

Shadow Puppets

Excerpted from "Puppet Power" workshop by Wolf Trap Master Teaching Artist Joe Pipik

Shadow puppets are simply silhouettes. They can be traced or drawn, usually on stiff black paper. Cut them out and add a stick for control. I generally use the bamboo skewers (used for shish kebabs) found at the grocery store and cut or break off the point. Straws and craft sticks also work.

To add a moving part, cut out that part (tail, arm, etc.) and overlap with the rest of the puppet. Move the part around, and if you like the placement, use a hole-punch to put a hole through both pieces. Insert and spread a 1/4" or 1/2" brass paper fastener to act as your pivot. Make an easy freestanding shadow screen with foam core, designed for display and sometimes sold cut ready to fold and stand at office supply stores. Cut a rectangle out of the center section and cover it with butcher paper or Rosco screen (available through theatrical supply stores) anchored by masking tape.

Resource:

World of Shadows, *Teaching with Shadow Puppetry*, David and Donna Wisniewski. Teacher Ideas Press, Englewood, Colorado, 1997. (shadows, overview)