

**The Puppeteers Cooperative  
Presents:**

# **68 WAYS TO MAKE REALLY BIG PUPPETS**



**And a Patternbook of  
Parades and Pageants**

**Name and Fame by Bread and Puppet Press**

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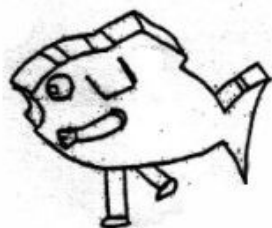


# Simple Puppets



## Purely Cardboard

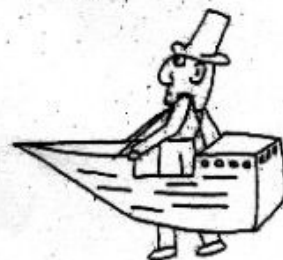
Fish



Car



Boat



Cut one side of the puppet, trace and cut the other, and then connect them

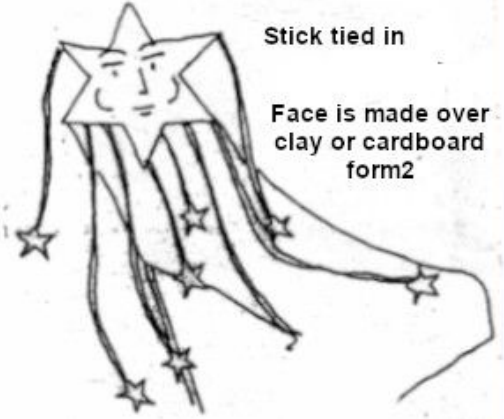
# Some Very Simple Puppets

## Face Banner



Layers of cheesecloth are draped over a clay face covered with plastic, then the part of the cloth over the face is covered with glue, and the rest of the cloth is allowed to trail. The faces are light and translucent

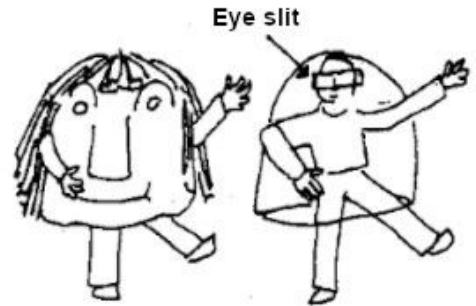
## Star Banner



Stick tied in

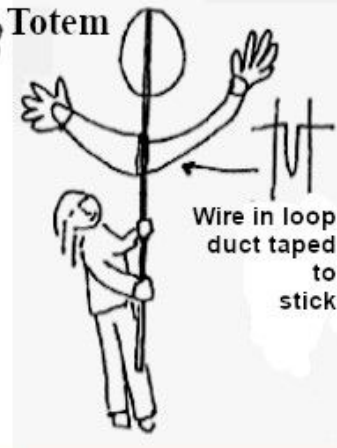
Face is made over clay or cardboard form<sup>2</sup>

## Fathead

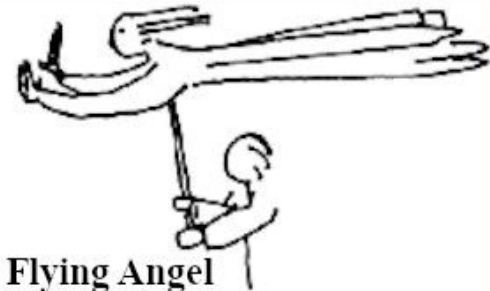


Eye slit

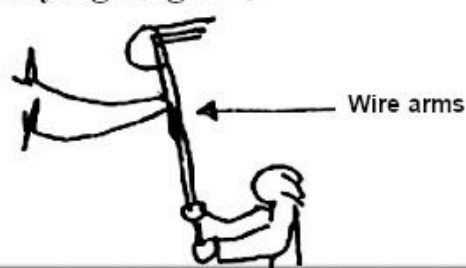
## Totem



Wire in loop duct taped to stick



## Flying Angel



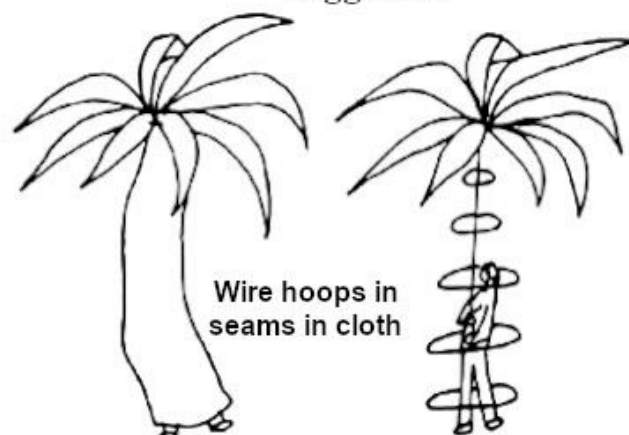
Wire arms

## Pole Dragon

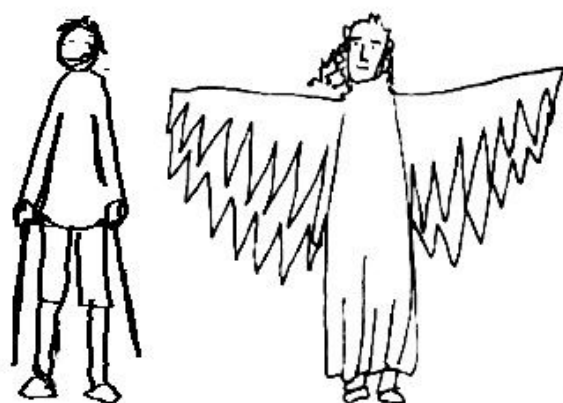


# Slightly Less Simple Puppets

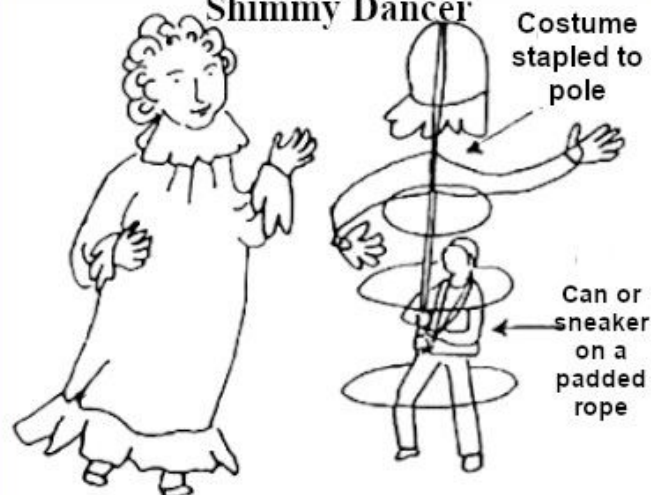
## Wiggletree



## Simple Angel



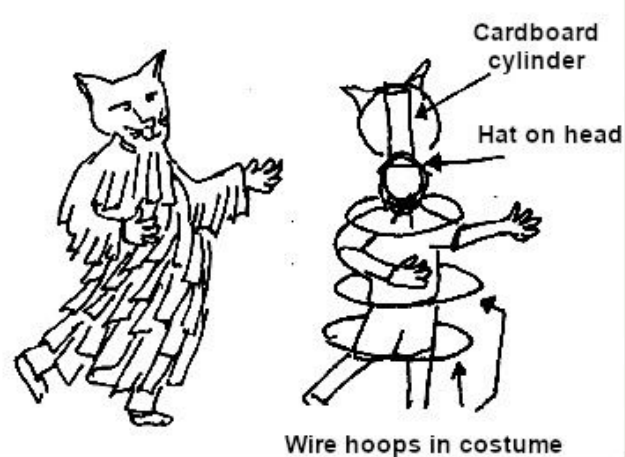
## Shimmy Dancer



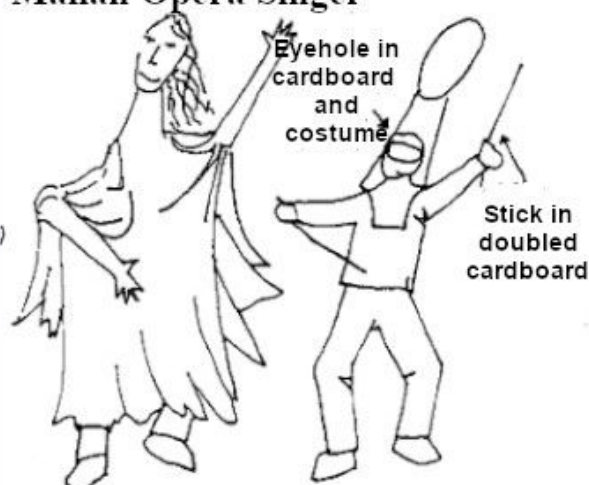
## Jo's Penguin



## Hat Cat



## Malian Opera Singer





# Animal Puppets



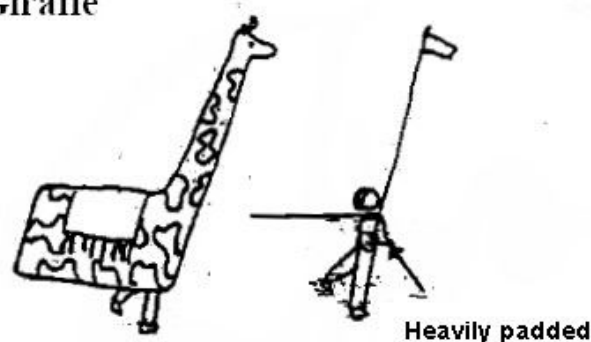
photo Amy Lippin

# Animal Puppets

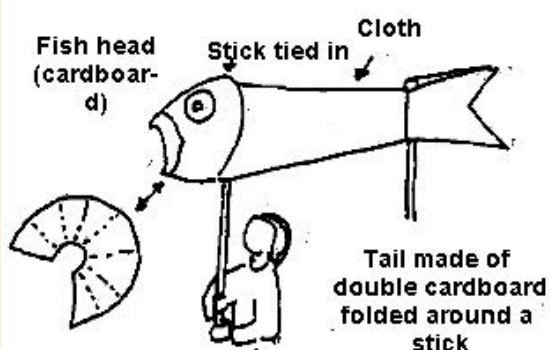
Wire Demon (good for stilts)



