

# WOW! SAID THE OWL

## Education Pack



# How did Little Angel Theatre start?



John Wright, the founder of Little Angel Theatre, was born in South Africa in 1906. He travelled to England in 1935 and worked as an assistant stage manager for the Ballet Rambert while studying at the Central School of Art and Design. During this time he saw a puppet performance by Podrecca's Piccoli and became hooked. John made his very first puppet in 1938.

In 1961 John and his troupe found a derelict temperance hall in Islington and transformed it into a theatre, designed for the presentation of marionette shows. It opened on Saturday 24th November 1961. This was to be the first purpose built puppet theatre the country had seen for many years and the only one with a permanent long string marionette bridge constructed backstage. The bridge was designed for puppeteers to stand on while they manipulate long stringed puppets who perform on the stage below leaving the audience unable to see the puppeteers. The original bridge is used to this day. The theatre has a traditional 'proscenium arch' and seats 100 audience members.

John Wright died in 1991 but the work of the theatre continued apace with family, friends and supporters working tirelessly to continue in his footsteps to make sure John's legacy would delight generations to come.

**“Over the next 30 years, the Little Angel team created and performed over 30 full-scale shows”**

# About *Wow! Said the Owl*

## A Book about Colours, By Tim Hopgood

*Wow! Said the Owl* is an award winning picture book written and illustrated by Tim Hopgood.

It tells the story of a curious little owl who stays awake all day and is amazed by all the colours she sees. We follow her story as the dawn breaks and the different colours around her are revealed.

Throughout the course of one day, she marvels at all the colourful things around her in nature, but finally comes to realise that nothing is as beautiful as the sky at night time and despite having been awake all day, she manages to stay awake all night too – just like little owls are supposed to do!

Theatre Director Joy Haynes adapted Tim Hopgood's book for the stage and directed our production of *Wow! Said the Owl*.

The puppets were designed and made by Keith Frederick. Set and costumes were designed and made by Fiametta Horvat and the music was composed by Dominic Sale.

The solo performer and puppeteer not only operates the owl puppets and shadow puppets but sings and plays instruments and is responsible for all the amazing scene changes throughout the show!

Education resource pack by Laura Halliwell

Production Photographs by Ellie Kurttz



# All About Owls

- There are over 200 different owl species including the Barn Owl, Snowy Owl, Tawny Owl, Eagle Owl and Spotted Wood Owl!
- Owls live all over the world in countries including India, Sri Lanka, America, Australia, many countries in Asia and Europe.
- Owls are active at night
- A group of owls are called a 'parliament'
- Most owls hunt insects, small mammals (mice) or even other birds
- Some owl species hunt fish
- Some owls can see food from up to half a mile away
- Owls claws are called talons
- Owls have large eyes and a flat face
- Owls can turn their heads up to 270 degrees – that's almost all the way round!
- Owls are far sighted, meaning they can't see things close to their eyes clearly
- Barn owls are recognised by the heart shape of their heads
- Owls have tube shaped eyes, almost like binoculars. They cannot roll their eyes like



- They have two holes in the side of their head which acts as ears, one hole is higher than the other to help them hear more around them.
- Owls have 4 toes, one permanently facing back and two permanently facing forward allowing the last one to move between both directions to help balance on trees.
- The Smallest owl in the world is the Elf owl which is only 5 – 6 inches tall
- The largest owl in the world is the Great Grey owl which stands 32 inches tall.
- A baby Owl is called an Owlet!



## About Tim Hopgood

Before he became an award winning children's book author and illustrator, Tim Hopgood was a graphic designer for twenty years. His first book was called *Our Big Blue Sofa*, and was published in 2006. But it wasn't until *Wow! Said the Owl* was published in 2009 that he finally became a full time author and illustrator. Before that, he used to earn extra money by working as a cleaner, a dishwasher in a restaurant and even sorting letters in a post office depot, all the while developing his ideas for new books!

Tim layers his illustrations by starting off drawing in pencil and then building up individual sections of colour like a collage. He likes his work to look like it was hand drawn but it is mainly done on a computer. Each of his books incorporates a different textured effect.

Have a look at *Wow! Said the Owl* – What textures can you see throughout the book?

**Idea:** why not create your own patterned and textured paper by making marks/scribbles and rubbings in different colours and media such as crayon, chalk, pencil and paint. Now use these papers to create a collage picture.

