



OZ HOME PUPPETS

SOME ADVANCED PUPPETEER IDEAS

A few advanced ideas to help experienced puppeteers think about new ways of producing their plays.

Stage Area:

To allow room for you to operate the puppets without your hands showing to the audience, there needs to be a distance of approximately 9 centimetres from the surface of the table (on which your Puppet Stage stands) to the bottom of the stage opening.

Movement:

To help animate the puppets it is important to make them move in rhythm with the words, or the music - don't let your puppet stand still. Move the puppet to the left and to the right; project your own personality into that puppet and carry out the various actions the way you would carry them out if you were on the stage yourself.

Make Your Own Puppet Shows:

Once your puppet stage is fixed up and you have listened to and downloaded the plays from this site, set about making some puppets of your own. Look in your story books for pictures of animals and other characters which are approximately suitable size. You could photocopy these, colour them in, cut them out and put them on cardboard. Then you can speak a summary of the story as your puppet pantomime, and move the puppets to the words of the story. You could also, if you wish, read the story through a microphone so that it records your voice. Then you can play back the audio and work the puppets to it - creating your own recorded puppet 'pantomime'!

Make Your Own Puppets:

A great deal of the fun in putting on an OZ Home Puppets pantomime is making the puppets. We have provided the characters in colour for you to print off and cut out. We have also provided an uncoloured copy of each character and each prop so that you can enjoy colouring these in yourself. Make sure that you glue together both sides of each figure - the front side and the flip side. This will strengthen your figure, but also it importantly enables your puppet to travel in both directions on the stage - simply by turning the puppet to the flip side.

Hiding the Puppeteers:

Some people like to add to their puppet stage a piece of fine (see-through) material and hanging it up so that it hides the puppeteers. Puppeteers can sit behind the curtain and operate the puppets by putting their hand underneath the bottom of the cloth. If you have plenty of light out in front of the puppet show (especially a spot light) and keep it dark at the back, the audience in front will not be able to see you through the cloth even though you will be able to see the puppets from your side as you operate them. It all adds to the fun.

Happy puppeteering!