

**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

Car



Fish



Boat



Cut one side of the puppet, trace and cut the other, and then connect them with cardboard tabs.



# 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.

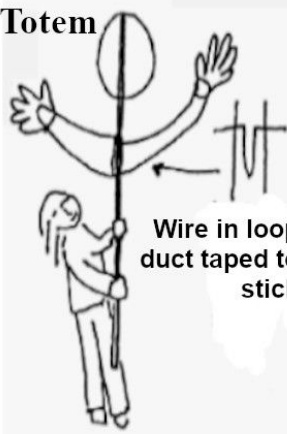
## Star Banner



Stick tied in

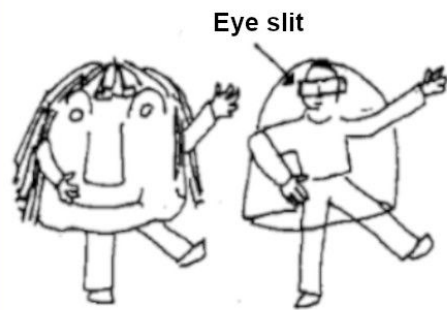
Face is made over clay or cardboard

## Totem



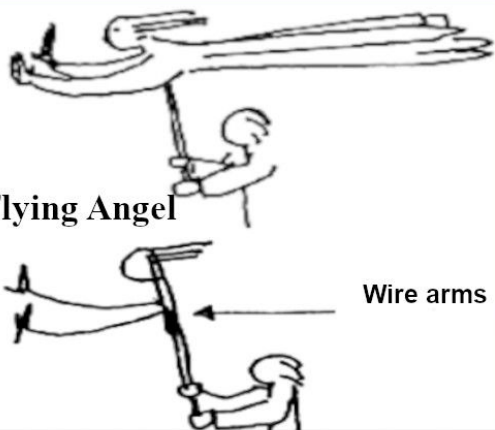
Wire in loop duct taped to stick

## Fathead



Eye slit

## Flying Angel



Wire arms

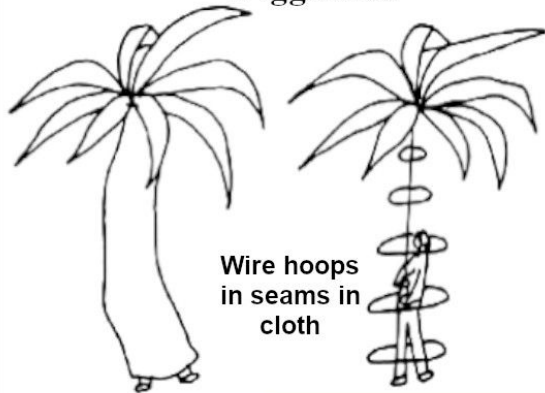
## Pole Dragon



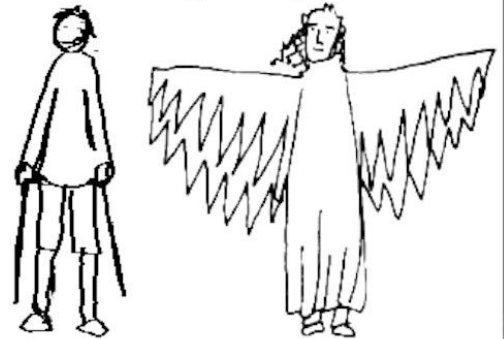


# Slightly Less Simple Puppets

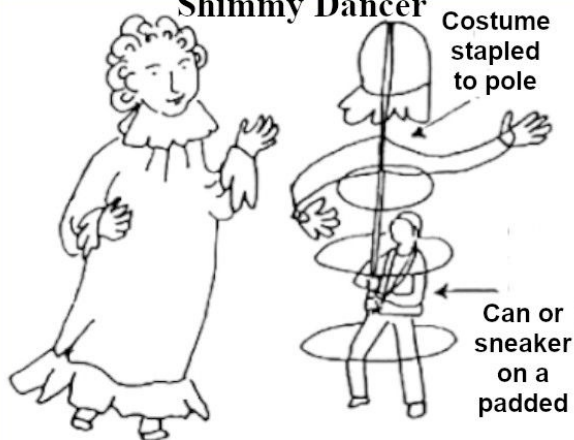
## Wiggletree



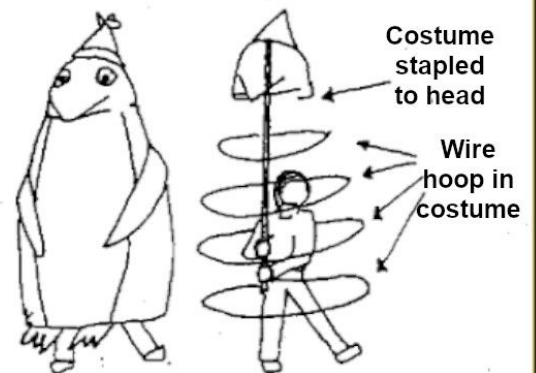
## Simple Angel



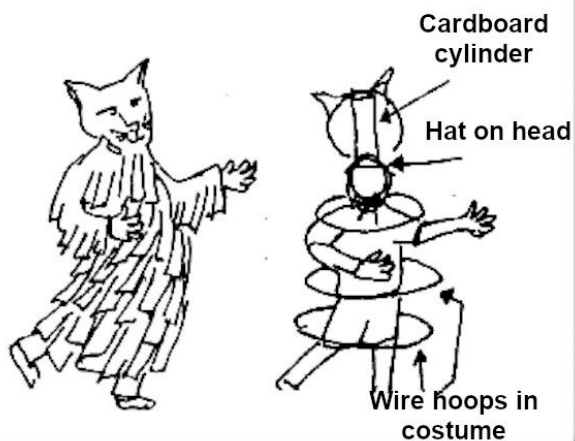
## Shimmy Dancer



## Jo's Penguin



## Hat Cat



## Malian Opera Singer



# Animal Puppets



photo Arny Lippin

# Animal Puppets

5

Riding Tiger,



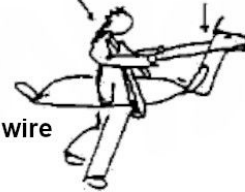
Riding Horse



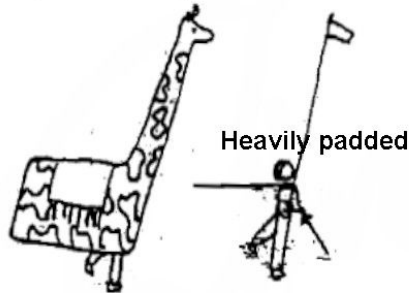
Ribbon holds up  
cloak and wire

Rein holds  
up head

Heavy wire

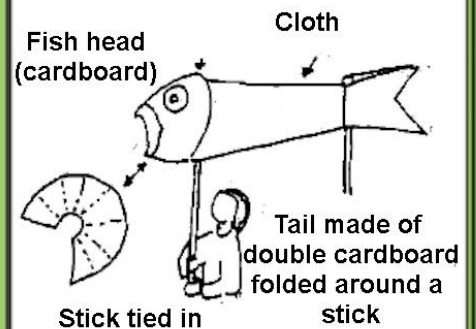


Giraffe



Heavily padded

Two -person Fish



Fish head  
(cardboard)

