



# Little Angel Theatre's Miniature Travelling Circus 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 LAT's Miniature Travelling Circus

**Roll up! Roll up! Take your seats for the smallest circus in town.**

George the ringmaster has quite the challenge on their hands. The circus isn't quite what it once was but even still, George has curated a programme of acts more bedazzling than ever.

But first they must make sure all of the acts are ready to razzle-dazzle. Where on earth is Flop? And why is Smelly Dog making all that fuss?

Join Little Angel's Miniature Travelling Circus and be delighted by beautiful puppets, nostalgic magic tricks and acts so tiny you may wonder how you can possibly see them! From performing mice to acrobatic fleas – this circus has stars you won't see anywhere else!



Little Angel Theatre's Miniature Travelling Circus first took the stage in 2022 and is back on the LAT stage from February to April 2025. This show is aimed at EYFS/KS1 pupils (ages guidance 2-5) and their families.

Credits:

Written & devised by: Miranda Pitcher & Lizzie Wort

Directed by: Miranda Pitcher

Puppets Designer: Lyndie Wright

Book designed by Vicki Fullick

Lighting Designer: Sherry Coenen

Music & Sound design: Julian Butler

Set & Costume Design: Miranda Pitcher

Stage Manager: Victoria Porter

Performed by: Lizzie Wort and Charlotte Irwin (as alternates)

# All About the Circus



- The word 'circus' comes from the Latin word which means 'circle' or 'ring'
- The first circuses were in ancient Rome
- Popcorn has been a famous circus snack since 400 BC!
- Learn some circus vocabulary! The big tent that a circus is in is called the '**Big Top**', the circle stage where the people perform is called the '**ring**' and the person in charge of the whole show is called the '**Ring Master**'
- Performances may involve swinging from a hanging bar called a trapeze, getting shot out of a cannon or walking the tightrope. A popular performer is called a clown who makes the audience laugh by juggling and doing silly tricks!
- Many circuses featured animals such as lions, elephants and bears who would perform tricks like jumping through hoops.
- Cirque de Soleil is a popular animal-free circus show
- The record for the most juggled balls is 14!





## Here are some ideas for Literacy activities linked to Miniature Traveling Circus



- Write your own story about a day at the circus. What would you see? What would you do?
- The show opens up with a song welcoming everyone to the smallest circus in town. Fill in the blanks to write your own descriptive song!

Roll up, roll up, for the \_\_\_\_\_ circus in town  
Roll up, roll up for the \_\_\_\_\_ circus around  
Roll up, roll up, for the \_\_\_\_\_ sight you could dream,  
It's a miniature top it could fit in your pocket,

- In the show, there are lots of animals like a cat, dog, horse and some rabbits. What other animals could be part of a circus? What would their talent/trick be? Carry out a role play activity where you act out an animal doing a circus trick. Can others guess which animal you are and what your performance/talent is?
- Imagine that you have taken a trip to the circus and see all of the different acts. Walk around the room and act out how you might greet each performer. What would your reaction be to a silly clown? What about a dancing cat? Can you show it on your face? In your body? Can you describe how each performance makes you feel?
- All the different acts have silly names, like Potzo the Clown, Miss Scratchy Cat and Smelly Dog. What other names could they have?

\_\_\_\_\_ the Clown  
Miss \_\_\_\_\_ Cat  
\_\_\_\_\_ Dog

- Identify rhyming words about the circus. Draw lines to match the rhyming word pairs:

bunny                      hat                      -cadabra                      cat                      down

