

Disney Winnie the Pooh

THE NEW MUSICAL
STAGE ADAPTATION

EDUCATIONAL GUIDE



ABOUT THE SHOW

Disney's iconic Winnie the Pooh, Christopher Robin and their best friends Piglet, Eeyore, Kanga, Roo, Rabbit, and Owl (oh... and don't forget Tigger too!) have come to life in a beautifully crafted musical stage adaptation.

Featuring the Sherman Brothers' classic Grammy Award-winning music with further songs by A.A. Milne, this beautiful fresh stage adaptation is told with stunning life-sized puppetry through the eyes of the characters we all know and love, in a new story from the Hundred Acre Wood.

This production is created by renowned family entertainment creator Jonathan Rockefeller, and made by Rockefeller Productions alongside Disney Theatrical Productions. **The puppetry in this production received a Drama Desk nomination for Best Puppetry Design.** Following premieres in New York and Chicago, Pooh and friends **are now** touring the United States **beginning** Fall 2022!

ABOUT ROCKEFELLER PRODUCTIONS

Jonathan Rockefeller and Rockefeller Productions embraced the challenge of re-imaging Disney's Winnie the Pooh for a new audience by bringing it to life on stage in puppet form. The company has garnered global accolades, from critics and audiences alike, for their production of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show*, with 14 productions playing on four continents. An extended run of the show in New York City culminated in Drama Desk and Off-Broadway Alliance nominations, as did *Paddington Gets in a Jam*, which tours China and the US in 2022. Other projects include the award-winning short film, *10 Little Rubber Ducks*, written by preeminent author/illustrator Eric Carle and the recently released Christmas special *Paddington Saves Christmas*. Rockefeller Productions will debut their latest project, *Sesame Street the Musical*, in Fall 2022.

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THE
HISTORY
OF
WINNIE
THE POOH





A.A. MILNE

Alan Alexander Milne (or A.A. Milne for short) was born in England on January 18, 1882. He studied mathematics at university but realized writing was his true passion when he edited and wrote for a student magazine. From there he got a job writing essays and humorous poems for another magazine called Punch. He wrote many wonderful poems as well as plays.

He married his wife Dorothy and together they had a son named Christopher Robin. When Christopher Robin turned 1 year old, he received a birthday gift of a stuffed bear, who at the time was named Edward Bear. However, the bear was later renamed Winnie-the-Pooh. The part of the name Winnie was inspired by a famous Canadian Bear, Winnipeg, that Christopher Robin adored visiting at the London Zoo. The part of the name Pooh came from a swan that Christopher Robin fed on a holiday. They are not sure which part of the name came first, but that's the name Christopher Robin liked.

The Milne family had a cottage near Ashdown Forest where they would spend weekends and springs and summers. In Ashdown Forest, you can find the Five Hundred Acre Wood where Christopher Robin and his family loved to walk and



explore. It also became the inspiration for the setting of Winnie the Pooh's The Hundred Acre Wood.

Christopher Robin was a very curious and adventurous child who loved to hear stories. A.A. Milne was inspired by Christopher Robin's dear friendships with his toys, so he came up with bedtime stories about different adventures that Christopher Robin, Pooh and the other stuffed toys from Christopher Robin's nursery would go on. These bedtime stories ended up becoming the stories that the Winnie the Pooh books are based on.



Once A.A. Milne began compiling his stories to publish a book, he invited his illustrator friend, Ernest H Shepard, to come to visit the Milne family at their cottage. Milne took him around and asked him to sketch different parts of the Five Hundred Acre Wood and Christopher Robin's toys. These fabulously drawn illustrations were used in the Winnie the Pooh books. First verses of Pooh were in a book called When We Were Young (1924) and was very successful. From there Milne continued to write the book Winnie the Pooh and the sequel The House at Pooh Corner (in which Tigger is introduced) which have become household classics in children's literature around the world.





DISNEY HISTORY

When the Winnie the Pooh books were first published, they were household names in Great Britain and across Europe, but not many families in America knew of Pooh. However, one man did know and cherished these books and wanted to share the delightful friends of the Hundred Acre Wood with kids across the United States.

Walt Disney and his wife thoroughly enjoyed reading Winnie the Pooh to his daughters. After hearing his children's giggles at bedtime and asking for more of these stories, Walt Disney knew he wanted to adapt Winnie the Pooh to bring this joy to many more children in the States.

Disney received the rights to Winnie the Pooh in 1961, but he didn't want to create a full movie right away. He had an idea to slowly introduce Pooh through shorts (also called featurettes) so children could slowly get to know Pooh and all of his friends in the Hundred Acre Wood. With families more familiar with all the characters from the Hundred Acre Woods, he believed there would be more excitement and a bigger audience for the full length movie. He believed it would become classic and a household name and it worked!

