

Episode #2: “I Am” Puppetry with Crispi Lord

Targeted Age Group: Grade 6– Identity

A seasoned puppeteer, clown, and theatre maker, Crispi Lord invites students into her puppet laboratory for a hands-on exploration of her artistry. Students will create two types of puppets, using themselves as the inspiration.

What to expect?

Part 1: Meet Saskatoon artist Crispi Lord. Crispi is a puppeteer and runs a small theatre company, Wide Open Children’s Theatre. We are introduced to Crispi’s passion for puppetry and storytelling through the many characters she works with. Crispi introduces us to various methodologies in telling a story, which include forms of puppetry, such as hand and rod puppets, rod puppets, hand puppets, table-top puppets, shadow puppets, etc.

Part 2: We are introduced to a few examples of puppets (table-top, hand puppets, and rod puppets) Crispi has in her studio and how each functions slightly differently. Students will learn how to make self-portrait masks in both two-dimensional and three-dimensional puppets, using inexpensive and recycled materials.

Part 3: Students are introduced to shadow puppetry. Crispi discusses possible ways to play with staging and lighting, as well as simple techniques to make your own shadow puppets using self-portraits. Students will learn how to create props and puppets from basic materials, such as found objects, hand-made items, inexpensive dollar store items, and by taking apart other objects for parts.

Part 4: Crispi introduces us to ways to get started: determining who the characters are, place, conflict/plot, etc. Crispi considers things you should be mindful of when preparing to present your story for an audience, such as performing techniques and accessories, including lighting, sound, backdrop, etc. This video ends with “10 Things” to remember when putting together a puppet show.

Materials:

- recycled cardboard
- elastics/rubber band
- mirror
- photograph of self
- paper/markers
- scissors
- straws
- wooden dowl
- hot glue gun
- paper tape (optional)
- scrap fabric/fun fur/yarn (optional)
- templates (optional – included with Guide)

- cardstock, Bristol board, foam core (optional)
- clothes pins (most important puppet-building tool)
- tape
- exacto knife
- light from dollar store, flashlights, and/or projectors
- parchment paper
- photograph of self (side angle, or in action pose) photocopied onto paper
- welding wire, knitting needles, or clothes wires

Episode Highlights

Artistic Skills: Live performance, story creation, puppet fabrication and manipulation, creative inspiration, maintaining focus

Social Themes: The life of an independent artist and small business/company owner, developing empathy, breaking stereotypes, dealing with rejection as opportunity, embracing the weird.

Possible Arts Education 6 Curricular Outcomes:

- **CP6.4** Initiate and develop roles in selected drama forms (e.g., contextual, improv, puppetry, radio drama).
- **CP6.5** Select and use focus, tension, conflict, and symbol to convey ideas.
- **CP6.6** Collaborate on a drama that expresses ideas about identity and how it is influenced (e.g., factors such as pop culture, cultural heritage, peer groups, personal and family interests, gender).
- **CR6.2** Investigate and identify ways that the arts can express ideas about identity.
- **CH6.1** Investigate how personal, cultural, or regional identity may be reflected in arts expressions.

Run Times:

Part 1: 27:38 Meet the Artist
 Part 2: 28:40 Making Puppets
 Part 3: 21:05 All About Puppet Shows
 Part 4: 25:22 Putting on a Puppet Show

Total: 1:42:42

Part One: Meet the Artist

Running Time: 28 minutes. Suggested Class Time: 30-60 minutes (Watch the video and follow-up discussion)

Meet Saskatoon artist Crispi Lord. Crispi is a puppeteer and runs a small theatre company, Wide Open Children's Theatre. We are introduced to Crispi's passion for puppetry and storytelling through the many characters she works with. Crispi introduces us to various methodologies in telling a story, which include forms of puppetry such as hand and rod puppets, rod puppets, hand puppets, table-top puppets, shadow puppets, etc. We learn to appreciate

puppetry and its potential to teach us about empathy. Crispi likes to tell stories that break away from stereotypes and provide opportunities to teach resilience.

Crispi addresses the following:

1. Tell us about yourself, please.
2. What's a typical day like for you?
3. What's a question you get asked a lot?
4. How do you keep it fresh?
5. Are there important messages you want to share with your work?
6. What's one exciting part of your work?
7. What are the rules?
8. Where do you find inspiration?
9. How do you handle rejection?

