

# How to make...a colourful shadow puppet!

Suitable for ages 5+ with adult supervision

## For the puppets, you will need:

- White card – for the puppets body,
- Felt tip pens – to add colour
- Split pins - to join the moving parts
- Cooking oil – to make the puppet translucent eg. vegetable oil.
- A bowl - to put the oil in
- A paint brush, sponge or cloth - to apply the oil
- Kitchen paper – to mop up the oil
- Wooden skewers – for the puppets rods
- Sticky tape – to attach the rod to the puppet
- Stapler and staples – also to attach the rod to the puppet
- Scissors -for cutting
- Sharp pencil – for piercing through the card.



## Let's get making!

You may need to ask a grown up to help you with the cutting out.

### Step 1: Draw

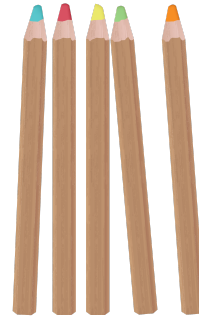
- First, draw your shadow puppet on to white card, you can print a copy of the Brave White Buffalo Woman template and work with that. .
- If you're drawing your own shadow puppet it's good to limit the amount of separate parts to 2 or 3 as you only have two hands to move the puppet and you don't really want to have lots of rods dangling off it. You need make the moving parts wide enough for a split pin to go through



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### Step 2: Decorate

- Colour the puppet in with **felt tip pens**. It's important to use pens and not pencils or crayons if you want to use the puppet as a shadow puppet, because only pens will become translucent with the oil. If you draw the detail in with coloured pencils or crayons, the light won't pass through the image and the details will be lost when it's in shadow.



### Step 3: Cut

- Cut all the individual pieces of the puppet out with scissors.
- If you are an older child or an adult and you are using a craft knife and cutting mat you can cut some small details out of the puppet with the knife, this will allow light to shine through when it's in shadow.

### Step 4: Oil

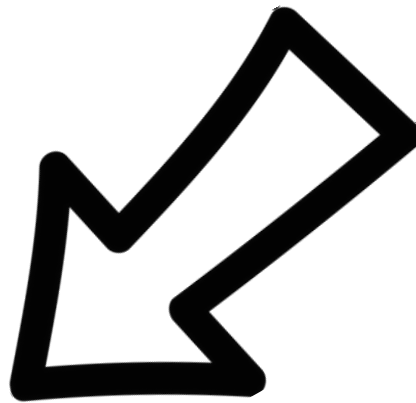
- Once you're happy with the decoration of your puppet character it's time to add the oil. You need to be careful with oil because it can stain your clothes and make a sticky mess if it spills, ask an adult to help you out with this part.
- Start by pouring a small amount in to a dish. You need to coat both sides of the puppet with oil, you can do this with a paintbrush, a sponge or some kitchen paper, you want the oil to soak right in so that the whole puppet becomes translucent. Once that is done you can dry off the excess oil with kitchen paper.



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### Step 5: Join

- The next job is to join the moving parts together, if you're using the White Buffalo Calf woman template the arms are the moving parts and they overlap at the elbows, there are small black dots indicating where the holes should be made. You need to make a hole through both parts of the card that you're joining together with a sharp pencil, this will help the split pin go in easily without ripping the puppet, then insert the split pin in to the holes and fold it open at the back.
- If you're using floristry wire, first insert a pin through both parts of the puppet that you wish to join together, then insert a piece of floristry wire and make sure there is enough on each side to wind a little spiral to stop the wire coming through. Trim off any excess with scissors or pliers.



### Step 6: Rods

- I usually snip the sharp ends of my wooden skewers off with scissors or pliers, then I wrap a piece of sticky tape around the end of the skewer so that there are a few centimeters of tape coming off the end of the stick, I then staple the tape on to the card. The puppet will need a rod on its body and one for each arm.





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### YOU'RE FINISHED!

Now your Shadow puppet is finished, in order to see it glowing in all it's beauty you will need a screen and a light source.

To make a simple shadow screen, you could use:

- A clothes rail with a white sheet hanging over it
- A white sheet clipped to the back of some chairs,
- A cardboard box with the bottom cut out and a piece of white paper or fabric covering one end.
- If you have an internal window in your house you could put a large piece of white paper on the glass and use it as a screen (this also works with external windows, but your audience might get cold watching from outside!)

Light source: Your torch on your mobile phone.

The next best thing to use with children is a bright torch, which shouldn't get too hot, you can also use a lamp, but you have to be very careful with lamps as they usually get hot which makes them a fire hazard, so this part has to be approved or supervised by an adult. If you happen to have access to an Overhead Projector, this can be a wonderful tool for placing scenery & creating backgrounds and effects.

**Please do share what you make with us, we would love to see!**

[info@littleangeltheatre.com](mailto:info@littleangeltheatre.com)

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