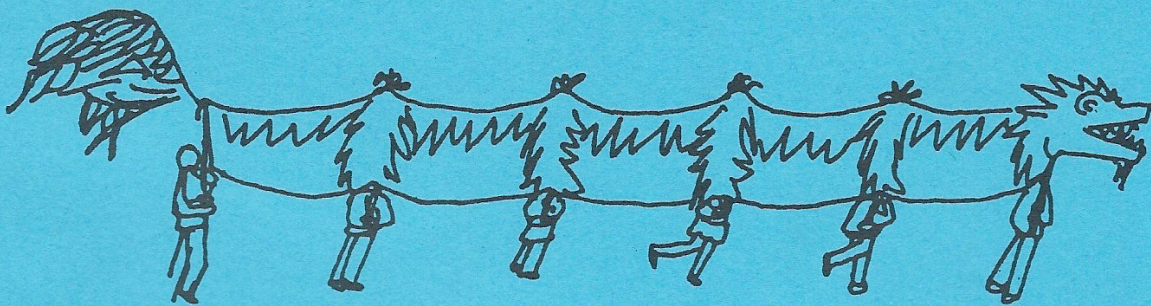


BREAD & PUPPET PRESS

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68 WAYS TO MAKE REALLY BIG PUPPETS



A Patternbook of
Parades and Pageants

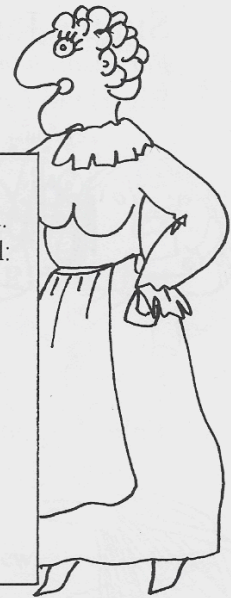
By Sara Peattie and The Puppeteer's Cooperative



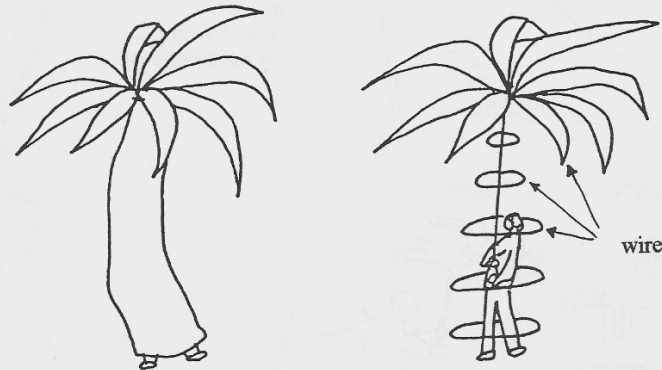
The information in this booklet may be freely copied, used, and distributed. If you encounter technical difficulties in making these puppets, write or call:

The Puppeteers' Cooperative
 181 Tremont Street
 Somerville, MA 02143
 (617) 628-2499
 2136581@mcimail.com
 http://www.gis.com/~puppetco

If you make a puppet or puppets you like, we would love to see photos.
 Also enquire about our "How to Make Giant Puppets" video



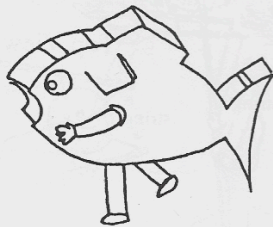
Wiggletree



The wire hoops and leaf-wires are in seams in the cloth.

Purely Cardboard

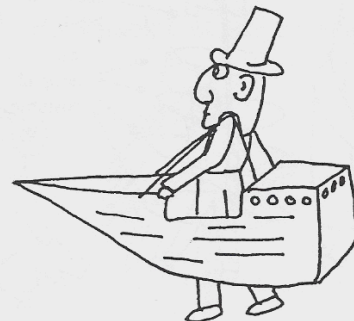
Fathead Fish



Car



Boat

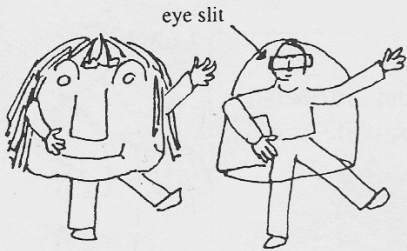


Cut two silhouettes of the object out of cardboard, and connect them with cardboard tabs.

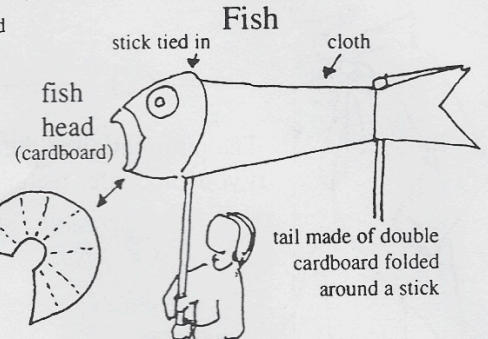
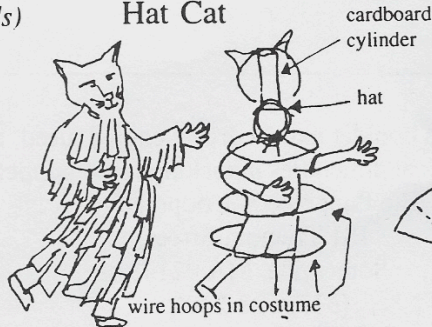
Simple Puppets

For heads, hands, and costumes, see *Making Faces and Technical Information*

Big Head (see Foam Heads)



Hat Cat



Pole Dragon

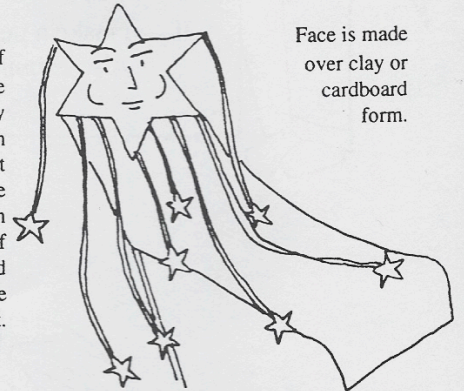


Face Banner

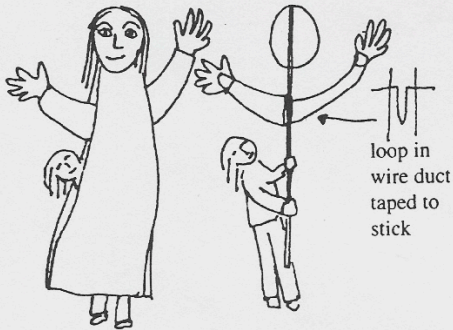


Layers of cheesecloth are draped over a clay face covered with plastic, then the part of the cloth over the face is covered with glue, and the rest of the cloth is allowed to trail. The faces are light and translucent.

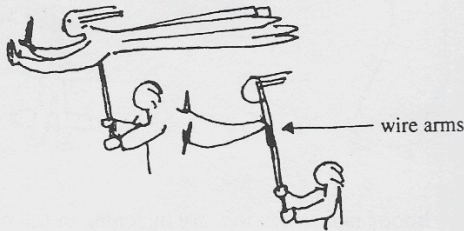
Star Banner



Totem

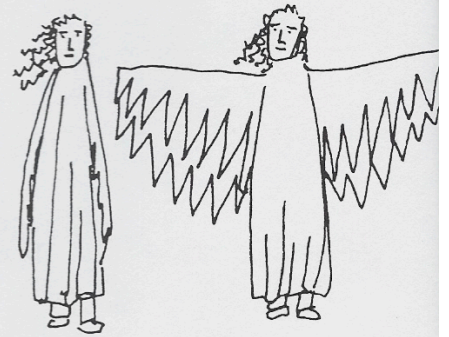


Flying Angel

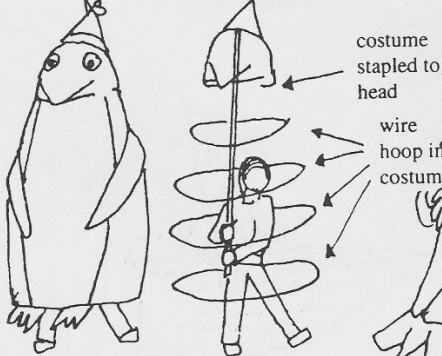


Flying angels only work with very light cloth, plastic or mylar

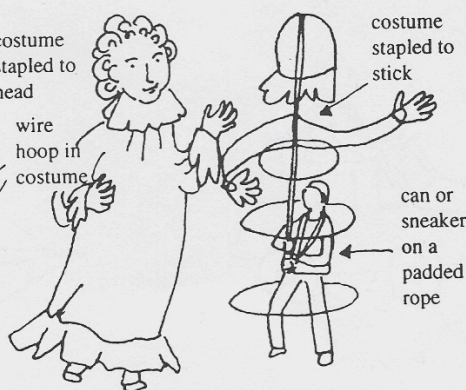
Flapping Angel (see Birds)



