

Unlocking Imaginations Through **Shadow Play**

2023 AOSA Professional Development Conference

-Peggy McCreary

“The mind of an adult begins with the imagination of a child.”

- Kwame Alexander

“A compelling, well written, and presented story will always make-up for the lack of wiz-bang. There is great joy in the simple and elegant.”

• **History**

China / India / Indonesia / Malaysia / Cambodia / Thailand / Turkey / Greece / Japan

Lotte Reiniger pioneered silhouette animation in the 1920's, 10 years before Disney.

On November 7, 2003, UNESCO designated *wayang kulit* from Indonesia as one of the *Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity*.

2011 Chinese shadow play was listed as World Intangible Cultural Heritage by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and became a cultural treasure.

• **Shadow Screen Frame**

PVC pipe (3/4 or one inch)

Wood - One we made under the tutelage of Brigitte Warner over 30 years ago. The screen is permanently affixed to top and bottom pieces of wood, so it rolls up when not in use. Two A frames w/sawhorse brackets fold up, along with the side rails. Doesn't take up a lot of space, just needs 10 foot high accommodation. It can take any amount of pushing from puppets.

• **Shadow Screen Material**

Sheet - white or yellow (for Balinese candlelight effect). Check for sizes on package.

(8 ft. screen needs 108" width.) Denser the weave, the better. Source light *will* show.

Shower curtain - Shadow Fence needs 72" X more than 72". Source light does *not* show.

• **Shadow Lights**

Spring clip clamp light (ceramic base can take more watts)

Theater PAR can

GE LED indoor flood / Daylight / 85 W / 1070 lumens / dimmable

GE LED outdoor flood / Bright white / 90 W / 1300 lumens / dimmable

GE Clear Incandescent 150 watts

Premier Light Switch

Overhead Projector

Specialty - Fire & Ice

Black light

Dimmer switch

• **Scenery**

• Overhead Special Effects

Wood Paper Window cling Wax paper Colored Acetate Printed Acetate
 Paper w/cutouts Moving background /Running in place Glass dish (water)

• Curriculum Applications and Types of Puppets

+ Only with Overhead Projection

Laban *Movements* - Percussion **Whole body**

Movement - same time copy or echo the shadow - Metals **Whole body**

+*Speech / Fairy Tales* - Nursery Rhymes / Jack Beanstalk **Overlay**

Rhythms - Brother John Bells **Black tag & tissue**

Rhythmic or Melodic (modal) Themes - Old MacDonald / Anansi /etc. **Black tag & tissue**

Meter 6/8 - Tiki (Vol. 4, pg. 108) or minor-major (tonic-mediante) **Tangram cardboard**

Alto recorder improvisations -Birds **Black tag & tissue / chiffon**

+*Up/down music* - Hill scene - (*Pentatonic* scale) Xylophone Bk # 5 pg. 6 **Wax paper**

+*Pitch* -3 Bears **Whole body & acetate overlay**

Modes

+*Orchestral accompaniment / Form*- Saint-Saëns, *Aquarium* **Card-stock Shark**(changing sizes),
acetate fish, legs = coral

[Crossbar on top addition]

+*Mood* - Moving eyes -Vol. III, pg. 57, # 1, top part only, first 4 bars. **Cutout paper, acetate pupils**

Opera - Der Mond - **Oiled Coloring book characters/cloth / hinges**(brads or twist ties)

Cultural - Raven (North Coast) **Cutout black tag contacted /copies on Vellum**

Bali **Colored and oiled card-stock / hole punches** (screw drivers,
 nails, leather punches) / hinges (twist ties)

Raven (Lenape, Eastern Penn.) Forrest animals **Black tag / pin pricks**

Go Away Stay Away, G. Haley **Acetate /People + costumes**

Shadow Techniques Bibliography

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Shadow/Fence

Fence directions at: <http://aosa.org/publications/the-orff-echo/echo-extensions/>

Parts needed to convert PVC Pipe Staff to Shadow Theater

- ② 4-Way
- ① Slip Slide (Swing) Tee or Snap Tee
- ① Extra Tee
- ③ 45° Elbow (with ③ 2" pipe inserts or use ③ Slip x Slip 45° elbows)

If making crossbar:

- ② Snap Tees & extra 6 foot pipe from another 10 ft

Pipe snap clamps

<http://www.littlegreenhouse.com/accessory/pvc.shtml>

4inch - NOT 4 feet!

Recommend 2 on each side and 3 on the bottom.

Or when using fabric screen (not plastic), use Saddle Tee from Lowe's.



(File down sharp edges.)

There is a knob to screw in to add leverage in getting it removed. Only need one.



Shower Curtain - 72" by more than 72"

One Inch Pipe Screen

Based on this design:

PVC Photo Backdrop Frame a FORMUFIT PVC Plan



Write for directions: grenoblestudio@earthnet.net

MAKING PVC PIPE GLOSSY

You can add a sense of 'glossiness' to the PVC pipe, after cleaning has been performed to give it shine. This can be achieved using an off-the-shelf tire shine spray or liquid cleaner that is normally used on vehicle tires to make them appear new.