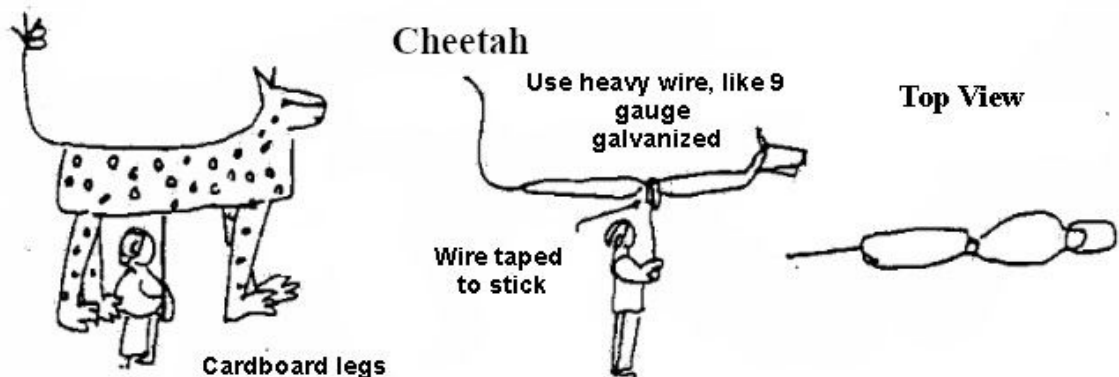
Giraffe



Two Person Fish



Cheetah

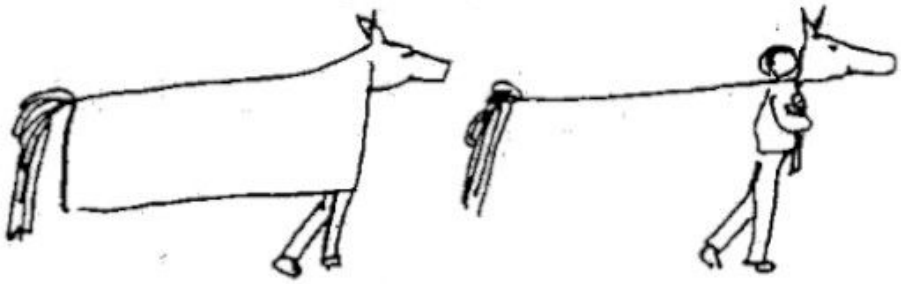


Riding Tiger, Riding Horse

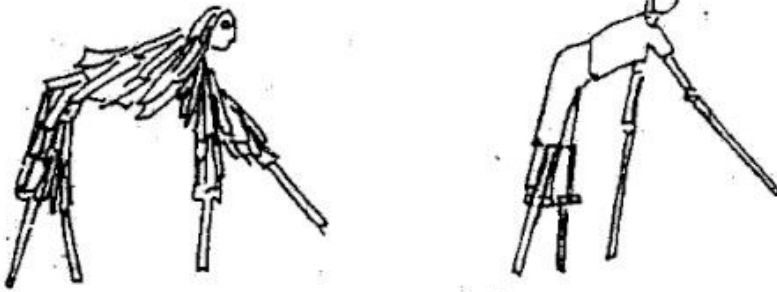


# And Animal Puppets

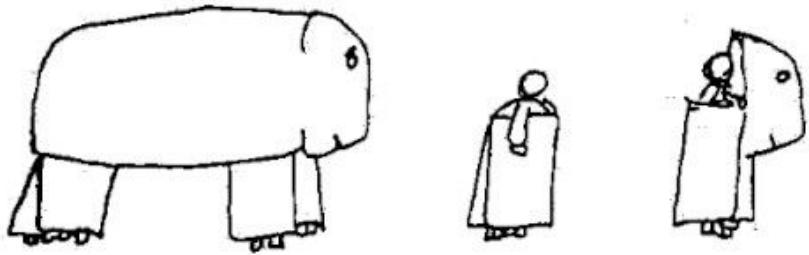
## One Person Horse



## Circus Stilt Ape



## Four Person Beast



## Frog



## Totem Dog

See Totems



## Backpack Cat

See Backpacks



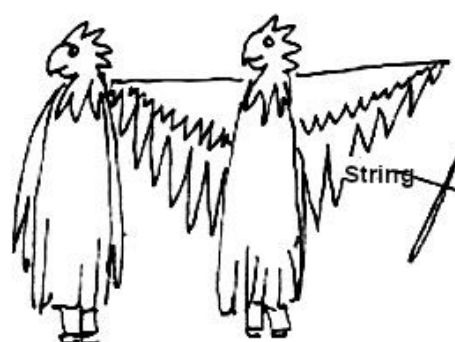


# Bird Puppets

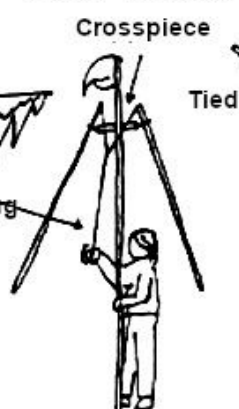


# Some Birds

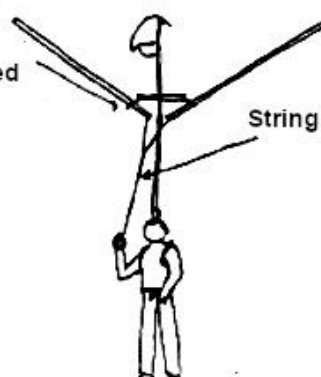
## Flapping-wing Bird



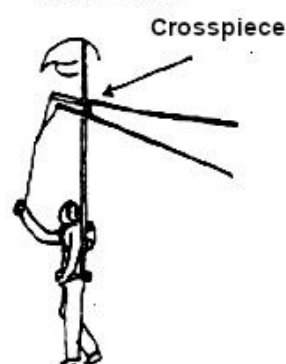
## Stick Version



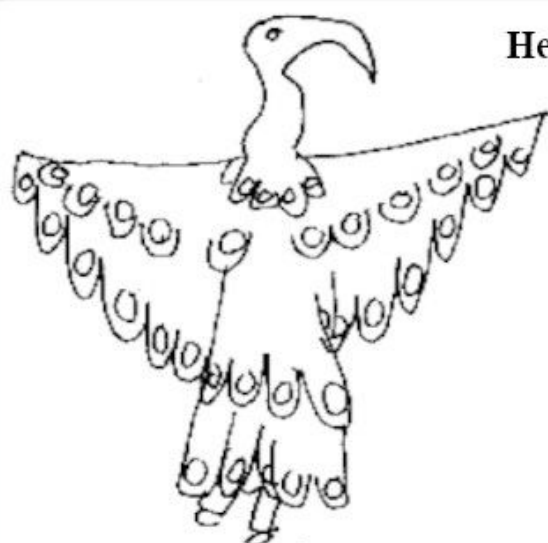
## Backpack Version



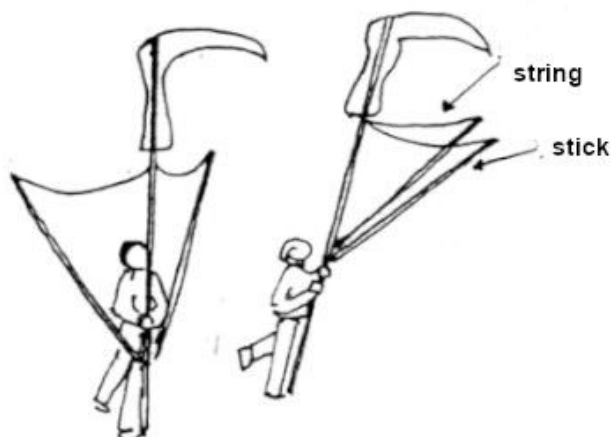
## Side View



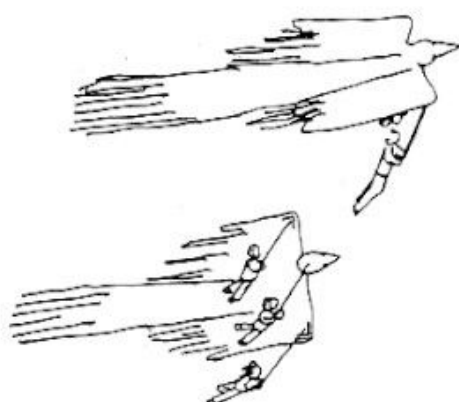
## Heron



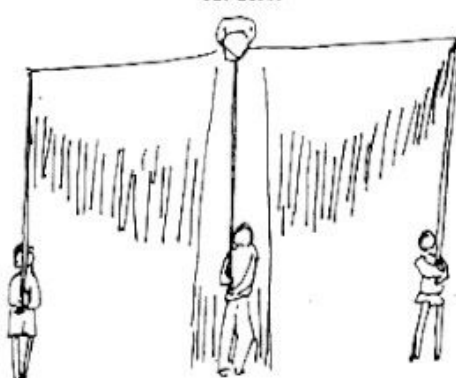
## Stick Version



## Bread and Puppet Flying Bire



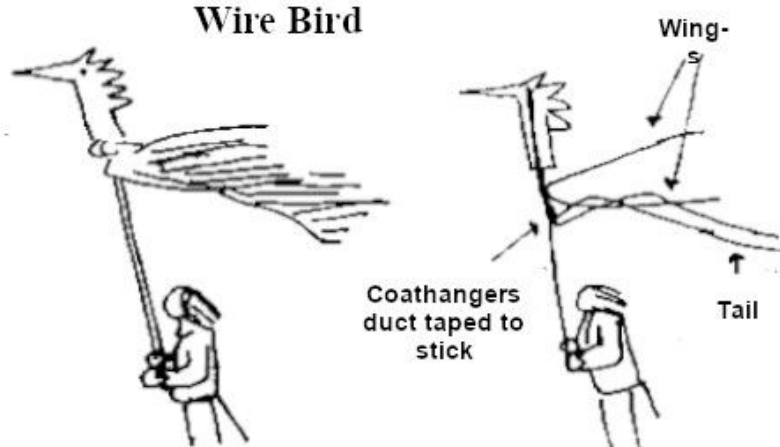
## At Rest



The three puppeteers must run constantly to make the flying bird fly. It needs to be made of very light cloth in order to fly right. It is improved by having plenty of fringe. Remember that people will see both the top and bottom of the costume