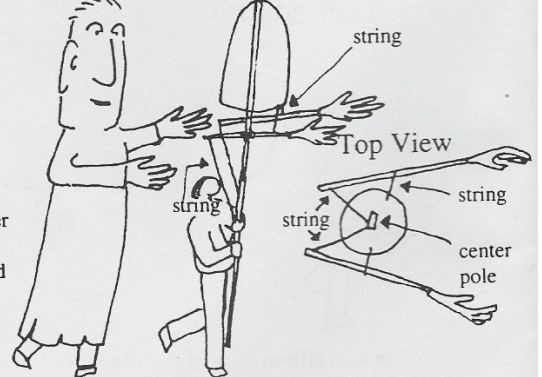
Jo's Penguin



Shimmy Dancer wire arms

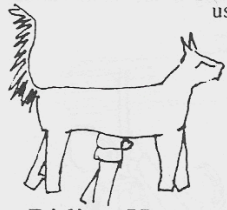


Hattifatner stick arms



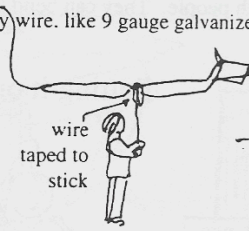
Animals

Cats and Dogs



Riding Horse

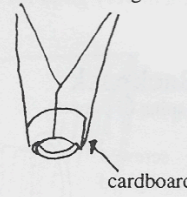
use heavy wire. like 9 gauge galvanized



Top View



Legs inside of leg



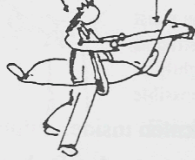
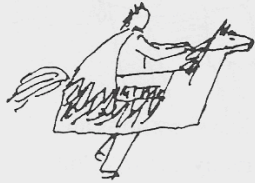
Cheetahs



Riding Tiger

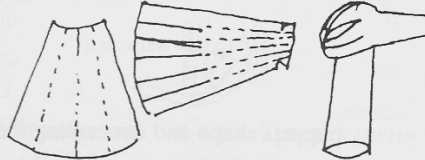
cardboard legs

ribbon holds up cloak and wire
rein holds up head

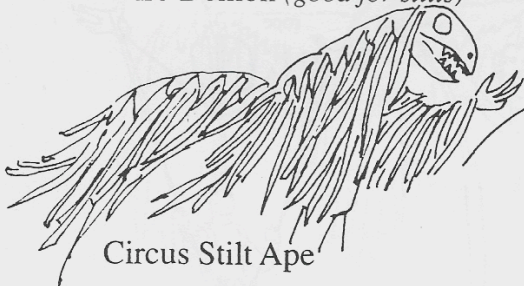


Head Armature

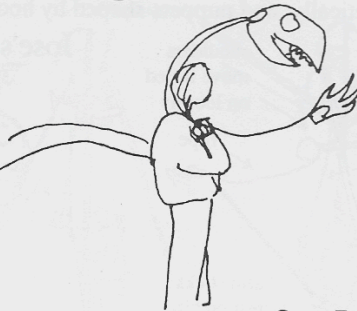
neck head



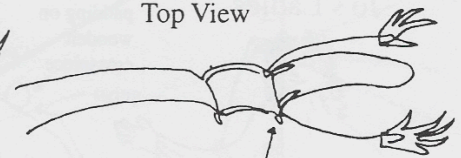
Wire Demon (good for stilts)



Circus Stilt Ape

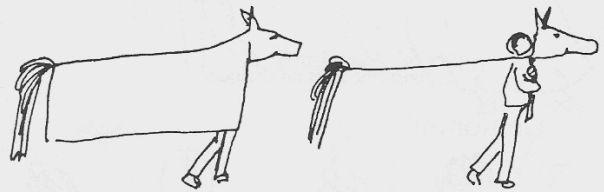
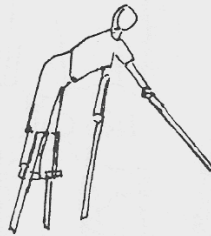
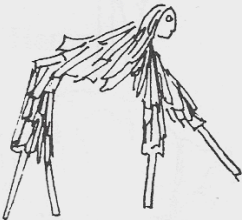


Top View

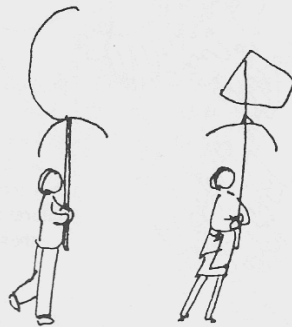
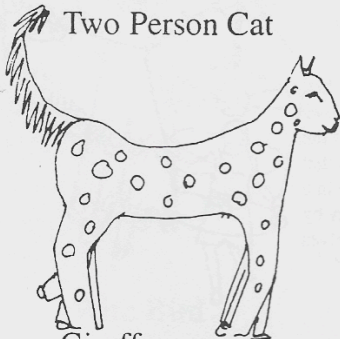


wire duct taped together

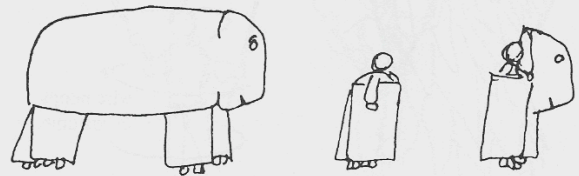
One Person Horse



Two Person Cat



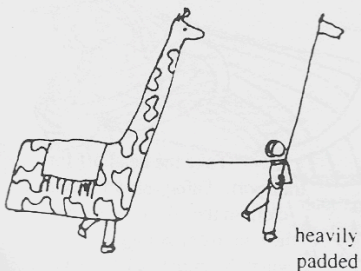
Four Person Beast



Giraffe (see One Person Horse)

Totem Dog (see Totems)

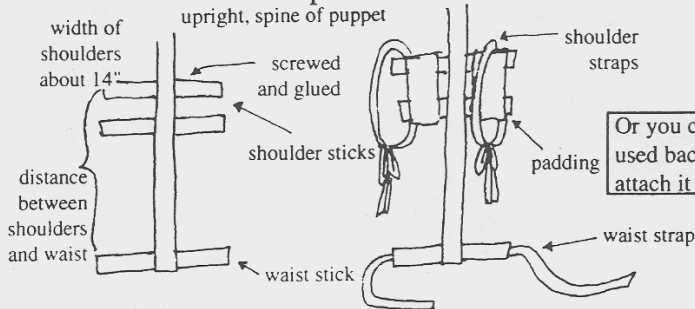
Backpack Cat (see Backpacks)



Backpacks

Backpacks: Backpack puppets follow exactly the movement of the puppeteer but magnify them. This natural-looking movement makes them very good for dancing and for interacting with people. They can bend all the way over, shake hands, hug people.

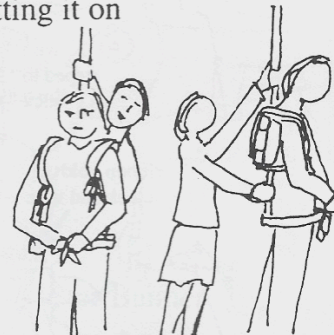
Homemade Backpack



Or you can buy a used backpack and attach it to a stick

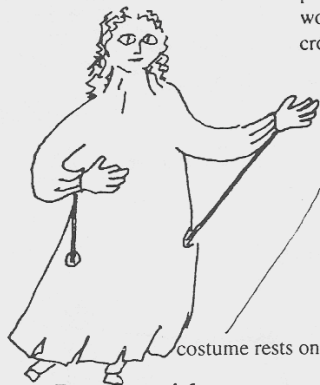
tie the waist strap as tightly as possible

Putting it on

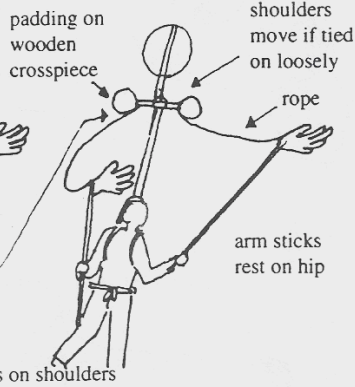


There are various ways of giving puppets shape and concealing the person inside. Puppets shaped by arms and shoulders tend to move more energetically, and puppets shaped by hoops tend to look more funny and frivolous.

