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# Puppet Mania!



## Synopsis

John Kennedy offers 13 original puppet projects, along with 30 featured puppets. Each project has straightforward instructions, showing how to bring the creations to life.

## Book Information

Paperback: 80 pages

Publisher: North Light Books; 2nd Edition edition (January 6, 2004)

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (24 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 8 and up

Grade Level: 3 and up

## Customer Reviews

I teach puppet making and puppetry to children and have MANY how-to puppet books in my collection. I was immediately attracted to the cover of this book because the puppets on the front were obviously not the usual sock puppets or glove puppets found in many books. In this book, John Kennedy, who has been working with puppets since he was eight and who has made puppets for use in television and the Muppet Review in Disney World, presents some fun ideas for those intermediate puppet makers who have already had success making simple puppets and want to move on to more technical puppets. In addition to step-by-step photos, patterns and instructions to make the dozen or so puppets, there are hints on how to manipulate them, create different expressions and change the basic puppet to make a variety of different characters. The feature I enjoyed most was John's comments throughout describing how he first came to create each type of puppet, many of which he designed when he was a child or young teen. In several instances he mentioned that the puppet shown had originally started out as something else and had grown into its present form gradually. I feel that it is important that children realize that even "professional"

artists and craftsmen go through a developmental process before achieving a finished product. A fun book, but definitely not for beginning puppet makers or very young children, as the puppets are quite sophisticated and there is extensive use of the hot glue gun.

Although there isn't as much detailed insights in the building of muppet-type hand puppets, as you would hope from a Muppeteer, this book provides you with a lot of excellent ideas and interesting alternative puppet building techniques. I recommend it for the beginner or for the intermediate builder who is looking for a fresh look at the craft.

If you are just into puppet making for fun and not really into the art of making them, this book is for you. The puppets built inside are very basic and developed so that anybody can make them. It's a fun book, but personally I felt it was a little childish and didn't really touch base on some of other techniques. If you are looking to make a more muppet style puppet this book does not cover it. However his second book Puppet Planet is an excellent book that goes into more detail and more professional style puppet making.

I ordered this in hopes of getting ideas on how to make puppets for a play I am doing. This is more for kids being guided by adults...perhaps like at a day camp. Nice pictures and clear instructions, though. Arrived on time and in good condition.

I ordered a couple of other books on puppet making and this one, is the most intimidating to me. After passing the basic sock puppet-- which I knew how to do, I was too intimidated to go further (and also I run out of time, as I had a puppet show myself to perform). And yet, it is very well explained, the creativity goes beyond what my brain had in storage; it blew my mind at what the author can do -- making a dragonfly with plastic bottles, or a lady bug with a little bucket ??? or even put your own picture on a paper lunch bag and make ....talk ! (well this one is a little freaky); anyway I was and am still very excited about this little book. This is a great summer book for kids, but unlike Hand Puppets: How to Make and Use Them, there is no stories to tell, and not directions on how to perform a puppet show. This one is strictly technical which is, of course, ok too.

Although well put together, this book is very much on an elementary school level. It would be great for teachers but not if you are interested in designing, making, and performing professional level puppets. Cute little book, but NOT 'The World's Most Incredible Puppet Making Book Ever'.

the book is not for professional puppet makers. most of the puppets are hand puppets made of simple materials that can be found or improvised at home - it's a great project book for children.

lots of different puppet ideas. They are not too difficult, great to make with kids.

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