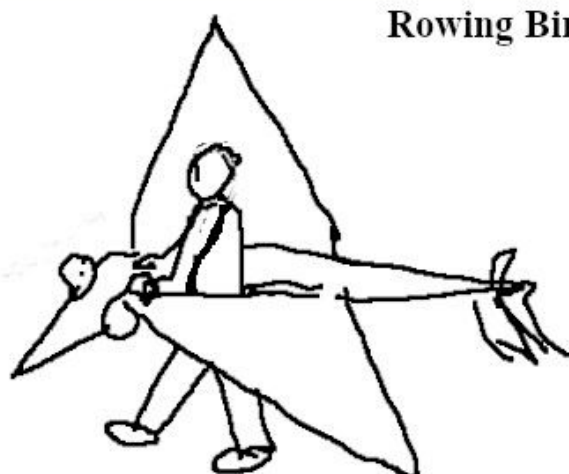
# Some More Birds

## Wire Bird

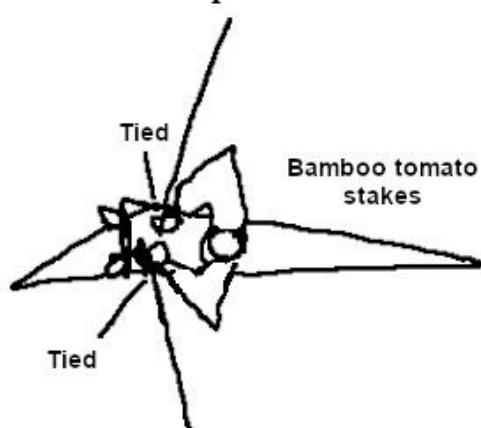


When the stick is moved, the wings bounce and flap. It is important to use only plastic bags (white, black, blue, etc.) or very thin cloth, or the wings will droop instead of flapping.

## Rowing Bird



## Top View

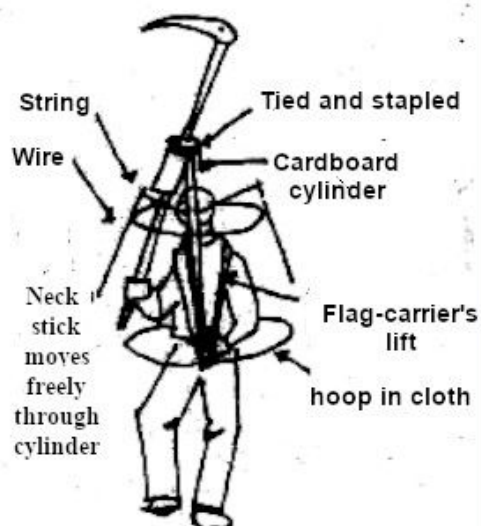


## Amusing Bird

### Neck Down



### Neck Up





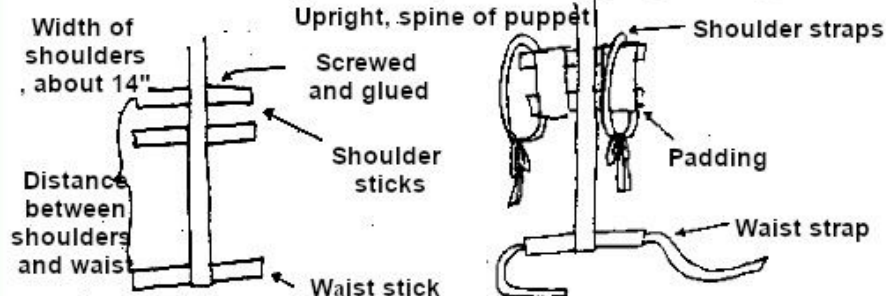
# Backpack Puppets



Photo: Roberto Rossi

# Backpacks and Puppets

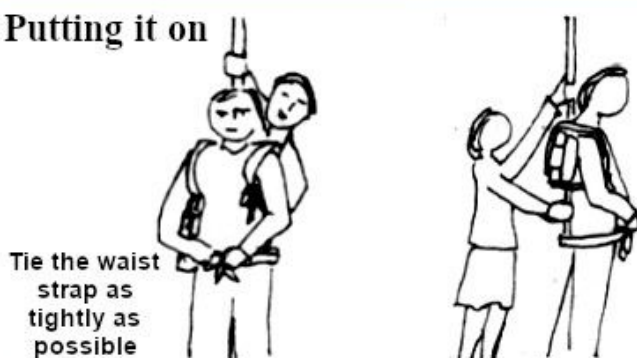
## Homemade Backpacks



Or you can buy a used backpack frame and attach it to a stick

Because the upright lies against the spine of the puppeteer, the backpack puppet follows the movement of the puppeteers but magnify them. This natural-looking movement makes them very good for dancing and interacting with people. They can shake hands, bend all the way over, and hug people.

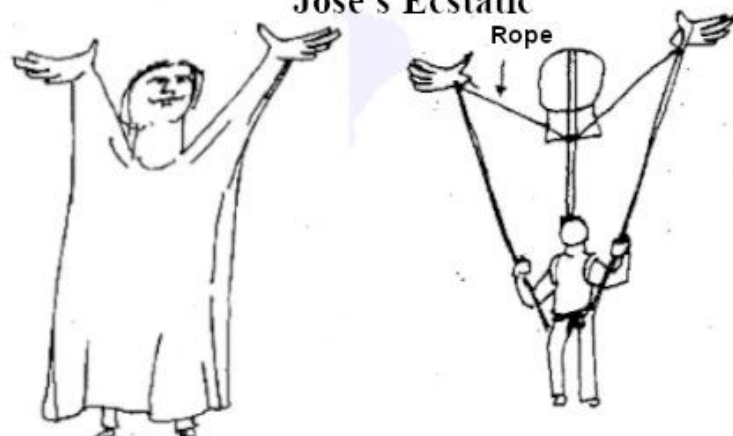
## Putting it on



## Jo's Ladies



## Jose's Ecstatic

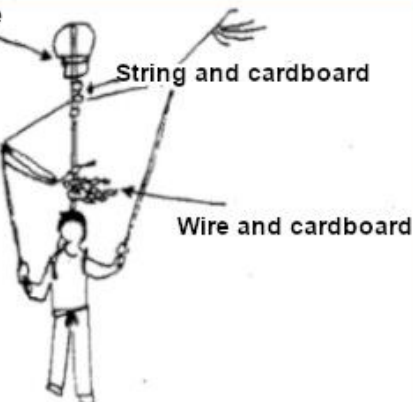


# More Backpacks

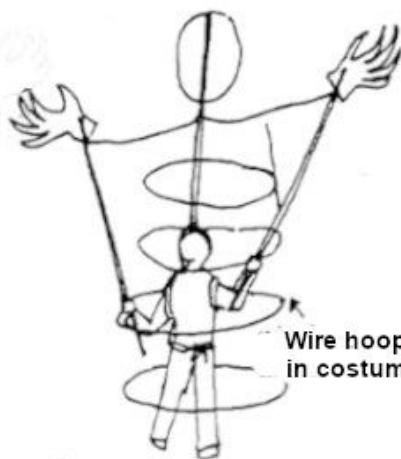
## Skeleton



## Elastic hinge

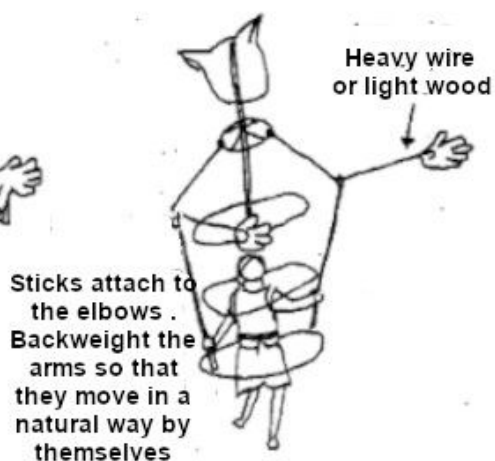
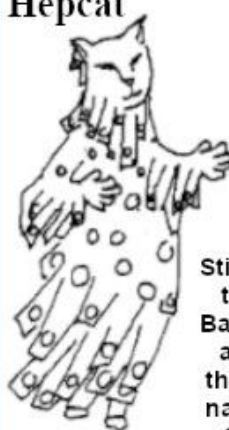


## Demonoid



There are various ways of giving puppets shape and concealing the person inside. Puppets shaped by arms and shoulders tend to move more energetically, and puppets shaped by hoops tend to look more funny and frivolous.

## Hepcat



Safety-pin the neck cloth to the costume to keep the chin from falling forward when the puppet bends over.



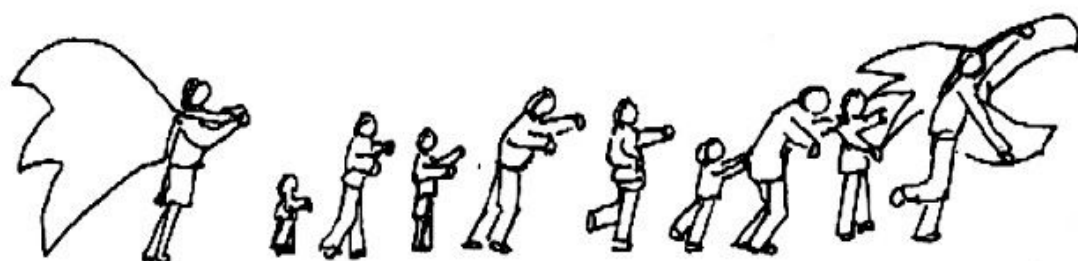
# Dragons!