Jo's Ladies



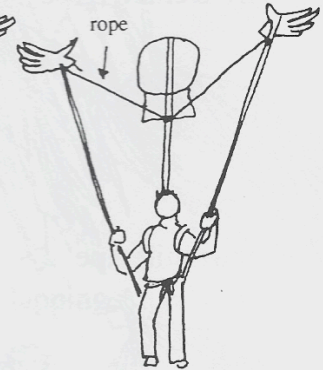
Demonoid



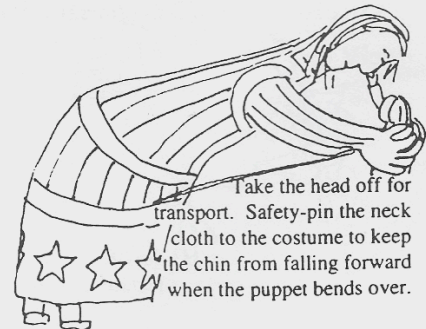
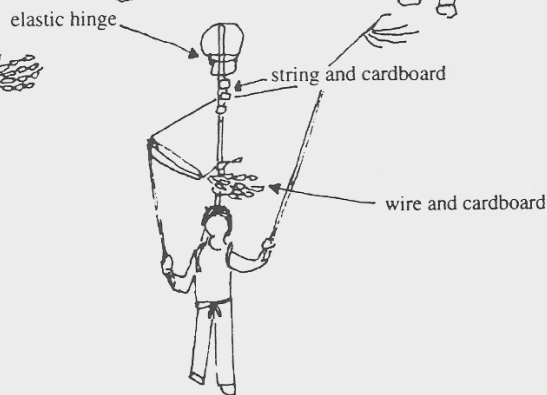
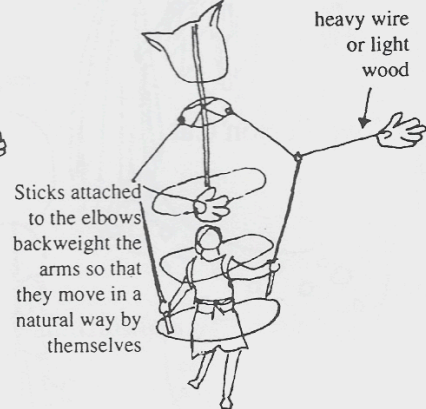
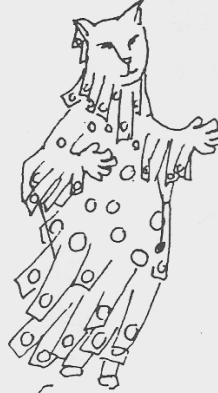
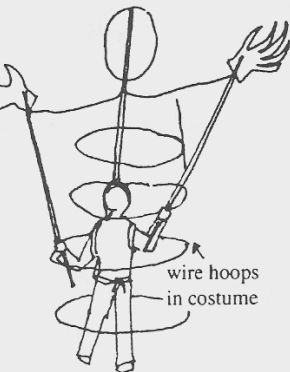
Jose's Ecstatic (see Birds)



Hep Cat



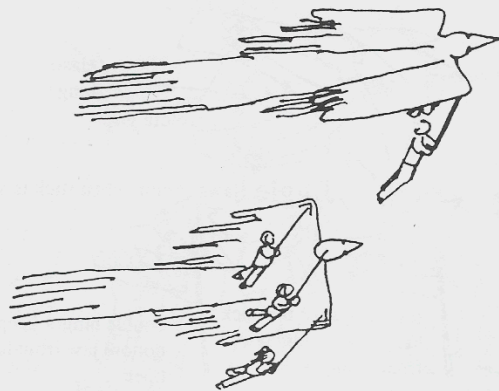
Skeleton



Take the head off for transport. Safety-pin the neck cloth to the costume to keep the chin from falling forward when the puppet bends over.

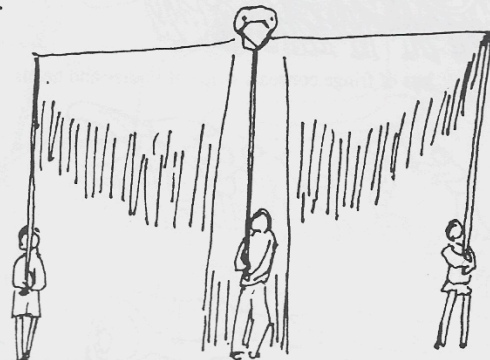
Birds

Bread and Puppet Flying Bird



Flapping-wing Bird

At rest

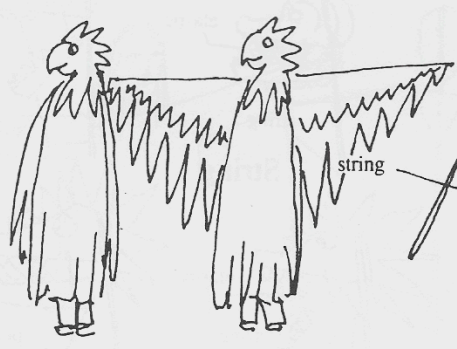


Stick Version

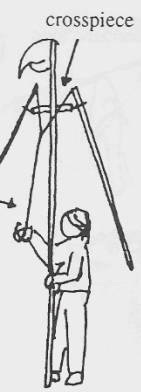
Backpack Version

Side View

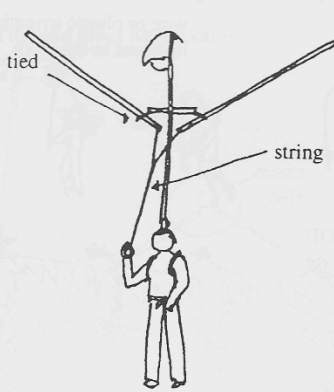
The three puppeteers must run constantly to make the flying bird fly. It needs to be made of very light cloth in order to fly right. It is improved by having plenty of fringe. Remember that people will be seeing both the top and the bottom of the costume.



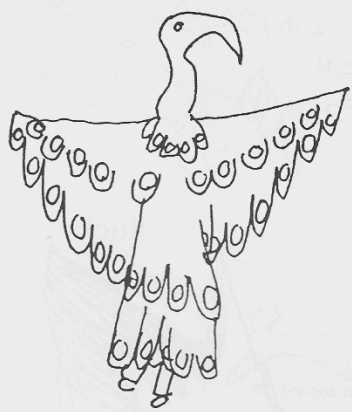
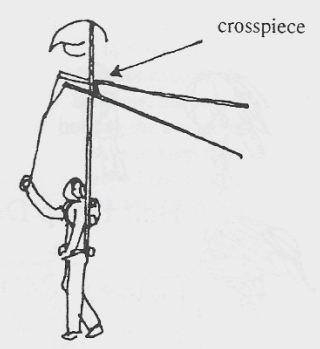
Heron



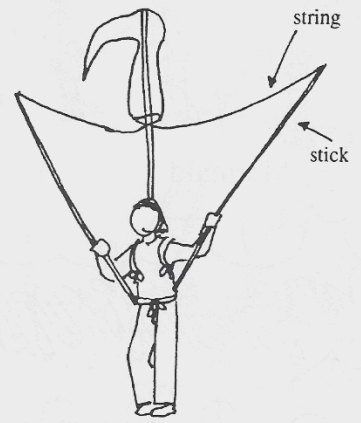
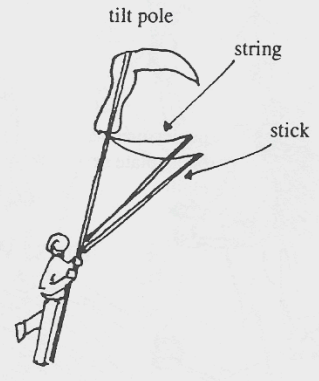
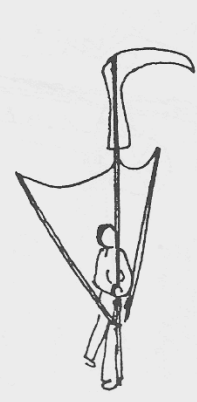
Stick Version



