

EDUCATION
RESOURCE PACK:
ME...



About...

The Education Pack

As part of our work at Little Angel Theatre, we are excited to help expand your exploration of our stage adaptation of Emma Dodd's wonderful book 'Me...' via this pack! In this pack, we explore the different puppets used in the show, how to make and use your own penguin puppets in the classroom as well as ideas for writing and thinking about needing help and helping others.

This pack also contains lots of penguin facts!

Me...

This production is based on the picture book by Emma Dodd. Emma Dodd is an illustrator and writer and has almost 50 books published including the award winning 'I love my mummy' which she illustrated.

Little Angel Theatre has a reputation for bringing much loved children's books to life using puppetry and the beautiful images created by Emma's illustrations are perfect to explore via the medium of puppetry.



About Little Angel Theatre

Little Angel Theatre, nestled in Islington, London, is a renowned puppet theatre dedicated to captivating young audiences through imaginative performances. Established in 1961 by John and Lyndie Wright, the theatre has evolved into a vibrant hub for puppetry, offering a diverse range of productions, workshops, and educational resources.

The theatre's commitment to education is evident in its comprehensive offerings for schools. Through the Schools Partnership Programme, Little Angel Theatre provides digital and live performances, along with a wealth of online resources, including puppet-making guides and curriculum-linked activities. These resources support cross-curricular learning in subjects such as English, Science, Art, and PSHE.

For educators seeking to integrate puppetry into their teaching, the theatre offers professional development opportunities. Workshops cover various aspects of puppetry, from shadow puppets to table-top puppets, equipping teachers with practical skills to enhance classroom engagement.

Little Angel Theatre's dedication to fostering creativity and imagination makes it an invaluable resource for educators aiming to enrich their students' learning experiences through the art of puppetry.



Image description: A black and white photo of the founders of Little Angel Theatre, John and Lyndie Wright. They are each holding a puppet outside of the Little Angel Theatre in Dagmar Passage



Fun Facts About Penguins

Did you know...

The penguins we see in 'Me..' are Emperor Penguins! Emperor Penguins live in Antarctica, where it can get to -60 degrees below freezing! To keep themselves warm, colonies of penguins all cuddle together in a huddle! It can get pretty toasty in the centre of a huddle, reaching 37 degrees! Take a look:



Baby penguins (or 'Nestlings') have soft and fluffy feathers to help keep them warm, and lose these at about a year old in a process called 'molting'. Adult penguins have four layers of scale-like feathers to help protect them from the icy winds, and to provide a slick waterproof coat for swimming! Being black and white also helps to camouflage them from predators. Their white bellies mimic the bright sky above, and their black backs look like the shadowy ocean depths. Another sea creature that does this is the Great White Shark. Can you think of any more?

Once the penguin has laid or adopted its egg, one parent will go to collect as much food as possible, whilst the other parent stays home and keeps the egg safe and warm. They take it in turns to look after the egg until it hatches! Look at how the adult balances the egg on their feet! You can try this by balancing a ball on your feet. It takes up to 75 days for a penguin egg to hatch. How long can you hold your penguin egg for?



Penguin Portraits



Look at this teenage penguin before its molt! They look like they are wearing a little fluffy jacket!

These penguins are diving to catch fish to bring home to their family. Emperor penguins can hold their breath underwater for up to 27 minutes!



This is how penguins feed their babies! The parent will eat the fish first and bring it home for the chick to eat from its mouth!



Emperor Penguin True or False Quiz!

Some of the things you see in Me are based on true facts about Emperor Penguins and some are made up by us! Can you tell which is which?

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. When Emperor penguins swim, a trail of bubbles flow out behind them

True

False

2. Baby Emperor penguins hatch from and egg

True

False

3. Emperor penguins can sing

True

False

4. Emperor penguins keep each other warm

True

False

5. Emperor penguins can talk

True

False

6. Baby Emperor penguins can swim as soon as they are hatched

True

False



Answers

1. When Emperor Penguins swim a trail of bubbles flow out behind them?

TRUE: As Emperor penguins swim they depresses their feathers, thereby creating less space for the air that gathers between them during grooming to be stored and it's pushed out creating bubbles in the water as they dive. This also helps them to swim faster.