## Costumes

Most of the dragon costumes are a simple long strip of cloth with fringe and decorations to conceal the shape of humans and hoops

### Simple Ground Dragon

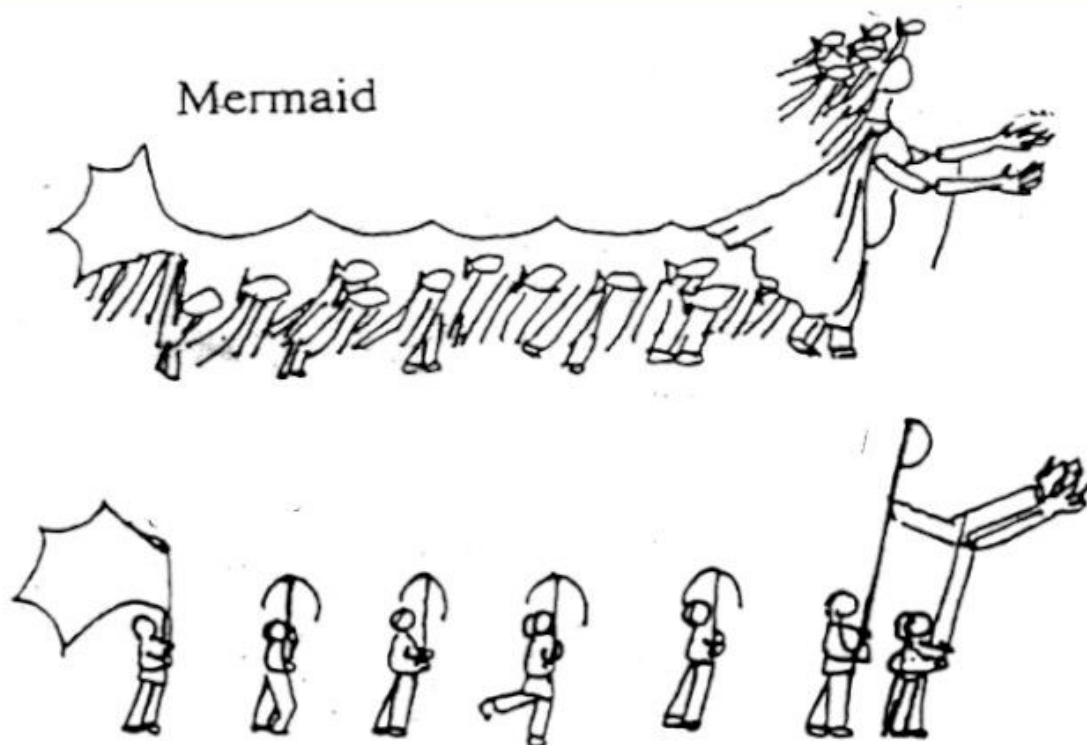


### Half Hoop Dragon

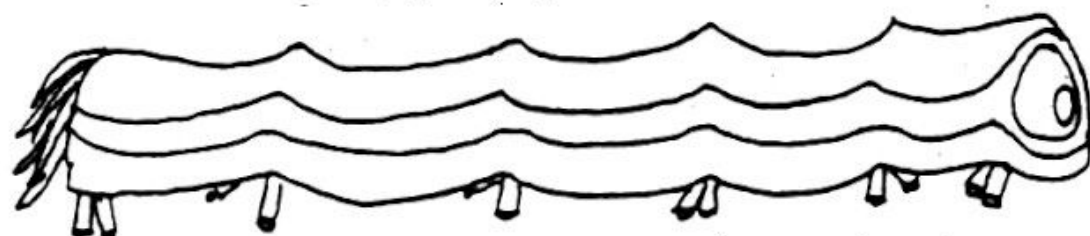


# Some More Dragons

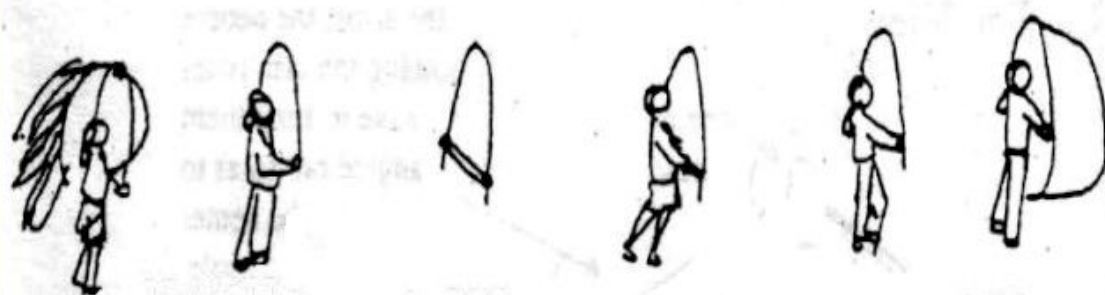
Mermaid



Half Hoop Caterpillar



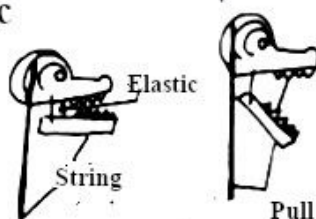
Heavy wire or irrigation tubing in seams in the cloth



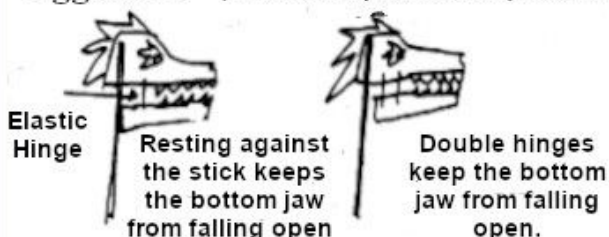


# Dragon Heads, Tails, etc.

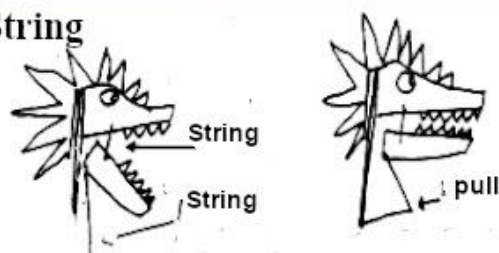
## Elastic



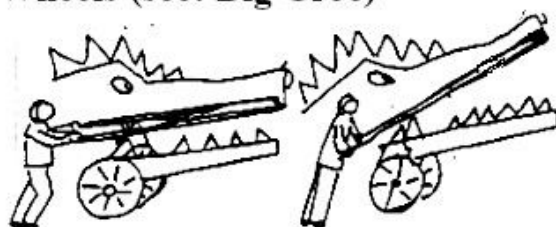
## Jiggle Jaw (Jaws chomp when stick is shaken)



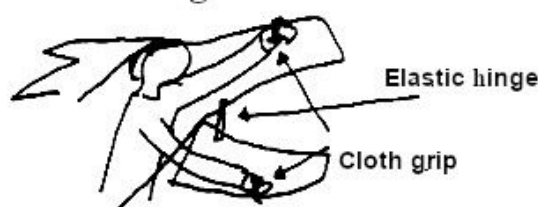
## String



## Wheels (see: Big Croc)



## Ground Dragon Jaw



## Tails: Wire



## Cardboard



Cardboard doubled around stick and papier-maché

## Stick



Stick with cloth strips

## Riding Dragon

(see: Animals)



## Totem Dragon

(see: Totems)



## Backpack Dragon

(see: Backpacks)



## Pole Dragon

(see Simple Puppets)



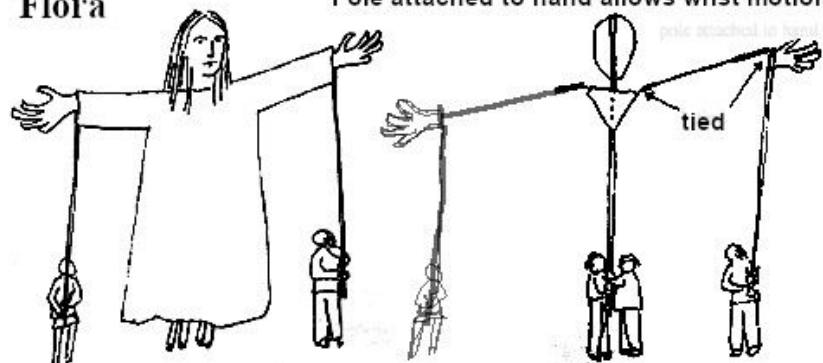
# Giant Puppets



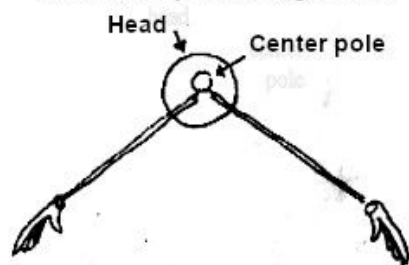
Photo: Dassia Posner

# Some Giant Puppets

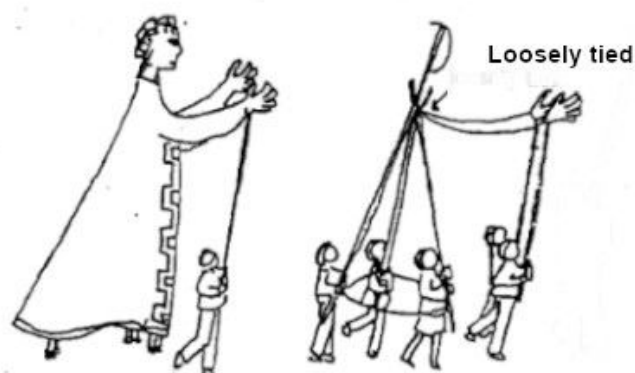
## Flora



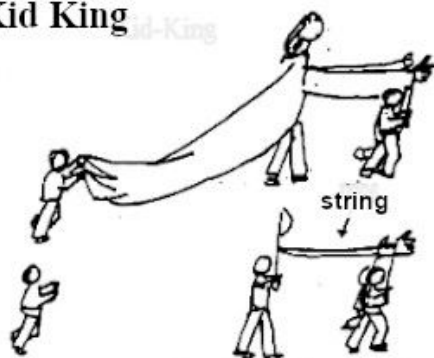
These puppets are easy to make, but the balance depends on the arms; the people holding them have to keep them angled out.