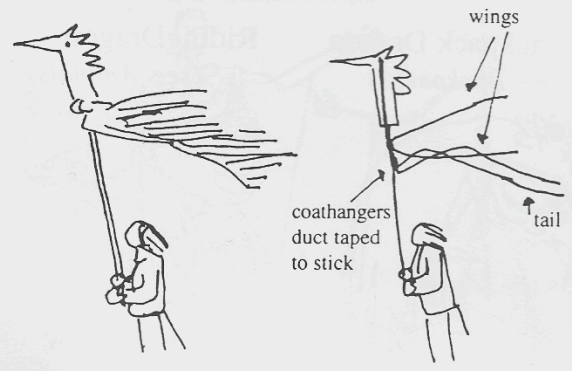
Backpack Version



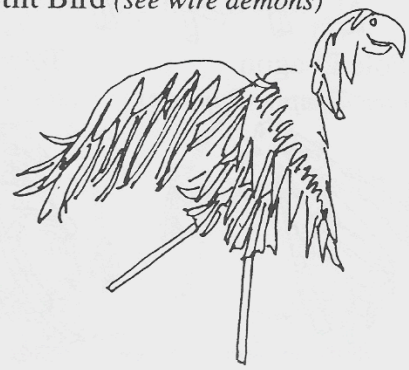
Wire Bird



Stilt Bird (see wire demons)



When the stick is moved, the wings flap. It is important to use only plastic bags (white, black, blue, etc.) on this bird, or extremely thin cloth, or the wings will flop instead.

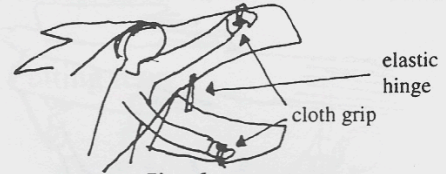


Dragons

Ground Dragon



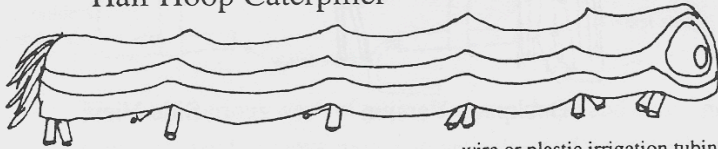
Snapping Mouths Ground Dragon



Jiggle (jaws chomp when stick is shaken)



Half Hoop Caterpillar



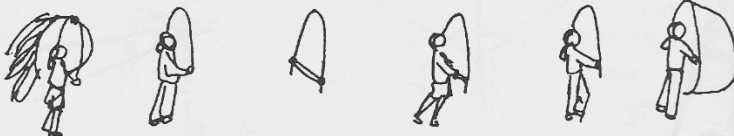
wire or plastic irrigation tubing in seams in the cloth



resting against the stick keeps the bottom jaw from falling open



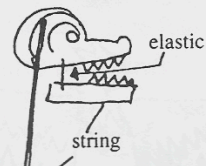
double hinges keep the bottom jaw from falling open



Half Hoop Dragon

coathangers work well for small dragons

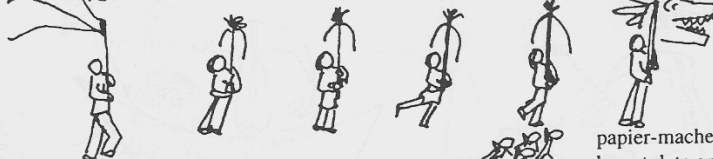
Elastic



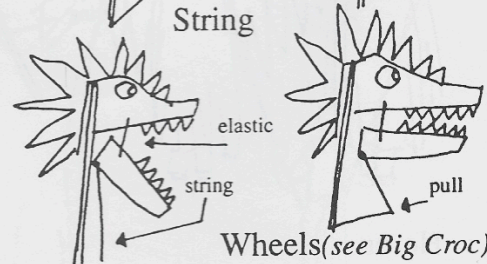
String



Mermaid

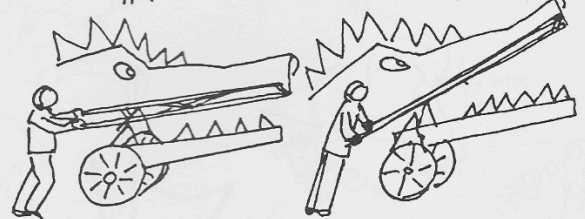


papier-mache breastplate or cloth



pull

Wheels (see Big Croc)



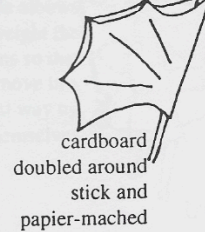
Pole Dragon

(see Simple Puppets)

Tails: Wire



Cardboard



Stick



Totem Dragon

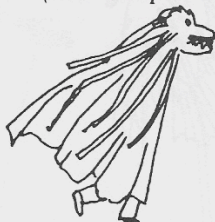
(see Totems)

Backpack Dragon

(see Backpacks)

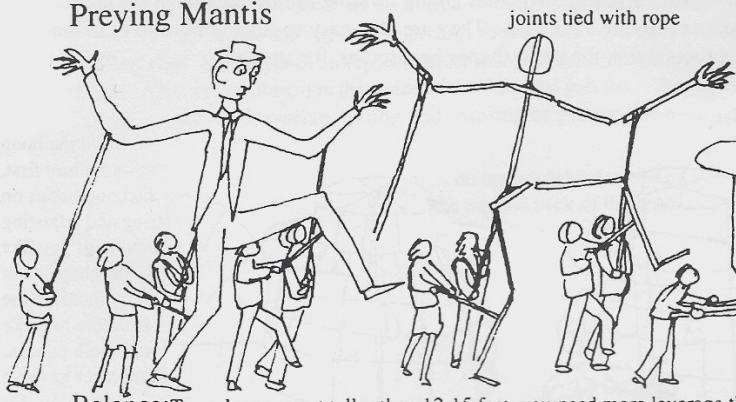
Riding Dragon

(see Animals)

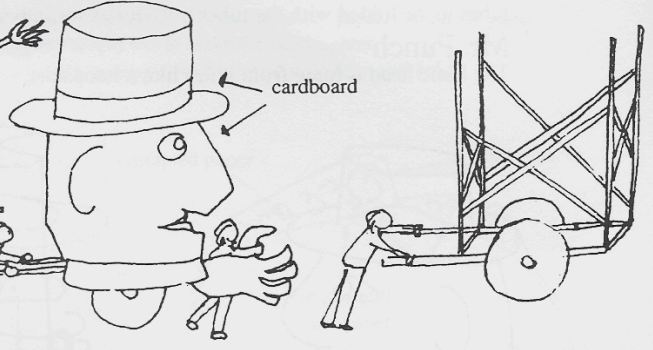


Giant Puppets

Preying Mantis

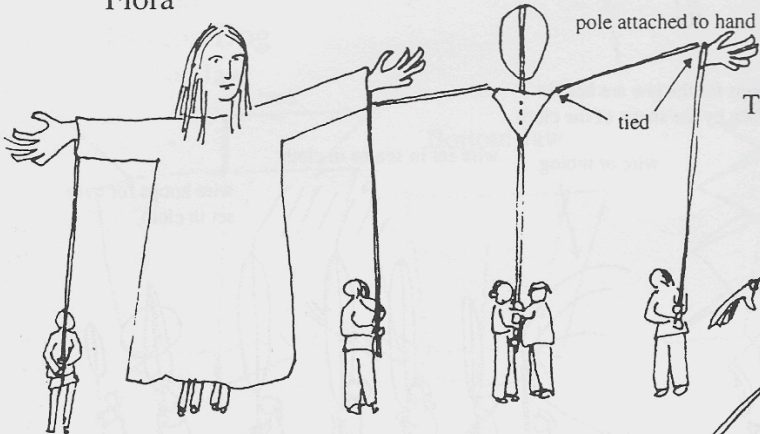


Mr. America

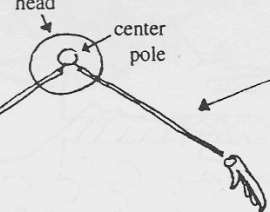


Balance: To make a puppet taller than 12-15 feet, you need more leverage than you can get by a backpack or by holding a pole. You can handle this either by weighting the bottom of the puppet, or by raising the point of balance of the center of the puppet.

