



Playing with Imagination



Fun at home

*Activities
for children and parents*

performance
education
museum of masks and puppets
community

Visit the castle on North Salina Street
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Playing with Imagination

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Open Hand Theater presents creative workshops for schools and organizations all over Central New York.



January 2010

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the world of Imagination with Open Hand Theater. In our travels to schools around New York State, we perform for children of all ages and from all backgrounds. They may have different perspectives and understanding of the concepts presented in our plays, but all of them love the opportunity to experience the magic that happens when their school's classroom, cafeteria, gym or auditorium is transformed by Open Hand Theater masks and puppets, stages, music and stories.

Your child may have come home from a day at school excited about one of our performances or workshops, full of enthusiasm, questions or ideas. It's a great opportunity to do something creative together and learn a little more about what makes your child tick.

We have prepared some easy activities and projects that parents and children can do together, using everyday materials and simple concepts. Learning is a lifelong process. We hope you will have fun learning and imagining together.

Best of Luck,

Leslie Archer
Producer and Coordinator of Arts Programs
Open Hand Theater

Dear Educator:

As an educator for the past 25 years, I have come to appreciate the value, the absolute necessity of Arts Education that touches on all subject material. **Open Hand Theater** provides a rich collection of delightful performances and artistic concepts to enhance the learning environment.

Our school study guides are designed to give teachers classroom activities that prepare children for the theater experience and tie the performances to other things they are learning in school. This activity booklet relates to the home environment, and enriches learning further by making it relevant to their own lives.

Sincerely,

Barbara Curley
Arts in Education Consultant
Former teacher of English Literature
Cicero North Syracuse High School



Open Hand Theater's Education Objectives

- ❖ Bring the arts to schools and offer an effective medium for cultivating student appreciation of creative expression and artistic discipline.
- ❖ Promote the use of arts for discovery of human commonalities, as well as celebrating and respecting cultural differences.
- ❖ Create ideas and methods to promote the interdisciplinary use of the arts.

The open hands are an age-old symbol of welcome, willingness, and commitment as we work to make a better world.

Open Hand Theater is an ensemble of performing and teaching artists committed to involving children in creativity and the arts. It was formed in 1981 by a group of community artists and Artistic Director Geoffrey Navias.

The theater's mission is to connect the ancient art and ritual of mask and puppetry with contemporary life. We strive to explore the concerns of our technologically advanced culture through the wisdom of myth and bring to life the magical wonder of children's fantasy.

Open Hand Theater uses traditional and improvisational acting blended with puppetry, masks, original music and dance. The company creates unique original theater pieces that draw from historical and modern traditions, reinforcing the core values emphasized by the world's great storytellers.

Open Hand Theater presents collections of masks and puppets from around the world and offers classes in a variety of the performing, visual and folk arts. Call us to explore a performance, classroom workshop, or residency project with your school.

Open Hand Theater

is located at the Castle on North Salina Street in Syracuse, NY

The theater engages in four program areas:

- Performance
- Education
- Museum of Masks and Puppets
- Community

For more information visit our website at www.OpenHandTheater.org



Make a Newspaper Hat

1. Fold one sheet of newsprint from top to bottom, bringing ends together, creasing the folded end.
2. Fold the paper from side to side, creasing the folded end.
3. Unfold so you can see the middle crease.
4. With the first fold toward you, fold the top left and right tips into the middle crease, forming triangles with two diagonal ends.
5. Fold one side of bottom flap up over the two triangles.
6. Flip and fold the other side of bottom flags up. Open to show the inside of the hat. Tuck in the flaps and decorate.

Decorating Tips

Materials to have on hand: pencils, markers, scissors, paint brushes, stapler, glue, glue sticks, tape, construction paper, colored tissue wrapping paper, ribbon, yarn, rafia, yarn, colored pipe cleaners.

1. Make tissue paper flowers:

Cut out 6-12 squares or circles of one or more colors of tissue paper (the larger the flower the more pieces can be used). Stack them, then fan fold them together. Staple the middle, or wrap a pipe cleaner tightly around the center of the fold. Carefully spread each individual layer of tissue up toward the center until they are separated. Staple or poke the flower onto the brim of your hat.

2. Make construction paper curly-ques:

Wrap long strips of construction paper around a pencil or marker, then pull it off the end. Stretch out gently. You can also curl ribbon with scissors or coil a pipe cleaner. Staple one end to your hat.

3. Make antennae:

Glue or tape the ends of two long strips of construction paper together at right angles, forming an **L**. Fold each piece over the other, alternating sides and making small squares as you go. When you get to the ends, glue or tape and stretch out gently. Staple one end to your hat.