## Dorchester African King

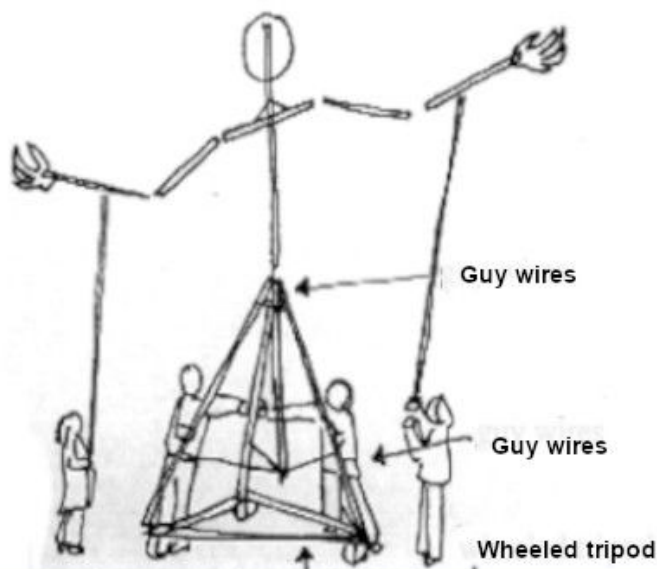


## Kid King



age 1 - can get a back seat or holding a pole. You can get a pole or a back seat of a car.

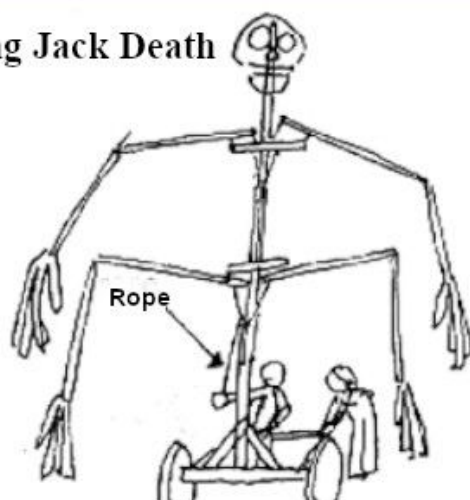
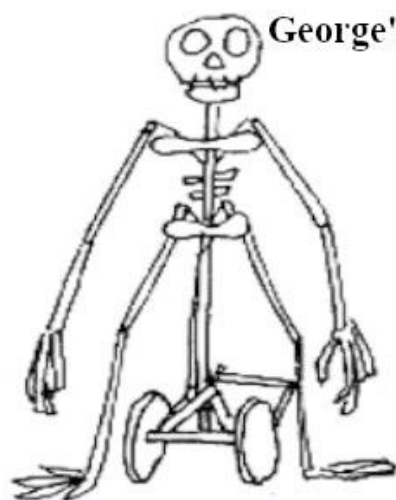
## Samba Dancer





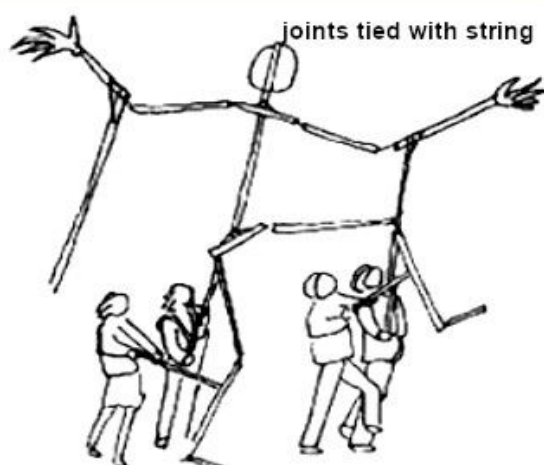
# More Giant Puppets

## George's Jumping Jack Death



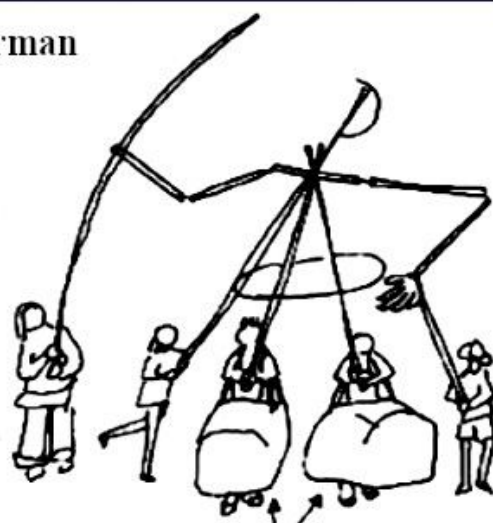
Heavy farm equipment wheels

## Preying Mantis



joints tied with string

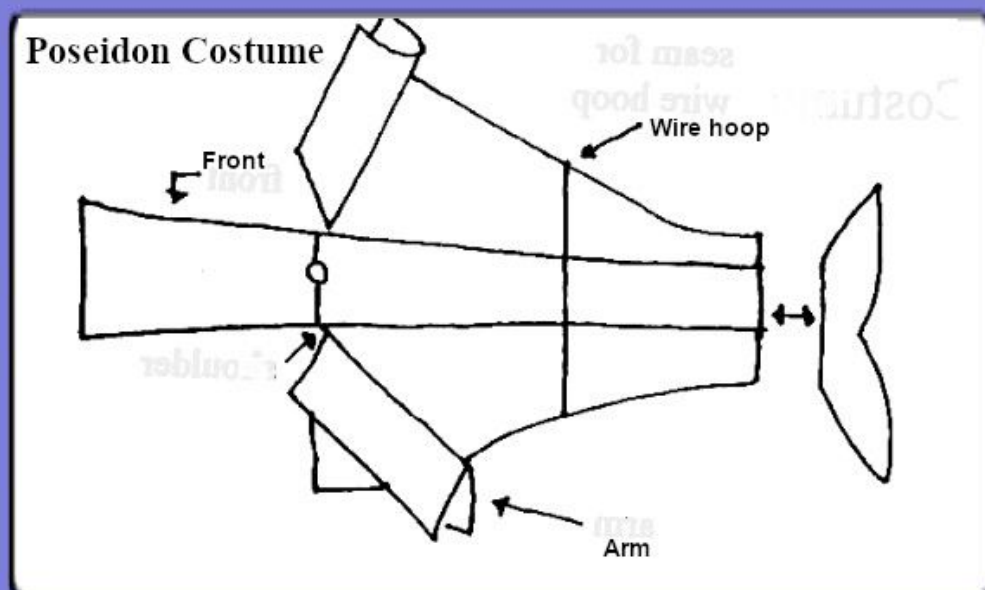
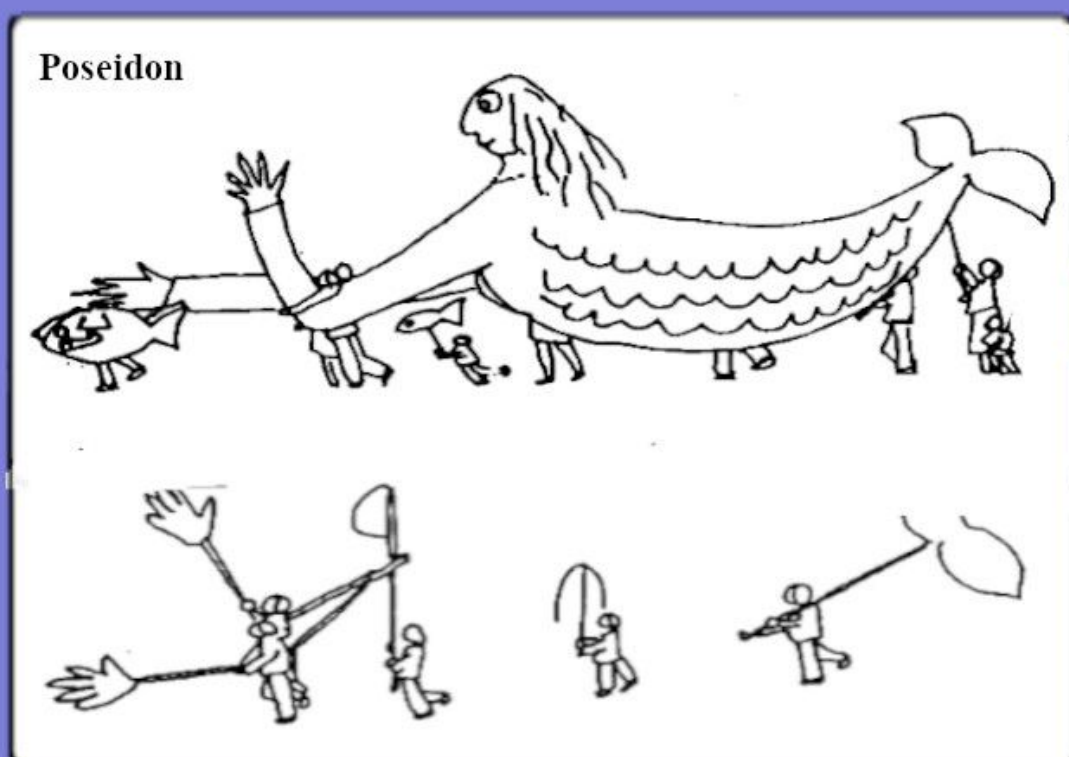
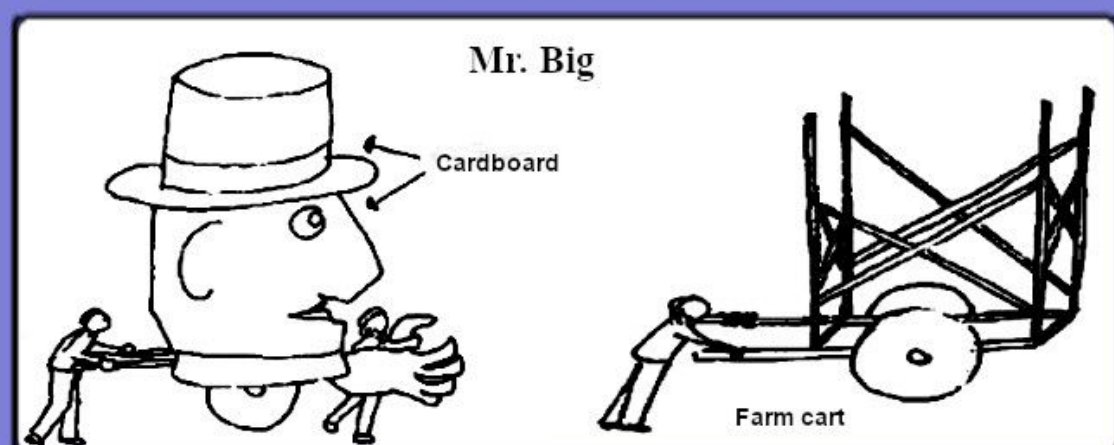
## RISD Fisherman