While adapting Winnie the Pooh, the animators wanted to stay as close to the original beloved Earnest Shephard illustrations from the books. The only changes made were making sure all the characters could move well and have wide ranges of expression- this is what animators have to do when taking a still picture and making it animated! Disney also took care to make sure all the featurettes and stories were based on real chapters from the books, not only to make sure they captured the honesty, lovable characters and innocent childhood adventures of the original novels, but to remind children they could follow more adventures with Pooh in the books. That's why the animators often drew Pooh and his friends inside the books, interacting with words of the pages, and interacting with the narrator.

Along with songs written by the Sherman Brothers, Buddy Baker wrote and arranged the musical score for the first full length movie. He used different instruments to represent the different characters. For our show, different instruments and sounds were used to represent different seasons.

In 1977, the full length movie The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh was released which combined the previous featurettes with some new additional scenes as well as a new ending. Just as Disney had imagined and hoped for, many people flocked to see the new movie and children all across America fell in love with all the charming friends of the Hundred Acre Wood.

THE FIRST FEATURETTES

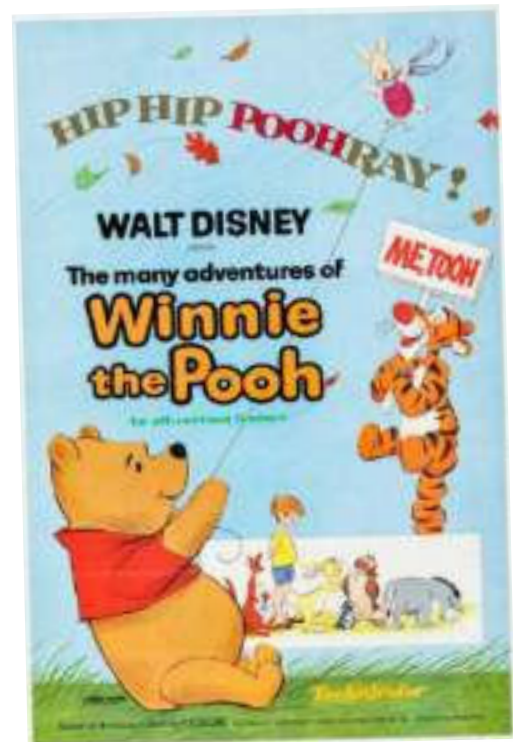
- **Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day (1968)**
- **Winnie the Pooh and Tigger Too (1974)**

ORIGINAL FULL LENGTH FEATURES

- **The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh (1977)**

LATER FEATURETTES

- **Winnie the Pooh Discovers the Seasons (1981)**
- **Winnie the Pooh and a Day for Eeyore (1983)**





SHERMAN BROTHERS

Robert Bernard Sherman (December 19, 1925 – March 6, 2012)

Richard Morton Sherman (June 12, 1928)

There are very few people who can call themselves true showmen like the Sherman Brothers can. They grew up in an extraordinarily musical family; their father was a successful songwriter and their mother was an actress who played piano. In their youth, both brothers learned piano and older brother Robert excelled playing violin (as well as writing poetry) and younger brother Richard learned several other instruments including flute and piccolo.

However the brothers didn't initially start composing together until their father gave them a challenge to do so in the early 1950s. Even though they had family connections, the brothers first struggled to get their music noticed, however their talents and craft continued to grow and they never lost their upbeat attitudes. Then in 1958, famous Mouseketeer Annette Funicello sang their song "Tell Paul", which caught the attention of none other than Walt Disney.

The Sherman brothers were hired for Walt Disney Studios and wrote a little song you may recognize- "It's a Small World (After all)" [Fun fact: This is the most publicly played song of all time.] They wrote music and songs for many Disney movies and the Walt Disney theme parks including The Parent Trap, Mary Poppins, The Jungle Book and of course The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh.

Their father taught them that songwriting needed to follow the 3 S's- simple, singable and sincere- which they never forgot when writing their songs. They also discovered for themselves that songs have another three parts: the music, the lyrics and the idea. For the brothers, the most important part was to come up with a good idea for a song- it was the first thing they always worked on. Once they had the seed of the idea, they could make it grow into a beautiful and memorable song.

When Walt Disney passed, the Sherman brothers left Disney to work as freelancers on many other projects. However in 2000 (more than 28 year later) they came back to Disney to write music for a new Winnie the Pooh movie, The Tigger Movie, proving that you can never be too old to return to the Hundred Acre Wood.