Cloth

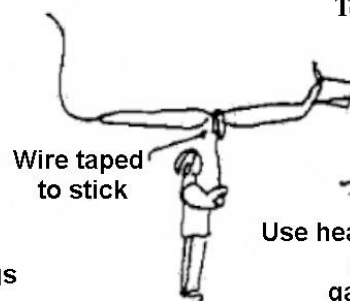
Stick tied in

Tail made of  
double cardboard  
folded around a  
stick

Cheetah



Cardboard legs



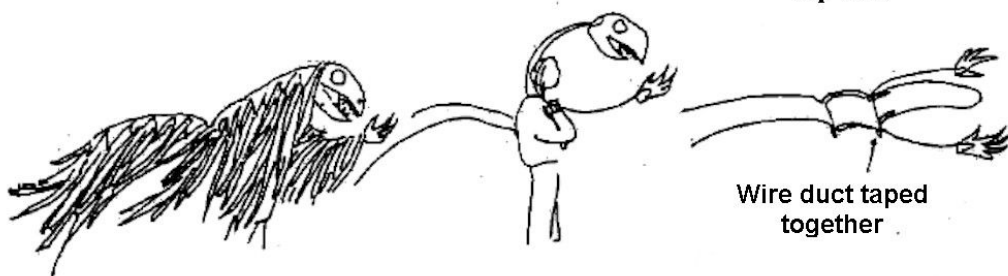
Wire taped  
to stick

Top View

Use heavy wire, like 9  
gauge  
galvanized



Wire Demon, good for stilts



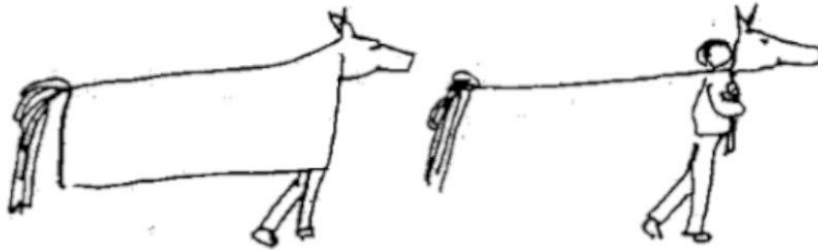
Top View

Wire duct taped  
together

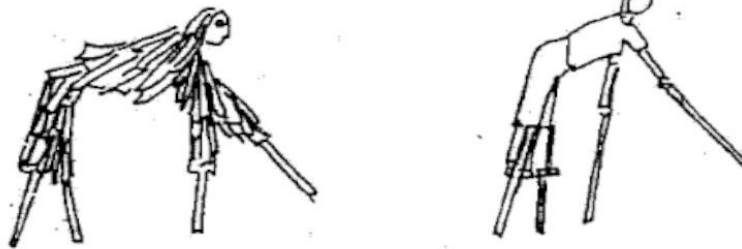


# And Animal Puppets

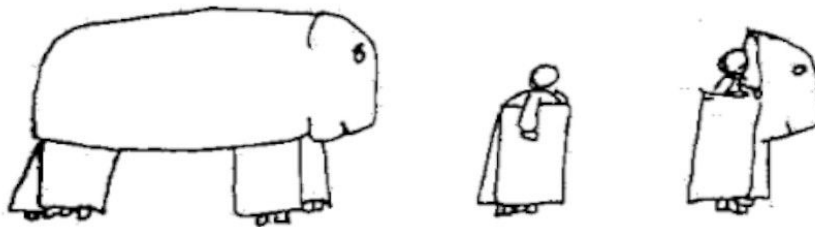
One Person Horse



Circus Stilt Ape



Four Person Beast



Frog



Totem Dog



See Totems

Backpack Cat



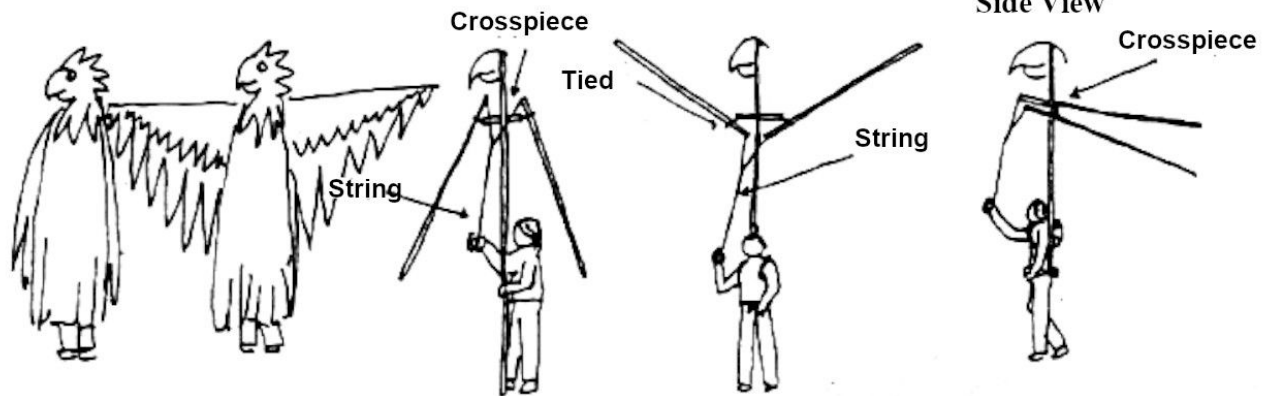
See: Backpacks

# Bird Puppets

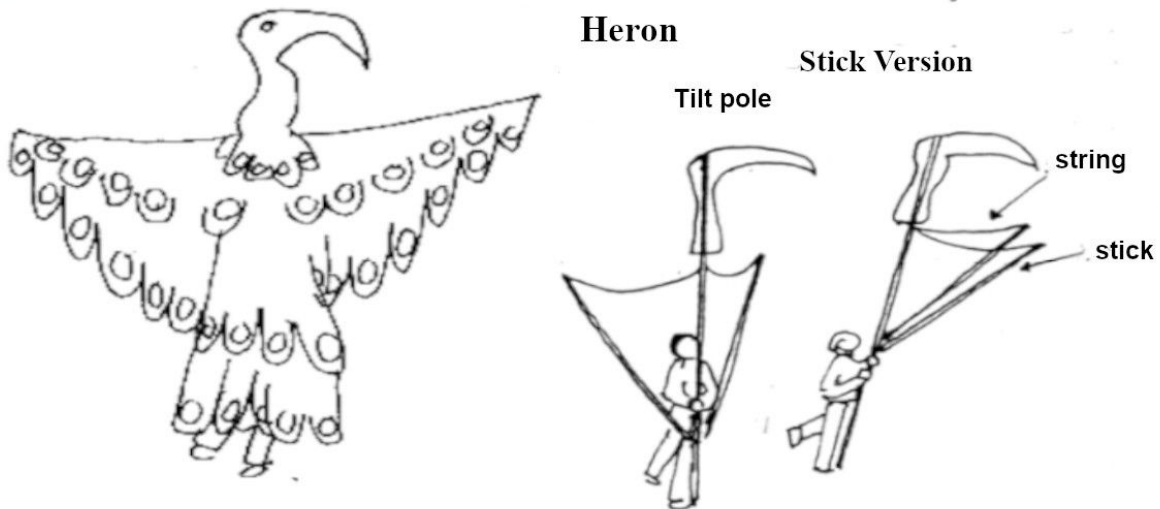


# Some Birds

## Flapping-wing Bird

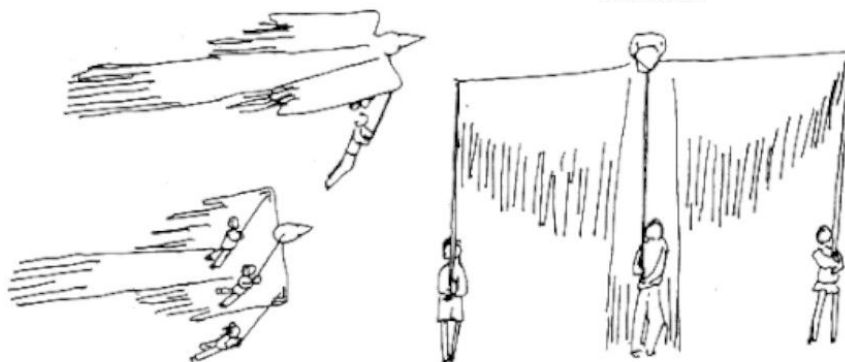


## Heron



## Bread and Puppet Flying Bird

### At Rest

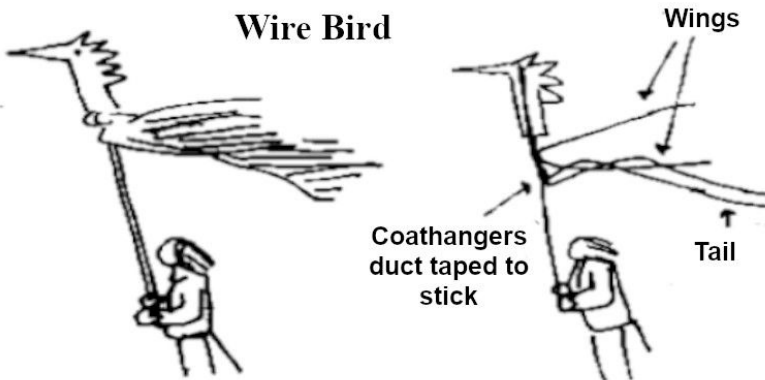


The three puppeteers must run constantly to make the flying bird fly. It needs to be made of very light cloth in order to fly right. It is improved by having plenty of fringe. Remember that people will see both the top and bottom of the costume



