

How to make a silhouette puppet of Paul Robeson

What you need

In the envelope: 1 sheet of black cardstock, puppet pattern, split pins, barbecue skewers, sticky back velcro

At home: small pointed scissors; scotch tape or masking tape, (optional) cardboard box

To make the puppet

1. Cut out the body parts from your pattern with plenty of white space around them. Choose the head and loose jaw only if you want the puppets to sing or talk.
2. Stick the single body parts to the black paper with pieces of double folded Scotch tape and cut them out.
3. Fold the black paper double for the upper and lower arms and legs (marked 2x), which need to be cut twice. Cut out these parts.
4. Use the point of a sharp scissor to pierce the black dots where body parts connect.
5. Use the same scissors to cut out the eye.
6. Remove the white paper and tape from the pieces.
7. Connect the upper and lower arms to each other with a split pin. Do the same with the upper and lower legs, and the jaw and head.
8. Connect the legs to the bottom dot of the upper body.
9. Connect the head and arms to the top upper body in this order: front arm, upper body, head, back arm.

Holding rods

A holding rod is a barbecue skewer that you hold in one hand to keep the puppet upright. Attach a holding rod to the back of the puppet with a piece of tape.

Instead of holding it you can also stick the skewer in one of the small openings on the side of a cardboard box to play. This will allow you to use both hands to move the jaw, arms, and legs of the puppet.

Moving rods

Moving rods are used to make the puppet sing or talk, or move the arms or legs. If you use a cardboard box or make a cardboard support you can move two limbs at the same time.

Wrap a piece of soft velcro around one tip of the moving rods. Stick pieces of rough velcro or velcro dots to the lower arms or legs that you want to move, as well as to the jaw, if needed.

More info

For more information, free patterns, and tips how to use silhouette puppets for shadow puppetry, stop motion film, fridge magnets, or other display, visit www.pasttimeshistory.com .

