



# How to make... a Shadow Theatre

Suitable for ages 5-11

## You will need:

- A cardboard box, such as a shoe box or cereal box
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Tracing paper or greaseproof paper
- Anything to decorate (e.g. colouring pencils, felt tip pens, paint, coloured paper, tissue paper, old magazines).



If you enjoyed watching Joni-Rae Carrack's performance of Boo!, have a go at making your own shadow puppet theatre.

## Instructions:

### Step 1:

On the bottom of your box, draw a rectangle that is at least 1.5cm away from each edge. This border can be bigger if you have a bigger box, but don't go any thinner or your theatre won't be very strong.



### Step 2:

Very carefully cut out this rectangle.



### Step 3:

Measure the bottom of your shoebox.

You will need to cut a piece of greaseproof or tracing paper just slightly smaller than the bottom of your shoebox.

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## Step 4:

Glue or tape your tracing paper inside your box, so it's covering the window.



## Step 5:

There you have a shadow theatre - it's that easy!  
Now it's time for decorations.



## Suggestions for decorating your theatre:

- You could use the rectangular piece of cardboard you removed from your box to make a sign on the top naming your theatre. Think about what you'd like your theatre to be called.
- You could add some coloured paper or paint to the sides and border to add some colour.
- You could use colouring pencils or felt tip pens to draw on your own unique designs.
- If you have some tissue paper or even a piece of scrap fabric, you could try making curtains.

## Setting up your theatre:

Find a good place at home to set up your theatre. Some tips for this are:

- Try to find a space away from natural light, or where you can easily pull the curtains/blinds over the windows to create a darker space.
- Placing your theatre on a table top is a good idea so you can puppeteer more easily. Make sure you have a little bit of space to move around behind the table.
- If your theatre is near a plug you can plug in a lamp to create your shadows. If not, a torch or the torch light from a mobile phone work just as well.
- Make sure there is space in front of your theatre for your audience!

Once you are happy with your theatre you can move on to making your puppets.