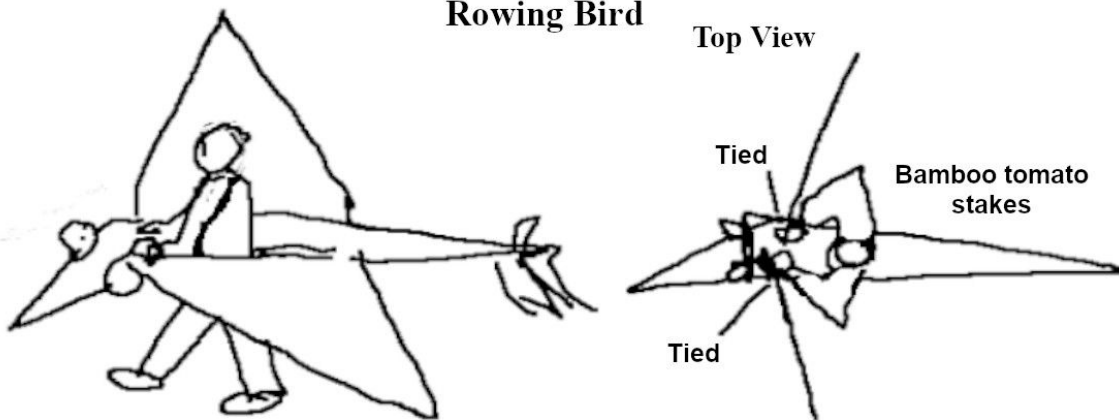
# Some More Birds

## 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

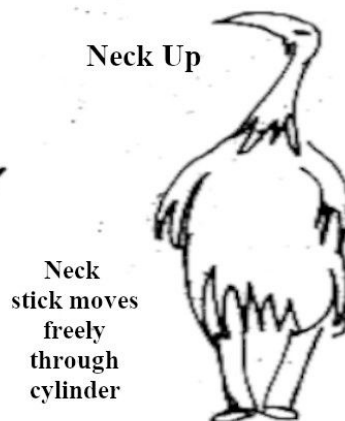


## Amusing Bird

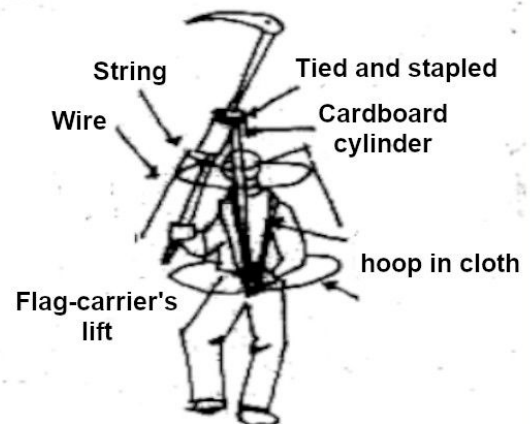
### Neck Down



### Neck Up



Neck stick moves freely through cylinder



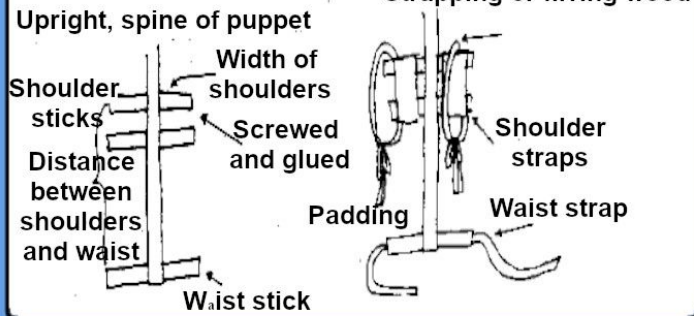
# Backpack Puppets



Photo: Roberto Rossi

# Backpacks and Puppets

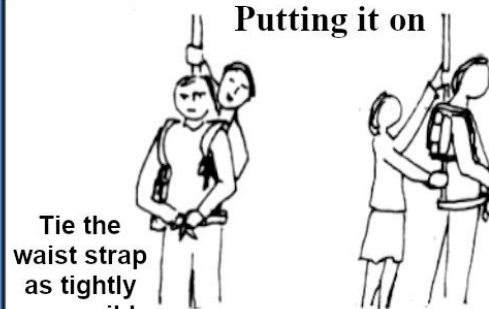
## Homemade Backpacks



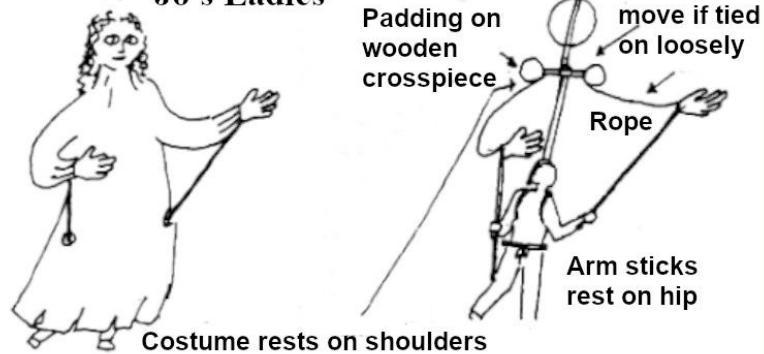
Or you can buy a used backpack frame and attach it to a stick

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.

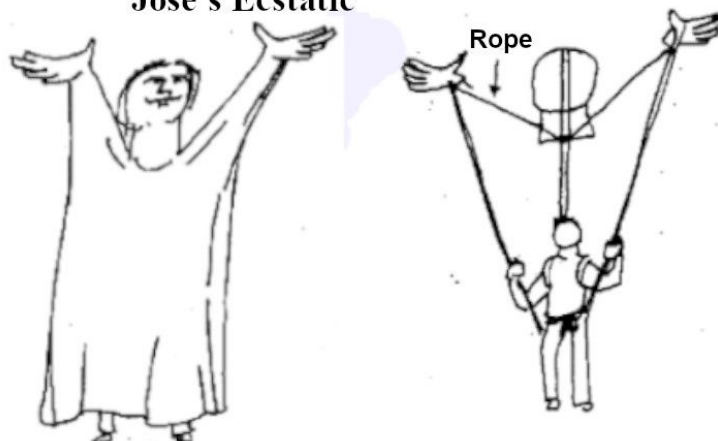
## Putting it on



## Jo's Ladies

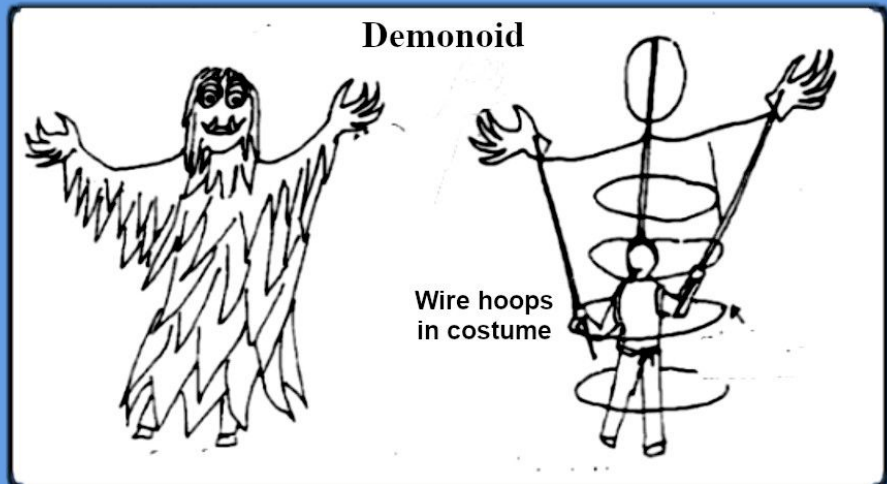
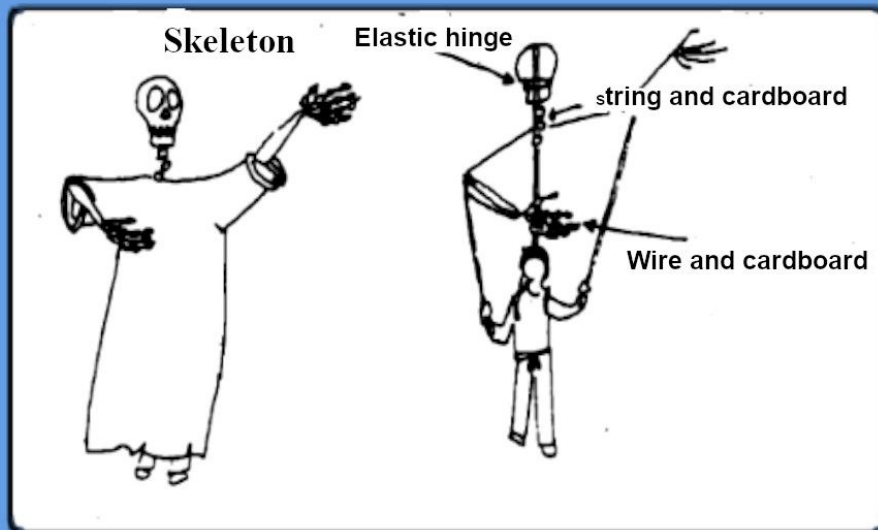


## Jose's Ecstatic

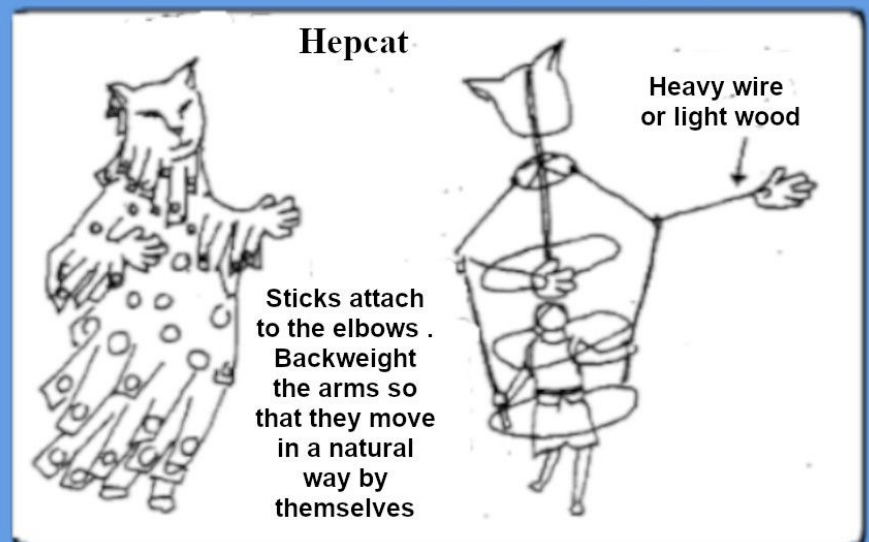




# More Backpacks



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.