Flora

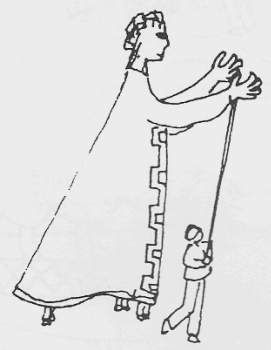


Top View



These puppets are easy to make, but the balance depends on the arms; the people holding the arm poles have to keep them angled out so as to support the center pole.

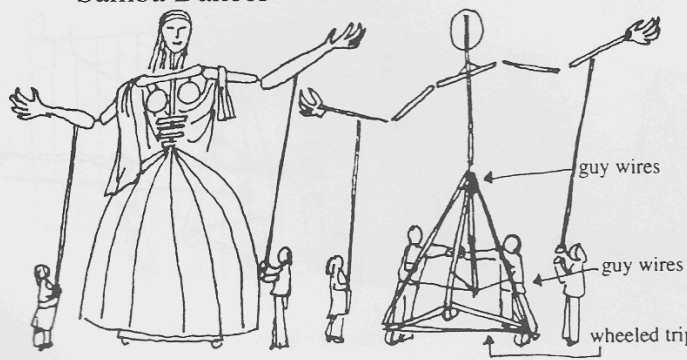
Dorchester African King



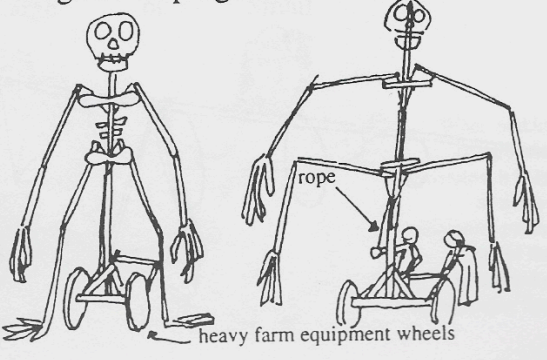
RISD Fisherman



Samba Dancer



George's Jumping Jack Death

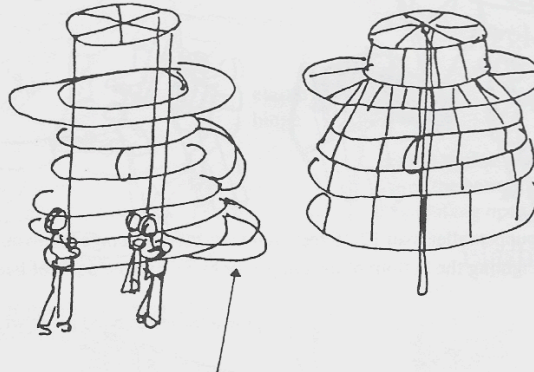
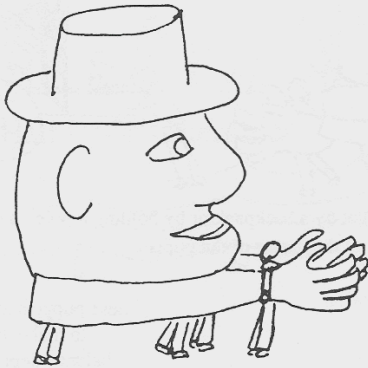


Hoop and cloth puppets

These puppets are made with heavy (9 or 12 gauge) wire or plastic irrigation tubing running through seams in the cloth. Their advantage is that they can be very large because they are very light. They are also easy to store either flat with the tubes in, or folded with the tubes out. It is very important that the basic shapes be circular, for strength.

Mr. Punch

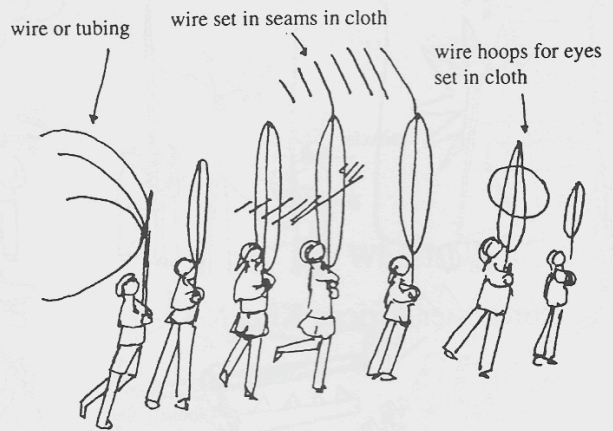
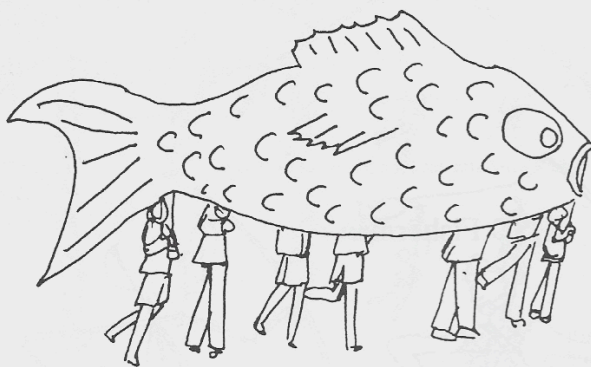
The basic head is hung from poles like a hoopskirt.



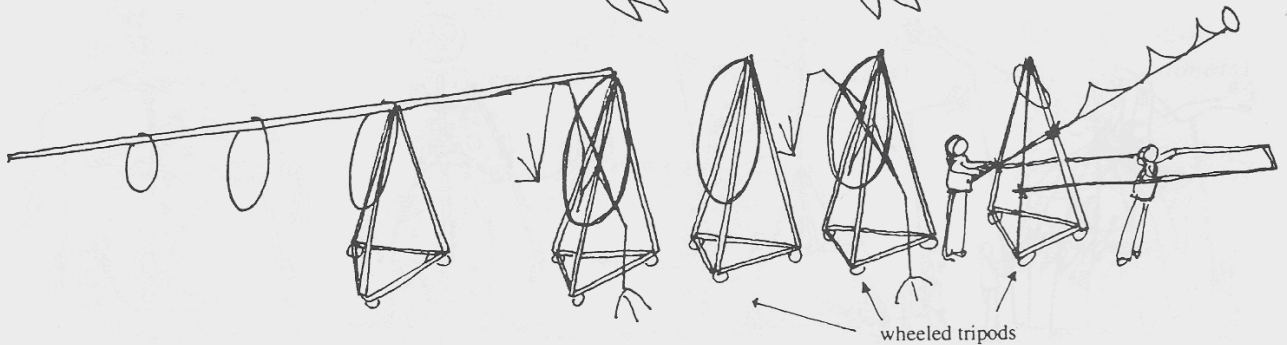
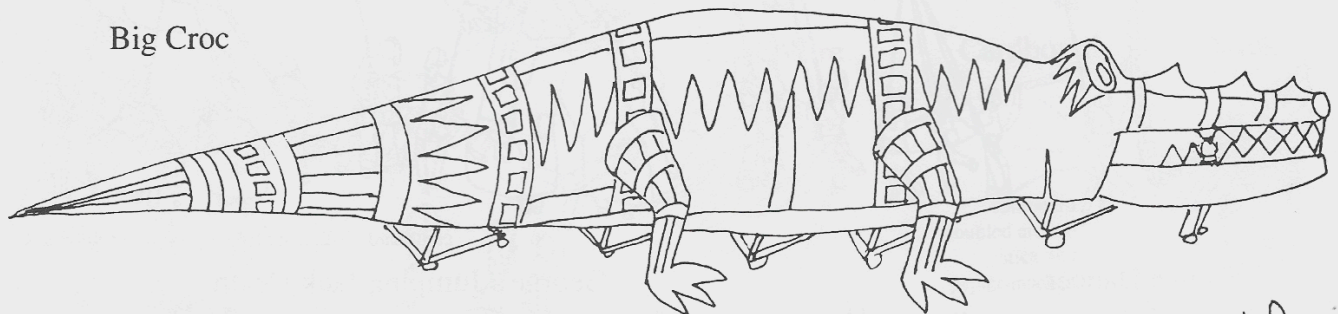
loops for the jaw are held in place by the shape of the cloth

Build the hoop structure first, hanging hoops on string and adjusting them until you like the shape, then measure the structure to make your cloth pattern. Remember to leave extra cloth for seams to contain the hoops.