2. Baby Emperor Penguins hatch from an egg.

TRUE: It takes 65–75 days for the eggs to hatch; by the time the chicks appear their parent will have fasted for four months!

3. Emperor Penguins can sing.

FALSE: They can't sing in tune but they do make different types of sounds. They have 3 main calls with different sounds. The contact call of emperor penguins can be heard one kilometre (0.6 mi.) away. The display call is the most complex of all the calls and is used between partners in a colony. The threat call is the simplest and is used to defend a territory and warn other colony members of predators.



4. Emperor Penguins keep each other warm.

TRUE: They survive by huddling together for warmth, They also take it in turns to occupy the coldest most exposed outside positions. Without this huddling behaviour, they would be unable to endure the combined conditions of fasting, bitter cold and hurricane force winds and would not be able to live and breed in the way they do.

5. Emperor Penguins can talk.

FALSE: Penguins can't talk like us, but they can make sounds that other penguins understand. Penguin calls (vocalisations) are individually identifiable, allowing mates to recognise each other and also their chick. This is important because members of a large colony of penguins all look the same!



6. Baby Emperor Penguins can swim as soon as they are hatched.

FALSE: Young Emperor penguins don't swim in the sea until they are around 6 months old. Before that food is brought to them by their parents and they stay in groups (crèches) to keep warm and safe while the parents dive for food.

Puppet Designs

The puppets in the show were designed and made by Jimmy Grimes.
There are 4 life size penguin puppets!

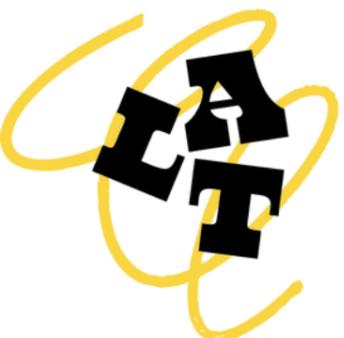
These pictures of the unfinished puppets show what they are made of and how they work. It is important to use light materials when making puppets so the penguins are made using foam and light plywood. Their bodies are hollow to keep them as light as possible.



The puppets are table top puppets with mechanisms to allow the puppeteer to move their heads realistically and flap their wings. The finished puppets are covered in velvet fabric to give the illusion of smooth silky feathers.



The set is made from carved polystyrene to create our own icebergs!



Make Your Own Penguin Puppet

What you will need:

- Kitchen roll tube
- Black paint/tissue
- Black paper/card
- White paper
- Yellow felt pen or pencil
- Scissors
- Glue
- Stapler



What to Do:

1. Cut a kitchen roll tube to size depending on the size of the penguins you want to make.
2. Either paint or cover the roll with black for an adult penguin and silver for a baby penguin.
3. For adult penguins cut out a tummy shape from white paper and stick it on to the tube.
4. Use black or white paper/card to cut out wings. Fold a flap to attach them with either glue, or a staple to secure.
5. Cut out black paper/card to make eyes and beaks. Pointy triangle shapes for beaks. Fold a flap to attach to the puppets with glue or a staple. The baby penguin has a black stripe down the front of its face.

Top tip:

Baby Emperor penguins have round black eyes, and adult Emperor penguins have black oval shaped eyes.



Now that you have your very own penguin puppets...

Time for a puppet show!

Insert your fingers into the tube to bring your puppet to life.

Cover a table with a white sheet to make a snowy landscape. You could put objects under the sheet to create icebergs and use blue fabric to make the sea.

- You could hide behind the table so that the audience can't see your face when you are puppeteering, or you could be in full view like the puppeteer in Me.
- If the audience can see your face then make sure you look at the puppet and not at the audience so that the focus is on the puppet and not the puppeteer.
- Use your puppets to recreate the adventures the characters in Me had.
- Think of your own penguin stories and adventures.
- Think about the sounds your penguins make or the voice you will use to speak if your penguins talk.
- Think about how your puppet moves. Practice making your puppet waddle along the snow, and then swimming gracefully on the water or sliding on the ice.



Look at how the puppeteer is focussing on their puppet!