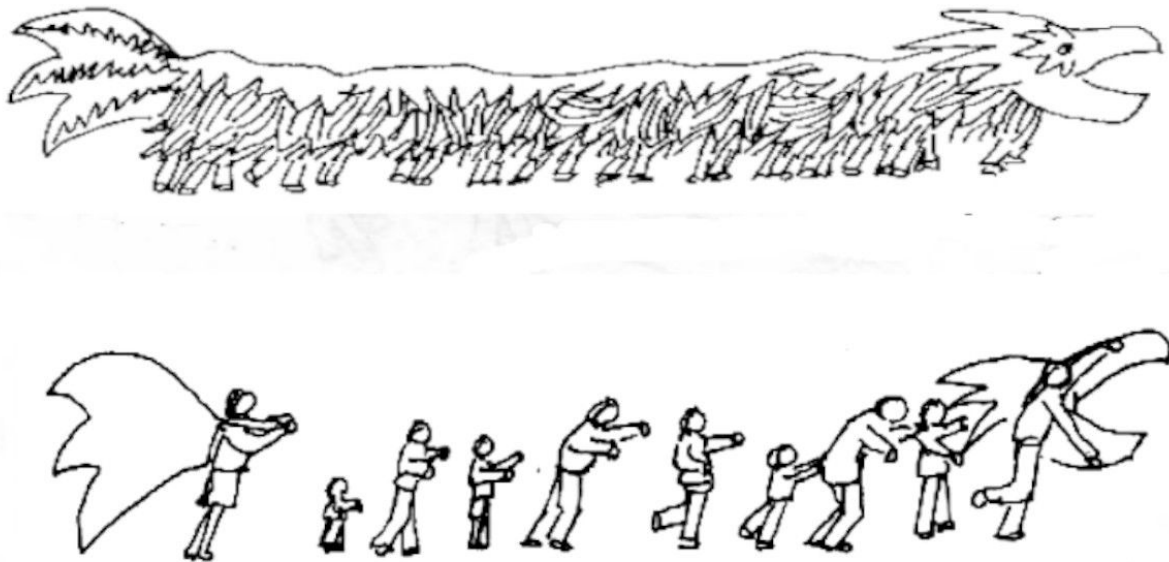
# Dragons !



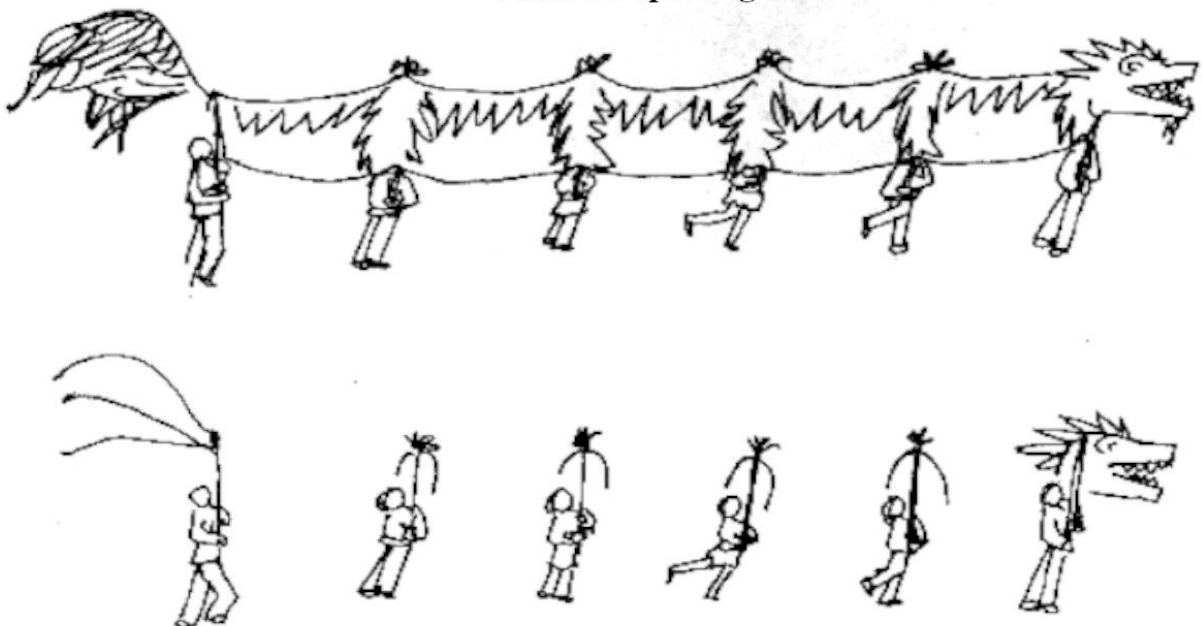
## Costumes

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

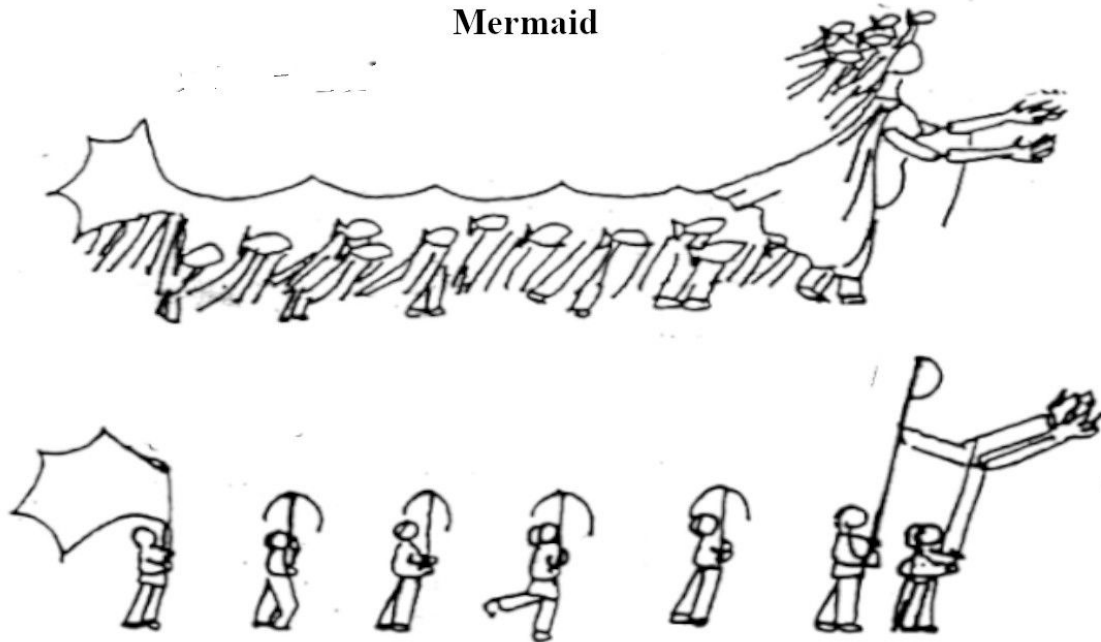


### Half Hoop Dragon





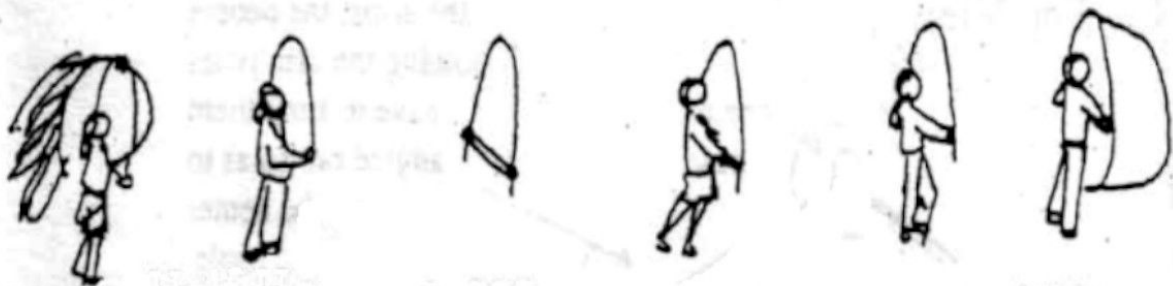
Mermaid



Half Hoop Caterpillar

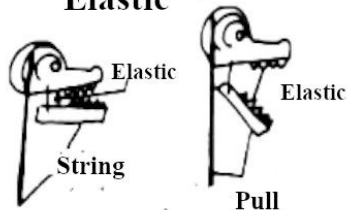


Heavy wire or irrigation tubing in seams in the cloth

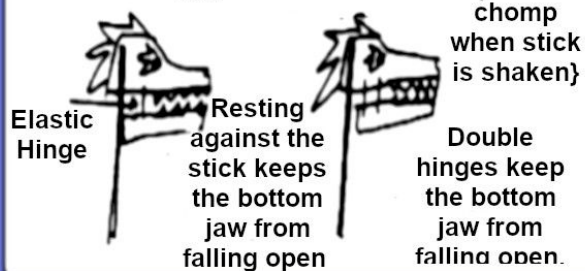


# Dragon Heads, Tails, etc.

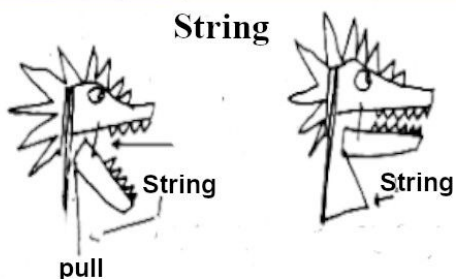
## Elastic



## Jiggle Jaw



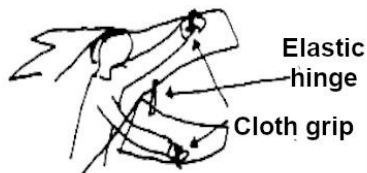
## String



## Wheels (see: Big Croc)



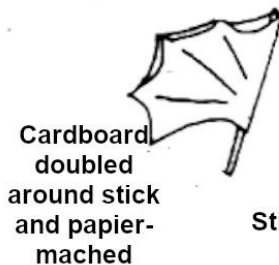
## Ground Dragon Jaw



## Tails: Wire

## Cardboard

## Stick



## Riding Dragon



(see: Animals)

