

me and my Shadow



Me and My Shadow

Overview:

The ordinary world of children is transformed through play, often so vividly that the 'imagined' becomes 'real' and possibilities become limitless. *Me and My Shadow* is a gentle story depicting the fanciful escapades of a girl, who finds a way to be friends with her shadow.

"Me and My Shadow is absolutely beautiful and engaging on a theatrical level and genuinely one of the best children's theatre works I've seen. Good grief it had everything! It was imaginative, magical, miraculous, moving and funny to boot and I just loved it."

Pat Rix - Artistic Director, Tutti Ensemble

The Story:

Children love to play with shadows. Shadows are mysterious and magical and can do amazing things, but making friends with your shadow can be a tricky business ... there are things to sort out ... frustrations to be overcome ... problems to solve ... adventures to be had ... and laughter to be shared.

The Form:

Me and My Shadow is presented in the form of a visual poem for children. The show tells its story using the languages of paper, light, shadow, colour, water, music, sound and words.

Early Childhood Learning:

Languages aren't just spoken or read. A language is any expression of meaning conveyed through symbols. Dance, music, mathematics and painting are all languages. Artists are continually inventing and exploring the possibilities of new languages ... new forms of expression ... and children, being the natural artists they are, are doing it all the time as they explore the imaginative possibilities of their world.

Theatre is a wonderful way to explore the diverse possibility of "languages". Loris Malaguzzi, the founder of the Reggio Emilia approach to early childhood learning, wrote a poem called *The Hundred Languages of Children*.

The child has a hundred languages
A hundred hands
A hundred thoughts
A hundred ways of thinking
Of playing, of speaking
A hundred ways of listening
Of marvelling
Of loving
A hundred joys
For singing and understanding
A hundred worlds to discover
A hundred worlds to invent
A hundred worlds to dream
And a hundred, hundred,
hundred more ...

On Line Learning Resources:

Learning resources and activities, photo galleries, preview videos and music can be downloaded from:

<http://www.patchtheatre.org.au/shadow-downloads.html>

Re-experiencing the show with your children by perusing this booklet, watching online video segments, viewing our photo galleries, engaging in the on-line activities and re-enacting segments from the performance will provoke many opportunities for further learning.

Creative Possibilities: Children are completely at home with symbolic play ... a torch can become a car or a rocket ship, a paper bag can become a friend. In our production of *Me and My Shadow*, we draw upon the simple possibilities of found objects and their capacity to transform into the amazing possibilities that children invent in their creative play.

Some Further Learning Suggestions:

- collect a box full of interesting looking junk and invite groups of children to use objects from the junk box to make up a story
- invite children to make a performance using a specific palette of elements eg. "chairs" or "cushions" or "leaves and boxes" or "string and paper" or "tea-towels and socks"

The paper we use in the production is recycled.



Patch Theatre Company
Me and My Shadow

Act 1: Playing

What did the girl do with her cutout children?
(She kissed them goodnight)

Act 2: Discovering Shadows

What shadow animal did the girl make with her hand?
(A dog)

Act 3: Paper Bag

What did the paper bag teach her?
(How to draw a girl)

Act 4: My Shadow

What happened to the girl's shadow?
(It turned into the shadow of a boy and it started to play with her)



Act 5: Extensions

What happened when the girl put her arm into the shadow world? (Her arm got longer and longer and longer)

Act 6: My Shadow Is Real!

When the girl cut the paper with the shadow of her scissors, what happened? (The shadow boy came through the hole into her world)

Act 7: Copying!

When they see each other for the first time, what happens? (The shadow boy keeps copying the girl until she runs away from him)

Act 8: Pretending

When the girl runs away, the boy is left to play in her space. What does he do? (He puts on her hat and pretends he is her)



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Act 9: Playing Together When the boy and girl play together, they have a tug of war with a rope. Who wins and what happens? (The girl wins and together they connect the balloon to her end of the rope and when they push it into the girl's bag, it magically goes through the floor and comes out of the other bag)

Act 10: Singing Star What happens when the shadow boy tries to outdo the girl? (She doesn't want to play anymore)

Act 11: Alone The girl tries to play by herself but her imagination has deserted her. Why were the girl and boy sad? (They'd stopped being friends)

Act 12: Light The boy gives the girl light to try to make friends with her again. What did the boy do with the big ball of light? (He shaped it into a square and pushed it into a paper bag)

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Act 13: Friends Again. Together the boy and girl play with little balls of light. Do you remember what two colours these lights were? (Red and blue)

Act 14: Shadow-land. The boy invites the girl to play in his world of shadows, where they can be big or small. Do you move towards or away from the light to make your shadow bigger? (Towards)

Act 15: Painting. When the girl and boy return to their own worlds, the boy makes a big painting for her. What was in the middle of the painting? (A heart)

Act 16: Gone. When the girl tears down the paper wall to look for the boy, he's not there. Where do you think he went? (Anything you choose to imagine)



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Me and My Shadow is about a girl discovering her shadow and the journey they take to become friends. It is stunning image theatre integrating storytelling with beautiful stage pictures, magic and illusion. The show offers such beauty to behold and magic to marvel at, the audience was nothing but engaged. Ursula Beaumont, Review, Lowdown Magazine

Collaboratively created by: Theatre Making for Children Patch Theatre Company

Zoë Barry, Dave Brown,
Geoff Cobham, Roz Hervey,
Nathan O'Keefe, Astrid Pill
@ Bob Weatherly

Original Cast: Astrid Pill @
Nathan O'Keefe

Composer: Zoë Barry

Light and Stage Design:
Geoff Cobham @ Dave
Brown

Direction: Roz Hervey, Dave
Brown @ Geoff Cobham

Production Management:
Bob Weatherly

Technical Construction:
Bob Weatherly, Jim Confos
and Lisa Osborn

Touring Cast: Tim Overton,
Sarah Brokensha

Touring Crew: Catherine
Oates, Catherine Simitsis,
Bob Weatherly

Our job as theatre-makers is to extend children's experience beyond what they already know by engaging them in the wonder of a multi-layered, poetic, enriching and inspiring event. The rule of thumb is - if they're engaged; it's working. If they're profoundly engaged; it's working profoundly.

At Patch, we spend two years making a new 45-minute show. Ours is always lovingly crafted work, created by artists who respect and care for children and childhood.

Patch Theatre's Online Community

Patch offers brief "arts related" learning ideas to our online community on a regular basis. To receive these learning ideas and resources, join our online community by filling out the online form at:

<http://www.patchtheatre.org.au/teachers.html>

Based in Adelaide, South Australia, Patch Theatre Company has presented 103 new productions to more than 1.6 million children and their families since it began in 1972.

Patch has presented seasons across Australia, the United States, Canada, Singapore, Korea, Japan and New Zealand.

Patch Mission: *keeping the artist alive in the child.*

"Many things can wait; the child cannot. Now is the time their bones are being formed. Now is the time their minds are being developed. To them we cannot say tomorrow. Their name is today."

Gabriela Mistral

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