

# Carousel Players

... THEATRE YOU NEVER OUTGROW ...

## GIANT PUPPET PARTY!!!

***\*\*\*These are just guidelines to use as a starting point, please feel free to do your own thing!!\*\*\****

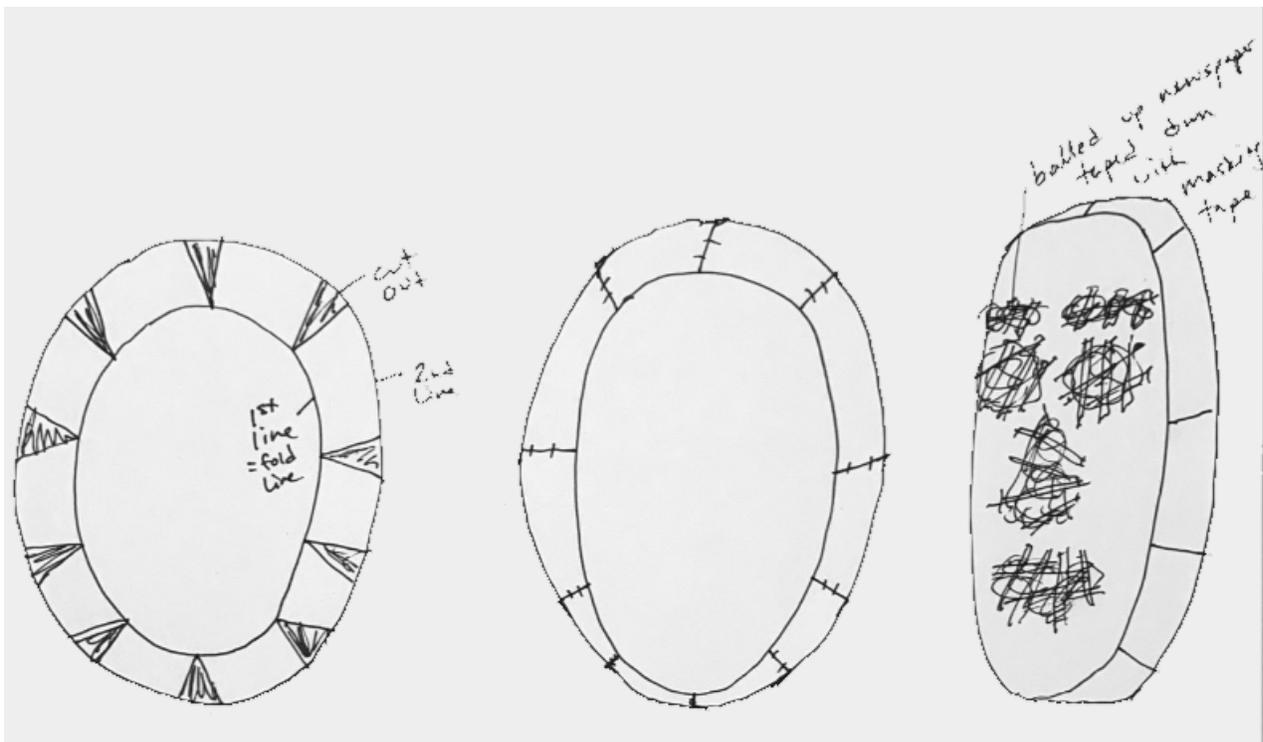
***Google “Giant Parade Puppet” and “Giant Pageant Puppet” for inspiration***

### **Materials for Giant Puppet:**

- Cardboard, 3 big pieces (3ft tall by 2ft wide) plus some smaller pieces
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Sand Paper
- Newspaper
- Masking tape
- White school glue
- Paint brushes (at least 1 used on glue, so might be damaged)
- Brown craft paper (called “Postal Wrapping Paper”) or newspaper for paper mache
- White acrylic paint, or Gesso Primer
- Acrylic paint of various colours, as needed for your design of puppet head and hands
- 3 long sticks, 6’-8.’ Can use either 2” by 8” plywood, broom stick-Hot glue gun and glue sticks
- Marker
- Large piece of fabric, 6ft wide by 5ft (check thrift stores for fabric, curtains, bedsheets. Can sew or staple them together to make large piece)
- Any decorations you’d like to add for details. Use Felt strips for hair, feathers for bird puppets, make large buttons from painted cardboard circles etc.

