

Watching, Playing, Making: An Introduction to Puppetry

BASIC LEVEL

(suitable for all year groups from Yr 1 upwards)

Costs and Running Times:

Although we plan to fit into your daily schedule as much as possible, you may have to alter some of your timings, such as morning break.

One workshop lasts 1 ½ hours which means you could have up to three workshops in one day (eg. 9 to 10.30 BREAK 11 to 12.30 LUNCH 2 to 3.30).

There is a nominal charge for materials of £1.50 (+ VAT) per pupil.

Each workshop can have up to 35 children (ie one large class size). This is based on the number of resources we can provide. More than this number would mean sharing resources and slow down the workshop.

COSTS:

One workshop costs £150 + VAT

Two workshops cost £280 + VAT

Three workshops cost £350 + VAT

This workshop is only available to schools/community groups in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and some parts of Hertfordshire. We may consider other areas but there will need to be an extra cost added for travel and accommodation.

What Happens in the Workshop?

In this 1 ½ hour workshop we have THREE activities:

1. A demonstration by Andy using a variety of puppets – some from our shows (eg. a belly dancer from *Arabian Nights*) and some specifically made for demonstrating movement and design.



2. The children learn how to hold simplified rod puppets which Andy brings along. The children will learn how to “communicate” with these puppets, by using simple gestures (waving, yawning, crying, sneezing, etc).
3. The last part of the workshop is spent making a simplified version of the Widdershins rod puppet with which they have just been playing. Using a kit provided by us (potatoes, rods, eyes, fabric, hands, etc) the children will end up with their own easy-to-use puppet which only improves with age (as the potato starts to shoot!) The puppet will be ready to take home at the end of the session and there is a minimum of mess created (very little glue used and no paint). If any classroom assistants/parent helpers wish to get involved in this stage **THEY WOULD BE MOST WELCOME!!**



Children have really enjoyed these workshops and teachers find it an ideal method of getting children interested in performing together, using their voices and improving their spatial awareness.

Children show an immense sense of pride having made their own puppet which they name, “bring to life” and take home.

NB: Although the potato puppet making part can be undertaken in a readily prepared classroom (ie. newspaper on tables) the other parts of the workshop require space and lots of puppets therefore must take place in the school hall, thus making it out of bounds for other classes during the day. **Tables will be shifted, of course, to allow lunch to be served.**

WE NOW DO A PIRATE VERSION OF THIS WORKSHOP!



Although the format is the same, the materials cost is £2.50 per child since there is more prep work.

TEACHER'S NOTES AND SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

Watching, Playing, Making (An Introduction to Puppetry)

- The following notes are based on Andy running 3 workshops in one day.
- Each workshop last 1 ½ hours and is based on a regular class size per workshop (35 children max per workshop).
- Andy is a fully qualified teacher (DfE no: RP98/53836) and CRB checked (no: 001586070283)

There are 3 main activities for one workshop:

- Activity 1 - **HALL** - Andy demonstrates a variety of puppets to ALL the children doing the workshop(s) from tables in hall. Children sit on floor to watch (approx. 30 mins)
- Activity 2 - **HALL** - Children use Andy's rod puppets to practise puppetry skills – (with ONE group) in the hall (approx. 20 mins)- other children return to their classroom(s).
- Activity 3 - **CLASSROOM** - Leaving all the demo and practise puppets NEATLY in hall, Andy and children move to the children's classroom to make puppets (approx. 40 mins)

Your/Teacher's Preparation:

IMPORTANT!

Please note that the hall must be available for both the demonstration of puppets AND for the children to use puppets. This cannot be done in a regular classroom. The suggested schedule below allows for the hall to be vacant at a time appropriate for setting up and clearing lunchtime tables and "mess".

Andy will leave some equipment in the hall during lunchtime (but will push back against a wall – it won't take up much space). Please check hall availability, and make alternative provision for wet-weather play.

Also, although it is possible to do the puppet making in 3 separate classrooms, it is better to use just ONE classroom for all the puppet making, so that no time is lost in moving materials around the school.

