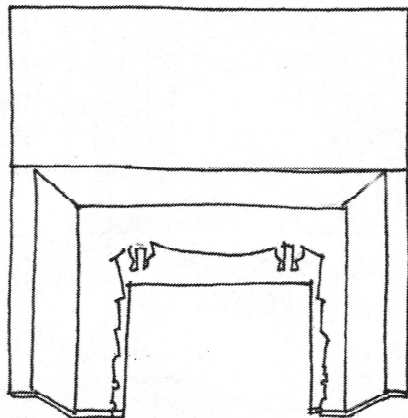
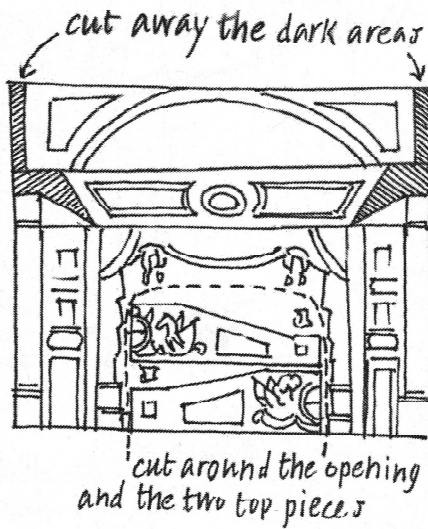
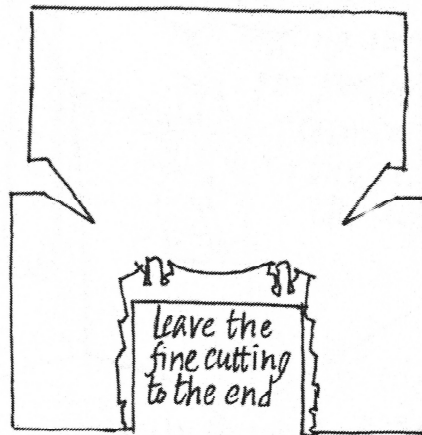
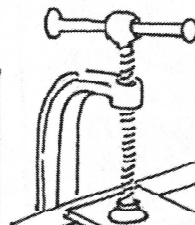


making a 'built' proscenium



a clamp is the best way of holding the rule



lay the cut out proscenium on a piece of mounting card and draw around the edges
* Knife for adults only!

use a metal or metal-reinforced rule or straight-edge for scoring or cutting lines

a sharp blade is safer than a blunt one

score the card both sides to ease the folds, then fold the printed paper to fit over the card.

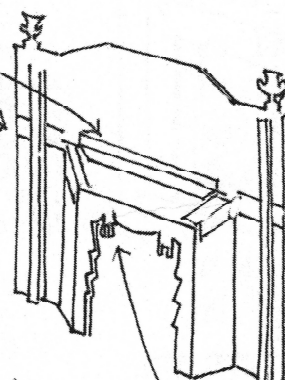
stick down the print, including the top pieces, trim round the opening and the top

NB this isn't easy, so take it slowly and spend time fitting the print onto the card

reinforce with tape



when John Redington designed these urns, he didn't think about cutting them out, so reinforce the back with a matchstick



