

Mask-Making Workshop With RAZE THE SPACE Theatre Ensemble

Raze The Space is an international theatre ensemble based in Los Angeles. We make all kinds of theatre for all kinds of people. This worksheet explains how to make masks just like the ones we use in some of our performances.

There are different ways to make Paper-Mache masks. At *Raze The Space* we use three methods all of which follow a simple steps that we're going to learn today.

METHOD 1

You will need:

- A hard plastic mask
- Aluminum foil
- School glue
- Water
- A plastic pot
- lots of old newspaper
- Brown paper sacks/shopping bags (from Trader Joes etc.)

The easiest way to make a Paper-Mache mask is to cheat! We call this Method 1 and we use it all the time. First, you will need to buy a hard plastic mask like the one in the picture:



This is going to be our face template and from this one mask we can make 100 or 1000 different masks if we like.

If you just want to make a Paper-Mache copy of this mask simply cover the mask with the aluminum foil and mold it to the shape of the mask. Then mix 2 parts glue to 1 part water in the mixing container. Tear up some strips of newspaper, dip them in the glue/water mix and put them on the mask.



When you've added two layers of newspaper to the mask, tear up the brown paper shopping bags and repeat the process. When the paper dries you can paint it or simply tear it from the plastic mask and you have your very own environmentally friendly Paper-Mache

mask. If you want your mask to be stronger and longer-lasting just add extra layers of paper. It's that simple.

METHOD 2

You will need:

- A hard plastic mask
- Modelling clay
- Petroleum jelly
- School glue
- Water
- A plastic pot
- lots of old newspaper
- Brown paper sacks/shopping bags (from Trader Joes etc.)

Again, we are going to start with the hard plastic mask but this time we're going to add modelling clay to exaggerate its features. This way, we can control what our mask will look like. When the modelling clay has been added, leave it for one or two days until it's dry and hard.



Next, cover the mask with a layer of petroleum jelly. This will create a barrier between the modelling clay and the Paper-Mache and make it easier to remove the mask when it is ready.

Just like the previous method, we are now ready to tear up some newspaper, mix 2 parts glue with 1 part water

in the mixing container, dip the paper in the glue and add it to our plastic mask.

After the paper, add two more layers using strips torn from the brown paper bags. When the mask is dry, it's ready to be painted or removed from the template and worn.

If you want to make a mask that covers the whole head there is an extra step you need to complete first: Remove the Paper-Mache mask from the template, blow up a balloon and fit this into the space on the inside of the mask.



Then use the Scotch tape to secure the balloon to the mask. Finally, use the same Paper-Mache technique as before with the paper and glue mix to join the mask to the balloon. Add layers of brown paper and when the mask is dry you can pop the balloon and your mask will be ready to wear!

METHOD 3 – CLASSIC

You will need:

- A balloon
- School glue
- Water
- A plastic pot
- lots of old newspaper
- Brown paper sacks/shopping bags (from Trader Joes etc.)
- Cardboard from cereal packets, paper plates or old egg boxes
- Sticky tape/scotch tape
- Scissors

Start by blowing up and tying your balloon making sure it is slightly bigger than your own head or the head of the person who will be wearing the mask.



Next, use the cereal packets/egg boxes to make the shape of the eyes, nose, mouth and chin and stick these to the balloon using the tape. When everything is secure it's time to get messy!

Mix the water and glue, tear the paper into strips, dip the paper into the glue and add them to the mask. Repeat this process several times so you have at least three layers of paper covering the mask. Leave the mask to dry.

Then repeat the Paper-Mache process but using the brown paper bags and leave it to harden. When everything is dry you can pop the balloon inside the mask and paint your mask or leave it neutral.

We hope you enjoyed today's workshop. If you have any questions email us at the address at the bottom of the page and please send us pictures of your finished masks. We'd love to include them on the *Raze The Space* website.