## Totem Dragon



(see: Totems)

## Backpack Dragon



(see: Backpacks)

## Pole Dragon



(see: simple puppets)

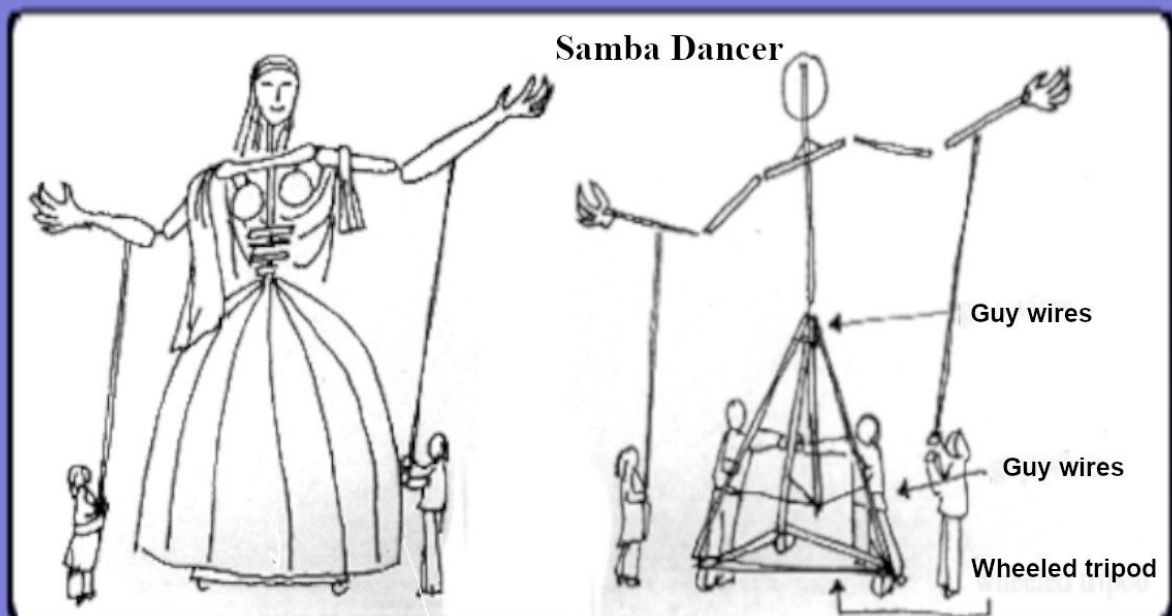
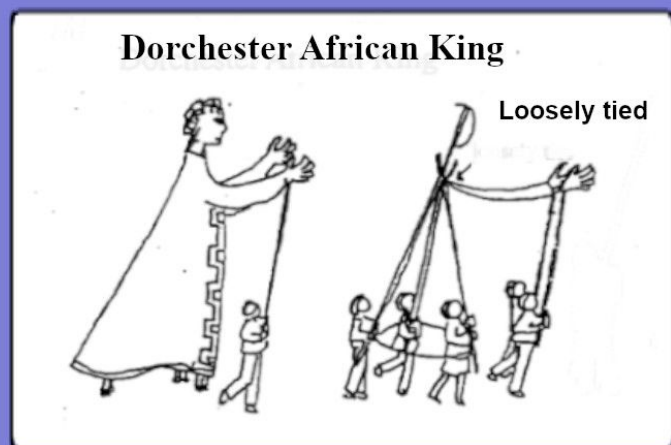
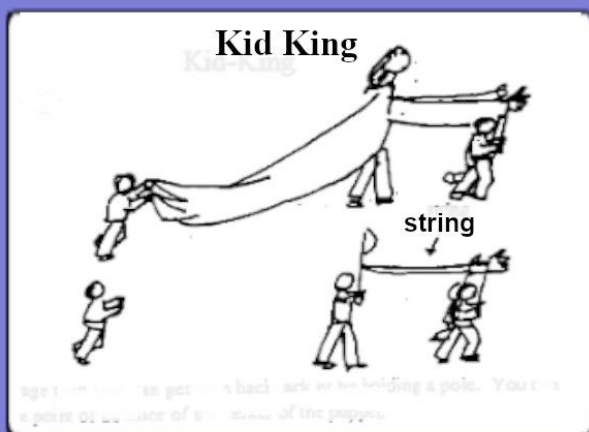
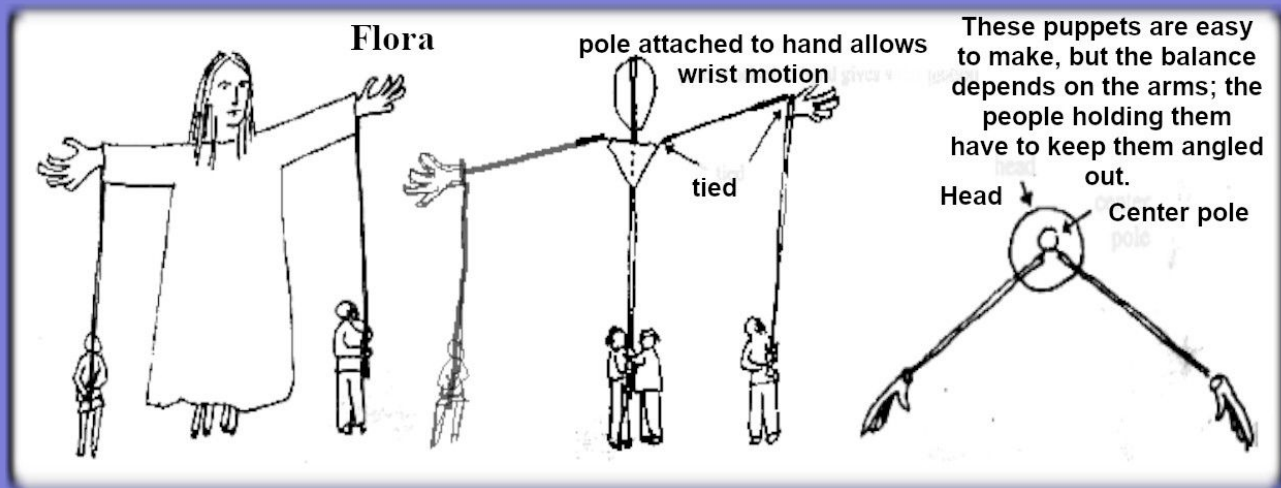
# Giant Puppets



Photo: Dassia Posner

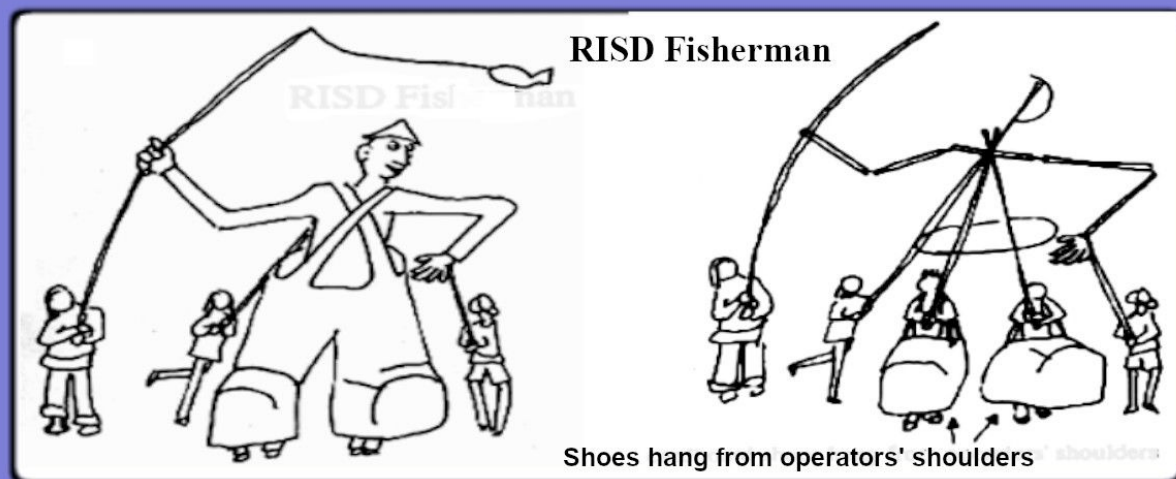
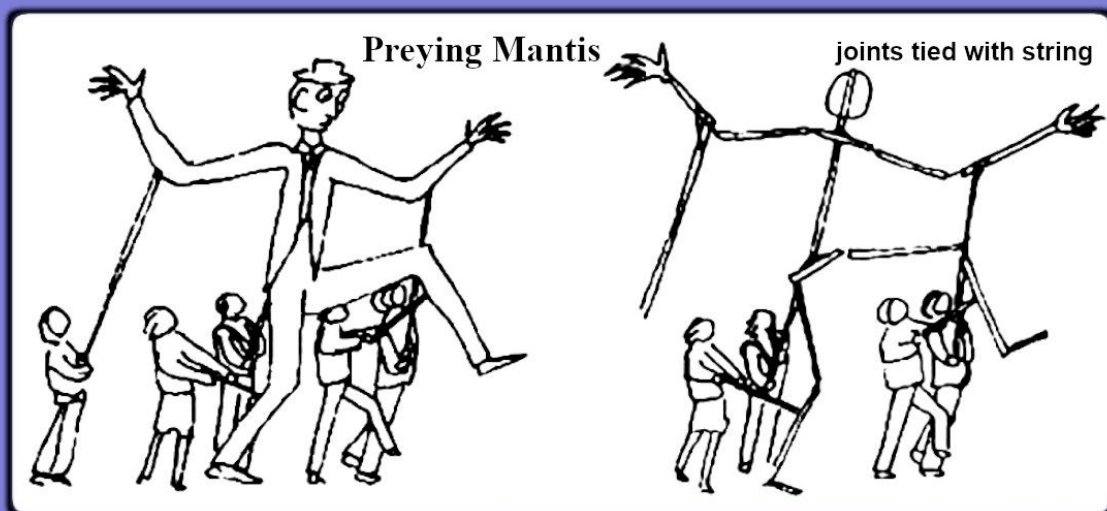
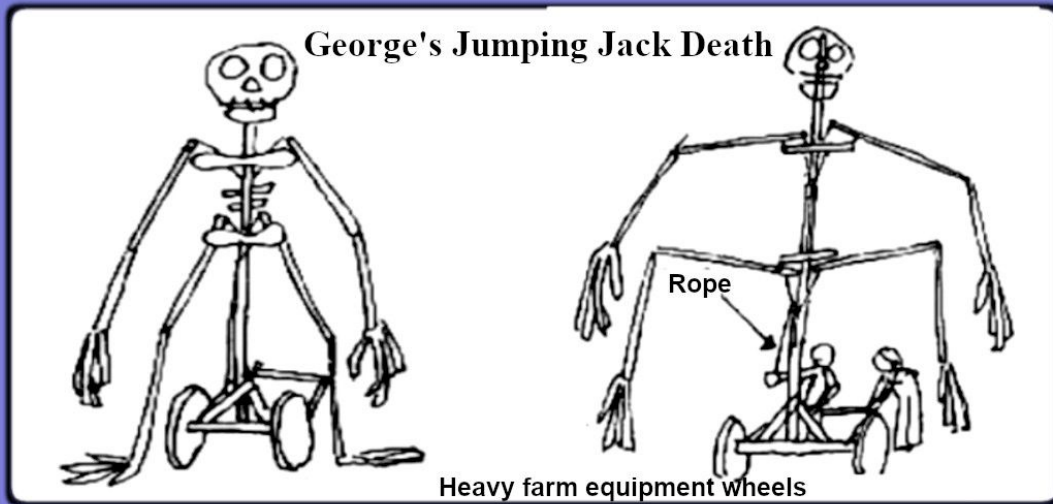