### Songs and rhymes about colours:

There are lots of songs and rhymes online about colours – here is one of the most famous:

#### I Can Sing a Rainbow

*Red and yellow and pink and green;  
Purple and orange and blue.*

*I can sing a rainbow, sing a rainbow, sing a rainbow too.*

*Listen with your eyes, listen with your eyes, and  
sing everything you see.*

*You can sing a rainbow, sing a rainbow, sing along  
with me.*

*Red and yellow and pink and green; purple and  
orange and blue.*

*Now, we can sing a rainbow, sing a rainbow, sing a  
rainbow too.*

Try making up your own colour song or rhyme to the tune of a well known song or nursery rhyme.

#### Rainbow Poem

Write each colour of the rainbow in a list down the side of a large sheet of paper. Now get your class to come up with some words about each colour e.g.

**Red** is the colour of a fire engine rushing to the rescue. **Orange** is the colour of juicy fruit, sunsets and autumn leaves. **Yellow** is the colour of spring daffodils and summer sunflowers

*Continue the same process with all the colours and add illustrations to make a colourful display!*



### Other Books that explore colours:

There are a great many children's books that explore colours – here are just a few that you might like to look at:

- *Eliza and the Moonchild* by Emma Chichester Clark
- *Brown Bear Brown Bear, What do you see?* by Eric Carle
- *The Mixed Up Chameleon* by Eric Carle
- *Butterfly Butterfly* by Petr Horacek
- *Elmer* by David McKee
- *The Black Book of Colours* by Menena Cottin & Rosana Faria (cleverly explores the concept of colour from the point of view of someone who is blind)

# Puppet Making—Owl Hand Puppets

## You will need:

Coloured card or a cardboard tube (such as a kitchen roll tube)

2 Paper cake cases - plain or patterned

Coloured paper

White paper

Sticky tape, scissors and glue



- First, roll your coloured card into a tube and secure with sellotape (not necessary if using a cardboard tube). It should be just big enough to fit on your hand.
- At one end, fold the back of the tube inwards, and then push the front inwards – this should make the top of the tube into a shape like owl 'ears' – if necessary, secure this with tape.
- Now you can use the cake cases to make some feathers and wings (if you only have plain ones you can always colour them). Fold one case into quarters and cut out the middle section. Cut the remaining 'frills' into 4 pieces and glue onto the front of the owl starting at the bottom.
- Now use your second case to make wings. Fold in half and cut away a small slice – now cut the remainder in half to make two wings. Glue these onto the back of the owl so that they stick out at the sides. If you don't have cases, you can simply use coloured paper to make the feathers and wings.
- Finally, use white paper and yellow paper to make eyes and a beak for your owl!



# Puppet Making - Owl Glove Puppet

## You will need:

- A paper bag with a flat base
- these are available from party/gift shops and online in a wide range of colours,
- Coloured paper
  - Colouring pens
  - A glue stick
  - Sticky tape
  - Large round stickers (optional)



## How to make your puppet:

1. First have a look at your bag. When it is folded flat it should have a flap on one side which is the flat base folded over – this will be the face of your puppet – your hand will go in through the opening at the other end (normally the top of the bag, but in this case, we are using the bag upside down.) There are also flaps at the sides of the bag (this is where we will stick the wings later).
2. Cut out a triangle shape for the owl's face, and two wings from coloured paper. You could choose any colours you like – realistic owl colours, or bright colours. (Tip: To get two wings, fold your paper in half, draw the shape you want and then cut through the folded paper – you will get two wings the same)
3. Glue the triangle onto the 'face' part of the bag so that the long straight edge lines up with the top edge of the bag and the point is pointing downwards.
4. Use Stickers or circles of coloured paper to make some nice big eyes for your owl. You could experiment with layering one colour circle on top of another, and use pens to add patterns around the edge of the eyes. Stick the eyes onto the face so that they overlap the edge of the triangle shape.
5. Cut out a small beak shape and stick on to the bottom of the face – make sure you just glue the part that sticks to the face so that it doesn't stick to the body as well and stop the flap from lifting up.
6. Now you are ready to decorate the body. You can do this in a number of ways – why not try cutting strips of coloured paper into zig zags like the design above – then start at the bottom of the owl's body and work upwards. Alternatively, you could cut feather shapes from coloured paper and stick them all over the body, or a simple oval shape for the owl's tummy would also work well – perhaps you'll have your own idea?
7. Now you just need to attach the wings that you cut out earlier. These should be stuck into the flaps at the sides of the bag with some sticky tape, and Wow – your owl is complete!