Big Fish



Big Croc



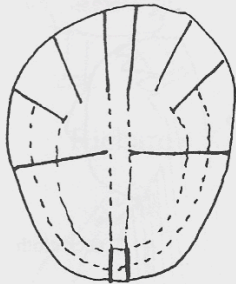
Making Faces (see Papier-mache in Technical Information)

Clay: If you have enough clay, create the positive in clay, cover it with thin plastic (Saran wrap), and then with 3-5 layers of papier-mache. You may have to cut it to get it off the clay, and then papier-mache it back together.

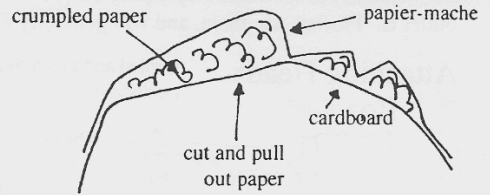
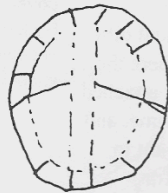
Cardboard: If you don't have enough clay, you can make a cardboard armature and sculpt the face on it in crumpled newspaper and masking tape. Do a layer of newspaper papier-mache, adjust the sculpture, and do a couple of layers of heavy paper. When the paper dries, cut into the cardboard in the inside of the face, and pull the crumpled newspaper out to make the head lighter.

————— Cut and overlap, gluing and stapling or gluing and duct taping - - - - - Score, cut lightly and fold

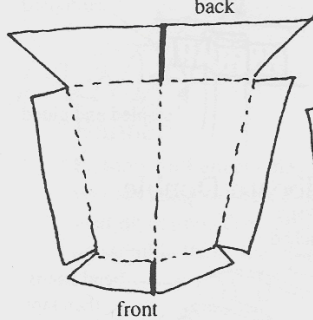
Human



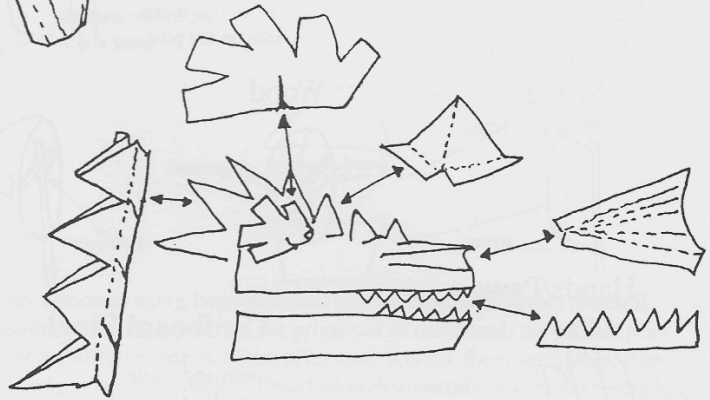
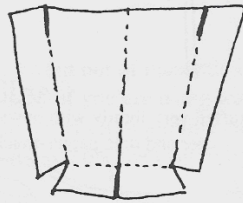
long tabs on top are folded to make the top and back of the head



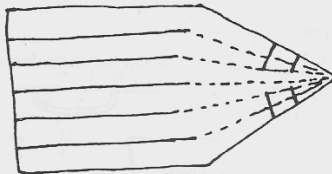
Dragon/Dog Top Jaw



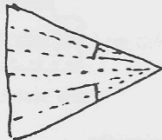
Bottom Jaw



Parrot Top Beak and Head



Bottom Beak



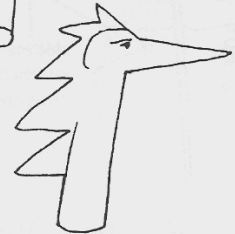
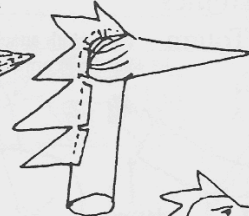
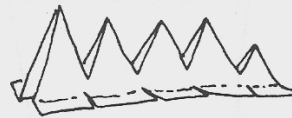
Heron Beak and Head



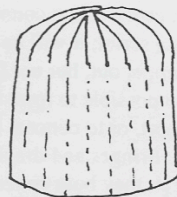
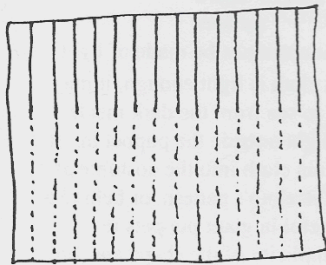
Neck



Crest



Round Head



Large or Small



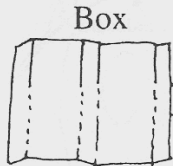
When making complicated armatures, it helps to make a miniature pattern out of thin cardboard or heavy paper first.

Technical Information

Papier-Mache: Almost any kind of paper can be used for papier-mache. I like to use heavy paper (as in paper bags) because it is stronger, therefore requires less layers, and smoother. Colored paper can be used in the last layer instead of paint. Use larger pieces on flatter areas, and smaller or long thin pieces on rounded areas. If the paper wrinkles or refuses to lie flat, your pieces are too large. Paste can be wheat-paste, wallpaper paste (cellulose is good), or cornstarch cooked until it thickens. Adding white glue to any of these pastes makes them stronger and more water-resistant.

Staple pliers: It is possible to put together giant puppets without staple pliers, but they are extremely useful. Both Bostich and Arrow make staple pliers, and Bostich has an 800 number (call 800 information) to tell you where the nearest outlet is. Florists use them, and will generally know where to get them.

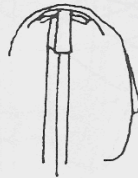
Attaching Heads



Box

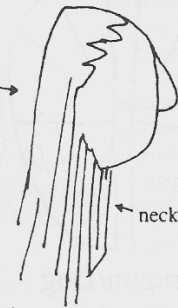
stapled and glued to a larger piece of cardboard

The box should be loose enough to let the head move, but not so loose that it can spin on the pole.



The box is most suitable for backpack and other puppets where the head is not attached to the costume, and you will want to remove it for transport

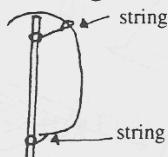
cloth covers back of head and stick



neck cloth

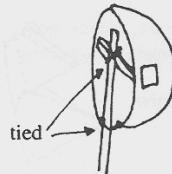
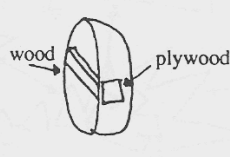
Totem Heads

String

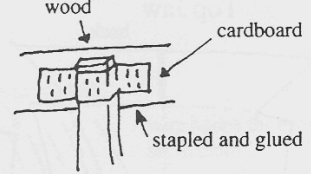
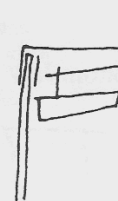


Hands/Paws

Wood



Tiger/Dragon



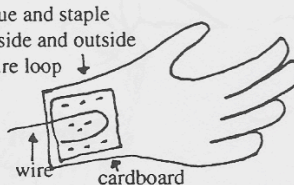
Clay



Costumes

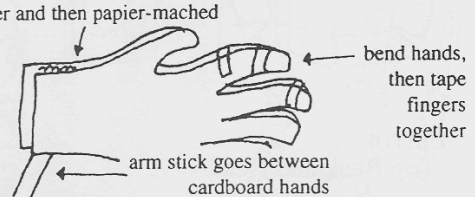
make hands as for head over clay, cut off and reattach

Cardboard Single



stuffed very lightly with newspaper and then papier-mached

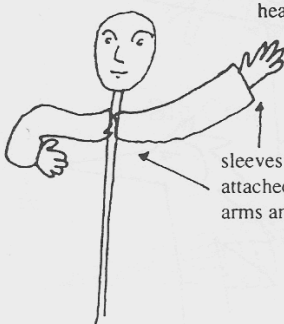
Cardboard Double



bend hands, then tape fingers together

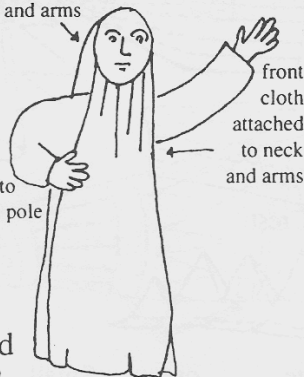
arm stick goes between cardboard hands

Totem

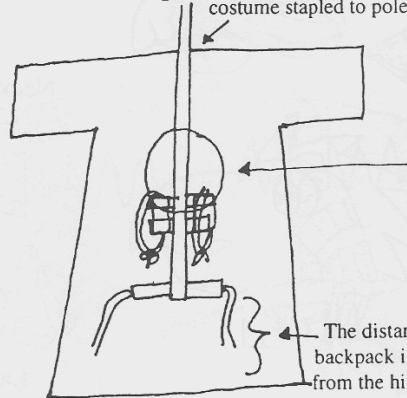


Ecstatic or Bird

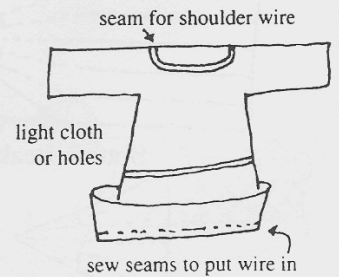
back cloth attached to top of head and arms