# Some Giant Puppets



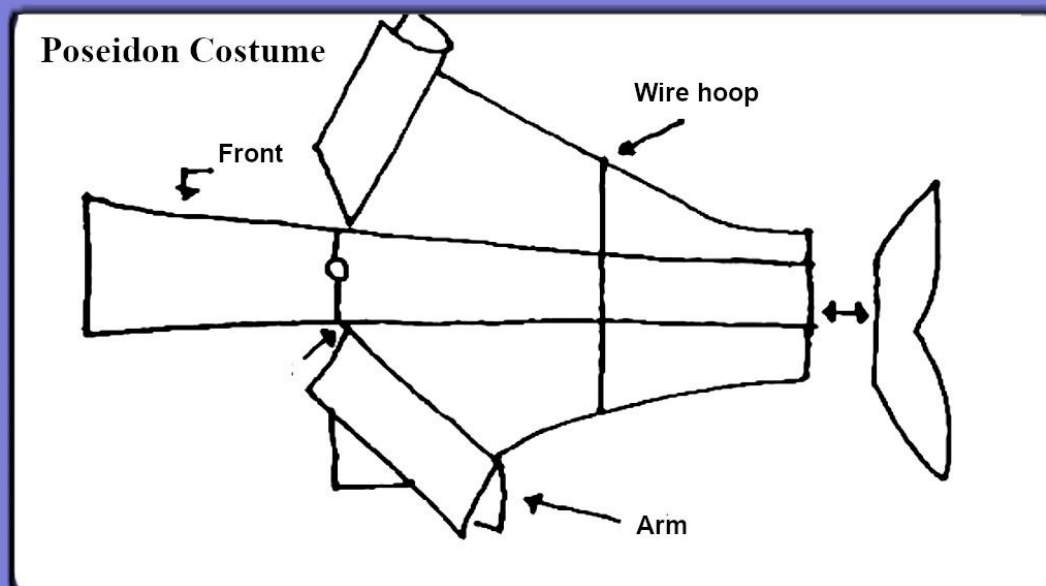
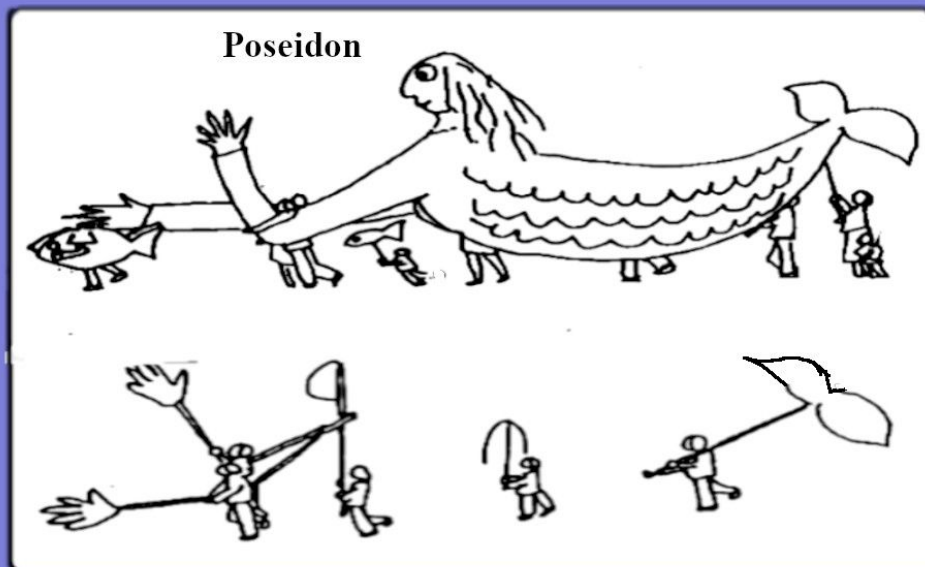
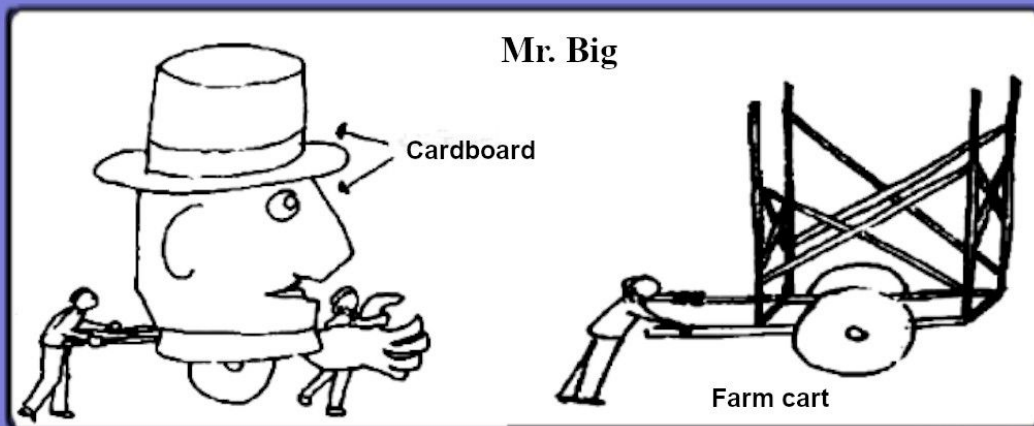


# More Giant Puppets



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



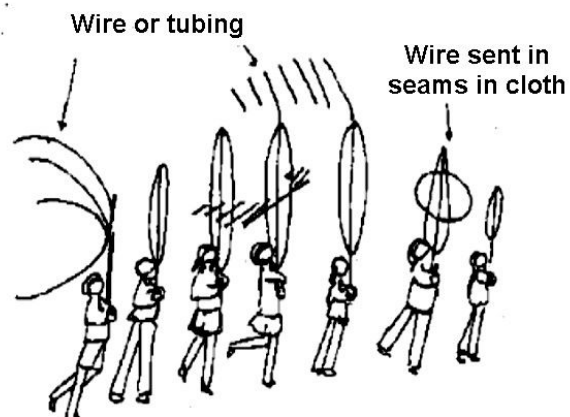
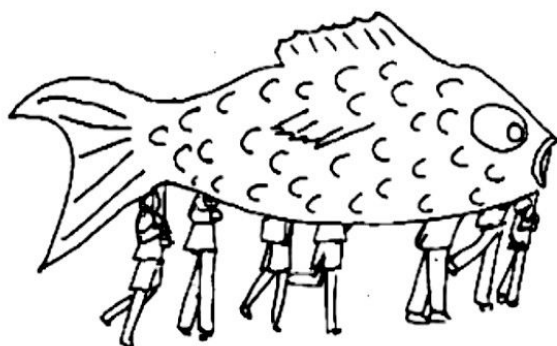
Boston Globe photo



