

# HOW TO MAKE A "CUPPET" PUPPET! AS IN 10 EASY STEPS







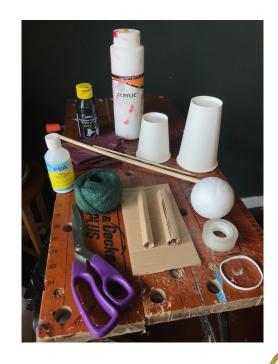
# **EQUIPMENT**

**To make** your basic puppet, you will need:

- 1 x Polystyrene Ball (or scrunched up ball of newspaper covered in masking tape).
- 2 x Wooden stick / skewer (or a long pencil)
- 1 x Paper Cup.
- Cardboard
- String
- Scissors
- Elastic Band
- Tape
- PVA Glue
- · Pen or Pencil

#### **To decorate** your puppet, you might also need:

- Paint
- Paper Mache
- Tissue Paper
- Fabrics
- PVA Glue or Fabric Glue
- Beads for eyes (or Googly Eyes)
- Wool or string for hair
- · And anything else you can find which could be an accessory!





# INSTRUCTIONS

## STEP 1 - Make the head and head rod

- -Carefully POKE your wooden stick / skewer into your polystyrene ball.
- -If you don't have a polystyrene ball at home then you can roll some old newspaper into a ball and completely cover it with making tape to create a clear and round surface.
- -Glue the stick into the ball plenty of PVA glue and put aside to dry.



### STEP 2 – Start to prepare the puppet's body

- -Turn your paper cup upside down.
- Mark with a pen a cross on the top-centre of the upturned cup (this is normally the bottom of the cup)
- -Draw a shape halfway down the side of the cup as shown in the picture (on the right).



#### STEP 3 - Make holes

- Carefully POKE a hole through the top of the body where you marked the cross.
- Carefully cut out the shape that you drew on step 2.
- If the head is glued onto the stick then you can test that the rod slides through the hole at the top and through the cut out shape at the side of the cup (as shown here in the picture)





#### STEP 4 - Secure the head rod.

Wrap an elastic band around the end of the head rod several times so it is tight and does not slide of the rod easily

 Now roll and push the elastic band all the way up the rod, as show in the picture below, so it rests just under the top of the body.

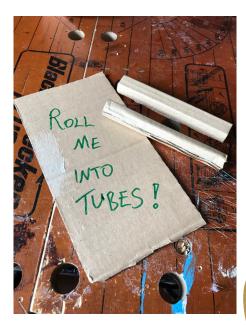
It should stop the head rod from slipping down.





#### STEP 5 – Make the Arms and Legs

- -On a sheet of cardboard, mark out 8 x rectangles.
- -You are using these 8 tubes to make 2 x upper arms, 2 x lower arms, 2 x upper legs / thighs, 2 x lower legs / calves.
- -Roll each of these into tubes, as shown in the picture.
- -Use any type of tape to secure the tubes.
- -You can decide how long you want each tube based on your character (e.g. will they need long or short legs or arms).
- -If you don't have cardboard, you can always roll up paper or card into tubes.
- -If you make the tubes too long, you can always trim them with scissors once they have been made.





#### STEP 6 - Hands and Feet

- Draw 2 x hands and 2 x feet onto cardboard.
- Carefully cut out the cardboard hands + feet
- Tip: using thinner cardboard works better and is easier to cut out. You could even use card instead.

Tip: drawing hands can be quite tricky, so if you manage to draw one hand you really like then you can trace around this one to make a second hard.



## STEP 7 - Creating full arms and legs

- -tape some string onto the wrist-end of the hands / ankle-end of the feet (See top left photo below).
- -On each hand string slide on 2 x arm tubes.
- -On each foot string slide on 2 x leg tubes.
- -So you should end up with 4 lines of string. With two full arms and full legs.

Tip: you want each strip of string to be long enough for the arm/leg tubes and with extra tie onto the main body of the puppet. If you use 30cm per strip of



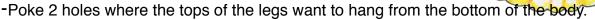




The Primary Shakespeare Company

### STEP 8 – Tie on the Arms and Legs to the body

-With a sharp pencil or pen, carefully poke 2 holes approximately where the shoulders would be on the top of the body (NOTE: You might want to ask an adult to help)



- -Once you have poked the arm and leg holes, carefully string the end of the leg / arm strings into the holes and tie 2-3 knots to keep the arms and legs in place.
- -TIP: Instead of poking holes you could always tape the arms and legs onto the body.







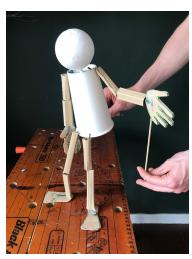
# STEP 9 – Create a rod for one of your puppet's arms

- Tape the end of a wooden rod / skewer onto one of the puppet's hands.
- Now you have a rod to animate the puppet's arm as well as the puppet's head.



Get creative! Use the suggested list of materials at the start of the guide to design and decorate your puppet's character.

Look at photos on Google for inspiration or use some ideas shown on the first page of this guide.



DON'T FORGET TO SEND US A PHOTO OF YOUR PUPPET OR EVEN A FILM FEATURING YOUR PUPPET!