INSTRUMENTS USED FOR THE CHARACTERS

- Eeyore -- Bass Clarinet
- Kanga -- Flute
- Roo -- Piccolo
- Rabbit -- Clarinet
- Piglet -- Oboe
- Owl -- Ocarina & French Horn
- Pooh -- Baritone Horn



ABOUT THE SHOW



ABOUT THE SHOW

THE CHARACTERS



WINNIE THE POOH

Winnie the Pooh is a gentle and thoughtful bear who loves his friends and honey. He's quite clever, but he may not know it. He is always ready for a new adventure, or rather new adventures always seem to be ready for him.



EYORE

Eeyore is a donkey who loves to take his time. He is very proud of the house that he built for himself and is grateful when his friends come to visit him. He likes to give his opinion or advice, even if no one asks.



PIGLET

Piglet is a loyal, generous and sweet friend. He may be small, but Piglet loves to be helpful and he is good at problem solving. Piglet is always grateful to his friends who make him feel braver.



TIGGER

Tigger is so full of joy, energy and fun so he is constantly on the go looking for the next game to play with his friends. Tigger's favorite thing to do is bounce but the most wonderful thing about Tigger is he's the only one.



CHRISTOPHER ROBIN

Christopher Robin is a very kind and imaginative boy, who loves to explore. He always helps his friends and is quite resourceful.



THE CHARACTERS



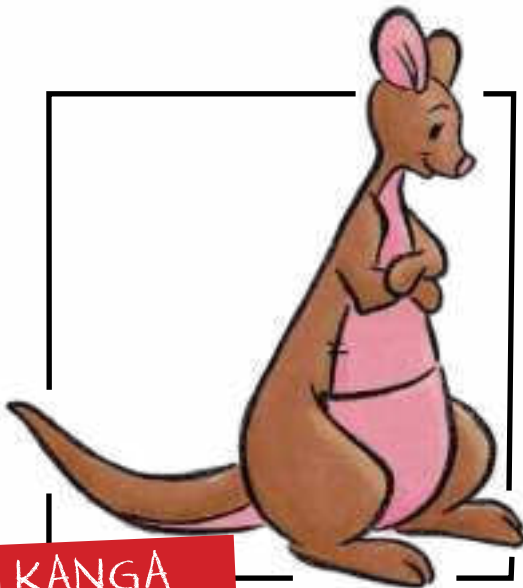
RABBIT

Rabbit is very organised and hardworking. He loves to garden and is good at being a leader and taking charge. He may be busy often, but he is a dependable friend.



OWL

Owl is very wise and intelligent. He is very proud of his large family and loves to tell long stories about them. He enjoys when friends come to him for help, as he considers himself to be very reliable.



KANGA

Kanga is a kind and affectionate mother. She is warm to everyone in the Hundred Acre Wood and also likes time to enjoy and appreciate quiet peaceful moments.



ROO

Roo is a young, joyful, enthusiastic and curious kangaroo. He loves to explore and test out what new things he can do. He admires and looks up to his friends, especially Tigger.



ACTIVITY - 1

WHO ARE YOU?

How would you describe yourself? Here are some questions you can ask yourself to help describe yourself.

1. What are things that you love to do? _____

2. What makes you proud of yourself? _____

3. What kind of things do you like to do with your friends? _____

4. How do you like to help? _____

5. What are things you are curious about? _____

6. What is something or someone you are grateful for? _____

7. What new things are you excited to learn about? _____

8. Where do you like to play? Where do you like to rest? _____

9. Who is your best friend? _____

10. When do you feel most happy? _____

WHO ARE YOU?

