

## Activity 6: Kathputli String Puppet

### Kathputli String Puppet

**Kathputli** (say: CAT-PUT-LEE) means wooden doll. They are puppets from Rajasthan (say: RA-JAS-TARN), north India. Their movement is controlled with two or three strings.

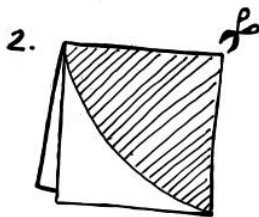
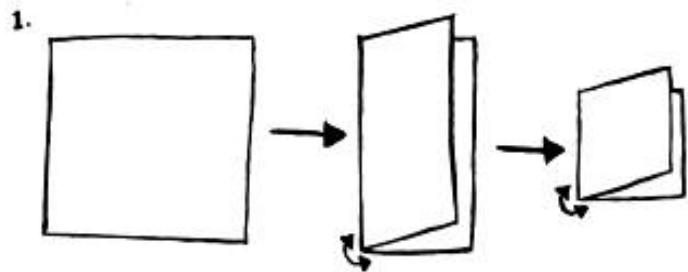


#### Materials you will need:

1 piece of coloured fabric (70cm<sup>2</sup>)  
1 rectangle of translucent fabric (70cm x 35cm)  
Cardboard  
Strong thread, e.g. embroidery thread and needle  
Foot of old tights/pop sock  
Scissors  
Stapler/staples  
Glue  
Buttons/sequins/broken jewellery  
Braid/ribbon

#### To make your own string puppet:

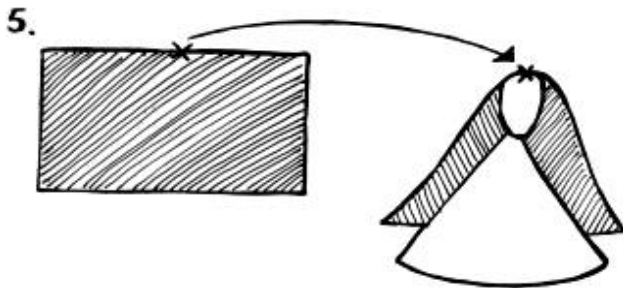
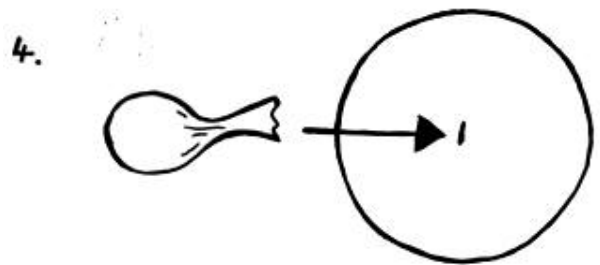
1) Take a square of soft cloth (approximately 70 cm square) and fold it in half and then in half again to make 4 quarters.



2) Make a cardboard template of a    circle (35 cm radius). Place the template onto the folded fabric square, so that the straight edges of the template lie on the folded edges of the fabric. Using scissors now cut along curve of the template, through the 4 layers of fabric.

3) Before unfolding the circle of fabric, make a tiny cut in the corner of the material.

4) Now take a pop sock or the foot from an old pair of tights. Stuff the sock/tights foot with lots of polyester stuffing (or cotton wool) to form the head of your puppet. Pull the end of the sock/tights foot through the slit in the centre of your piece of cloth and tie a knot on the other side. (If the slit is too large tie a double knot. If necessary, tape can also be placed over the knot to secure it).



5) Select a rectangle of translucent fabric for a veil. Glue the middle of the tidiest long edge to the top of the head.

6) Attach the string to the head of your puppet. Using a needle, feed the thread through the side of the head and out the other side. Knot the 2 ends together.

7) By cutting one hand/mitten shape out of a piece of folded card, two identical hands are made. These can be decorated using paints or colouring pens. Using a stapler attach each hand to the skirt and veil, about          of the distance from neck to floor. Tie another piece of thread to each wrist.

8) Make a stitch or two in the face to make a nose. The eyes and mouth can be made with cardboard, fabric, buttons or sequins. Broken jewellery can also be used to decorate the skirt and is also useful to add weight to the skirt. Braids and/or ribbons add glamour!



*Pat Brennan originally devised this puppet-making pattern. It has been amended and developed for the pack by Anna Ingleby.*