Part Two: Making Puppets (Suggested Time: 2-3 hours)

We are introduced to a few examples of puppets (table-top, hand puppets, and rod puppets) Crispi has in her studio and how each functions slightly differently. Students will learn how to make self-portrait masks in both two-dimensional and three-dimensional puppets using inexpensive and recycled materials.

Making Puppets with Inexpensive Materials

- 0:00-3:47: Explanation – A bunch of puppets (tabletop rod puppet, glove puppet)

Making a Self-Portrait Rod Puppet (Moving Mouth Puppet). Suggested Time: 60-90 minutes

- 3:47- 15:39: Explanation and Activity

Three-Dimensional Self-Portrait Mask. Suggested Time: 60-90 minutes

- 15:40- 28:40: Explanation and Activity

Part Three: All About Puppet Shows (Suggested Time: 2-3 hours)

Students are introduced to shadow puppetry. Crispi discusses possible ways to play with stage and lighting, as well as simple techniques to make your own shadow puppets using self-portraits. Students will learn how to create props and puppets from basic materials such as found objects, hand-made items, inexpensive dollar store items, and by taking apart other objects for parts. Crispi ends with more insight to her practice, projects she's been involved in, and advice she would give her younger self.

- 0:00-3:50: Explanation – How to make simple props and finger puppets from secondhand items or other inexpensive materials

Shadow Puppets (3:51-15:23). Suggested Time: Varies (dependent on personal preference). Minimum: 20 minutes. Teachers/students can spend a lot of time on this project to develop work (2-4 hours)

- 3:51-15:23: Explanation – How to create a shadow theatre (box) and tips/tricks to make shadow puppets.

Influences (15:24-17:07)

- Discussion: Crispi talks about some of the influences that stand out in her career, including physical theatre, pop culture, other great puppetry performances, etc.

Accomplishments (17:07-19:58)

- Discussion: Crispi discusses her history and some of the highlights in her career.

Advice (19:59-21:06)

- Discussion: What advice would you give to your younger self? Embrace the weird and have fun with what makes you unique.

Part Four: Putting on a Puppet Show

How to do a lot with your story with very little: tips and tricks. What your puppet needs to do in the story will determine the kind of puppet(s) you make. Crispi introduces us to ways to get started: determining who the characters are, place, conflict/plot, etc. Crispi considers things you should be mindful of when preparing to present your story for an audience, such as performing techniques and accessories, including lighting, sound, backdrop, etc. This video ends with “10 Things” to remember when putting together a puppet show.

Step One: Getting Started (0:00-3:40). Suggested Time:15-60 minutes

- 0:00-3:30: Explanation – Getting started: Starting with characters
- 3:30-3:40: Activity: Write your character list. Build characters you think you will use (at least five in your show) and define the characters.

Step Two: Plot, Conflict, Action and Setting-3:40-6:42. Suggested Time- 30-60 minutes.

- 3:40-6:32: Explanation – What is going to be your plot and conflict, and what is going to happen to your characters? Where will the story take place? The story arc
- 6:32-6:42: Activity – Create your story arc.
- 6:42-10:02: Explanation/Activity – Write your story.

Step Three: Finishing the Story and Planning the Show (10:02-25:22). Suggested Time: 2-3 hours (Each explanation can be broken down into four separate 30-60-minute sessions).

- 10:02-13:22: Explanation 1 – Performance Techniques
- 13:22-15:07: Explanation 2 – Accessorize with Music and Sound
- 15:07-16:30: Explanation 3 – Accessorize with Lighting
- 16:30-17:23: Explanation 4 – Cheat Sheet
- 17:23-20:16: Puppetry performance about a guy warming up his dinner
- 20:16-25:22: “Ten Things” to Remember

