



Jurassic Journey

Delphine Jones meets the creative minds behind an exciting new touring show about the Jurassic Coast

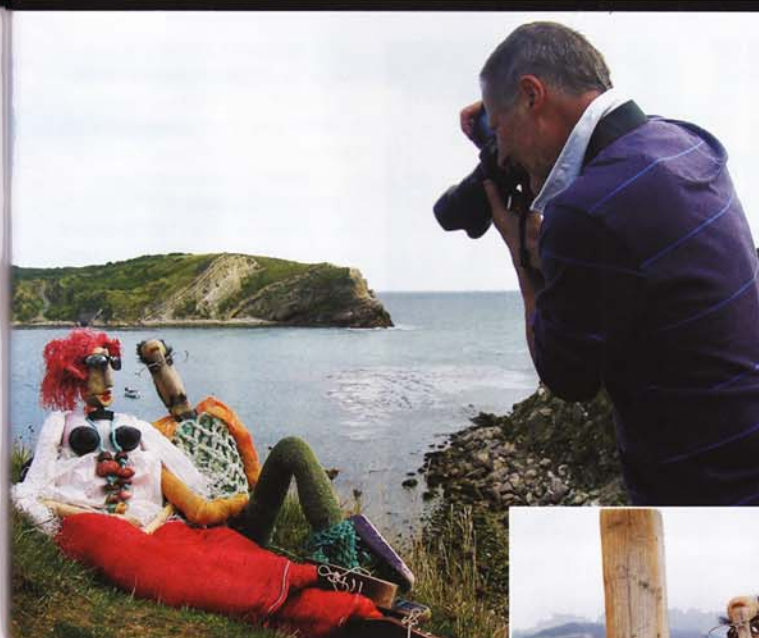
Focusing his well-travelled lens and highly creative mind on Dorset and East Devon's majestic World Heritage Site, Ben Osborne's new touring audio-visual show 'Jurassic Journey' is the culmination of a project nearly two years in the making. It showcases his extraordinary photography and film footage of the Jurassic Coast.

Ben, with his trusty campervan, has been on an in-depth photographic journey along the Jurassic Coast – by day, by night, looking up, looking down, looking out and in, through storms and sunshine, capturing the World Heritage Site on screen, in a

unique celebration of image and sound.

Shropshire-based Ben Osborne is a specialist, award-winning wildlife and landscape photographer (he was Shell Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2007). He has shot production stills for many major wildlife TV series, such as *Life in the Freezer*, *Blue Planet* and *Planet Earth* with the BBC Natural History Unit and Sir David Attenborough. Drawing on his extensive, stunning photography archive from these shoots, Ben has created various themed audio-visual productions over the years, which have proved very popular on rural touring networks across the country.

On the strength of these previous audio-visual productions, Dorset and Devon rural touring schemes Artsreach and Villages in Action commissioned Ben to create a new show, inspired by the World Heritage Site on our very doorstep. Ben relished the challenge. "This project has given me an enviable opportunity to photograph one of the highlights of the British coastline, with the chance to exercise my creativity and to celebrate aspects of the natural world about which I am deeply passionate." The show explores, through Ben's beautiful visual imagery, the geology and wildlife of the



For the project Lal created two wonderfully engaging characters, named Tilly and Cliff, using flotsam and jetsam found along the Jurassic coast

Jurassic Coast and the human interaction with it. It is clear to see how this magnificent stretch of coastline deserves its prestigious accolade of England's only natural World Heritage Site.

A major aspect of the project involved Ben collaborating with three Dorset and Devon artists – a sculptor-artist, a musician and a poet – each with strong links to the Jurassic Coast. The way their photography, music, poetry and sculpture interweave so well is testament to the creative chemistry between the artists, as Ben reflects. "The key to successful collaboration is to communicate and share ideas and to evolve a vision of how different genres can work together. At the start of the project it was suggested that we include sculptor Lal Hitchcock in the artistic mix and I couldn't quite work out how sculpture would blend with images, music and poetry. But we talked and Lal created Tilly and Cliff. In the end they have become an essential element within the show."

Dorset artist and sculptor Lal Hitchcock's quirky creations have a very

Opposite page
Tilly and Cliff at Man o' War Cove

Above
Ben photographing Tilly and Cliff

Right
Cliff on the Cobb

