Make a Puppet Show

Recipe for a puppet show
Here's how to make some simple cardboard puppets. The same method can be used to make shadow puppets

Ingredients: Pencils, newsprint, cardboard, 2 straightened coat hangers per puppet (rods), or 2 welding rods, a $\frac{3}{32}$ rod and a $\frac{1}{16}$ rod. 2 brass paper fasteners per puppet, fabric, glue, scissors, hole punch, wire cutters and pliers or vise grips. Crayons, and markers for cutout puppets, coloured acetate and tissue paper for shadow puppets.

Method: Draw a design on newsprint. The puppet should be about 6 inches tall. If you're making shadow puppets, make sure that you have a strong, definite outline, since that is what the audience will see: shadow puppets faces are usually best as profiles. Choose one part (leg, arm, head, whatever) to be the moveable part. Cut out the design.

Cut off the moveable part. Trace both parts of the design onto cardboard.

When you trace your moveable part onto cardboard, add an extra bit to make an overlap. Hold the pieces together, lining up the main body and the moveable part so that the extra piece overlaps.

Punch through both halves with a hole punch. Use a brass paper fastener to connect the two parts of the puppets.

If you're using coat hangers, cut the hooks and twisted wire off them and straighten the remain- pieces with pliers. These are the puppets rods. course, if you're using welding rod, you don't to prepare the rods.

Bend a U shape on the end of one rod. (Use the thicker $\frac{3}{32}$ rod.) This is the support rod. Tape this one onto the puppet's body.

Bend a small eye on the end of the other rod. (The thinner $\frac{1}{16}$ rod). Use a brass paper fastener to attach this second rod through the hole in the moveable part.

The ends of the rods can be bent into loops to provide handles. To make clothes or fur, glue fabric on the body.

Use a table top, cardboard box, or the floor for a stage. Sets and props can be made with cardboard and cardboard boxes.

If you're making shadow puppets, of course, you wouldn't colour them or dress them, but you can cut out holes in the cardboard and tape coloured acetate, tissue paper or gauzy fabric over these windows to create a stained glass effect.

An overhead is a good light source—you can even make scenery out of cardboard and acetate and put it directly on the overhead.

Have fun!