

# TEACHER GUIDE



## Puppetry

With: Garielle Dufresne

Grade: 3/4

Date: May 7th

Artistic Discipline: Theatre (Puppetry)

## OVERVIEW

Join Gabrielle Dufresne for a romp through the world of puppetry. She will utilize a variety of different kinds of puppets across the grade levels from creating simple puppets from scratch, to shadow puppetry, to large multi-person puppets and everything in between. Learn how to bring movement to life through puppet creation!

## CLASSROOM SETUP

Clear portions of the wall around your classroom for the shadow puppetry. Make sure you are able to dim the light in your classroom.

## MATERIALS

- Cardboard (1 flat per student)
- Flashlight (1 flashlight for every 3-4 students - or 1 big flashlight beam at the front)
- Scissors
- *Optional: Acetate Paper (1 per 2 students)*

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Gabrielle Dufresne (she/her) is a Fransaskois actor, theatre artist, and educator based in Treaty 6 Territory. She holds a BFA and an MA in Theatre Performance, and is the Co-Creator of the Tic Toc TEN Short Performance Festival in Regina. When not on stage, in front of the camera, or doing voice-over work, Gabrielle is often busy translating, or building her next puppet.



# Curriculum Outcomes & Indicators



## Grade Three

CP3.3 Sustain roles in dramatic situations and accept/respond to others in role, using the environment (e.g., natural, constructed, imagined) as inspiration.	<i>c. Respond appropriately and imaginatively to others in role to further the dramatic work.</i>
CP3.4 Use imagination, a variety of drama strategies, and reflection to further the drama's development.	<i>g. Use imagination to explore various possibilities in dramatic contexts.</i>
CR3.1 Describe ideas and problem-solving processes used in own arts expressions.	<i>a. Identify and describe how arts expressions make them think and feel.</i>

## Grade Four

CP4.4 Contribute ideas, when in and out of role, and further the development of the drama by participating in consensus building, choice of strategies, and selection of dramatic alternatives.	<i>j. Refine and develop the drama through reflection and constructive feedback.</i>
CP4.4 Contribute ideas, when in and out of role, and further the development of the drama by participating in consensus building, choice of strategies, and selection of dramatic alternatives.	<i>a. Use imagination when contributing ideas and when developing or extending the dramatic context.</i>
CR4.2 Respond thoughtfully to a variety of contemporary Saskatchewan arts expressions.	<i>b. Express personal responses in various ways (e.g., written critique, using presentation software, through own arts expressions).</i>

# Workshop Vocabulary

## Puppet

A mini version of a person or animal that we move with our hands to make it look alive.

## Marionette

A puppet that's controlled by strings attached to its arms and legs.

## Lip Sync

When we make the puppets mouth move along with the words we say.

## Character Mask

A mask we make that has some big features that tell us something about the character it is for.

## Animate

To bring something (like a puppet) to life through our acting.

# Pre Workshop Exercises



## EXERCISE 1 - What Is Shadow Puppetry?

- Give your students a good sense of what can be done with shadow puppetry by watching some of the following videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/QOSA54lFalk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-e9CAuPM9SM>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5x9cq\\_EPM9s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5x9cq_EPM9s)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sHXcwCnKC4>

- Ask your students why they think that humans created the art of shadow puppetry. Why is it such an old art form?

## EXERCISE 2 - Learn some Hand Shadow Puppetry

- Get your students started on practicing some Shadow Puppetry with their own hands using the video below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kz8wP2RYy64>

- If you're able to gather a few flashlights, set them up around the classroom and put the students in groups around them. Have each member of each group take turns trying to make a shadow puppet and seeing if their group can guess which animal it was.
- Give each group time to play around with having multiple people make shadow puppets at the same time and interact, creating improvised silly stories.

## EXERCISE 3 - Learn about Silhouettes

- Have your students start to think in silhouettes. Keep those flashlights up around the classroom but have your students direct all their attention on a central flashlight you'll demonstrate on.
- Shine the flashlight on the white board. Place a series of objects next to the flashlight. Take the first object, place it in front of the light and then trace its shadow outline on the whiteboard. Take the object away and let the students see what the silhouette looked like.
- Use the World Wildlife quiz below to get your students some quick practice guessing silhouettes:

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/animal-silhouette-quiz>

# Pre Workshop Exercises



- Now show the students another object you have in the classroom, have the students come up to the board and draw what they think might be the silhouette of that object. Then put the object up to the light and see if the students were correct.
- Let students choose an object they can see in the room and draw its silhouette on the board (without telling anyone which object they chose) so that the class can guess which one it is.

## EXERCISE 6 - Current Popular Puppetry

- Take in some modern examples of puppetry so that your students have a bit of context for what our artist will be talking about:

Cirque Du Soleil:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HOOUqUtRI5E>

Lion King:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zk8v6UhfuoY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=83zD3ccsNUc>

Life of Pi:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOzXL4ERdpg>

Thang Long Vietnamese Water Puppetry:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwxyIOqL2ZU>

# Broadcast Program

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00:00 - 00:05:

Artist Bio Video + Introduction

00:05 - 00:10:

Shadow exploration - The light is the eye (2 volunteers needed, twice)

00:10 - 00:15:

Choosing an image

00:15-00:30:

Students first sketch out their puppets, then will cut them out.

00:30 - 00:35:

Sharing/Testing

00:35 - 00:45:

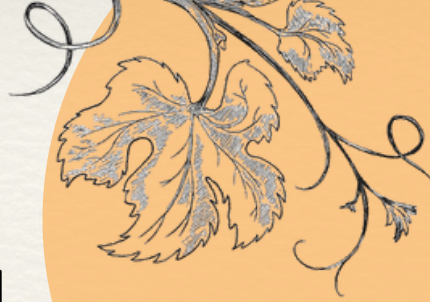
Small group work - Create a scene

00:45 - 00:50:

Artist Q & A



# Post Workshop Exercises



## EXERCISE 1 - Make Another Story

- Give your students time to keep playing with the shadow puppets they made for the broadcast.
- Let your students respond in role to other student's puppets, have them move around in different groups, adapting their puppets to another person/group's puppets, finding a way to make the two separate characters and scenes come together.
- If you had groups making a single puppet and they can't each take a part of it with them, feel free to have some students use hand puppetry as they try out a new improv with another student.
- Once the students have played with their puppets, have them sit down and actually write out a story for their puppet.
- Have them write down the setting for the story, 2 actions that happen in their story and 4 lines of dialogue.
- Have the students perform their little scenes to each other in small groups. Then ask all the listeners in each group to give one idea of something that could be added to the story. Have each student try to find a way to incorporate this feedback into their story.

## EXERCISE 2 - A Better Puppet

- If you want to take your shadow puppet journey one step further, have your students learn about making joints for a shadow puppet.
- This will require a few more materials, so watch these videos to learn what the process is and what materials you'll need:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1W4Or72sNXA>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KC2HK072130>
- Have your students put those silhouette skills from earlier to good use and cut out a silhouette of an animal.
- Have the students cut out a head portion of their animal and a body portion.
- You don't have to use coiled wire to create the joint, try using a paper fastener instead.
- Tape some skewers on to the two parts and let the students add some extra life to their character's movement.

# Additional Information

## Upcoming Workshops

*We are finished our workshops for this school year  
but keep your eye out for an email announcement of next  
years programs that we'll send out at the end of August*

If you want to reach out to Gabrielle to bring her into your classroom in person you can reach her at: [gabrielle.dufresne@gmail.com](mailto:gabrielle.dufresne@gmail.com)