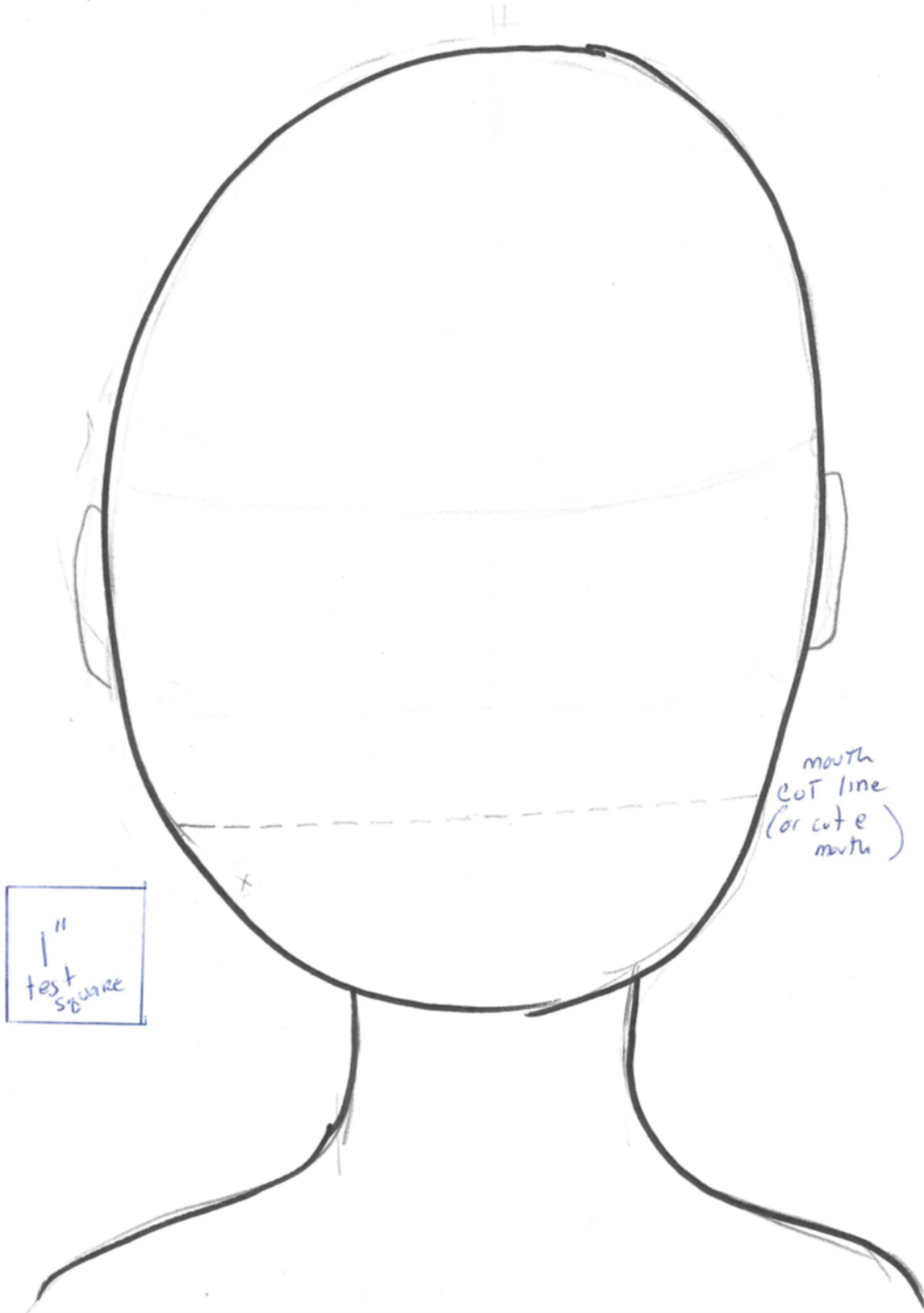
Biography

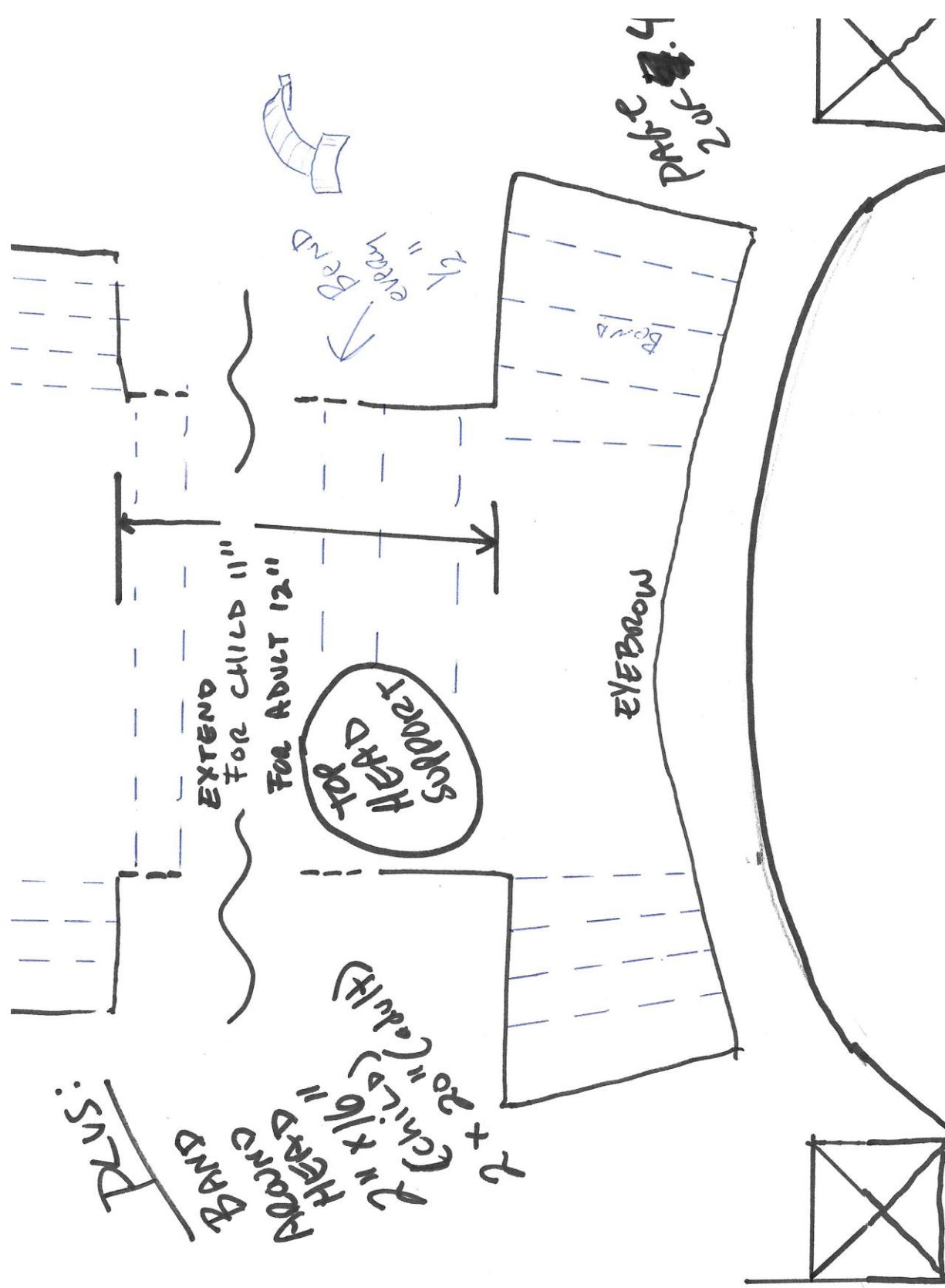
Crispi Lord (She/Her)

Crispi Lord is an actor/creator/designer based in Saskatoon and trained at the University of Saskatchewan and the Dell'Arte School of Physical Theatre (CA, USA). As head puppet wrangler with Wide Open Children's Theatre, she has been designing and building sets and

puppets for 20 years. Her latest endeavors include exploring the tiny world of tabletop puppetry with characters that are 6 inches tall. Trained in physical theatre, mask, and clown, she was all too excited to drop everything and run away to Meacham to make art. Recently she was the grateful recipient of the Henry Woolf Award for Continuing Achievement in Theatre from the Saskatoon and Area Theatre Awards. Theatre highlights include *Titus A. Puppet Revenge* (Shakespeare on The Saskatchewan and Stumped Productions), *The Snow Queen* (Dancing Sky Theatre), *Frosty the Snowperson*, *Balloonacy*, and *Piyisew Iskweisis* (Wide Open Children's Theatre).