4. Make hair:

Wind yarn around a card that is about the length you want for your hair. Or, bunch up pieces of rafia. Tie the bunches together, removing the card from yarn. Glue or staple the rolls of yarn or bunches of rafia to the inside of your hat. Cut a long strip of construction paper and glue it over them around the brim of the hat. Trim the 'hair' to desired length.

5. Make your hat more colorful:

Cut out small squares or circles of colored tissue paper. Thin white glue with water and mix in a small plastic container. Place tissue paper pieces on the surface of your hat, an 'paint' them on with glue mixture. Overlap different colors to make patterns. Cover the entire hat and let dry. Then go ahead and decorate with other items.

Projects

for the
Imagination

A Paper Hat



Make Rhythm Instruments

Materials List:

1" dowels or plastic pvc pipes, 8-10 inches long	2x4 wood scraps, 3-5 inches long
Rough sandpaper, 8-10 inch square	Wood glue (elmer's)
	Markers or paint
Large metal nails, small copper piping, or old metal spoons	
Hot glue gun	Aluminum foil
Ribbon or twine	
Coffee cans or oatmeal boxes	Plastic packing tape
Glue stick	Colored construction paper

For Rhythm Sticks:

Decorate dowels or plastic pvc pipes with markers or paint. Different lengths will give you higher and lower tones. Tie them together with 12" of ribbon or string if you wish. Practice different rhythm combinations. Try them out with a song or recorded music.

For Sand Blocks:

Glue sandpaper to one side each of two wood blocks. Decorate other three sides. Play rhythms by either rubbing them together or hitting one with a rhythm stick.

For chimes:

Tie string or ribbon to the ends of metal piping, nails, spoons or a combination of all three. Secure tied ends with hot glue. String them along a dowel, pvc pipe or wood block. Decorate with aluminum foil and ribbon.

Play chimes by shaking from side to side, running your fingers, a nail, pipe or dowel across them. Experiment with different objects for different sounds.

For drums:

Cut the top and bottom pieces away from a coffee can or an oatmeal box.

Decorate them by gluing construction paper shapes on them.

Using plastic tape on a packing roll, stretch up one side, across the open top, and down the other side of the drum (covering your decorations).

Stretch another piece in the same way, forming a +.

Continue stretching tape across the drum until the openings are all covered. This works best if two people do it together. The larger the opening, the more tape you will need.

Stick more paper shapes onto the inside of the taped drum head.

Decorate more with ribbon and string.

Practice different rhythms with the tips of your fingers or the heel of your hand hitting the drums.

Now you have an entire rhythm band. If you've made hats, too, you can have a fantastic parade with all your family and friends!

Projects

for the
Imagination

Rhythm Sticks



Make a Paper Bag Puppet

The perfect size for small hands is a lunch bag! You will also need markers or colored construction paper, yarn or raffia, scissors and glue.

Lay the paper bag flat on the table with the fold *up*.

Draw or glue the top of the mouth onto the fold, and add the bottom lip beneath it.

Fill in between with black marker or construction paper.

Draw or glue on the puppet's eyes, eyebrow and nose.

Decorate the rest of the bag to make the body of the puppet, and glue yarn, raffia or cut paper to the top of the head for hair.

A paper bag puppet is used by placing the hand inside the bag and grasping the folded portion to form a working mouth.

Make Your Puppet a GIANT!

The perfect size for small people is a grocery bag! You will also need markers, large colored construction paper, scissors and glue, a stapler and a broomstick.

Lay the paper bag flat on the table with the fold *down*.

Draw a giant face on the bag, or cut eyes, nose and mouth out of construction paper and glue them on. Add eyebrows, mustache or beard, teeth, ears and hair with construction paper or yarn.

Open the bag all the way, then stuff it with newspapers.

For the body: Cut strips of construction paper or use streamers. Insert the ends around the inside of the opening of the bag and glue them.

Pinch the side edges of the opening of the bag together and staple them closed, leaving a hole in the middle for your pole.

This will make a great animal puppet, like a snake or an octopus. Or you can add more:

For arms: Cut two pieces of construction paper in half lengthwise and staple them end to end. Add paper hands, like mittens. Staple the arms to these side tabs. You can also add feet to the bottom of two other streamers if you want.

Look on the next page for drawings of paper bag puppets.

Projects

for the
Imagination

Puppets



Story Scrambles

One of our favorite stories to act out with puppets is “*Caps for Sale*” by Siberian born children’s author Esphyr Slobodkina. We use an adapted version of this story in a workshop to practice vowel sounds with pre-school and kindergarten students.

Here are some sentences from the story that are *scrambled*. See if you and your child can figure them out! Then unscramble the sentences to tell the story.

Caps for Sale! Caps for Sale!

Once lived a village who made beautiful there in a man and sold little Caps.

