

Let's Direct a Musical Puppet Play!

CULTURAL AMBASSADOR JUNIOR RESOURCE

ALL ABOUT PUPPETS

Puppets come in all shapes and sizes and we can make puppets out of anything, like sticks, paper plates and even socks. There are shadow puppets, hand puppets, rod puppets and marionettes -you use a string to make them move.

There are even carnival or full body puppets, these puppets are huge!



WHO DOES WHAT?

Producer: the person who raises the money to invest in the show.

Writer: the person who writes the script. A script is a story with characters and each character has a line or lines to say. Some scripts even have stage directions. This tells the actors what to do.

Example:

MAMI: Sofi, go to the bodega and get us some milk.

(SOFI gets up off of her bed)

SOFI: Okay Mami, let me get my shoes on.



WHO SPEAKS FOR THE PUPPETS?

Do puppets speak by themselves?

No! Actors use their voices and sometimes their bodies to make puppets come alive.



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WHO DOES WHAT?

Director: the person with the vision. The Director has a clear idea of how she, he, or they want the play to be. The director works with all of the designers and actors to make sure the audience understands the play.

The Stage Manager: the 'Mama or Papa bear' who keeps everything running smoothly and keeps everyone on task. He, she, or they work closely with the director and take notes on all of the meetings and rehearsals so that changes can be made to make the play better.



WHO DOES WHAT?

Set Designer: works with the director to design the stage. Do we need a living room? A kitchen? Usually the Set Designer is a carpenter or engineer. She, he, or they know how to make the backgrounds that the director wants, to make the script come alive.

Lightning Designer: works with the director to select a lightening color scheme for the play.

Example: If the sun is going up while Sofi is in the mural on the island of Puerto Rico the designer will show that on stage. The stage can be lit up orange or yellow or violet. The color will depend on the mood that the director wants to create.

Costume Designer: works with the director to select the characters' wardrobe, or clothing, and their props. Props are items that the actors need to help tell the story.

Example: SOFI has a bag for the milk she buys for MAMI.



WHO DOES WHAT?

Sound Designer: the DJ of the show. The Sound Designer makes the music or sound effects you need. Do you need a doorbell or the sound of a chattering parrot?

Example: SOFI is dancing with the VEJIGANTE to a carnival song.

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WHO DOES WHAT?

Actors: make the script come to life! They work closely with the director. Actors have to memorize their lines and blocking. Blocking is where you move on stage and when you move.

Venue: the space the play is performed in. This can be anywhere – a park, a library or an auditorium. Sometimes storefront properties, homes or small black box spaces are used to create theaters.

WHAT DO I NEED?

- a script
- puppets
- actors / voices
- sound effects
- props
- a little bit of creativity and a whole lot of imagination



DIRECTING

- Where is the puppet entering from?
 - When do they exit?
 - What should the audience focus their attention on?
 - What is the pace (energy or intensity) of the music, light, action or speech?
- REMEMBER: Puppets can enter from under the table. You decide the best entrances based upon the script.



DIRECTING TIPS

1 Every puppet that enters has to have a reason.

Example: SOFI (the puppet) is looking at the mural full of people dancing plena. SOFI (the puppet) slowly starts dancing and the PLENERO puppet appears and begins to dance with SOFI.

2 Each character has to have specific entrances and exits. Your stage manager can help you keep detailed notes of everyone's blocking. Blocking is how the characters move and where they stand.

Example: Sofi's blocking would be: SOFI puts on her coat and opens the door to EXIT the house.

MAKE THE MAGIC OF THEATER HAPPEN!

If you plan, organize, practice and have a little bit of creativity and a whole lot of imagination you can make the magic of theatre happen.