

Wayang Listrik @ Home: DIY Puppets & Screens

Bringing traditional Balinese shadow puppetry theatre into your home

Part 1 - Basic Shadow Puppets

It's easy to make your own basic shadow puppets. All you need are two simple materials and a few tools.

MATERIALS

- Card stock (or other thick paper: manila folder, cereal box, junk mail)
- A stick. (Choose from: Skewers, chopsticks, dowels, pencils, thin branches)
- Pen or pencil for tracing
- Scissors or exacto knife
- Magazines, newspaper, coloring books (optional)
- Glue (optional)
- Tape



Option 1: Design your own puppet



Think about a simple person, animal, or other creature you can draw in profile (side) view—or find a picture you can imitate. A line drawing is all you need.



Make your drawing on your choice of card stock or other thick paper.



Cut out the drawing.



Tape or hot glue a stick to the back of your puppet.



Your puppet is finished!

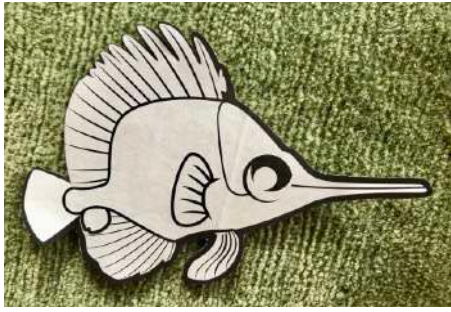
Option 2: Borrowing and cutting designs (A)



Find a picture of a person, animal, or other creature from an old magazine, newspaper, or coloring book. Make sure it's in profile (side) view. (This one is from Ruth Moen's coloring book!)



Take the page and glue onto your choice of card stock or thick paper. Allow the glue to dry a bit.



Cut the outline of the figure.



Tape or hot glue a stick to the back of your puppet.



Your puppet is finished!

Option 3: Borrowing designs (B)

Find a picture of a person, animal, or other creature from an old magazine, newspaper, or coloring book. Make sure it's in profile (side) view.

Cut out the figure and glue onto your choice of cardstock or other thick paper and allow the glue to dry.

Cut along the outline of the figure.

Tape or hot glue a stick to the back of your puppet.

Your puppet is finished!

Part 2 - Shadow Screens

It's easy to make your own shadow puppetry screens. All you need are a some basic materials.

MATERIALS

- Cardboard box (an 18"x16" open fruit box works great!)
- Fabric (light-colored and lightweight):
Pillowcase or Large t-shirt or Sheet or Piece of fabric
- Scissors or knife (kids, please ask your parents for help)
- Clothes pins, binder clips, or tape
- Duct or masking tap for support (optional)



Step 1: The frame



Turn your box bottom-side up.



Using a scissors or a knife, cut the two short sides and one long side



Push the flap of the box open. The long side will be the bottom of your frame.

Note: You may need to use tape and sticks or other materials to help your structure stand sturdy (my box was a bit wobbly).



Your frame is complete!

Step 2: The screen

To prepare a pillowcase:

- 1) Lie your pillowcase flat with the opening at the bottom.
- 2) Using your scissors, cut along one side and the closed top.
- 3) Open the pillowcase

To prepare a t-shirt:

- 1) Lie your t-shirt flat with the opening at the bottom
- 2) Using your scissors, cut along one side and up across the top through the shoulders and neck line
- 3) Open the t-shirt

Step 3: The shadow puppetry screen



Taking the short end of the fabric, fold about 3 inches over the top of the frame. Secure it to the frame using tape or binder clips.



Drape the rest of the fabric over the back of the frame to support the structure.



Your screen is complete. Time to practice puppeteering!

NEXT STEP

Visit the AFSEA YouTube Channel for demonstrations on how to use light to manipulate your puppets and create your shadow puppet show!