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PLNS:

HEAD BAND

2 x 20" (adult)
 2 x 16" (child)

EXTEND FOR CHILD 11"
 FOR ADULT 12"

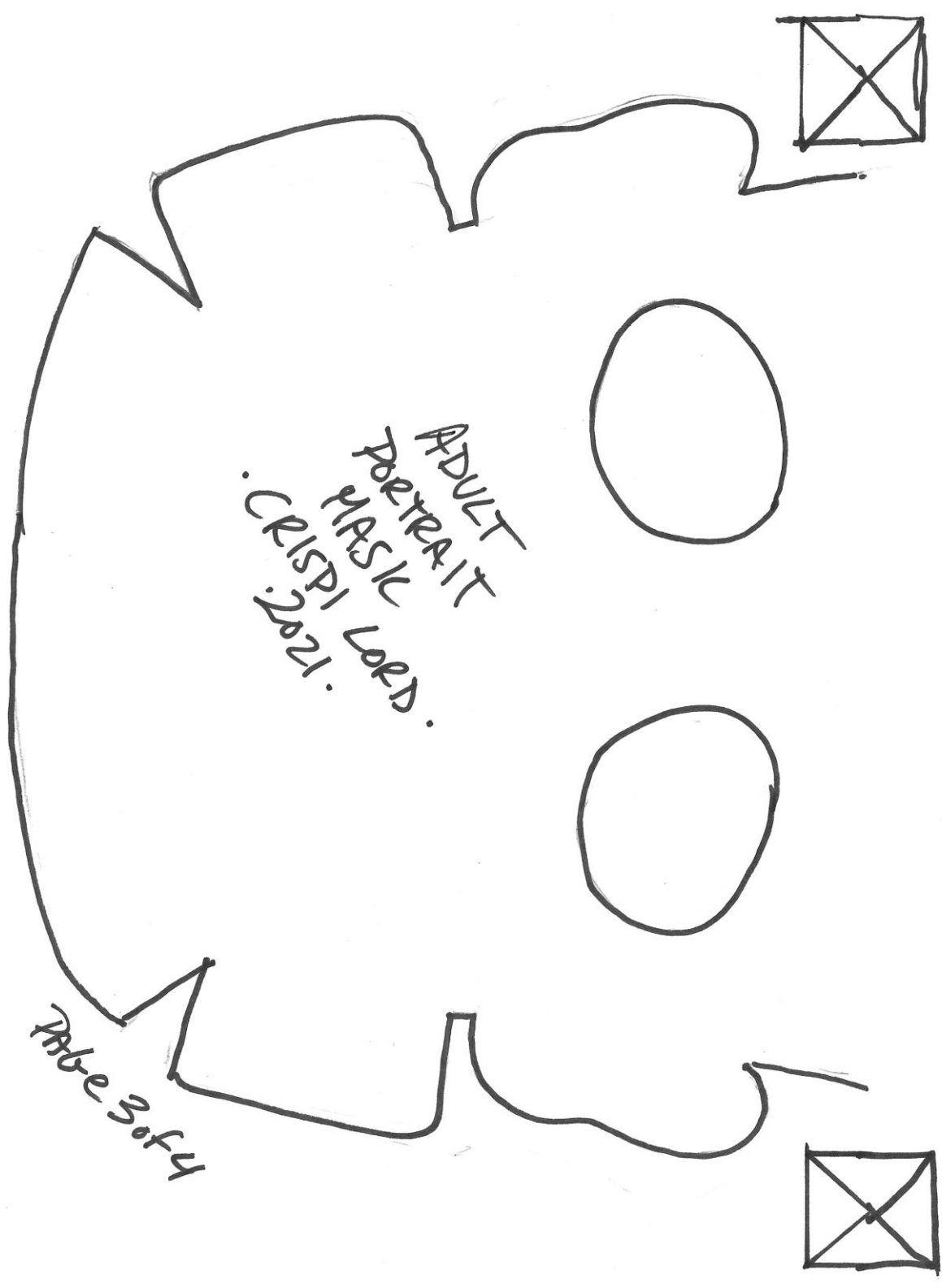
HEAD SUPPORT

EYEBROW

BAND

BEND
 1/2" every

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ADULT
PORTRAIT
MASK
CRISPI LORDS.
2021.

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