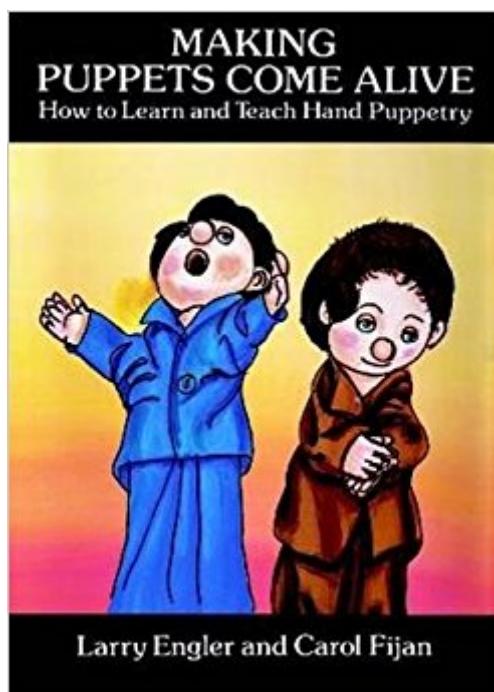


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# Making Puppets Come Alive: How To Learn And Teach Hand Puppetry (Dover Craft Books)



## Synopsis

Unlike other performing arts, puppetry is perhaps the only art form in which directing, acting, writing, designing, sculpture, and choreography are combined. In effect, the performer is creating an artistic entertainment that will appeal to audiences of all ages — in homes, in theaters, and in classrooms. This lucid, easy-to-follow book was specifically conceived to teach beginners how to bring a hand puppet to life and how, with practice, to develop the skills needed to mount an amateur puppet show — complete with staging, costumes, and special effects. Award-winning puppeteers Larry Engler and Carol Fijan provide ingenious finger, wrist, and arm exercises that are crucial for creating a full working range of puppet motions and emotions. They also cover the elements of good puppet theatrical technique: speech, voice use, and synchronization; stage deportment and interactions; improvisation, dramatic conflict, role characterization, and more. Every detail is clearly explained and beautifully illustrated with photographs, specific chapters being devoted to the use of props, puppet voices and movements, the construction of simple stages and lighting effects, and much more. A splendid addition to the literature on this subject, *Making Puppets Come Alive* is "the best book on hand puppetry we've seen." — The Whole Kids Catalog.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is from the early 1970's. The listing indicates is from that 1990's. Nope, it's not. The photos are very clear but they are black and white. This book is almost entirely about manipulating

simple hand puppets WITHOUT moving mouths. If you want to learn how to use a Muppet-type puppet, this book doesn't really go into much depth. Years ago, I performed puppet shows with a team that had studied under a guy who worked for Jim Henson's Muppets/Sesame Street. I'm not claiming to be at that skill level but I did learn a few things. This book has one **SMALL** section dealing with puppets that have moving mouths and the advice here is rather novice in my opinion. This book states that the mouth should be opened by separating the fingers and thumb equal distances while simultaneously bending the wrist to cause the puppet's head to jut forward. That technique is good if you want to make the puppet appear to be yelling, but it doesn't look right for normal dialogue. When you (human) yell, you open your mouth wide and push your face forward so it looks right when a yelling puppet does the same. However, when you speak, the top half of your head does not raise and you don't always push your face forward, but rather, your bottom jaw drops. Likewise, when your puppet speaks, you should move the thumb up and down to move the lower jaw while trying to keep the top of the head as stable as possible. This allows for the audience to see the puppet's full face during speech and looks more natural. Of course there should be some head movement (as is natural even when humans speak) but the top of the head shouldn't flop up and down if the puppet isn't telling. You also want to keep your wrist bent enough to allow the audience to see the puppet's whole face (especially the eyes) while it is speaking. So, I have to say that if you're looking for a book on manipulating puppets with moving mouths, I don't think this one is a great choice for learning about mouth manipulation.

I make puppets myself and want to learn more how to make them come alive. As I live abroad I was impatient to start reading the book. As it finally arrived and read it I can only say how disappointed I was at the low level of ideas that are described in the first 120 p of the book. I guess nothing 'new' only logical. Pity. I don't enjoy writing a negative review. I only wish it had given me 'more'.

Clearly, and step by step this wonderful book show you how to make puppets come alive in your hands. Parents, teachers as well as anyone with an interest in theater will learn a lot from this book, and quickly. You will be able to teach children how to express action, emotion and humor quickly. For children of 4th grade and up, you can just give them the book, and a few sock puppets, and they'll be off!

Good book for the puppet master wanna-be like me!

This book was a welcome surprise to me just starting in learning about puppets. Gave directions to actually make the puppets perform with emotion to develop the story line, just as human actors do onstage. Helps to know this going in.

This is an excellent book for the novice as well for the experienced puppeteer. It is simple, visual and is an excellent tool for teaching. I whole heartily recommend it for the student and the teacher.

very visual, great value for the money. nicely illustrated. a great guide for the beginner as well as the more advanced.

Lots of info..still reading and studying. Working on a lot of puppet characters and ideas. Nothing more to say right now. Thank You

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