

HEAD IN THE CLOUDS

Pre-performance notes for teachers

Many schools use a visit from Hand to Mouth Theatre to supplement the curriculum, and this sheet should give you more information about "Head in the Clouds!" for you to prepare the children for the show or produce some follow-up work.

Our shows can be taken on different levels, and are full of potential catalysts for development in the class. To begin with, the school hall becomes a theatre, where we all believe in the story told and acted by Martin. The audience is involved in listening, singing, and helping the story along in a controlled way.

The Story:

Martin takes the role of **The Puppet Man** who is on his way to a school to perform a show. The dramatic device of having a hat which makes dreams come true enables the everyday characters of a schoolboy, a teacher and a lollipop lady to enter fantasies in which we meet a sad, concertina-playing polar bear, a dancing tiger, and the Man-in-the-Moon. There is a puppet show within a puppet show, and the Puppet Man appears as a puppet too, so the whole experience is at once understandable and intriguing.

The Theme:

We all need balance between imagination and practicality. Too daydreamy - we may walk across a busy road without looking. Too rooted in serious reality - we may miss out on the joys of artistic creativity and humour.

Inspiration: The daydream hat is a possible trigger for children to create their own stories. The characters of the show might inspire drawing and painting too (or even puppet-making!) Martin is also happy to give an additional short talk to older children (Yr 3 upward) if required.

There are probably other things too, but being performers rather than teachers it's hard for us to see the show objectively. We know how to perform...you know how to teach!

We are always delighted to receive letters and drawings from children after the show, and we always reply. (Please note our new address. Also, don't forget to include your schools name with the package, and to use the correct amount of postage!)

We are equally pleased to hear from teachers with any comments and /or constructive criticism.

Martin and Su.