Shoes hang from operators' shoulders

**Balance:** To make a puppet taller than 12 - 15 feet tall, you need more leverage than you can get from a backpack or by holding a pole. You can handle this either by weighting the bottom of the puppet (for instance, by putting them on a cart, or by raising the point of balance to the center of the puppet with a tripod.

# Yet More Giant Puppets



# Hoop and Cloth puppets



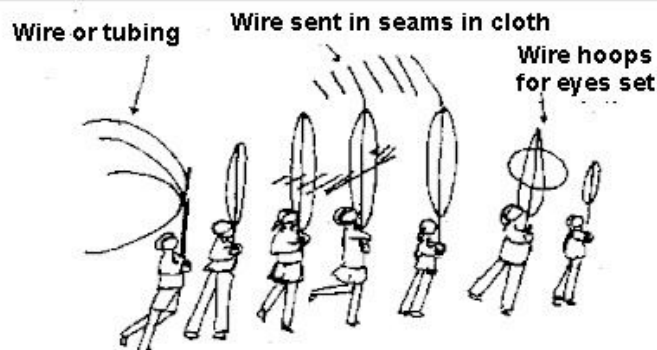
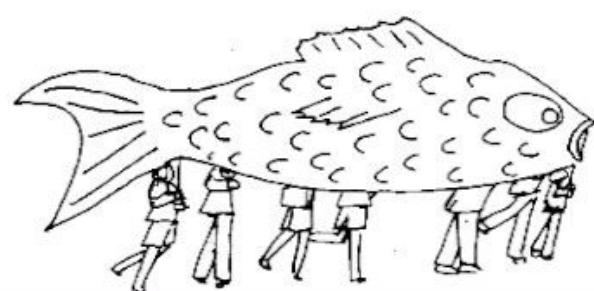
oston Globe photo:



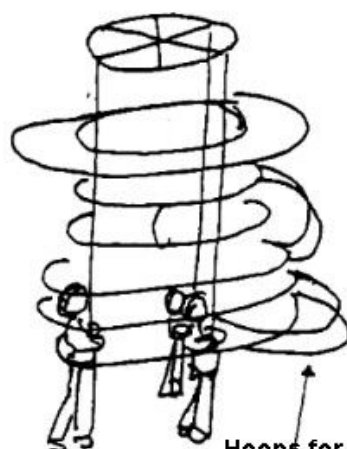
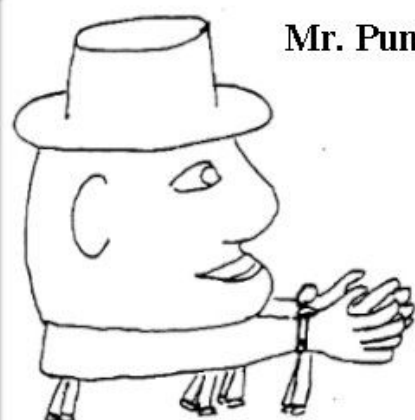
# Hoop and Cloth Puppets

These puppets are made like hoopskirts, with heavy wire (9 or 12 gauge) or plastic irrigation tubing running through seams in the cloth. They can be large because they are very light. They can be stored flat with the hoops collapsed, or folded with the hoops removed. Make the hoop structure first, then measure and sew the cloth, remembering to leave room for the hoop seams.

## Big Fish



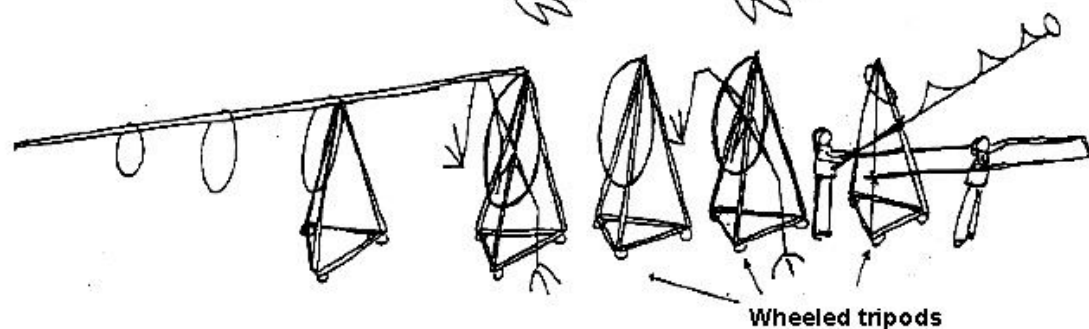
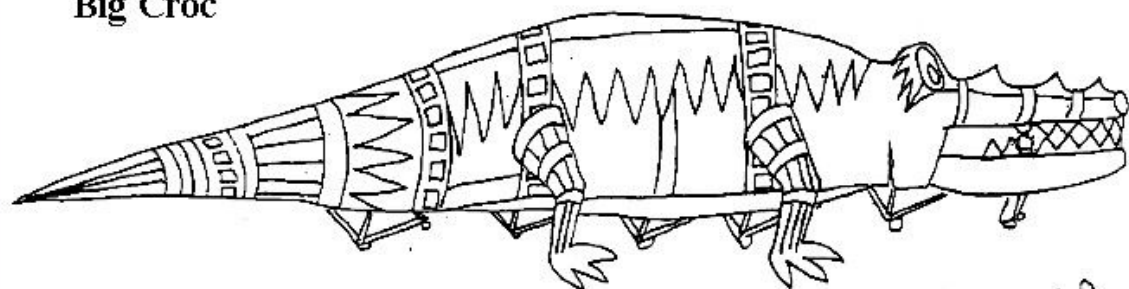
## Mr. Punch



Hoops for the jaw are held in place by the shape of the cloth.



## Big Croc



# Other



Photo: Dassia Posner



# Random Other Stuff

## Foam

Richard's Killer  
Tomato



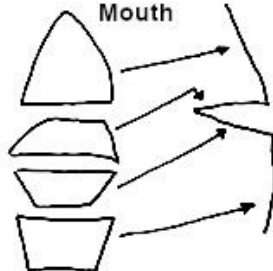
Green see-through net and leaves



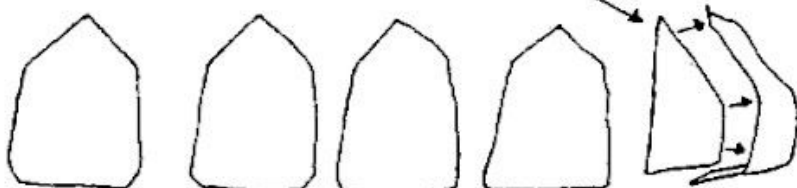
person  
inside  
distorts  
mouth to  
Elvis sneer

Make a cardboard or paper pattern to follow, then sew foam pattern pieces between pieces of cloth, or glue them together. Foam puppets are soft and comfortable and their faces can be distorted to change expression  
See: Big Nazo of Providence

Mouth



Nose



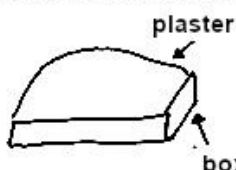
## Plaster Casting

Plaster casting is useful for mass-producing puppets. Vaseline, then papier-mache into the negative, then pop the mask out when it's dry

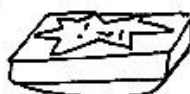
Clay Positive



low box helps control the plaster



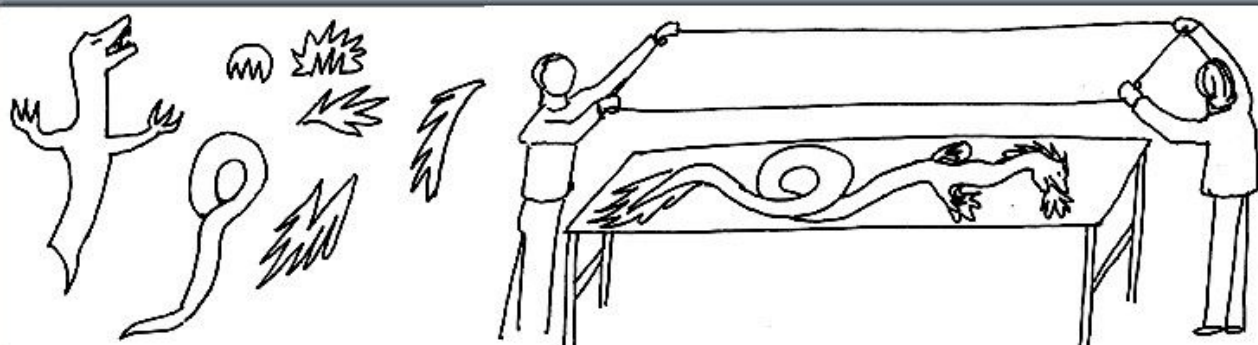
Plaster Negative



## Banners

Picture for banners may be cut from masonite like giant woodcuts; in this case the pieces are inked separately and then assembled and the cloth is dropped on them, Fast!