BEFOREHAND:

It would be a good idea for each class/group teacher to have prepared some sticky labels with the children's names/initials on – colour choice for the puppets is limited so there is a chance that puppets can get mixed up. Also, it would be a good idea to work out where to put the puppets while the glue is drying and whether the children will take their puppets home that day or if they are going to be displayed at school.

IN THE HALL:

Andy needs 3 or 4 small (or 2 big) tables set up at one end near a power socket. These are purely for using in demonstration. No glue, etc will be put on them. These will be packed away during lunchtime. If you have any long benches in your school, please leave 2 of them accessible for Andy. These will have rod puppets placed on them and will be left there during lunchtime.

IN THE CLASSROOM:

Andy will need one table at the head of the classroom. Please ensure it is clear of books, pencils, lunchboxes, etc and PLEASE COVER WITH NEWSPAPER. 2 adult sized chairs needed at table. The blocks of tables where children sit must be clear of "clutter" but do not need to be covered. Children will not need aprons.

MATERIALS:

Andy will bring everything that is needed. The £1.50 per child is to cover the actual costs of materials and Andy's preparation time. Staff/parent helpers can make a puppet too but we will have to charge £1.50 for each kit used. (NB: pirate puppets £2.50).

HELPERS:

Ideally, Andy will need one adult for 6 – 8 children – not including himself. THIS IS FOR THE MAKING SECTION ONLY – IN CLASS. If children usually sit in blocks of tables in their classroom then we need one adult per block. The workshop can get quite manic and children get demanding if not enough adults around to help out. Andy will give clear instructions to helpers on the day.

NB: Each classroom which is hosting the workshop will need to be prepared in advance, and helpers from each group will be needed to carry boxes from one classroom to another.

DIFFERENTIATION:

Although the tasks in the puppet making are fairly simple you will notice from the schedule below that GROUP THREE gets the longest time for making, and GROUP TWO gets the shortest. You may want to rearrange groups according to ability, although this is by no means necessary.

ALLERGIES:

The head is made from raw potato; nose is garlic; hand is LATEX. The practice puppets (Activity 2) are made from latex also, but are coated in non latex paint.

SCHEDULE:

8am	ANDY TURNS UP AT SCHOOL. Any help unloading van would be useful.
9:00	All three groups come into HALL (after registration)
9:05 to 9:40 (approx)	ACTIVITY 1 to all three groups in HALL
9:40	GROUP ONE STAYS. GROUP TWO AND THREE return to their classrooms (teacher led activities/lesson)
9:40 – 10:00	ACTIVITY 2 to GROUP ONE in HALL
10:00	GROUP ONE goes to Puppet Making CLASSROOM.
10:00 to 10:45	ACTIVITY 3 to GROUP ONE in CLASSROOM ADULT HELPERS NEEDED.
10:45 – 11:00	BREAK. Andy starts to clear stuff in hall. If necessary, adult helpers move materials to different classroom and set it up. TEA WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATED (milk no sugar, thanks!!)
11:00	GROUP TWO comes into HALL
11:00 to 11:20	ACTIVITY 2 to GROUP TWO in HALL
11:20	GROUP TWO goes to Puppet Making CLASSROOM.
11:20 – 12:00 (approx)	ACTIVITY 3 to GROUP TWO in CLASSROOM ADULT HELPERS NEEDED
12 to 1:10 (approx)	LUNCHTIME. Andy continues to clear away some equipment from hall. If necessary, adult helpers move materials to different classroom and set it up.
1:10 (approx)	GROUP THREE comes into HALL
1:10 to 1:50	ACTIVITY 2 to GROUP THREE in HALL
1:50	GROUP THREE goes to Puppet Making CLASSROOM
1:50 to 2:50	ACTIVITY 3 to GROUP THREE in CLASSROOM ADULT HELPERS NEEDED
2:50 to school end	CONTIGENCY – Anyone who didn't quite finish in morning sessions could "drop in" to puppet making classroom.
PIRATE PUPPET MAKING – the activities are similar but timings differ. Please discuss with Andy or Penny in advance. Thanks.	

Thank you and look forward to seeing you on the day.