

Making a shadow puppet theatre

Building the theatre

Collect the materials:

- A3 or bigger sheet of thick card or cardboard
- Craft knife and scissors
- A4 paper (plain white)
- Masking tape or strong sticky tape

Mark out a rectangle 20 cm by 15 cm on the center of your sheet of card.

Cut out the rectangle with the craft knife and scissors.

Fold back the cardboard about 10 cm in from each side so that the sheet will stand up.

Tape a sheet of A4 paper across the rectangular hole, using tape to secure it at the back of your theatre.

Decorate the front of your finished theatre if you wish.

You might be able to modify a suitable cardboard box to make a stronger and bigger theatre.

Building the puppets

Collect the materials:

- Thin card or very light poster board
- Strong drinking straws
- Craft knife and scissors
- Masking tape or strong sticky tape
- Hole punch
- Paper fastener (light round headed brass)



Paper fastener

Draw or trace the silhouette of your chosen character onto the card or poster board. Cut out the character with the scissors. You might need to use the craft knife to cut out smaller shapes.

Make sure that your characters will fit on your theatre screen.

Tape a drinking straw to the back of your character.

If your character is to have moveable parts, such as arms, you will need to cut out the body and limbs separately.

Use the hole punch to make a hole in the moveable part, and another where it joins the body.

Use a paper fastener to join the parts.

Attach a straw to the body and another to the moveable part.

Now your character can move properly.

Presenting a puppet show

Collect the materials:

- Desk or table
- Tablecloth or rug
- Reading lamp or strong torch

Cover the table with the tablecloth or rug, and place the theatre at the rear of the table so you can duck down behind without being seen.

Place the lamp or torch so that it shines, from behind, directly onto the screen of your theatre.

Turn off the main room lights, and begin your show.

A quicker version of a shadow theatre if you have the equipment,

Use an overhead projector. Make your puppets as explained earlier, only your 'stage' is the glass screen of the projector.