Using Me... to inspire writing

Can you think of other things that are big, steep, fast, high stretch far, long?

_____ is big, and I am small.

_____ is fast, and I am small.

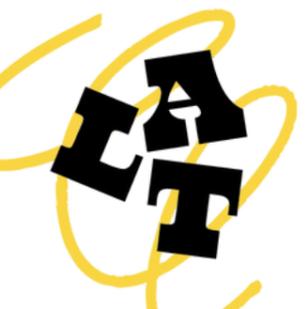
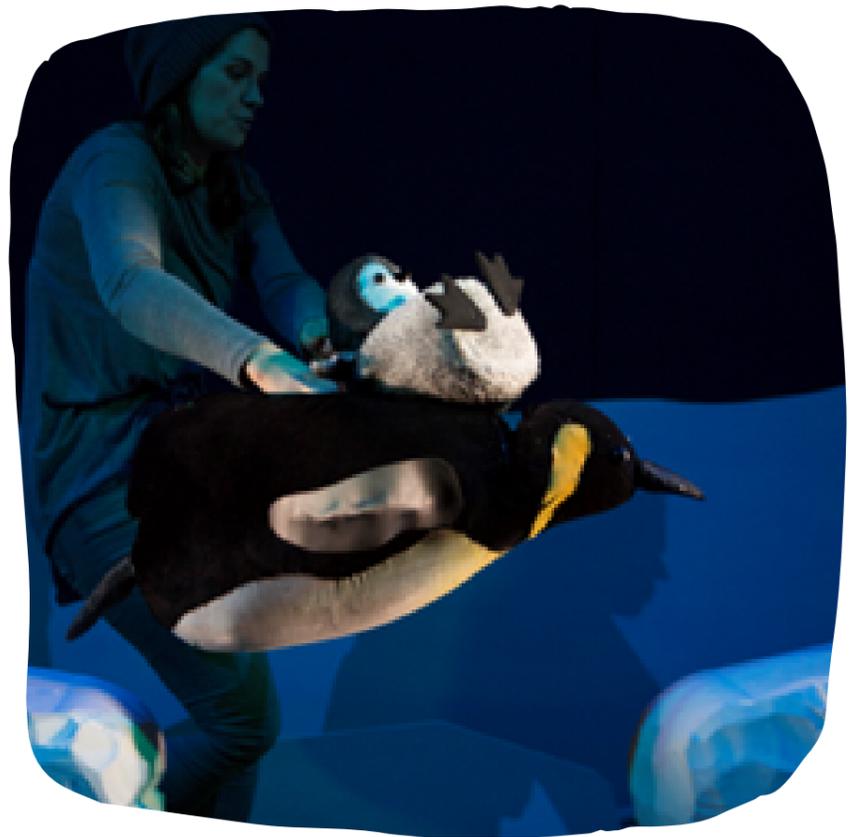
_____ is deep , and I am small.