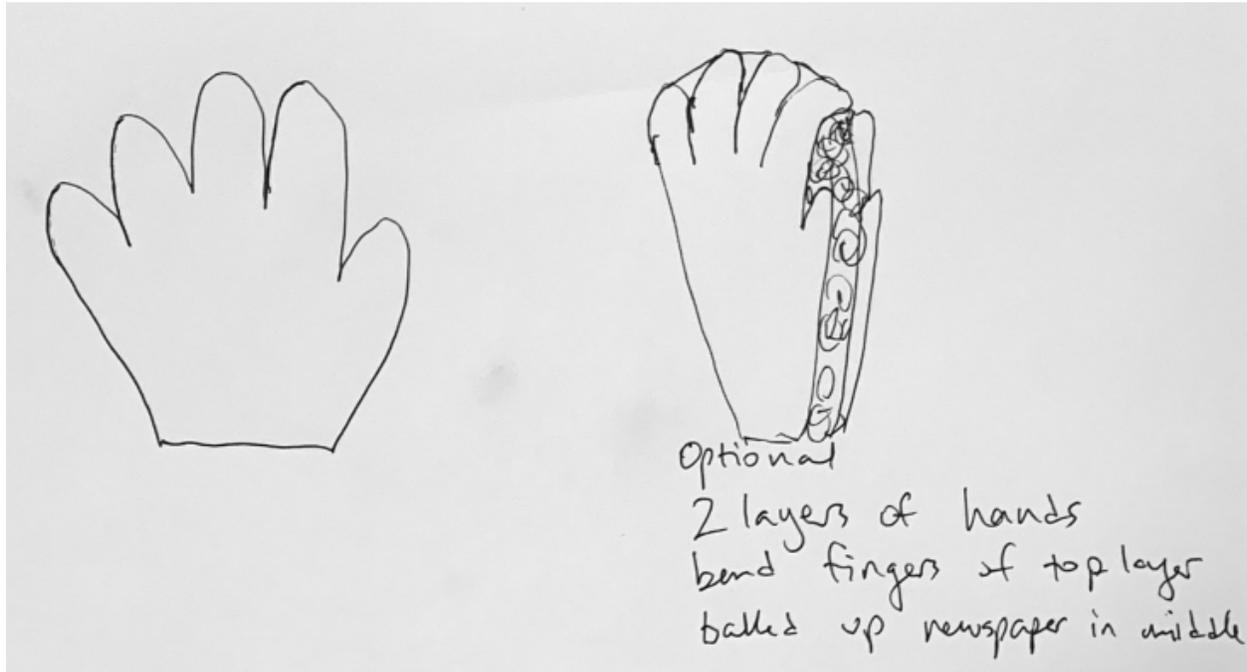
## Step 1-Head and Hands

- Draw oval on 1 of large pieces of cardboard to make face, approx 2ft tall by 1.5ft wide
- or shape of head based on your design
- Draw another line around 1st line of oval 3 inches away, cut oval out along 2nd line
- Draw some triangles around perimeter of oval from outside to just past first line to make darts
- Cut out dart triangles with scissors, bend cardboard along interior line (1st line) to overlap and staple in place, bending along first line to make face shape with 3" strip folded in
- Build up facial features with newspaper, taping in place with masking tape. Can use thin strips of cardboard to add detailing too for parts that need to be more solid



- Draw shape of hands on 2 remaining large cardboard pieces
- If you want to make them 3D, make 2 layers of hands, curve top layer to meet bottom and stuff balled up newspaper in middle

-Can also make 1 piece of flat hand and build up details with newspaper, as done in video



## Step 2-Paper Mache

-paper mache over cardboard and newspaper shaping

-use brown craft paper or newspaper. Wet large piece of brown paper with water, scrunch up to squeeze excess water out. This makes it more malleable and breaks down the fibres so they will blend together better

-tear off all straight edges of brown paper. Torn edges have small fibres exposed that will make your seaming smoother when overlapped

-pour some white glue into container and add some water. 2 parts glue to 1 part water. Stir to combine and paint glue mix onto part of piece of paper. Tear strips of glue painted paper and use to paper mache over all parts of head and hands, varying direction of pieces so that seams are less visible when dry

-when done paint on one layer of glue over whole surface

-leave to dry, preferably out in the sun

-if you have a lot of built up detailing, when dry, go in from back of head and cut out part of cardboard base, then pull out as much newspaper from behind paper mache as possible to make puppet head lighter. It's ok if some stays in there, but get out as much as you can

