



Little Angel Theatre

WOW!

Said the Owl



Education and Participation Resource Pack

Written by Laura Halliwell

**Little Angel Theatre
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www.littleangeltheatre.com**



The interior of Little Angel Theatre auditorium before it was re-built in 1961



John Wright
Theatre founder

Background Information

The history of the theatre and show!

The Little Angel Theatre

John Wright, the founder of The 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. It was during this time he saw a puppet performance by Podrecca's Piccoli and became hooked. John made his very first puppet in 1938.

He returned to South Africa at the outbreak of the Second World War and continued to make and perform with puppets in his home country. When the war ended he returned to England, overland, performing with his puppets along the way.

In 1961 John and his troupe found a derelict temperance hall in Islington and transformed it into a magical little theatre, specially 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.

Over the next 30 years, the Little Angel team created and performed over 30 full-scale shows, with John and his wife Lyndie designing, making, performing and directing as they established Little Angel as 'The Home of British Puppetry.' Little Angel shows were taken to 23 International Festivals, representing Britain.

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.

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 is Lizzie Wort who 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!



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 humans and other animals
- 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 helps 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!



Literacy Links

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.



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)

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!



Puppets & Puppet Making

Puppets in Wow! Said the Owl

The main puppet in Wow! Said the Owl is, of course, the Owl puppet which is a type of rod puppet – it can turn its head and has movable wings. There is also a mini version of the owl puppet.

Other types of puppet in the show include hand puppets, moving mouth puppets and shadow puppets.

Different parts of the set are also animated by the puppeteer so that what we see on stage is constantly changing.

Have you seen any other theatre productions, films or television shows that used puppets?

Here is a list of some different types of puppet that you might have seen;

- **Marionette:** a puppet operated by strings (Pinocchio is a famous example)
- **Glove Puppet:** a puppet worn on the hand.
- **Moving Mouth Puppet:** usually worn on the hand and can open and close its mouth (The Muppets are probably the most famous example of this style)
- **Finger puppets:** small puppets worn on the fingers
- **Rod puppet:** A puppet whose moving parts are operated by long sticks or rods.
- **Tabletop Puppets:** A type of rod puppet that works best on a tabletop stage
- **Shadow Puppets:** These are 2D puppets that make a shadow on a screen.

If you have any puppet examples such as toys, or perhaps puppets that have been bought as souvenirs, hand them around the class and have a look at how each one works. Can you identify what type each puppet is?

Designing and Making Puppets

When you design and make a puppet make sure you think about these things:

- Decide on the character **first** (before you start drawing or making). Is it a person, an animal or a made-up creature? Is it a character for a show you will be performing? What is that character like? Match the character with a suitable puppet style (marionette, glove, rod, finger, shadow etc.)
- Decide what your puppet will need to do if it is performing in a show (walk, swim, fly, nod, wave?) Which parts need to move or not?

Materials

Remember that puppets have to be held up and moved by a puppeteer so choose light materials. If you make your puppet too heavy you won't be able to use it! **You don't have to use specialist materials to make a puppet – many everyday items can be used** such as boxes/containers/magazines and wrapping paper/tubes/wool/ string/clothes/bottles etc. **Draw a design for the puppet, including:**

1. What materials you will need - remember puppets need to be light, strong and flexible.
2. Which parts of the puppet will move? How?
3. Will any parts be jointed? (elbows/knees)
4. Don't forget to draw the rods/strings/controls etc that move the puppet so that you know where they will go.
5. How will you fix the parts of the puppet together?
6. How you will show your puppet's character? (facial expression, clothes, decoration)
7. As you make your puppet **test it out as you go**. Is it strong enough to use? Are the details clear (will an audience be able to see the face from a distance?) Does it move in the places it is supposed to?



Puppet Making

Shadow Puppetry

You will need a **light source** (this could be a lamp, torch or OHP) and a **screen** (this could be a piece of fabric hung up or even hung over a table with the shadows being made underneath the table)

Making Shadows:

There are different ways you can make shadows on your screen – whatever you use needs to go between the light source and the screen so that you make a shadow. Have someone watching at the front of the screen to tell you if your shadow is effective.

