying to your show). An inflatable backdrop is also available for theatrical and museum shows.

**Sound:** A PA with standard XLR and 1/4" inputs and a power outlet. Artist provides wireless headset microphone. Artist can provide PA for local gigs and driving tours.

**Travel:** One round trip economy flight including luggage fees. Southwest offers two trunks free but another trunk can be needed for bonus tricks. Compact car rental.

**Lodging:** Basic motel, B&B or homestay.

## Presenting

**Museum "tours"** usually run Friday through Sunday. They often include weekday in-school assemblies followed by weekend in-museum performances. Special 45 minute to 1 hour donor or fundraising shows can include bonus "danger" tricks not used in basic show. Visitor shows average 30 minutes but can be anywhere from 15 minutes to 1 hour. Museum tours average \$3,000 plus transportation and lodging for a three day, 9 show series. Shorter and longer series are negotiable.

**School "Tours"** can be arranged for anywhere in the world, if enough schools group together to cover travel expenses.

A single school 100+ miles from Portland, OR area averages \$500, but block bookings can lower costs to the local show rate of \$400/school. Multiple shows in a single school or in a theater with bussed in students can average \$350/show.



## Promotional Photos

Download from the website:

<https://www.sciencecircus.org/promo>

Or dig in this Drop Box File:

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/r2qvmosp2lye5kss/AADVqdubDwZdl\\_65XszKh8dJa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/r2qvmosp2lye5kss/AADVqdubDwZdl_65XszKh8dJa?dl=0)

## Videos

Old previews:

Science Circus Preview 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lqu8QVdYzU4>

Science Circus Preview 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DF3ON9Q5uzE>

Fun episodes created with videographer Benjamin Rulla:

Gravity

<https://vimeo.com/119720084>

Gyroscopics

<https://vimeo.com/119718903>

Inertia

<https://vimeo.com/140368094>

Centripetal Force

<https://vimeo.com/139653899>

## Final Word:

Let me know if anything doesn't work or if you need something more.

[rhys@jugglemania.com](mailto:rhys@jugglemania.com)

And check out my just for fun shows at:

[www.jugglemania.com](http://www.jugglemania.com)

Love ya, b'bye.

- Rhys