Draw yourself

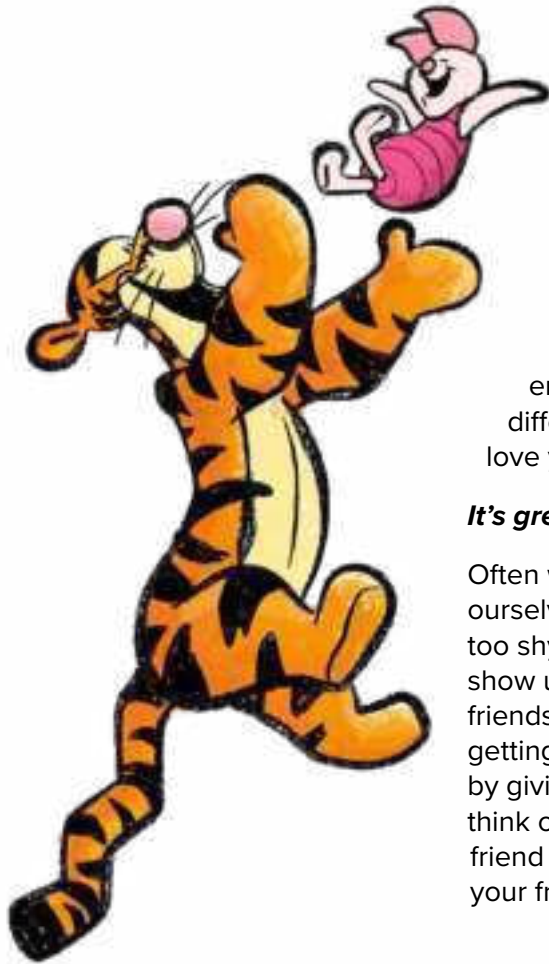
I am



FRIENDSHIPS

The theme of friendship is written in every Winnie the Pooh story and our show in no exception. Pooh loves his friends more than honey - which is saying a lot! When the script was written, we thought of new ways to reflect the friendship in the books and movies for the stage.

Here are some themes and lessons of friendship in our show.



Friends can be different

As Pooh in our show says, "It's a good thing to be different, otherwise we might all be the same." Your friends can look different from you, like different things, eat different things, and feel differently from you, but you can still be great friends! Piglet often feels because he is much smaller than his friends that he can't be a helpful friend, but Pooh thinks his smallness is special and very helpful. Eeyore shares that he can't climb a tree but he can encourage his friends who can to do so. Friends can come in all different shapes and sizes but there will always be kindness and love you can share together.

It's great to ask friends for help and fun to help our friends

Often we may feel like we should figure out things or do things by ourselves, but sometimes we may need a little help. We might feel too shy to ask to help but a lot of friends in the Hundred Acre Wood show us asking for help from a friend is a wonderful thing. Often our friends want to help! Piglet is overjoyed when Pooh asks for his help getting honey, which makes him braver to offer help later in the play by giving Mrs. Winter his scarf. Eeyore knows that maybe he can't think of an idea of how to get Pooh out of the honey tree but his friend Rabbit will. Asking for help is okay and a great way to show your friends you value them and a great way for them to care for you.

It's great to be welcoming to new friends

When Pooh hears that Winter is coming to the Hundred Acre Wood, he is excited to meet this new visitor and become her friend. While Winter is not quite what Pooh thought, Pooh teaches us how to treat new people with kindness. He wants any new visitor to feel welcomed. Pooh and Piglet were even thinking of throwing Mrs. Winter a welcoming party so they could get to know her more. When we're welcoming, we show kindness and get to learn more about a new person.



Friends can have disagreements and it's good to work together to problem solve.

Sometimes we might disagree with our friends, or they might do something to us that we don't like. Rabbit shares that he is upset with Pooh, Tigger and Roo once they have bounced all over his garden. He honestly shares that all he wanted was to plant vegetables today. But Roo and Tigger wanted to bounce together today. They end up problem solving and figuring out they can bounce the seeds into the ground, helping Rabbit plant his garden and letting Tigger and Roo enjoy bouncing. Rabbit was able to share he was upset and the friends were able to come up with a solution to their problem.

Stick together

When Pooh is stuck in the honey tree, Owl says that Pooh might be stuck in there for a long time - perhaps forever. Piglet and Tigger don't want Pooh to have to wait by himself, so they promise to stay with him while he is stuck. Sometimes when we are lonely or scared it's great to have a friend next to us so we're not alone.



FRIENDSHIPS (continued)



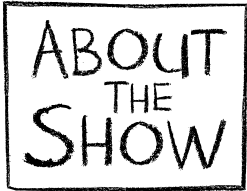
Speak up when you know something is important

Rabbit and Tigger get into an argument when they both think they came up with the idea to use a kite to get Pooh out of the honey tree. Tigger and Rabbit are arguing so much, Piglet speaks up because he realized Tigger and Rabbit forgot something really important. It didn't matter who's ideas it was, they needed to go help their friend. Sometimes we need to be brave and speak up when we know something is important. Our friends will appreciate the reminder.

No matter how much time has passed since you've seen your friend, they're still your friend and with you in your heart.

Christopher Robin and Pooh are the best of friends, but in our play Christopher Robin was away at school for a whole year. But just because you may not be able to physically be together with your friend, your friendship remains and you are loved by your friends and have an important and special place in your friend's heart. Hopefully, like Pooh and Christopher Robin you'll be able to see your friend again soon and pick up right where you left off.





FRIENDSHIPS

(continued)

THEMES OF FRIENDSHIP QUESTIONS

After seeing the show, here are some questions to ask your children.