He got The monkeys mad and and jumped jumped up up and down. down.

So, he set on top and down piled all the caps of the road off his head.

“Thank The man and his caps gathered on his way. continued you!”

Outside in a big group of maple of tree, lived a town, big monkeys.

Then the one on his ground. grabbed it and he threw to the cap head

Every man off the new morning his shop opened to show his caps.

When were empty. his head felt Where the man woke up his caps?

He then all looked over the tree and up the ground in .

They scampered a cap each up snatched and the tree away.

down against The man fell the tree fast and asleep lay.

The monkeys. his monkeys the finger pointed at back. He pointed

The caps on their monkeys threw all to the heads and grabbed them the ground.

One day to buy came to the no one fine shop his caps.

down The tree from the monkeys climbed .

“back my Give me caps!” caps! me back my Give

Games

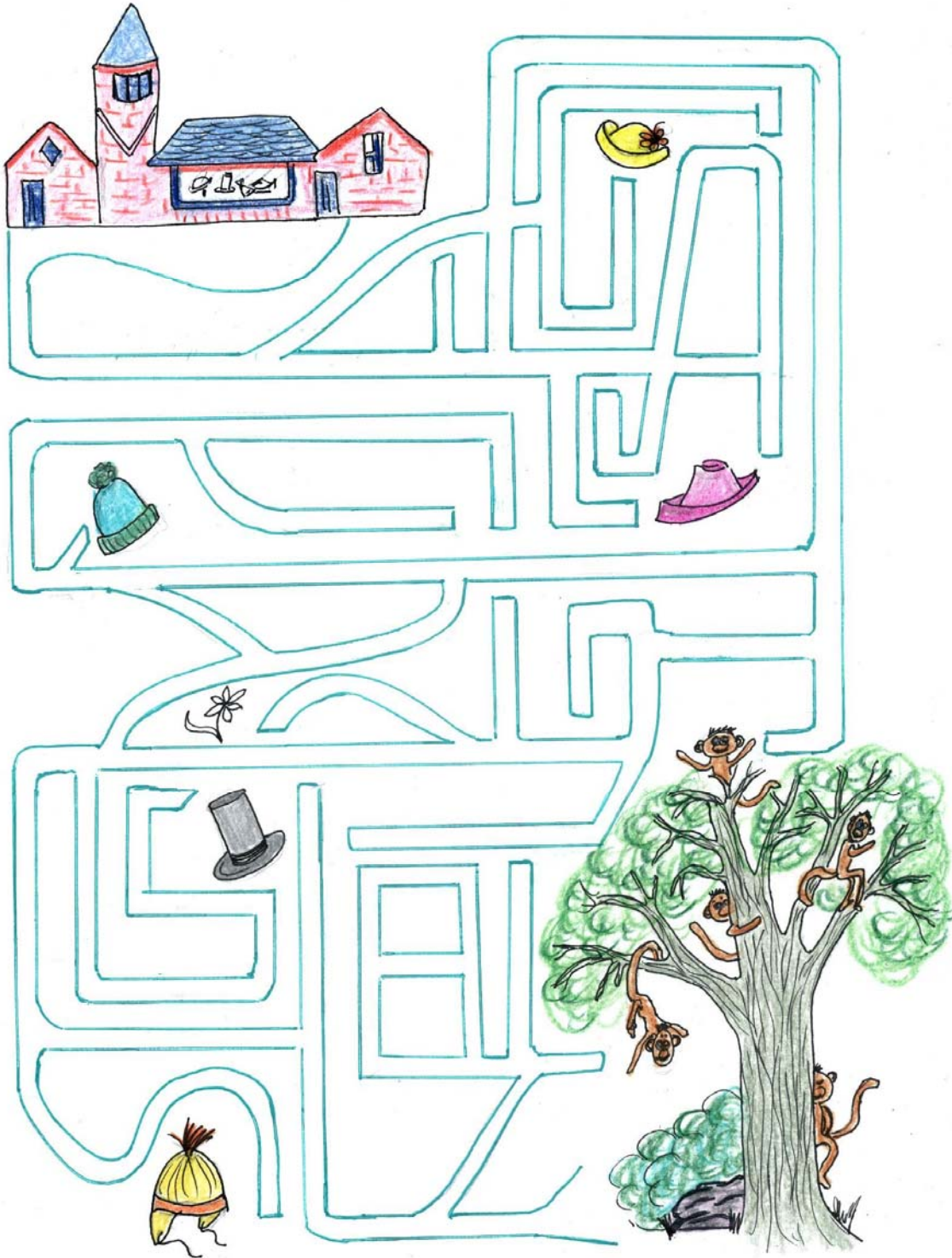
for the
Imagination

Story
Scrambles



Scene Mazes

Here is a picture maze from the story “Caps for Sale” by Esphyr Slobodkina. Print out the picture and see if you can find a way through the maze for the man to travel from town to the big maple tree and back again.



