



Puppetry is a form of theatre or performance that involves the manipulation of puppets.

Puppets are inanimate objects, often resembling some type of human or animal figure, that are manipulated by a human called a puppeteer. Performance is also known as a puppet production. The script is called a puppet play.

Puppetry developed independently in many parts of the world. Some specific puppets became international icons in the age of television, including Basil Brush, Hacker (CBBC), and Jim Henson's Muppets.

Puppetry is believed to have its roots in ancient cultures, more than 3000 years old. It is sometimes claimed that puppets were used in the theatre arts even before human actors were used. The plays of William Shakespeare were sometimes performed with puppets in place of actors. Britain has a tradition of Punch and Judy shows. The main different types of puppets are: Finger, Glove/hand, Shadow, Marionette, Rod, Body.



Technical Vocabulary

Inanimate: not alive or capable of independent movement.

Finger puppets: tiny puppets that fit onto a single finger.

Sock puppets: formed from a sock, operated by inserting one's hand inside, opening and closing the hand to simulate the movement of the puppet's "mouth".

Hand puppet or glove puppet is controlled by one hand which occupies the interior of the puppet and moves the puppet around.

Marionettes: suspended and controlled by a number of strings, plus sometimes a central rod attached to a control bar held from above by the puppeteer.

Rod: a stick or wire used to operate a puppet.

Rod puppets: made from a head attached to a central rod.

Theatre: a performance that involves acting and drama.

Sewing Vocabulary

Pattern: a paper shape placed over material as a guide for the cutting out.

Seam allowance: extra material that allows for a seam to be sewn away from the edge of the fabric - used if turning the material right way out after it is sewn.

Blanket Stitch: used on the edges of a material too thick to be hemmed.

Running Stitch: a simple needlework stitch consisting of a line of small even stitches which run back and forth through the cloth without overlapping.

Back Stitch: a method of sewing with overlapping stitches