1. What are the different ways Pooh was encouraging to his friends? How do you encourage your friends?
2. What ways have you been encouraged by your friends?
3. What does Rabbit learn when he argues with Tigger? Have you ever argued with a friend? How did you solve your argument?
4. What does Pooh learn when he talks to Christopher Robin at the end of the show?
5. What does Piglet learn when he climbs the tree?
6. Pooh, Piglet and Tigger are very welcoming to Mrs. Winter. In what ways have you been welcoming to new friends?
7. Do you remember a time when someone was very welcoming to you?
8. Tigger and Rabbit are very different from each other. What are ways that they still have fun together?
9. Tigger teaches Roo a bouncing lesson. Have you ever learned new fun things from a friend?
10. Pooh gets stuck in the honey tree during Summer. How do his friends respond?



ACTIVITY - 2

FRIENDSHIP LETTERS

Write a letter to your friend!
In your letter you can tell your friend:

Write a letter to your friend! In your letter you can tell your friend:

- something they did that you find admirable
- what fun games you like to play with your friend
- something about your friend that makes you happy
- ways your friend has been helpful to you
- ways that you and your friend are different that you think is cool

Or write a letter to one of the characters from our show!

Did you learn something from one of the characters in the show or is there something you'd like to share with them? You can write a letter to tell them!

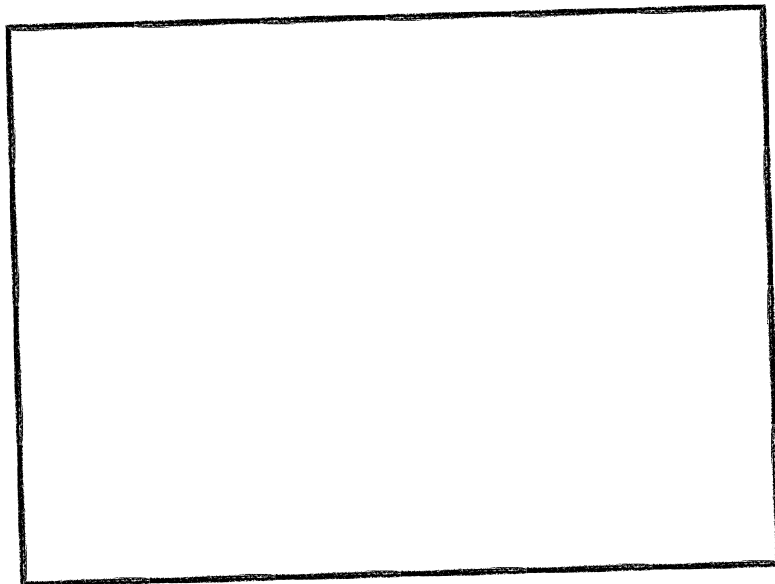
You can send your letters to:

Dear _____ ,

Thank you for _____

I like when we _____

Next time we see each other, we should _____



Your Friend,

SONGS



SONGS

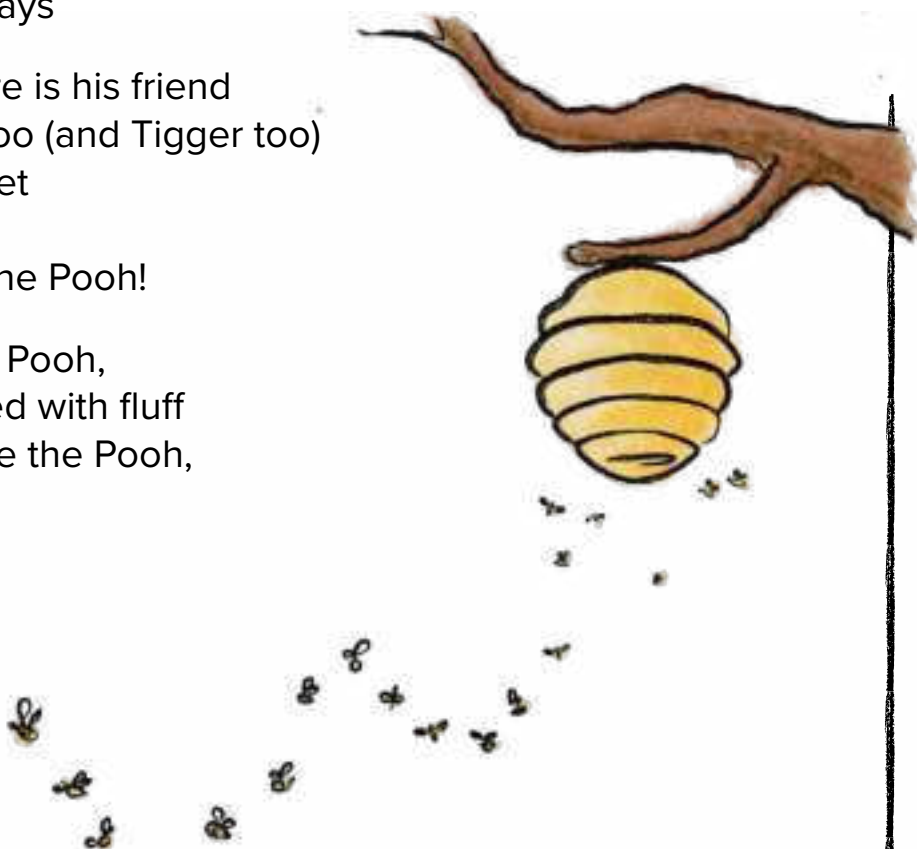
Winnie The Pooh Theme Song

(music & lyrics by the Sherman Brothers)

Deep in the Hundred Acre Wood,
Where Christopher Robin plays
You'll find the enchanted neighborhood,
of Christopher's childhood days

A donkey named Eeyore is his friend
And Kanga and Little Roo (and Tigger too)
There's Rabbit and Piglet
And there's Owl
But most of all Winnie the Pooh!

Winnie the Pooh, Winnie the Pooh,
Chubby, little cubby all stuffed with fluff
He's Winnie the Pooh, Winnie the Pooh,
Willy, nilly, silly old bear



SONGS

The Wonderful Thing About Tiggers

(music & lyrics by the Sherman Brothers)

The wonderful thing about Tiggers
Is Tiggers are wonderful things
Their tops are made out of rubbers
Their bottoms are made out of springs
They're bouncy, trouncy, flouncy, pouncy
Fun, fun, fun, fun, fun!
But the most wonderful thing about Tiggers is
I'm the only one

The wonderful thing about Tiggers
Is Tiggers are wonderful chaps
They're loaded with vim and with vigor
And love to leap in your laps
They're bouncy, trouncy, flouncy, pouncy
Fun, fun, fun, fun, fun!
But the most wonderful thing about Tiggers is
I'm the only one

Tiggers are wonderful fellahs
Tiggers are awfully sweet
Everyone else is jealous
And that's why I repeat...

The wonderful thing about Tiggers
Is Tiggers are wonderful things
Their tops are made out of rubbers
Their bottoms are made out of springs
They're bouncy, trouncy, flouncy, pouncy
Fun, fun, fun, fun, fun!
But the most wonderful thing about Tiggers is
I'm the only one



SONGS

Rumbly in my Tumbly

(music & lyrics by the Sherman Brothers)

Hum dum de dum, hum dum de dum
I'm so rumbly in my tumbly
Time to munch an early luncheon
Hum dum de dum, dum

Oh, I wouldn't climb this tree
If a Pooh flew like a bee
But I wouldn't be a bear then
So I guess, I wouldn't care then

Bears love honey and I'm a Pooh bear
So I do care, so I'll climb there
I'm so rumbly in my tumbly
A time for something sweet



SONGS

The Whoop-de-doooper Bounce

(music & lyrics by the Sherman Brothers)

The Whoop-de-Dooper Loop-de-Looper
Alley-Ooper Bounce!

The Whoop-de-Dooper Loop-de-Looper
Alley-Ooper Bounce!

It's got the zip that make
you flip and that's what really counts
In the Whoop-de-Dooper
Loop-de-Looper Alley-Ooper Bounce

The Whoop-de-Dooper Loop-de-Looper
Alley-Ooper Bounce!

The Whoop-de-Dooper Loop-de-Looper
Alley-Ooper Bounce!

The more you try the more
you fly and that's what really counts
In the Whoop-de-Dooper Loop-de-Looper
Alley-Ooper Bounce

It's best when done by tiggers
'Cause our tiggerific figures
Are filled with vims and vigors
And that's the thing that triggers



The Whoop-de-Dooper Loop-de-Looper
Alley-Ooper Bounce!

The Whoop-de-Dooper Loop-de-Looper
Alley-Ooper Bounce!