_____ is steep, and I am small.

_____ is strong, and I am small.

_____ is long, and I am small.

_____ is high, and I am small.



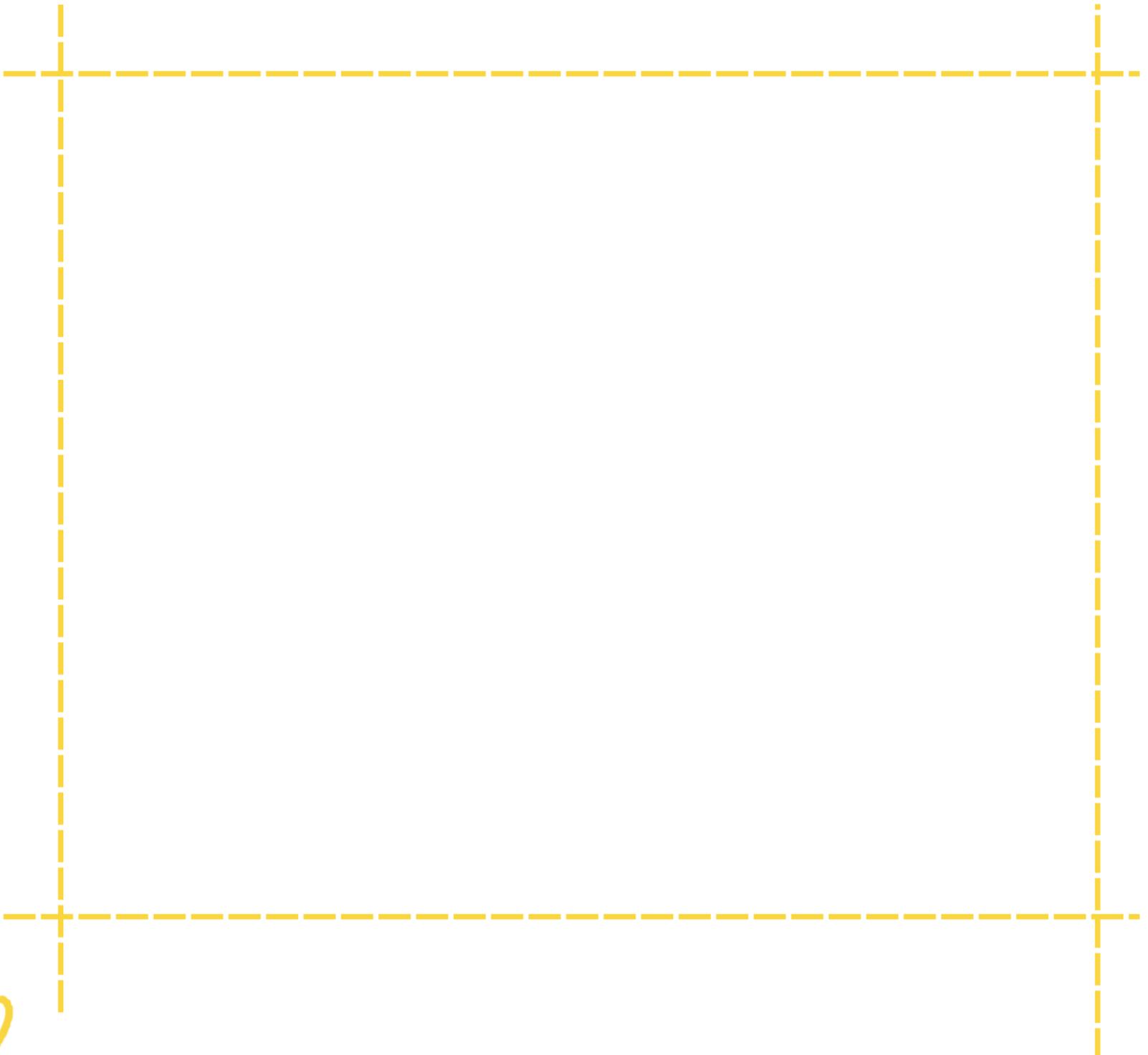
Who helps you?

The world is big with lots to discover! Can you think of a person who has helped you to learn something about the world? What did they teach you?

_____ helped me to learn about _____

They taught me _____

Can you draw an example of when someone helped you?



Useful Resources and Links



Little Angel Theatre

Little Angel Website:

<https://littleangeltheatre.com>

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

Workshops, shows on tour and digitally and our National School Partnership

Other books by Emma Dodd:

Emma Dodd has written many other fantastic books - here are some you might enjoy at home:

- Just the Way You Are
- Spread your Wings
- How Big is Love?
- Home is Where the Heart is
- What Matters Most

Find more of our work at Little Angel below:

https://youtu.be/bunecXh_4Lg?si=5GE6WqGzBCgRqCWP - Trailer for Me...

<https://youtu.be/Y1svOKKmFXE?si=6vbJx5jgFPAv4zFj> - Interview with Jimmy Grimes, puppet designer for Me...

https://youtu.be/Yf14YYX2a3c?si=Us0Q_SWYHfAO1Dln - Make your own puppet theatre

Written by **Emma Dodd**

Directed by **Samantha Lane**

Set designed by **Simon Plumridge**

Puppets designed by **Jimmy Grimes**

Music composed by **Arran Glass**

Lighting Designed by **Luis Alvarez**