Or cut a giant stencil out of heavy plastic and run a paint roller over it. Again, the colors can be separated. Ink and print on different tables. spread clean paper between each print.



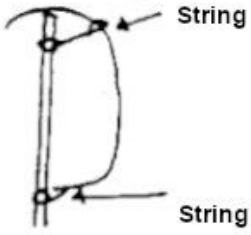


# Technical Info

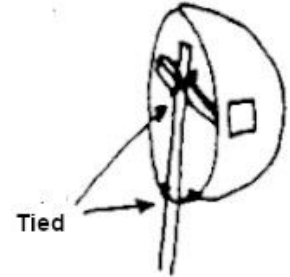
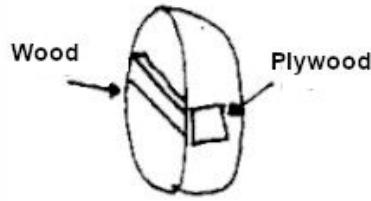


# Attachments

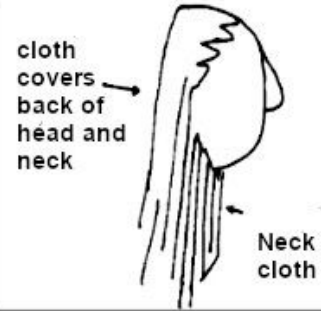
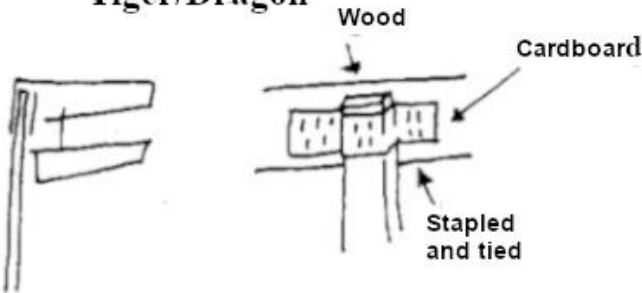
## String



## Wood

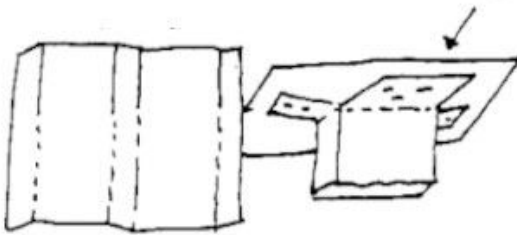


## Tiger/Dragon



The box is most suitable for backpack and other puppets where the head is not attached to the costume, and where you will want to remove it for transport.

## Box

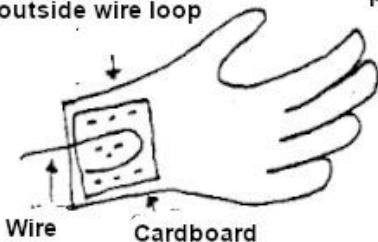


The box should be loose enough to let the head move, but not so loose that it can spin on the pole.



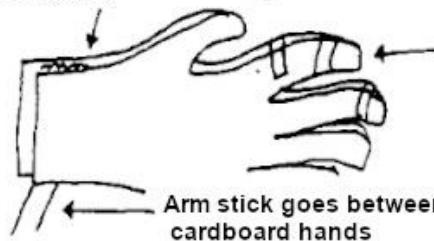
## Cardboard Single

Glue and staple inside an outside wire loop



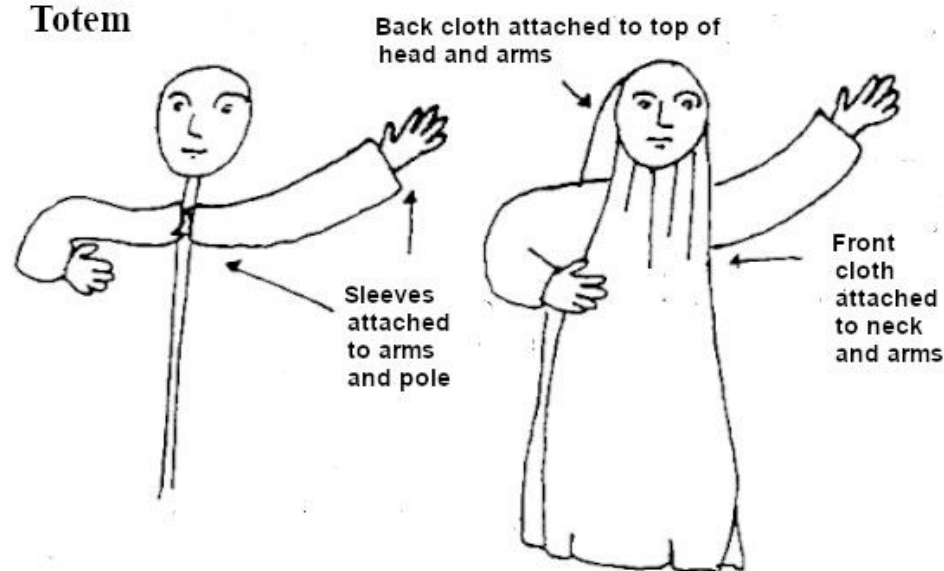
## Cardboard Double

stuffed very lightly with newspaper and then papier mached

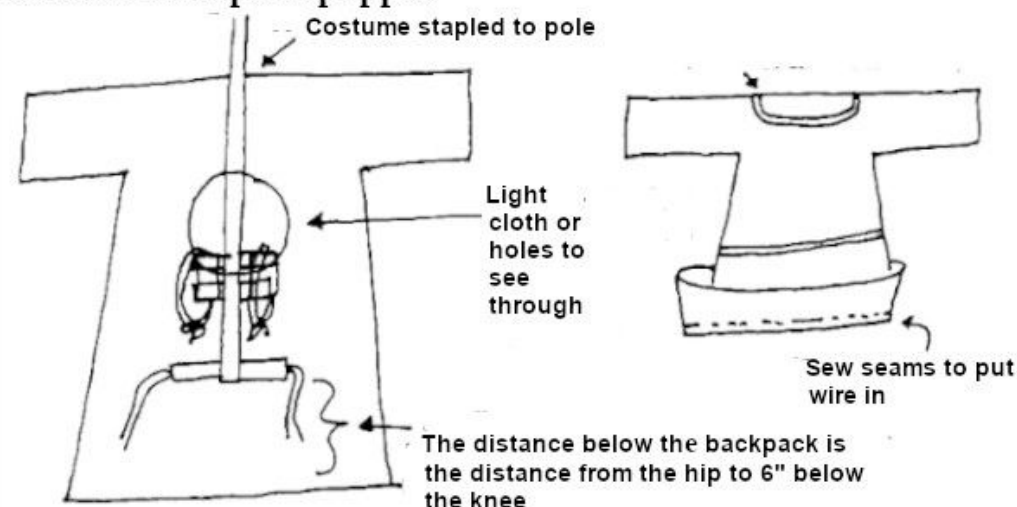


Bend hands, then tape fingers together

## Totem



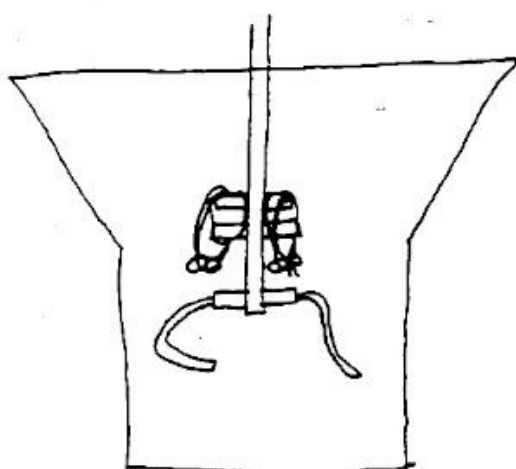
## Stick or Backpack puppet



Make a circle around yourself with string to decide the width of the costume. The length is from 6" below the head to just below the knee

**Costumes:** It is important that costumes be made of lightweight cloth. If the cloth is light enough it may be possible to see out of it. If not, insert light curtain cloth into the costume to make a viewport, or conceal holes in the pattern of the cloth. Fringes and draping are useful in giant puppets in general; they conceal the simplicity of the shape and add to the movement.