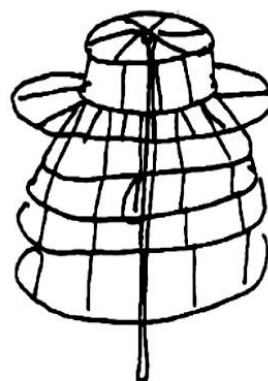
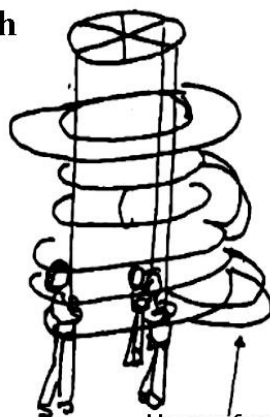
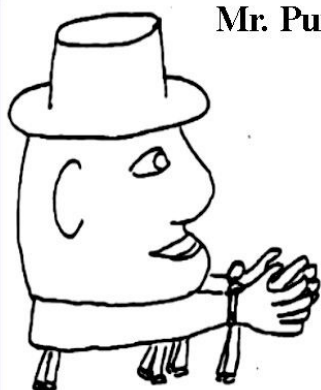
# Hoop and Cloth Puppets

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**

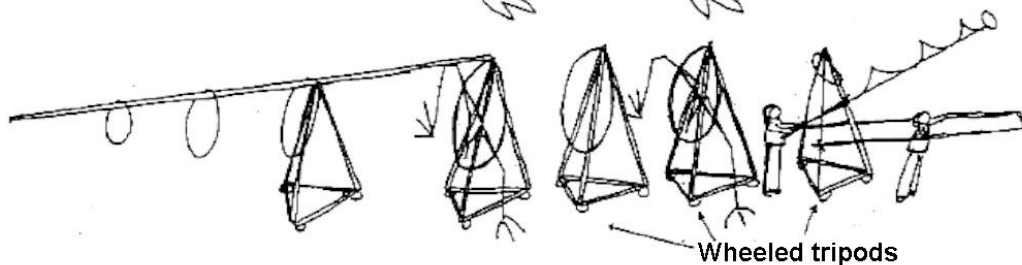
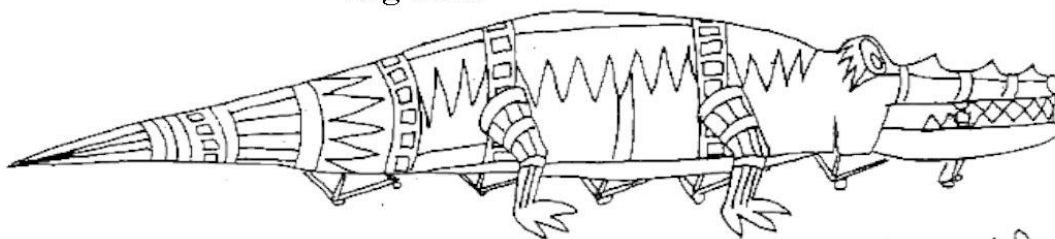


**Mr. Punch**



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

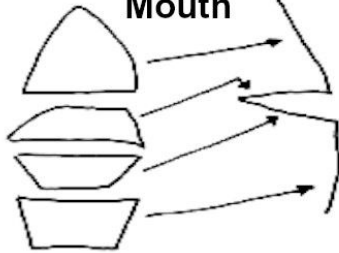


person inside  
distorts  
mouth to  
Elvis sneer

Make a cardboard or paper pattern to follow, then <sup>sew</sup> 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.

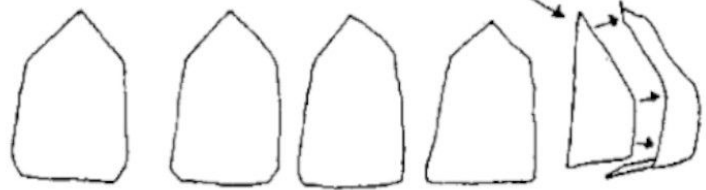
See: Big Nazo of Providence

Mouth



Foam Head

Nose



## Plaster Casting

Clay Positive



Plaster Negative

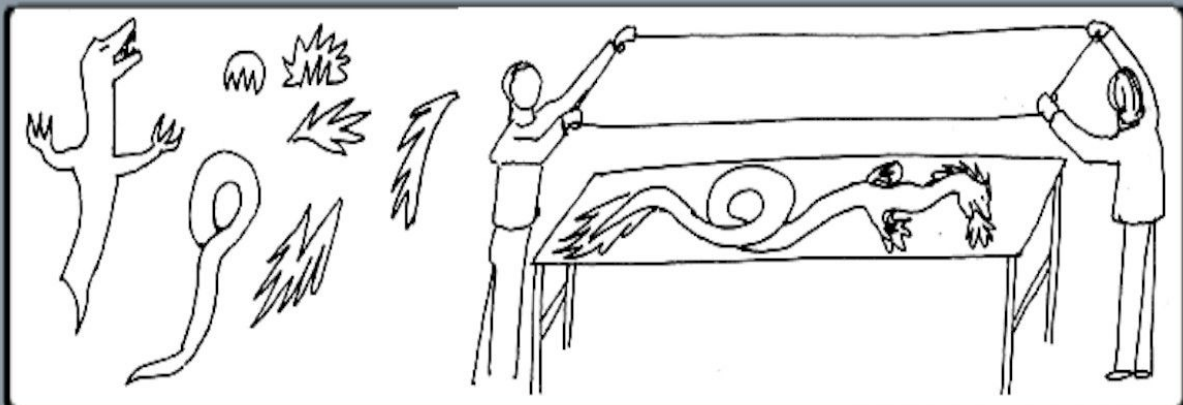


low box helps control the plaster

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

**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 colrs can be separated. Ink and print on different tables. spread clean paper between each print.

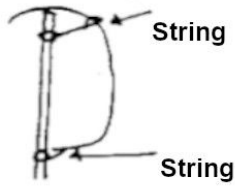


# Technical Information

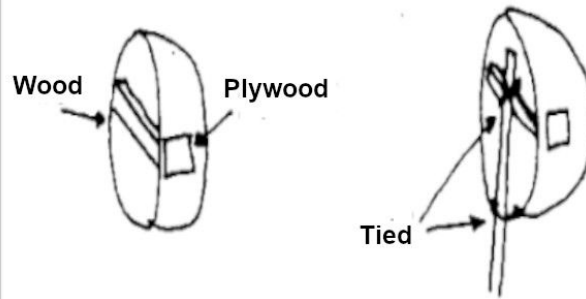


# Attachments

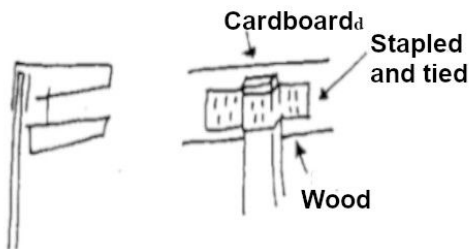
## String



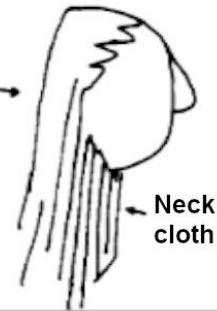
## Wood



## Tiger/Dragon

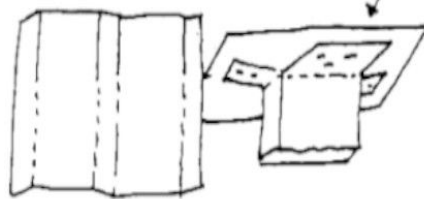


cloth covers back of head and neck



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

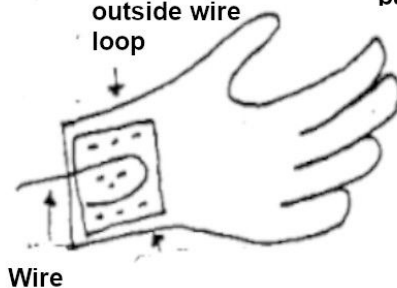


The box should be loose enough to let the head move, but not so loose that it can spin on the pole.