Stick or Backpack



costume stapled to pole



light cloth or holes

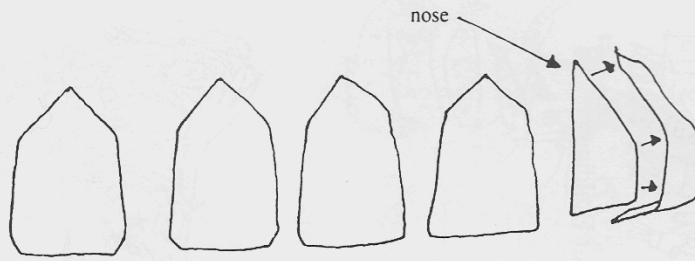
sew seams to put wire in

The distance below the backpack is the distance from the hip to 6" below the knee

COSTUMES: It is important that costumes be made of light cloth; every ounce counts. If the cloth is light enough, it may act as a scrim; it will be possible to see from the dark inside the puppet out, but not from the light outside the puppet in. It is also possible to inset light curtain cloth into the costume as a viewport, or to conceal holes in the cloth's pattern, or behind a fringe. Fringes and draping are useful in giant puppets in general; they both conceal the simplicity of the shape and add to the movement.

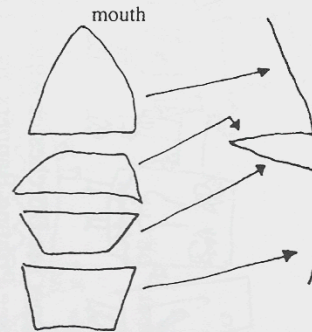
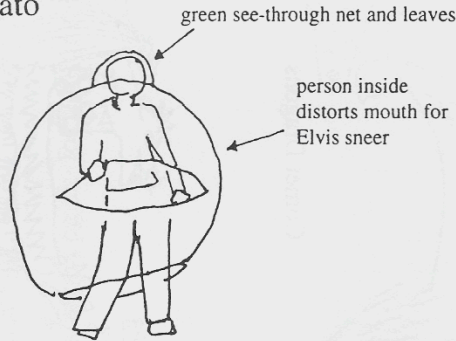
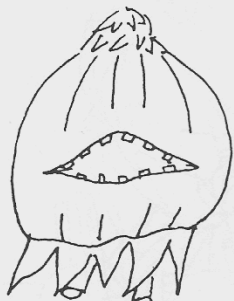
Other

Foam Puppets (see Big Heads)



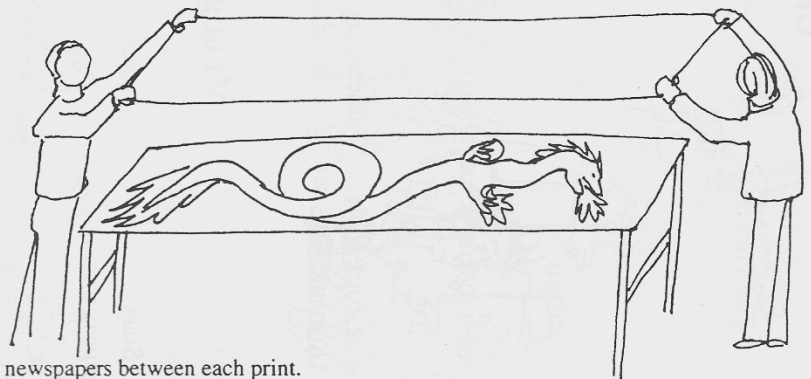
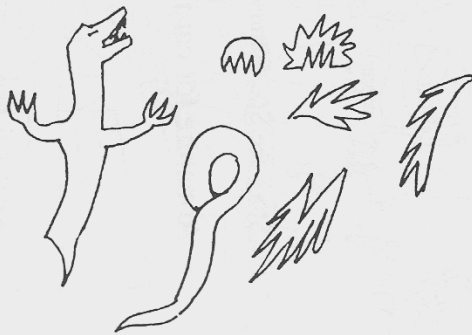
Make a cardboard or paper pattern to follow, then sew foam pattern pieces between two pieces of cloth, and sew these pieces together to form the puppet. Foam puppets are soft and comfortable, and their faces can be distorted to change expression.

Richard's Killer Tomato



Banners

Pictures for banners may be cut out of masonite like giant woodcuts using large woodcut tools and printed on thin cotton if you are using oil-based inks. If you are using water-based printing inks, you can cut prints out of cardboard; these don't print well on cotton. They print better on thin lining cloth. Cut the different colors of the print apart and ink them separately, then reassemble them and drop cloth on them carefully, so that there are no wrinkles. Rub the cloth so that the ink comes through.



Ink and print on different tables. Spread clean newspapers between each print.

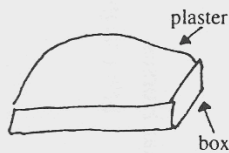
Plaster Casting

Plaster casting is useful for mass-producing large numbers of puppet faces, as for a parade.

Clay Positive



low box helps control the plaster



Plaster Negative

vaseline, then papier-mache into negative, then pop papier-mache out when it is dry



mix plaster according to instructions on box

Urbanity

Cars

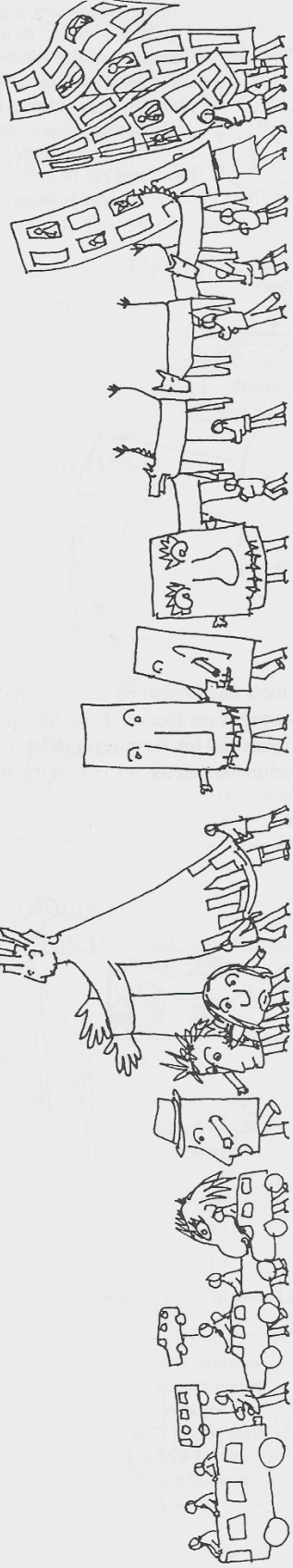
People

City Puppet

Buildings

Dogs and Cats

Building Banners



for Cars see Purely Cardboard, pg. 1; for People see Fathead, pg. 2; for City Puppet see Dorchester African King, pg. 7; for Buildings see Purely Cardboard, pg. 1; for Dogs and Cats see pg. 3; for Building Banners see Printing Banners, pg. 11.