Abra-                      clown                      sunny

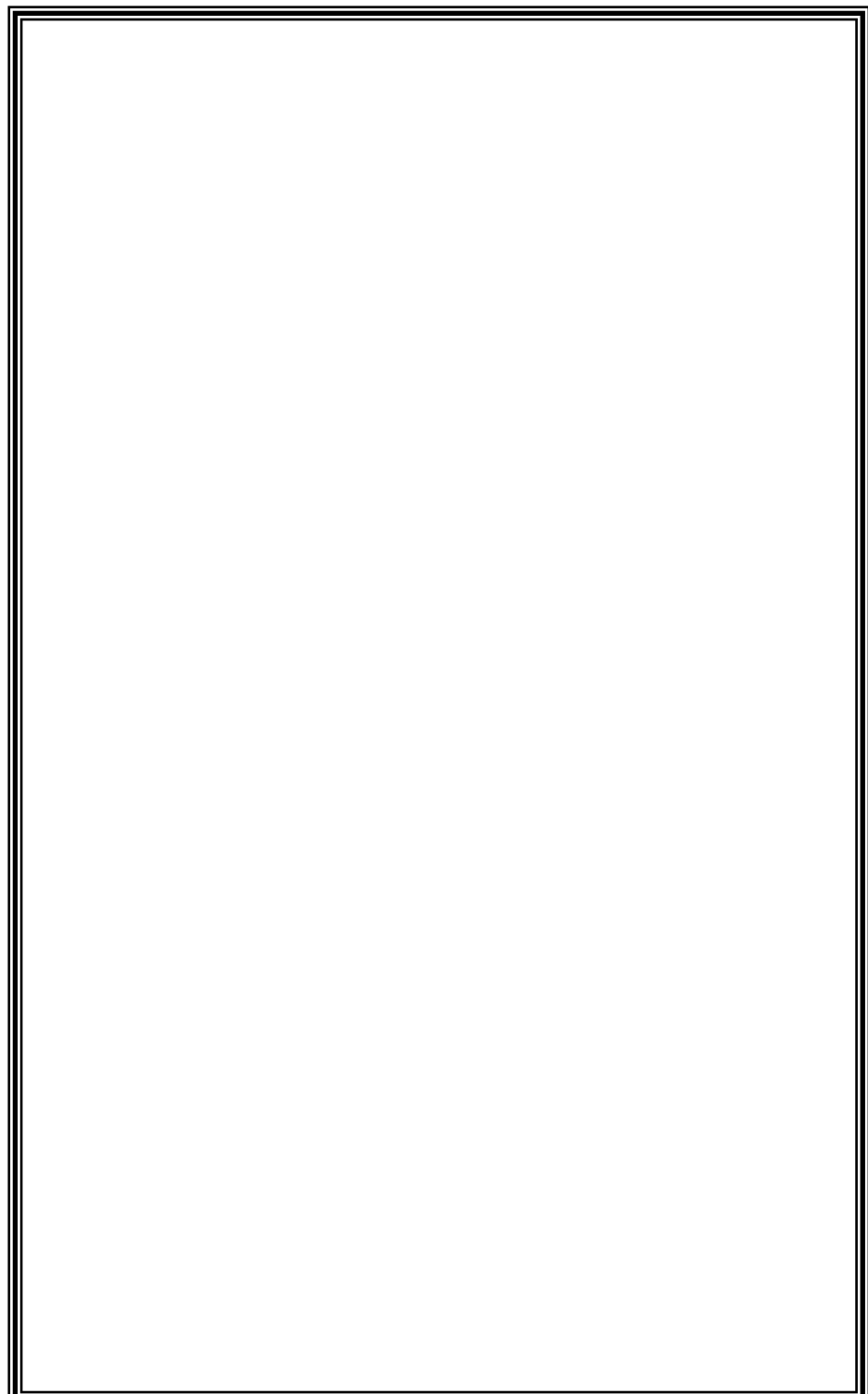


Think of a character that you would like to see perform in a circus.

What can they do? What do they look like? What costume do they wear?

Draw a picture and write about them here.

# Roll up!



Design a poster for your circus



# Rabbit Hat puppets

Make your own Rabbit Hat puppet!

Make your own rabbit popping out of a hat!

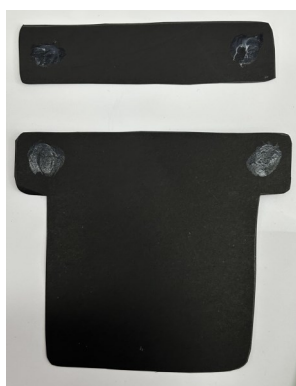
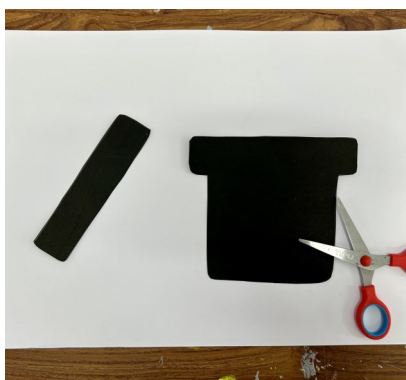
For this craft you will need:

- Printed and pre-cut hat and rabbit templates
- Black card
- White card
- Scissors
- Glue
- Stickers/sequins (any decoration of choice)
- Felt tips
- Pencils
- Googly or sticker eyes (optional)
- Wooden lolly stick
- Tape



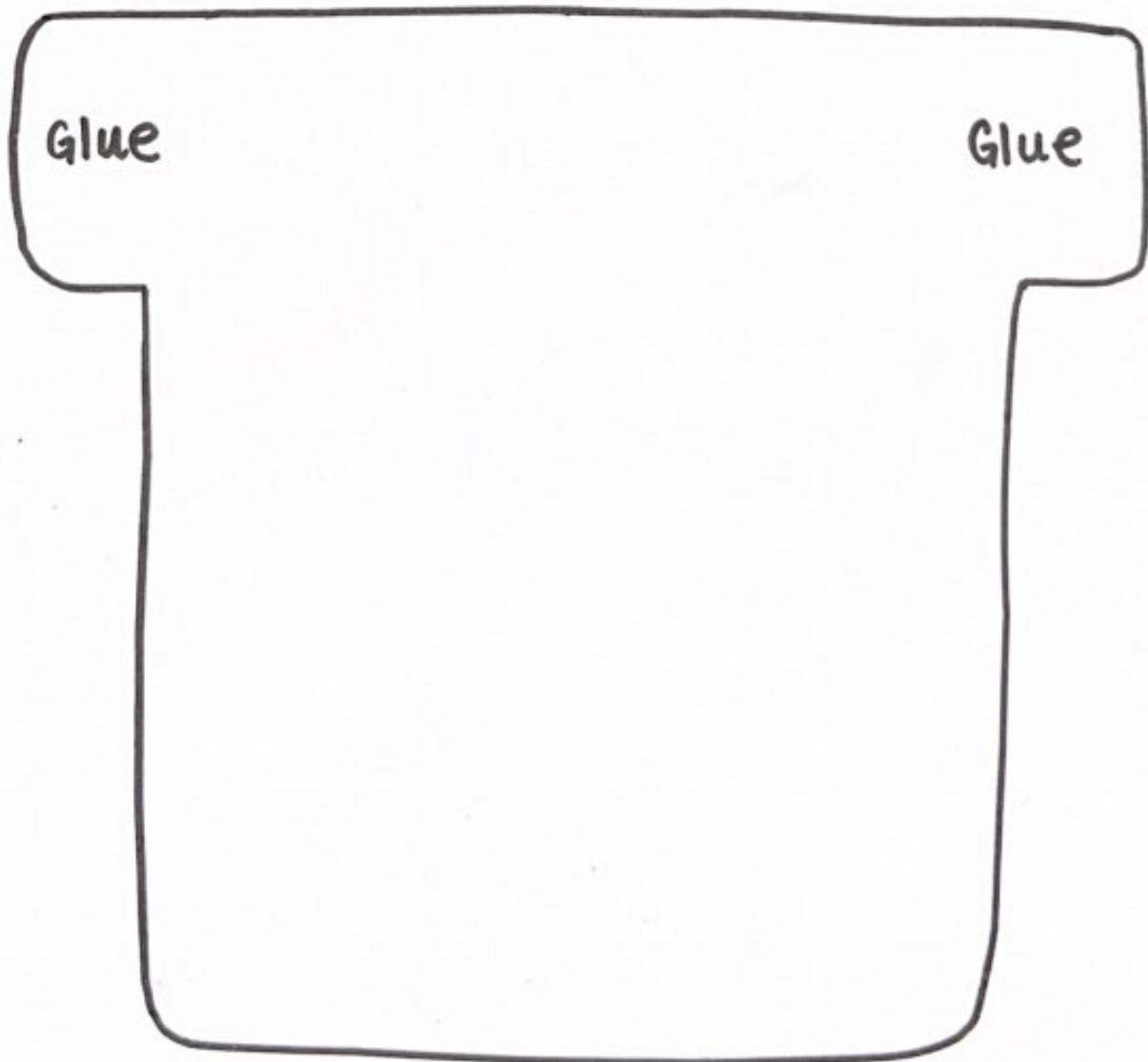
## Instructions:

1. Use the attached template to trace and cut out the hat shape and back strip on black card. Trace with pencil and cut out.
2. Follow the instructions on the template for where it says to put glue on the back of the hat and two edges of the hat strip. Attach the strip to the back of the hat, leaving a gap/slit for the rabbit to pop through later.
3. Flip your hat over and use various materials to decorate it however you like!
4. Use the attached rabbit template to trace and cut out the rabbit on white card.
5. Use felt tips and googly/sticker eyes (if using) to add facial features to your rabbit.
6. Flip your rabbit over and take a small piece of tape to attach one end of your lolly stick to the back of the rabbit.
7. Holding the bottom of the lolly stick, slide your rabbit up through the slit in the back of your hat. Finally, turn your puppet around to play with your rabbit popping out of the hat!

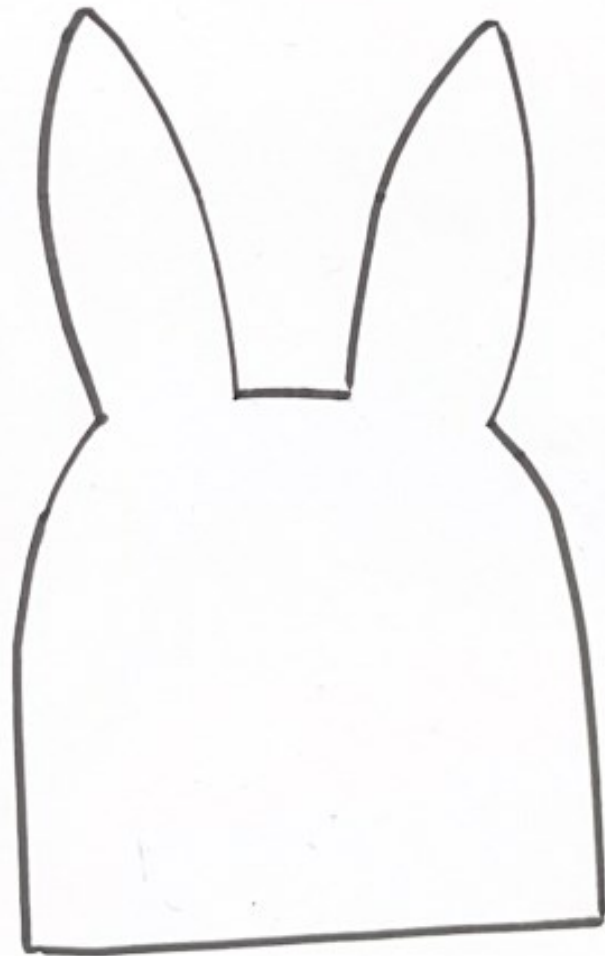




# Hat Template



# Rabbit Template



## About Little Angel Theatre

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

### Join our National Schools Partnership Programme

To broaden the reach of our schools engagement around and outside of London we are excited to introduce our **National Schools Partnership Programme**. This is an opportunity for all schools, no matter where they are located, to engage in and enjoy our performances and educational material.

Visit our Website to find out more;

<https://www.littleangeltheatre.com/for-schools/schools-partnership-programme/>

### Shows At Your School

We have a range of productions which tour into schools, some which are available as part of a tour and others which are available all year round. Enjoy the magic of Little Angel Theatre in your very own School Hall. [Find out more!](#)

### Workshops

If it's a workshop you want, look no further! We have years of experience offering workshops for schools. Whether it is one of our curriculum focussed puppet workshops or you want a more bespoke offer, we have something suitable for all students. [Book a Workshop!](#)

### Come to us

We have lots of exciting productions at our venues for you to see, as well as a huge catalogue of wonderful and free digital shows for you to watch in your classroom. [See for yourself!](#)

[http://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=little+angel+theatre&sm=3](http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=little+angel+theatre&sm=3)

Visit You Tube to watch trailers, clips and behind the scenes films of our shows past and present and see the puppets in action!



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