- 1) **Hands and Bodies:** Use your hands and play around with shadow shapes. Create creatures, animals and landscapes using only your hands and parts of your body. You can work individually or with others to make more complicated shapes.
- 2) **Black Card Shadow Puppets:** Cut shapes from black card and attach to BBQ skewers (with sharp ends cut off) – the most important thing is to make the outline of your shape very clear and interesting as all we will see in shadow is the silhouette. You could try simple shapes such as moon and stars. With help from an adult, you could also cut out shapes from the centre of a shape to let the light shine through and add some detail so you could make more detailed puppets – e.g. an owl.
- 3) **Found Objects:** Experiment making shadows with interesting shaped items - try scissors, kitchen utensils, toys and even twigs and leaves. Try using coloured cellophane, even blown up balloons and bubbles and see what interesting effects you can make!

More shadow ideas and links at the back of the pack!

Make a Simple Owl Hand Puppet

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
1. 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.
 2. 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.
 3. 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.
 4. 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.
 5. Finally, use white paper and yellow paper to make eyes and a beak for your owl!





Puppet Making

Make an Owl Paper Bag 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, or you sometimes get them from sandwich shops)
- **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!
- 8) Now put your hand inside and use your fingers to wiggle the owl's face back and forwards!

Art & Design Activities



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
1. 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.
 2. Mix up some black / dark blue poster paint with some water so that it is quite runny and easy to spread.
 3. 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.
 4. Let your picture dry, and then you have your very own night-time sky picture.



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:

- 1) 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).
- 2) Ask the child to make a handprint with each hand in the top corners of the paper
- 3) 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).
- 4) 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.

Have a look at the last page in Wow! Said the Owl which lists all the colours used in the book – which ones can you mix easily and which are more difficult?

Rainbows



What are the colours of the rainbow?

Wow! Said the Owl features different colours on each page and after a rainstorm, 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.

There are also many songs and rhymes that people use to help them remember the colours of the rainbow.

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:

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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 etc.



Little Angel Theatre

Useful Resources and Links

About Little Angel Theatre

www.littleangeltheatre.com

More information about the history of the theatre and future puppet shows and workshops, including our school menu

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!

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/putting-on-a-puppet-show-pt-1-2/9654.html>

Two short films featuring Little Angel Theatre about the process of putting on one of our shows.

About Tim Hopgood

<http://www.timhopgood.com/blog/?offset=1381247100000>

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

<http://www.playingbythebook.net/2013/04/18/an-interview-with-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

Shadow Puppetry

Great examples for making animal shadows with your hands

<http://www.kellys.com/ashley/shadow.html>

<http://www.blifaloo.com/shadow-puppets/index.php>

About Shadow Puppetry

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zkqw2hv>

<http://www.hvanrossum.com/teaching.html>

Shadow puppetry for children; books

- Me and My Shadows-Shadow Puppet Fun for Kids of All Ages [Kindle Edition] by Elizabeth Adams & Dr. Bud Banis
- Making Shadow Puppets (Kids Can Do It) by Jill Bryant, Catherine Heard, Laura Watson (Illustrator)
- The Art of Hand Shadows by Albert Almoznino



Useful Resources and Links continued

Little Angel Theatre Visual stories for children on the autistic spectrum

Visit our '**access needs**' page on the website to find a general Little Angel Theatre visual story to prepare children for a visit to the theatre. This is also a useful resource for very young children who may not have visited a theatre before as it explains what happens when you visit a theatre and what you might see there.

Book a Puppet Making Workshop!

Want to make puppets with your class but don't have the confidence or time to plan, resource and deliver it yourself? We can come to your school and make puppets with your class. By the end of the day each child will have a finished puppet and we bring all the materials. All stories and themes considered! £350+VAT per class (in London). Contact education@littleangeltheatre.com for more information.

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!

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/putting-on-a-puppet-show-pt-1-2/9654.html>

Two short films featuring Little Angel Theatre about the process of putting on one of our shows.

www.facebook.com

Make friends with Little Angel Theatre to keep up to date with the latest news

<https://twitter.com/LittleATheatre>

Follow us on Twitter!

Little Angel Theatre Puppetry Scheme of Work

Including detailed lesson plans and templates for delivering puppetry in the primary classroom with links to literacy £7

Contact: education@littleangeltheatre.com