The more you try the more
You fly and that's what really counts

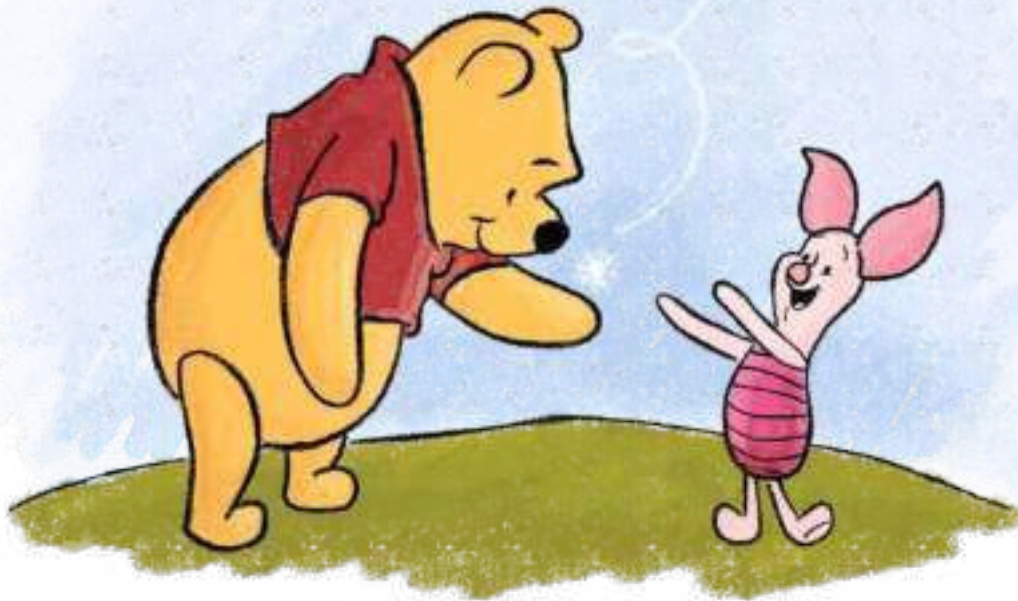
Right...it activates, and
elevates, accelerates and more
(wee)

You're bouncing off the ceiling,
like you never did before
(wooo)

The Whoop-de-Dooper
(Whoop-de-Dooper)
Loop-de-Looper
(Loop-de-Looper)
Alley-Ooper Bounce!



SET DESIGN



SET DESIGN

When you see theatre, the set is what you call the scenery, which tells you where this story takes place. For our show, the set is the Hundred Acre Wood.

Sets are made up of decorative and functional parts. Decorative parts of the set make it feel and look like it's the real setting. The flowers, grass and trees tell the audience that this is the Hundred Acre Wood. When the audience sees toys around a tree, they realize that's Christopher Robin's house.

Some parts of the set that also need to be functional. For example, the bridge needs to be an actual real bridge so the puppet and performers can cross it. The designer and builders took special care while making the incline (how big or small the angle of a ramp is) so the puppets and performers can walk safely across it.

Sets also need to make sure that audience members can see everything that is happening on stage. A lot of trees would be a nice decoration and let the audience know this is the Hundred Acre wood, but if there are a bunch of trees in the front, how would the audience be able to see Pooh and his friends cross the bridge in the back of the stage? That's why Christopher Robin's tree is on a platform behind Rabbit's garden. The audience wouldn't be able to see the tree very well if it was on the same level as Rabbit's garden. The platform helps to raise that area so Rabbit's garden can still be in front, and the audience can see everything that is happening behind it.

However some things on the set are strategically placed to hide things the director and designers don't want you to see. Pooh needs to get stuck in



SPRING



SET DESIGN



SUMMER

the honey tree, but it needs to be a surprise before it happens. That's why the tree rotates! Pooh can stay hidden until the moment happens.

The show sees Winnie the Pooh going on adventures during the different seasons of the year, so the set needs to change for the different seasons. To help the set change, lighting is very important. For stage plays and theatre, there is a Lighting Designer who figures out how to best use lights for the show. The Lighting Designer and crew hang lights above the stage, and some of the lights are even above the audience! These lights are like very powerful flashlights that light up the stage. They can be programmed to turn off, on, dimmed or brightened by a button in the back of the theatre! In front of some of the lights, designers and technicians (the lighting crew) can put gels - different colours of translucent (meaning you can see through it) plastic - sort of like how you can see through 3-D glasses or stained glass. This way, there can be different colours that suggest different times of the year and even different times of day.



SET DESIGN



AUTUMN



WINTER

THE PUPPETS



THE PUPPETS

Puppets were the obvious choice to bring the wonderful characters from the Hundred Acre Wood to life. Since Pooh and his friends are Christopher Robin's toys, the puppets were built to be like large toys that puppeteers operate.

To build the puppets, the puppet designers first need to map and sketch out plans for the puppets. Just as the animators had to make slight changes from Earnest Shepherd's illustrations to the final Disney animations, some changes were necessary for the puppets in our show. The designers wanted to stay as close to the versions of the characters in the movies, along with taking some inspirations from the illustrations in the books. (Notice how the Piglet puppet looks like the Disney Piglet, but his colour scheme resembles the book illustrations.)

To make the puppets' bodies, the builders first carve out foam, like the foam you'd find in a couch, and sculpt out the bodies. Once the puppet has a foam base, fabric can be sewn on as a layer on top of the foam. The fabrics chosen for the puppets are soft and textured like stuffed animals. The Designer took special care to make sure the colours chosen matched the characters.