Games
for the
Imagination

Scene Mazes



Telling Stories: *Caps for Sale*

Based on a folktale, the story follows the life of a mustachioed cap salesman who wears his entire stock of caps on his head — seventeen in all, as depicted on the title page (including his own cap). He strolls through towns and villages chanting, "Caps! Caps for sale! Fifty cents a cap!" One day, the peddler sits down under a tree to take a nap, with all his wares still on his head. When he awakens, all the caps but his own are gone - stolen by a troop of monkeys, who now sit in the tree wearing them. The peddler orders them to return his caps, scolds them, and yells at them, while the monkeys only imitate him. The peddler finally throws down his own cap in disgust - upon which the monkeys throw theirs down as well, right at his feet. He stacks the caps back on his head and strolls back to town, calling, "Caps! Caps for sale! Fifty cents a cap!"

Things to do

1. Tell the story and act it out together. Children love playing monkeys and are usually very good at it!
2. See how many hats you can pile on your head. Have a race, and see who can get the farthest with all of their hats.
3. Think of other endings to the story. What if the monkeys ran away and the man had to search for them? What if the man liked playing with the monkeys and invited them to come home with him?
4. Try and make up a story about a man selling other things. For example, what could happen if the man were selling shoes? ...or books?
5. Go to the library and look up other stories by Esphyr Slovinika. These include *The Wonderful Feast* (written in 1928, first published in 1955), *The Clock* (1956), *The Long Island Ducklings* (1961), *Pezzo the Peddler and the Circus Elephant* (1967), reissued as *Circus Caps for Sale* (2002)

About the author

Esphyr Slobodkina (September 22, 1908 - July 21, 2002) was a popular artist, author, and illustrator, best known for her classic 1940 children's book *Caps for Sale*. Esphyr Slobodkina (ess-FEER sloh-BOD-kee-nah) was born in Chelyabinsk, Siberia. During the Russian Revolution of 1917, she emigrated with her family to Harbin, Manchuria (China), where she studied art and architecture. She immigrated to the United States in 1929 and enrolled at the National Academy of Design. In 1937 Esphyr met the children's author Margaret Wise Brown. In an effort to find work as an illustrator, she wrote and illustrated a story with collage called *Mary And The Poodies* to present to Brown. This began a new career for her, illustrating many children's stories for Ms. Brown (including *Sleepy ABCs* and the *Big and Little* series) while still continuing her work as an abstract artist. In the late 1930s, Esphyr began to write and illustrate her own children's books. Among her 24 published works *Caps for Sale* (1940) is considered a children's book classic; it has sold more than two million copies and has been translated into more than a dozen languages.

Games

for the
Imagination

Stories



Singing Songs

1. Sing some Songs that repeat and repeat and drive you crazy. Like:
John Jacob Jingle Heimer Schmidt
His name is my name, too
whenever we go out
The people always shout,
There goes John Jacob Jingle Heimer Schmidt
TA DA DA DA DA DA DA

Repeat the verse quieter and quieter each time, ending with a loud: TA DA DA DA DA DA DA DA
Until that's all you can hear!

The bear went over the Mountain (3 times)
To see what he could see
And all that he could see (2 times) was...
The other side of the mountain (3 times)
Was all that he could see

Make up many more verses about what the bear can see!

2. Put family names into songs you already know. Like:
Roll the old Chariot along (3 times)
And all hang on behind!
If _____ is in the way we'll
roll right over her (3 times)
If _____ is in the way we'll
roll right over her
And all hang on behind, SO...

Repeat for all the people you know

3. Make up your own silly words to a tune you know. Like:

Shiver, shiver little boat
How I wonder how you float
Over streams and lakes and sea
If we sink where will I be?
Shiver, shiver little boat
Maybe I should ride a goat.

Repeat for all your favorite things.

These are great for long (or short) car trips. Families that sing together have more fun together. At the very least they can drive *other* families or parts of their own family crazy. And just think of the memories your children can share with their own families when they grow up!

Games

for the
Imagination

Songs



Evaluation Arts in Education with Open Hand Theater

Open Hand Theater hopes you had fun with these activities. Please take a moment to answer the questions on this form and mail, email or fax your comments to us.

Date: _____

Name _____ Grade(s) _____

School _____ Subject _____

What did your child have to say about the Open Hand Theater presentation they saw at school?

What Activities in this booklet did you enjoy?

What would make the directions more useful or easier to follow?

What other Activities would you like us to present?

Leslie Archer
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Please feel free to add comments on back. Thank you for your time and suggestions.

Evaluation