Now put your hand inside and use your fingers to wiggle the owl's face back and forwards!

# Colours and Colour Mixing

Colours in Wow! Said the Owl:

Pink



Red



White  
& Blue



Yellow



Green &  
Orange



Grey



## Mixing Colours

Learning about colours and colour mixing is a great activity for young children – there are lots and lots of ways to do this but here is one way that is really fun for younger children;

**You will need:**

**White paper, Washable ready mix poster paints in a range of colours – primary colours are a good starting point, Paint pots and brushes, Access to a sink!**

**What to do:**

- First, use a brush to paint the child's hands - use a different colour on each hand (e.g. red on one, and yellow on the other).
- Ask the child to make a handprint with each hand in the top corners of the paper
- Now ask the child to rub their painted hands together (add more paint to each hand beforehand if necessary – this will mix the colours and now you can ask the child to make new hand prints in the middle of the paper showing what colour the first two colours make when mixed together (orange).

You can repeat the activity with different colour combinations;

red + blue = purple

blue + yellow = green

You could also try mixing some of the secondary colours and see what results you get.

Which colours featured in Wow! can you mix easily and which are more difficult?



# Make a Night Sky Picture

## Make a wax resist picture of the night sky

### You will need

A sheet of white paper

Wax crayons in all colours

Black or Dark Blue poster paint

Paint Brushes and Water



- First you need to draw your scene with Wax Crayons. You could use a black / brown crayon to draw some scenery (e.g. trees / houses) and use coloured and white crayons to draw the Moon and stars in the sky. Look at the Night-time page in Wow! Said the Owl for some inspiration – you will see that all the stars are different shapes, sizes and colours.
- Mix up some black / dark blue poster paint with some water so that it is quite runny and easy to spread.
- Paint over your wax crayon picture with the black/blue paint - the wax will 'resist' the paint and so your colours will still show through.
- Let your picture dry, and then you have your very own night-time sky picture.





Wow! Said the Owl features different colours on each page and after a rain-storm, the little owl sees a beautiful rainbow.

The colours of the rainbow are;  
Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet

Can you name the colours featured in the book that are **NOT** rainbow colours?

There are different ways that people remember the colours of the rainbow – for example:

Richard (Red) Of (Orange) York (Yellow) Gained (Green) Battle (Blue) In (Indigo) Vain (Violet)

Some people use the made up name **ROY. G. BIV** to remember the colours.

Could you make up a rhyme, song or even a funny word to help you remember the order the colours go in?

### Colour Sorting to make a Rainbow

#### What you will need:

- Lots and lots of items in different colours – this could include toys, plastic kitchen utensils, household items, textiles/clothing, books, craft materials etc etc. Ideally the items are in their normal setting or placed around the room, to make it more fun to hunt for them.
- A very large sheet of paper or a plain coloured blanket or piece of fabric to lay things out on.

#### What to do:

- Send the children on a hunt around the room for anything that is red. You can set limits on size or the type of objects you want them to bring back. When they have collected lots of things, lay them out in a rainbow shape, or just in a stripe if you prefer.
- Now repeat the process for all the other rainbow colours. When you've finished, take some photos.

#### Variation:



You could make a lovely collage in this way by drawing a rainbow shape on paper and then using glue and collage materials to fill in each section of the rainbow. – try using scraps torn from magazines, feathers, buttons, ribbons/ fabric scraps, sweet wrappers, bottle tops, etc.



# Rainbows

## About Little Angel Theatre

[www.littleangeltheatre.com](http://www.littleangeltheatre.com)



## About Tim Hopgood

[Blog — Tim Hopgood](#)

Tim Hopgood's Blog where you can read all about his work and find some great ideas for Wow! Said the Owl Crafts including Wow! Butterflies.

[Interviews — Tim Hopgood](#)

A great interview with Tim Hopgood where he talks about his work and how he became an author

## Owl Crafts & Puppet Making ideas

<http://www.daniellesplace.com/html/Owl-Crafts.html>

Lots of brilliant ideas for different owl crafts

<http://www.daniellesplace.com/html/puppets.html>

Loads of brilliant child-friendly puppet making ideas

[TheLittleATheatre - YouTube](#) Visit You Tube to watch trailers, clips and behind the scenes films of our shows past and present and see the puppets in action!

## Also available:

Little Angel Theatre visual stories for children on the autistic spectrum

Puppet Making Workshops

More information on our website:

[Little Angel Theatre](#)