For each puppet, the mouth needs to be operational - that means the mouth needs to open and close so the characters can talk. A puppeteer uses their hand to make their puppet's mouth move, so the



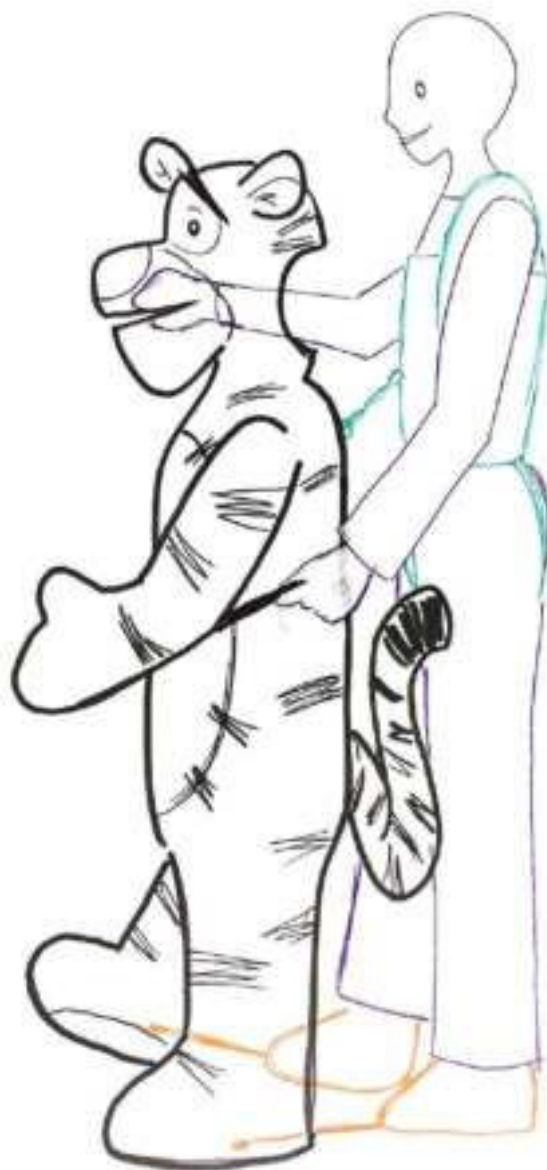
THE PUPPETS

builders make a small opening like a hole in the back of the puppet's head for the puppeteer to put their hands in.

Owl and Eeyore needed something a little different for their mouths to open and close. Owl and Eeyore's mouths move from a separate device. There is a handle behind or on top of their heads with a trigger on it. When the puppeteer presses the trigger, it opens and closes the puppet's mouth so that puppet can talk.

The larger puppets, like Pooh, Tigger and Rabbit need help to stand up and walk (or bounce!) The puppeteers have harnesses they wear that connect them to their puppets which allows the weight of the puppets to be evenly distributed for the puppeteers and allow the puppets to stand up straight. The puppeteers also have shoes that connect to their puppet's feet with rods. With this connection, now the puppeteers can move their puppet's feet with their own feet! (Rabbit's puppeteer actually puts his feet directly into the puppet's feet!)

Sometimes there needs to be more than one puppet for the same character, because there is a specific action the main puppet is unable to do. Another puppet is made specifically to do that action. At the beginning of the show, Piglet needs to fly through the air while holding his kite. There is a separate Piglet puppet just for this moment! The Piglet puppet is



attached to the kite so he can be held high in the air. For the rest of the show, there is a different Piglet puppet that is able to walk on the ground.

There is one other character in the show that needed two different puppets. Can you guess which character that is?



ACTIVITY #3

MAKE YOUR OWN SIMPLE HONEY BEE PUPPET

MATERIALS

- Yellow Easter Egg
- Masking tape/Painter's Tape/Washi Tape (optional)
- Black paint
- Paint brush
- White paper
- Scissors
- 12" Wooden dowel
- Glue gun

INSTRUCTIONS

(Optional) Tape stripes on your Easter Eggs. The tape should cover the area you would like to keep yellow.

Paint the exposed parts of the Egg black. (you may need to paint one side, and wait for it to dry before painting the other!) Make sure to keep the face area yellow!

While waiting for your egg to dry, cut out wings for your bee out of white paper.

Once the egg is dry, remove tape.

Paint a face on your bee, let children decide what expression the bee should make!

Once dry, glue the wings down on the bee's back.

Once the wings are set, glue a wooden dowel on the bee's back.

Once the wooden dowel is set, children can use it to fly their bees wherever they want!