Midnight Ramble

Star Horses

Stars

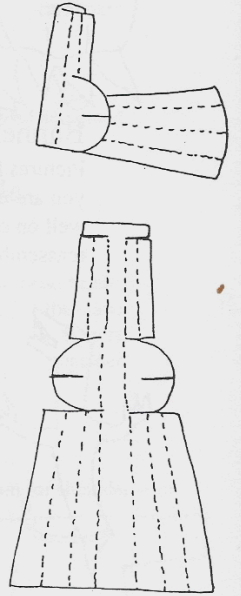
Planets

Comet Dragons



for Star Horses see Riding Horses, pg. 3; for Stars see Star Banners, pg. 2; for Planets see Backpacks, pg. 4; for Dragons see pg. 6

Armature for cardboard horsehead



Rain (on some other) Forest Parade

Frog



Tigres



Trees



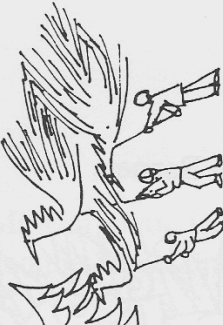
Snake



Macaw



Loritos



for Tigres see Dogs and Cats, pg. 3; for Snake see Dragons, pg. 6; for Macaw see Heron, pg. 5; for Loritos see Wire Birds, pg. 5

The Night is a Shining Sea

Flat Cardboard Fishes



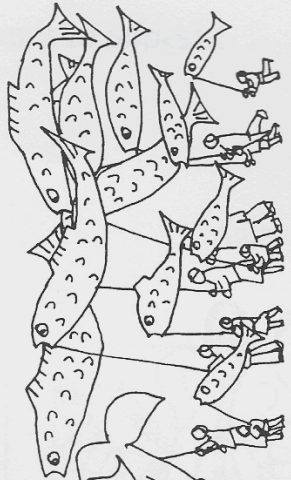
Fathead Fishes



Poseidon

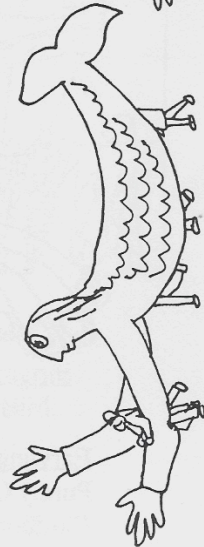


Fish Flags

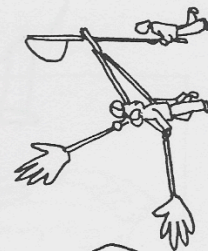
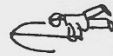
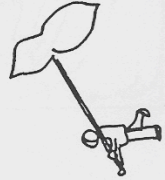


for Fathead Fishes see Purely Cardboard, pg. 1, for Fish Flags see Printing Banners, pg. 11.

Poseidon



Frog

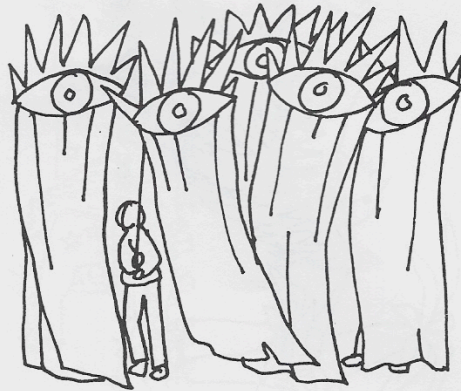


Masque of the Five Senses

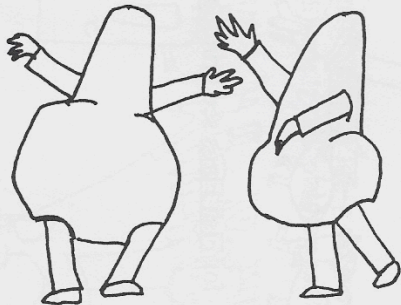
Earwing Band



Eye Banners



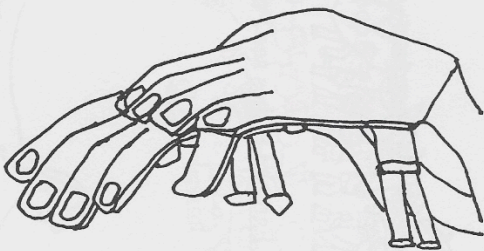
Nose Clowns



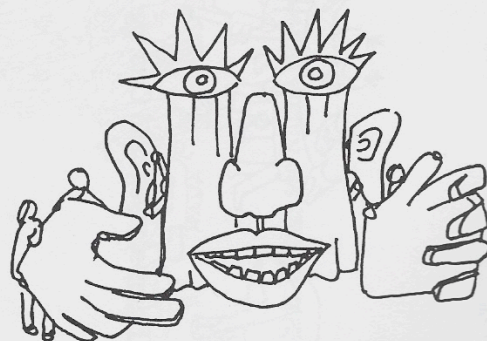
Mouth Dragon



Hand Creepers



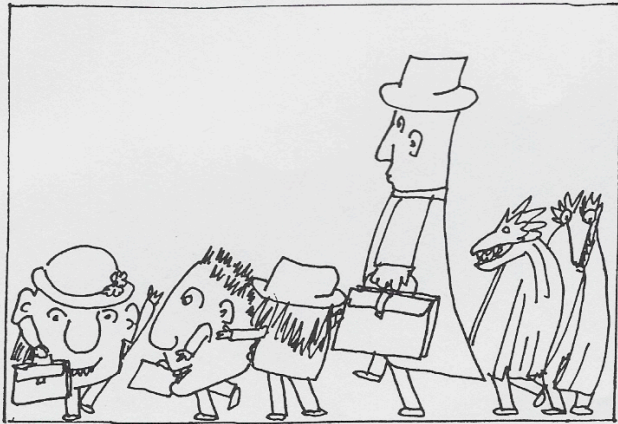
Reconciliation



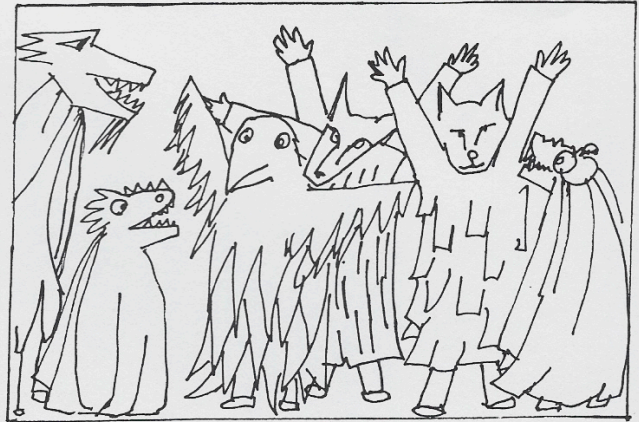
Earwings are painted cardboard; for Eye Banners see Star Banner, pg. 2; for Nose Clowns see Purely Cardboard, pg. 1; for Mouth Dragon see Dragons, pg. 6; for Hand Creepers see Purely Cardboard, pg. 1.

The Rites of Spring

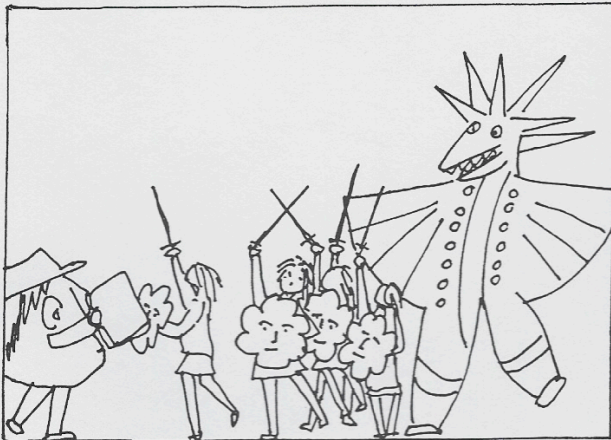
Mr. Corporate Ice, the Icemen,
and the Snow Dragons



Animalitos in Jeopardy



Flora's Furies take on the Icemen;
Vejigante to the rescue



Triumph of Flora and Dance

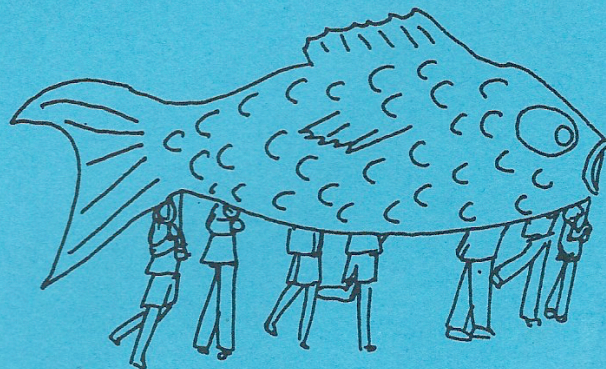


for Mr. Corporate Ice see Hattifatner, pg. 2; for the Icemen see Fathead, pg. 2; for Snow Dragons see Pole Dragon, pg. 2; for Animalitos see Hat Cat, pg. 2; for Vejigante see Flapping-wing Bird, pg. 5; for Flora see pg. 7; for Banners see Printing Banners, pg. 11.

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