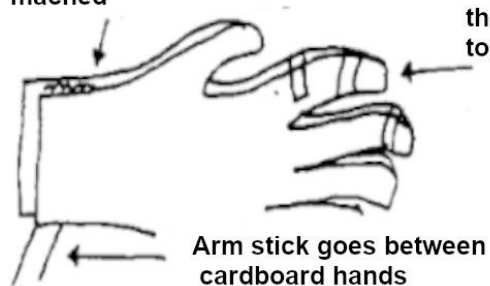
## Cardboard Single

Glue and staple inside an outside wire loop



## Cardboard Double

stuffed very lightly with newspaper and then papier maché

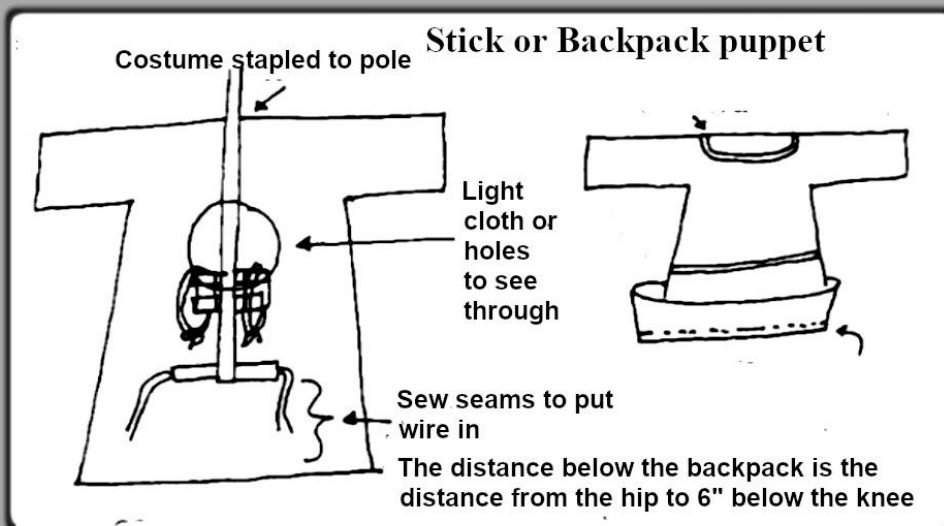
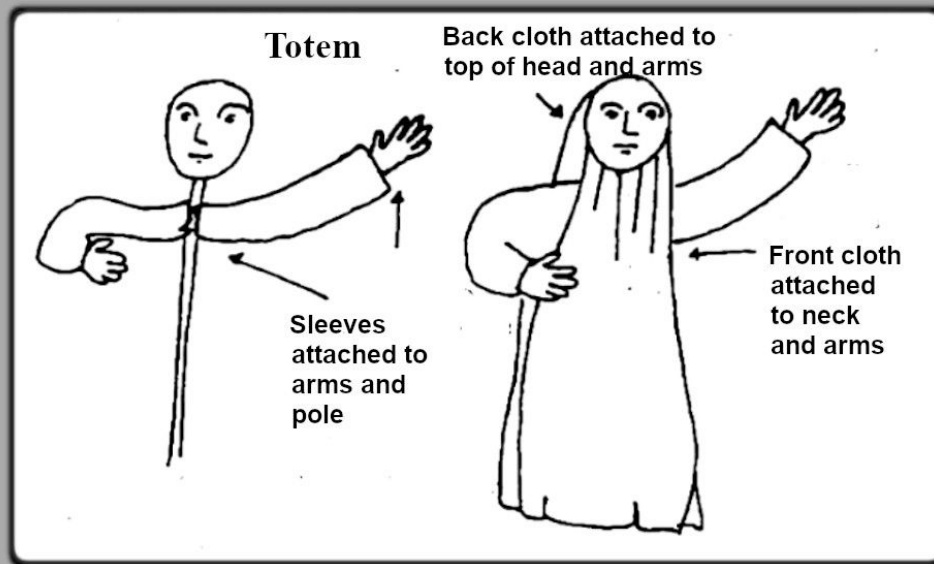


Bend hands, then tape fingers together

Arm stick goes between cardboard hands



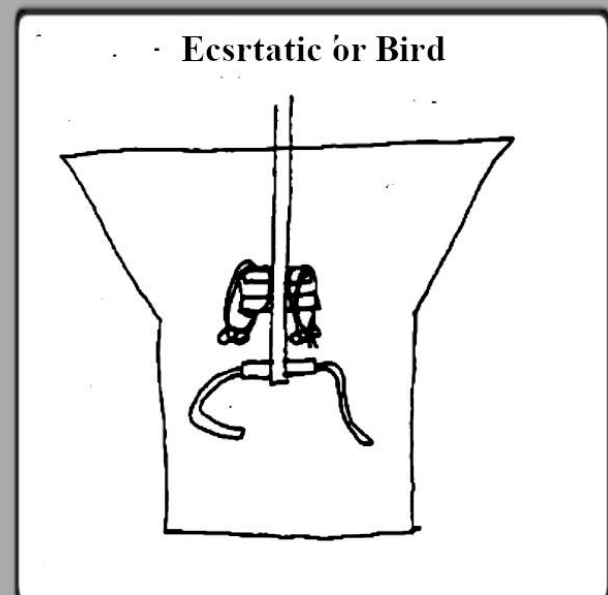
# Costumes



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.



# A Patternbook of Parades and Pageants



## Urbanity

Cars

People

Big City

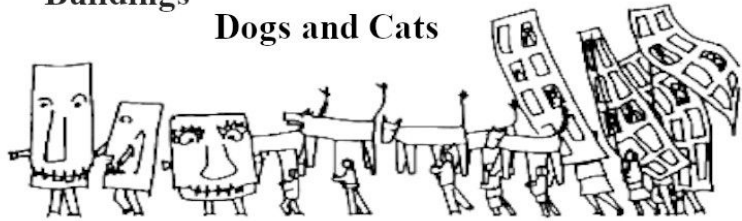


For Cars see pg. 1, for People see Fatheads pg 2,  
for Big City see Dorchester African King pg. 18

Buildings

Building Banners

Dogs and Cats



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

## Midnight Ramble

Stars

Planets

Star Horses



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

Frog



Tigres



Snake



Trees :



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

Loritos



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 1,

Poseidon

Fish Flags



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

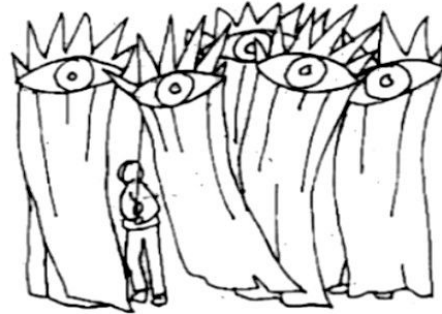


# A Masque of the Five Senses

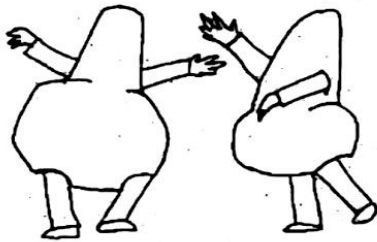
**Earwing Band**



**Eye Banners**



**Nose Clowns**



**Mouth Dragon**



**Hand Creepers**



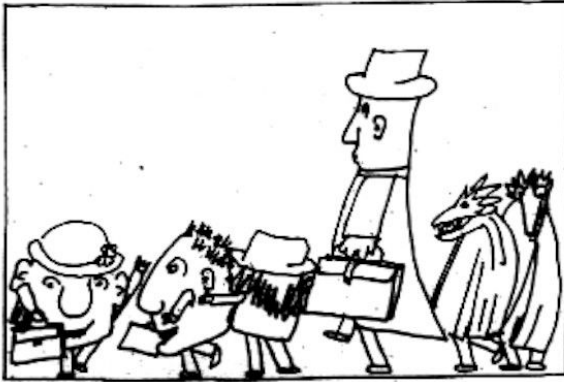
**Reconciliation**



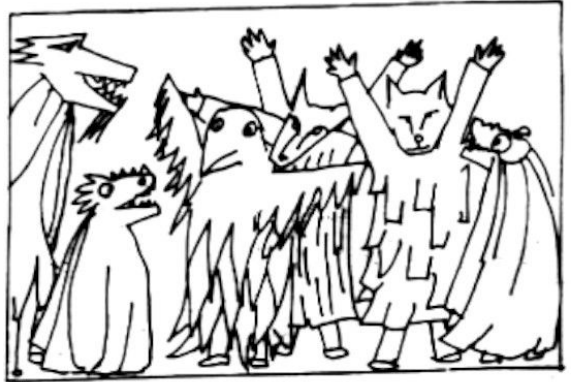
For Ear Band see Cardboard pg. 1, for Eye Banners see Banners pg. 24, for Nose Clowns see Fatheads pg 2, for Mouth Dragon see Dragons pgs. 14-16, for Hand Creepers see Cardboard, pg.1

## The Rights of Spring

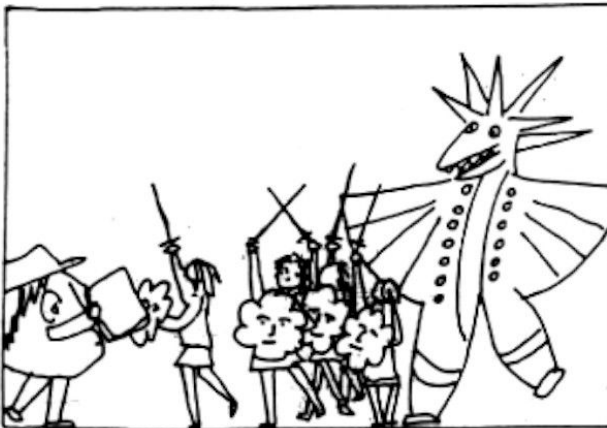
**Mr. Corporate Ice, The Icemen,  
and the Snow Dragons**



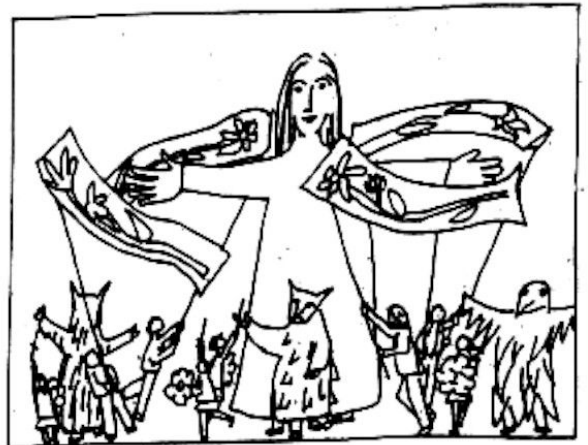
**Animalitos in jeopardy**



**Flora's Furies attack the Icemen,  
Vejigante 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  
Vejigante see Simple Angel pg. 3, for Flora see pg. 18, for Banners, see pg. 24

# Enjoy!





## In Memory of George Konnoff

