



**The People's
Archive**

create

Bendy Ballet Dancer

First Level Expressive Arts/Maths EXA 1-02a, EXA 1-04a, EXA 1-06a MTH 1-17a



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create your own bendy ballet dancer

for teachers

This Create & Play resource is a quick and easy craft, suitable for first level pupils. This activity is most suited to expressive arts outcomes, and might help develop fine motor skills as well as teaching pupils a little about the King's Theatre redevelopment. There is an optional maths activity exploring angles which you can choose to do with your class after creating their dancers.

resources you need

- pipe cleaners (2 per person)
- tissue paper (several colours)
- string
- scissors

dancing on a slope



Dance, particularly ballet, was difficult to perform on the King's Theatre stage before the theatre was redeveloped. This is because the stage was raked, meaning it was built on a slope so that the audience could see every performer on stage. This made dancing very difficult as dancers could be easily injured when performing.

You might have heard areas of the stage being called 'upstage' or 'downstage'. This is because often traditional theatre stages were raked, just like the King's Theatre. During the King's Theatre redevelopment, the stage was evened out to make it much flatter. This means we can have more dance and even circus acts on our stage. Find out more about the King's Theatre redevelopment on [our website](#).

1

Take your first pipe cleaner and fold it in half, twisting at the top, and leaving a finger sized hole as your dancer's head. This is your dancer's head and legs.

Now take your second pipe cleaner and twist this around your dancer's body, just under their head. Twist tightly and near the head to create the body and arms.

Try to make your dancer's arms shorter than their legs.

2

3



Take your tissue paper and fold this into a point. Either carefully fold the paper to create pleats, or twist the paper around to create a more crumpled look. At the point of your paper, cut a very small hole for your dancer's head. Make two smaller holes away from your dancer's head for their arms.

Carefully put your dancer's dress over their head and thread their arms through the arm holes. Take your thread and tie this around their waist, cutting off any extra.

4



optional extra maths challenge

Create a raked stage for a friend's dancer using the instructions below.

Step One

Take a piece of cardboard, a hardback book, a whiteboard or anything else flat and sturdy. Find a way to balance this on an angle so that it will stay on the angle. For example, prop it up with books or blocks, supporting the end with a rubber. This is your raked stage. Measure what angle this is on before showing your partner.

Step Two

Place the stage on an angle and place your dancer on the stage by blue-tacking their feet to the stage. Your partner must then estimate what angle the stage is on. Remember: 90 degrees is a right angle, all rakes will be smaller than this. 45 degrees is half a right angle.

Step Three

Together with your partner, measure the angle of your raked stage using a protractor.

Extra challenge: measure what angle your dancer needs to stand on to be standing up straight.