



How to put on your own theatre show

Creating a play is a fun thing to do.

There are lots of ways to do it and there is no right or wrong way.

It can be very easy to do and you can do it very simply or decide to try for something quite grand.

So here are some things to think about.

1. What would you like your play to be about? 🤔

You could decide to act out a story you already know, say something from a favourite book.

Or you could decide to create your own story and do something really exciting.

The good thing about theatre is that you can pretend anything you like. You could be in a faraway magical country, you could be an old person, an alien from outer space, a fish swimming under water. That's the great thing about theatre you can make up anything you want. And you can include anything you like, maybe a magic trick, some exciting music, a light flashing on and off, you get to decide.

2. The people in the play 👩‍👦 👑 👮 👷 👶

The people in the play- the **actors**- are called the **cast** and you don't need a lot of people. You can put on a one-person show with just yourself acting. And just because it is one person does not mean it won't be exciting. If you want to, you can pretend to be lots of different people so that it seems like there are lots of actors. You can just pretend to be them or you could add something like a hat or a pair of gloves when you change characters to make it more interesting.

3. The words ✍️ 🗣️

You can decide to write down the words you are going to say, this is called the **script**, or you could just decide to say whatever comes into your head when you start your show. If you do it is called **improvisation**

4. What to wear 🎩 👗 🕶️ 🧣 🧔 🐶

What are you going to wear? These are the **costumes** for the play. It could be just your regular clothes. You don't have to wear something different from normal but you could have some fun making costumes. Maybe there are some clothes you can use (but ask permission if you are borrowing someone else's things). Try experimenting, putting your socks on your hands as gloves, or on your ears to

look like a dog. Do up a jacket and step into it to make a long dress or open it up and wear it round your shoulders like a cape. See if there are things like kitchen foil or washed out food containers you can use to make a space helmet or robot parts. Scrunched up paper hankies or cotton wool can be stuck on a piece of paper to make an old man's beard. But always check with a grown up that your costume is safe and remember to make sure that you leave your eyes, mouth and nose uncovered.

5. Things you need 🥤 🎈 📚 📞 🧸

You also need to think about things you will need in your show. If you need a cup, or a book these are the **props**. Make sure you have these ready for your performance.

6. Your theatre 🎭 🪑

And decide where you are doing the play. This will be your **stage** and if you have, say a table and a chair, this is called the **set**. Is it going to be in your bedroom or the living room? If you have a window with long curtains you could draw the curtains then invite the audience in and if you stand behind the curtain you can then make a grand entrance like in a real theatre

7. Programme 📖 🖨️

When you have a name for your show you can also write a programme. You could either draw this or do it on a computer. You need to put things in like the name of the play, the actors' names and the parts they play and give some details of what the play is about (don't give away the story though!) where the play is set (is it England or somewhere else?) and when (is it today, in the past or in the future?)

8. Tickets 🎫 🎫

And you could have some tickets to invite people to watch you. If you have a printer you can print them out from the Scenesaver site or you can make your own tickets. But you don't need to have an audience, you can act out your play and use a mobile phone or tablet to record it.

9. The End 🙌 🙌 🙌

Remember at the end of your show you should stand and take a bow- which means the play is over and, if you have an audience, they can all clap and cheer you!

It's great fun making a play. We hope you enjoy it and if you do film it we would love to see it so send us your play to info@scenesaver.co.uk

Watch theatre shows for inspiration at scenesaver.co.uk