### Step 3-Painting

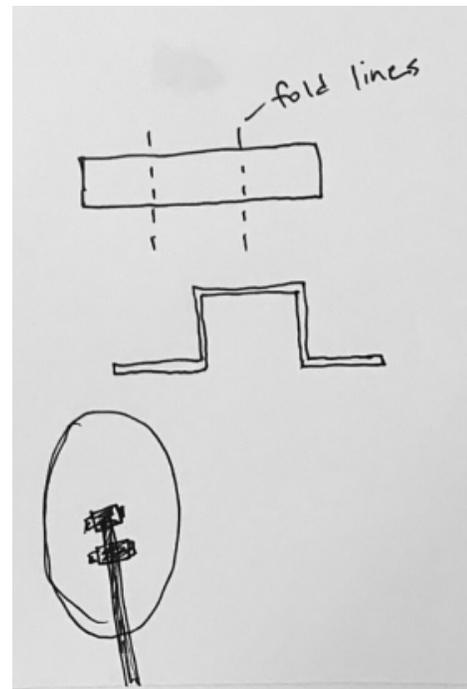
- do a base coat of white paint or gesso primer
- let dry, preferably in the sun
- paint on features. If doing a face, do a first layer of skin tone, then add darker tone around face details and lighter colour as accent on higher parts of face where sun would hit. Blend together parts where different shades meet with dry brush, adding back in base colour around accent colours and blending to create shading

### Step 5-Adding sticks to Head and Hands

-for head cut a box shaped hole in the folded under part of the head, at the chin for the 2" by 8" to go through, put 2" by 8" into puppet head, stopping when reaches the top of the head.

Glue on interior of hole and around exterior and at the top where the stick meets the top of the head

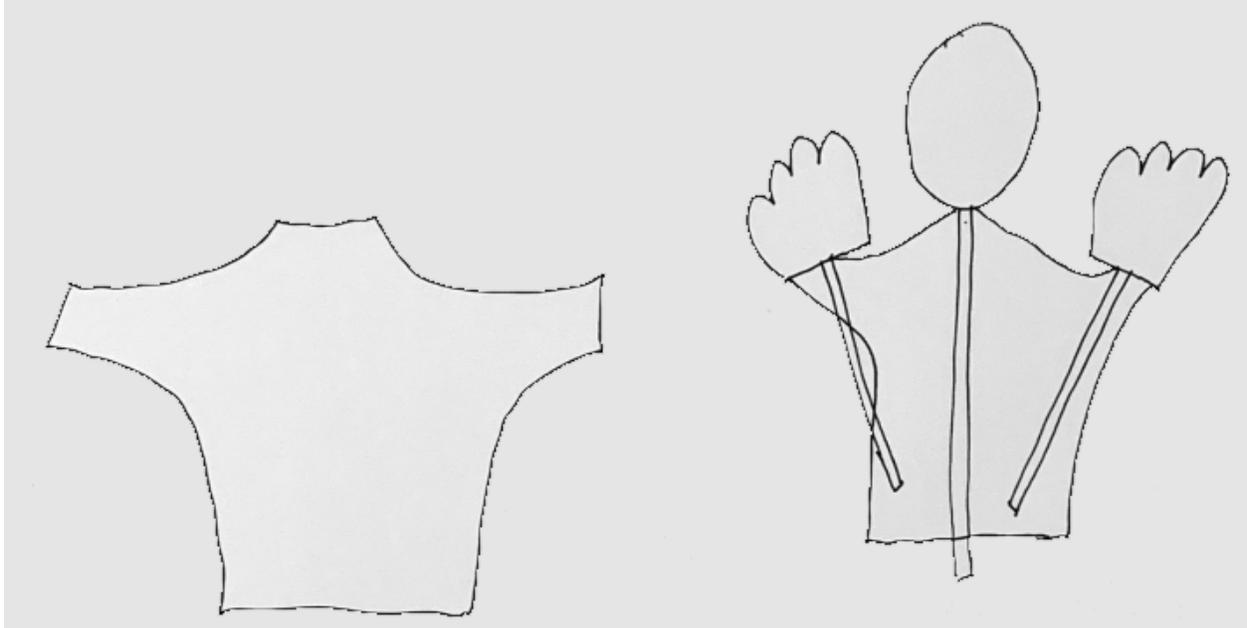
- Cut a strip of cardboard approx 2" wide by 6" long
- fold strip around head or hand stick to make a clamp
- hot glue to head and hands where want to join stick
- glue clamp heavily on bottom side and clamp around stick, holding down to set
- add 2-4 cardboard clamps for a secure hold



### Step 6-Fabricating costume

-lay fabric out on top of puppet head sticks and hand sticks with the fabric centered over the stick. Glue down from underneath chin of puppet head down 12" on stick and attach fabric to glue.

-attach fabric at sides to underside of puppet hand and about 3" down on stick, then cut fabric in a t-shirt like shape, down to the bottom



-3 people will operate the puppet. One standing in centre behind puppet, holding up head, two on either side operating hand stick.

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