## Ecsrtatic or Bird



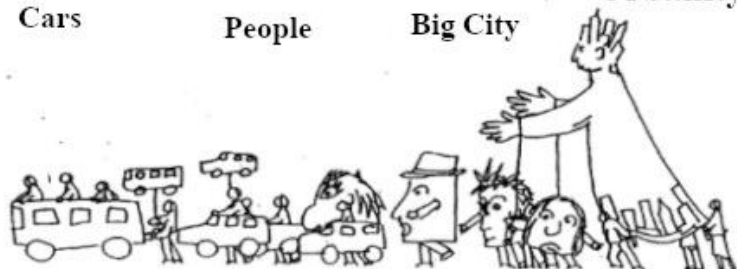


# A Patternbook of

## Pageants and Processions

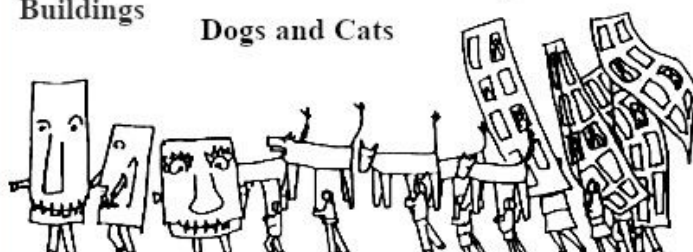


Cars      People      Big City      Urbanity



For Cars see pg. 1, for People see Fatheads pg 2,  
for Big City see Dorchester African King pg. 18

Buildings      Dogs and Cats      Building Banners



For Buildings-see Fatheads pg. 2, for Dogs and Cats  
see Cheetah pg. 4, for Banners see pg. 24

Midnight Ramble

Star Horses

Stars

Planets



For Star Horses see Riding Horses pg. 4, for Stars see pg. 2,  
for Planets see Backpacks pgs 10-12

Comet Dragons

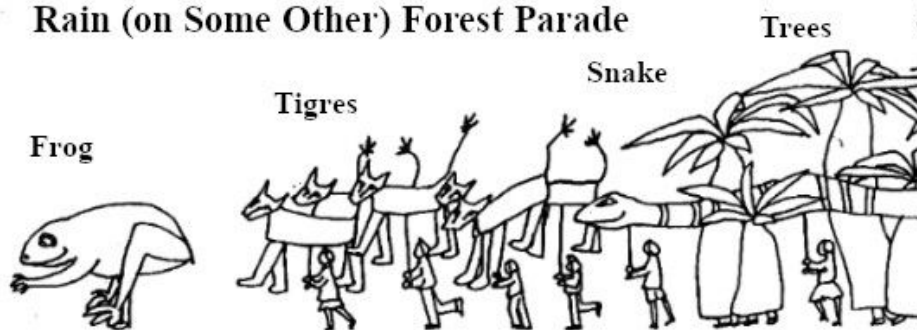


For Comet Dragons see pgs 14-16 and Pole Dragon pg. 2

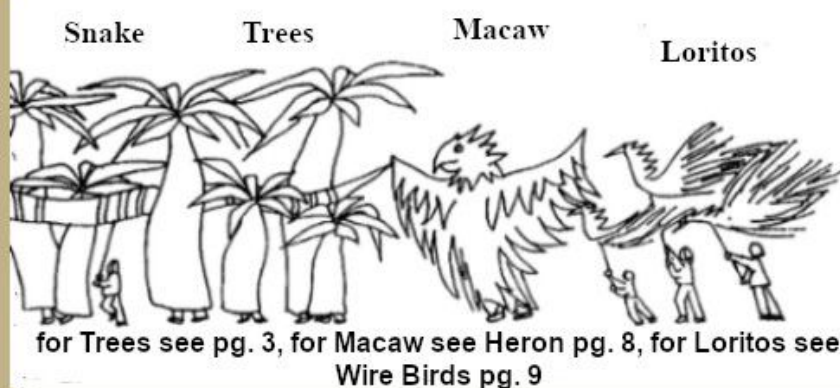


# A Couple More Parades

## Rain (on Some Other) Forest Parade



For Frog see pg. 6, for Tigres see Cheetah pg. 4, for Snake see Dragons pgs 14-16



for Trees see pg. 3, for Macaw see Heron pg. 8, for Loritos see Wire Birds pg. 9

## The Night is a Shining Sea

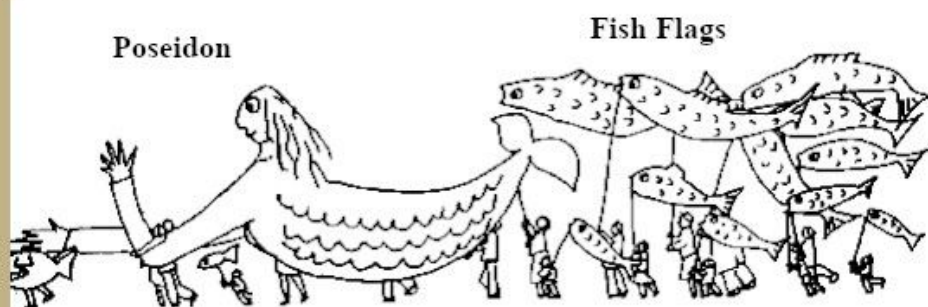
Flat Cardboard Fishes

Fathead Fishes

Poseidon



For Fishes see Cardboard pg.1



For Poseidon see pg. 19, for Fish Flags see Banners pg. 24

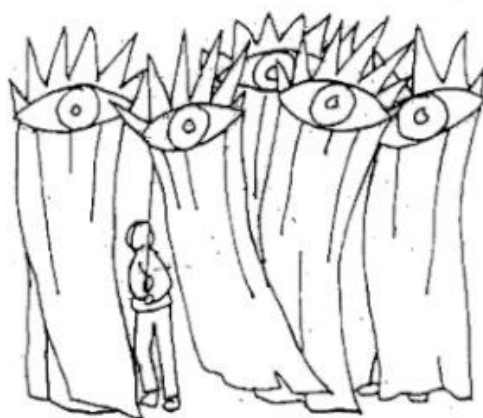


# A Masque of the Five Senses

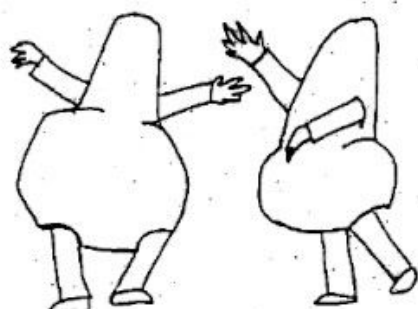
## Earwing Band



## Eye Banners



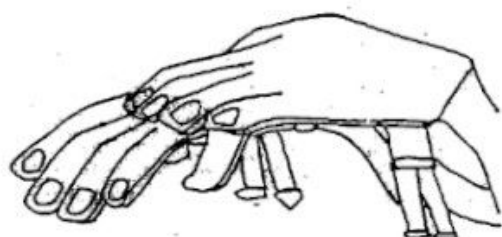
## Nose Clowns



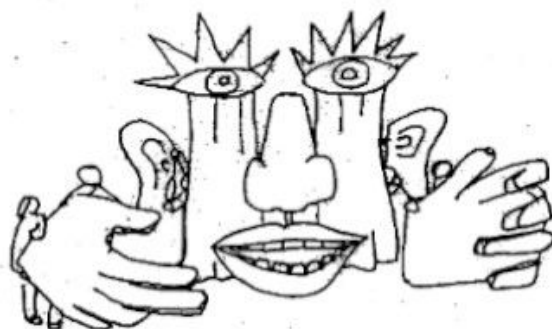
## Mouth Dragon



## Hand Creepers



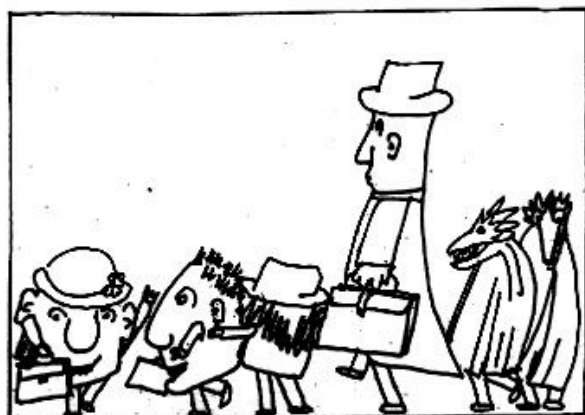
## Reconciliation



For Ear Band see Cardboard pg. 1, for Eye Banners see Banners pg. 24, for Nose Clowns see Fatheads pg 2, for Mouth Dragon see Dragons pgs. 14-16, for Hand Creepers see Cardboard, pg.1

# The Rights of Spring

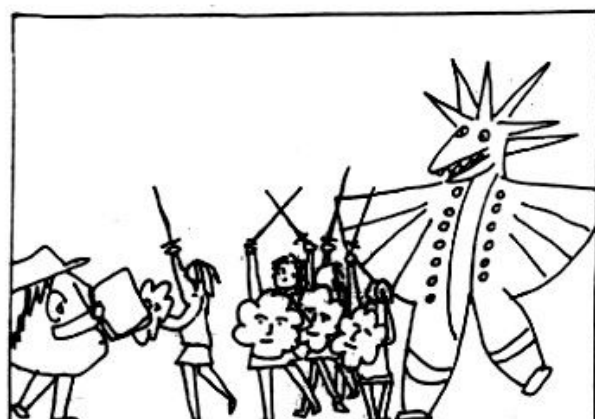
Mr. Corporate Ice, The Icemen,  
and the Snow Dragons



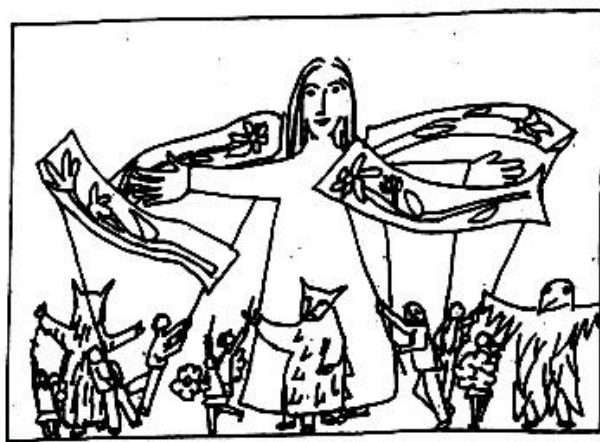
Animalitos in jeopardy



Flora's Furies attack the Icemen,  
Veigante to the rescue



Triumph of Flora and dance



For Mr. Corporate Ice see Backpacks pg. 11, 12, for Icemen see Fathead pg.2,  
for Ice Dragons see Pole Dragons pg. 2, for Animalitos see Hat Cat pg. 3, for Veigante see  
Simple Angel pg. 3, for Flora see pg. 18, for Banners, see pg. 24

# Enjoy!





## In Memory of George Konnoff