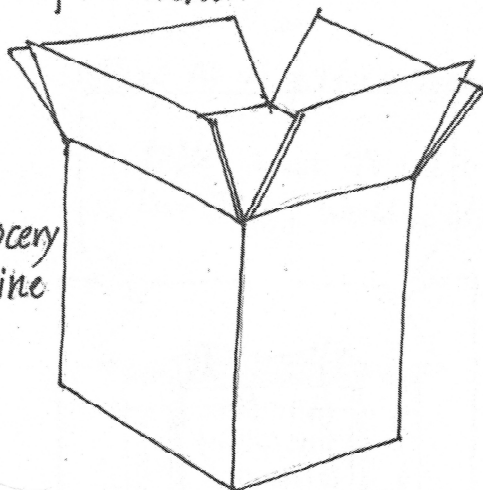
as seen from behind

this junction needs strengthening, so stick a thin piece of wood on each side

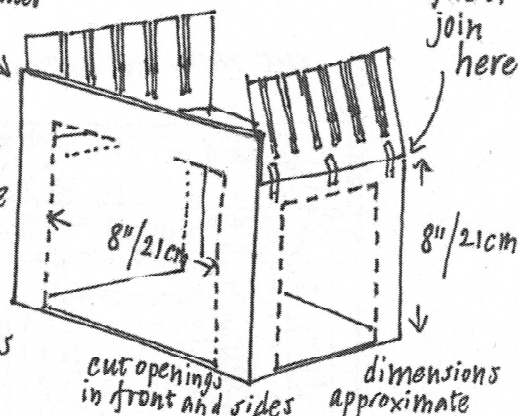
these tassels shouldn't be cut too thin

simple theatre

take a grocery or wine box

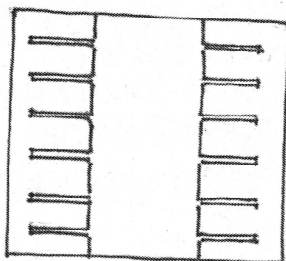


leave the front taller
cut down box, folding over the top of the two short sides, or re-use the cut off box flaps

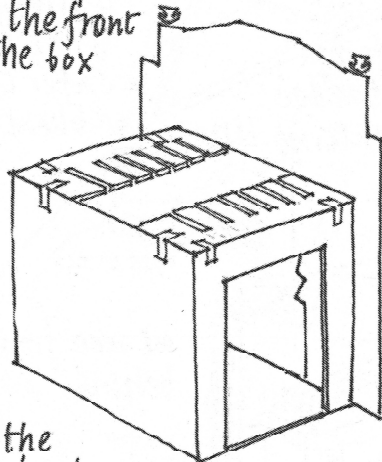


cut a series of slots in the flaps to hold the scenery

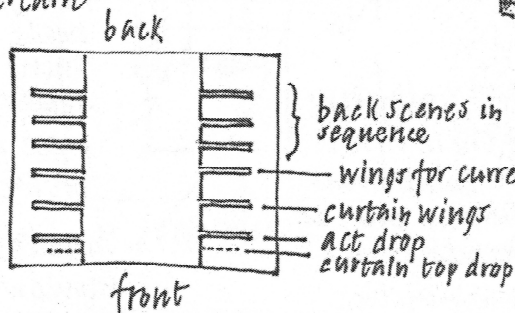
cut to fit the thickness of your mounted scenes & wings



stick the proscenium onto the front of the box

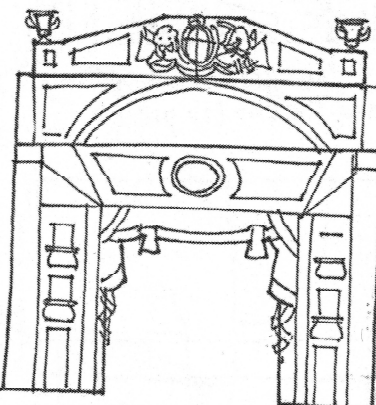


use the 'act drop' as a front curtain



Keep curtain wings in place at all times

cut out the proscenium and stick it onto card. Add the top pieces. Cut out the stage opening



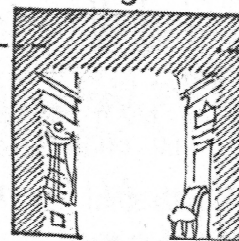
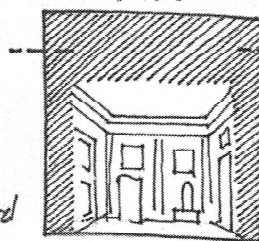
see also the instructions for the 'built' proscenium - more difficult to make but worth it

mount the scenes, wings etc.

dark card or foamcore is best

scenes

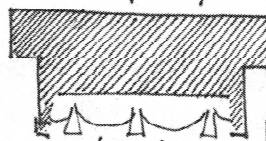
wings



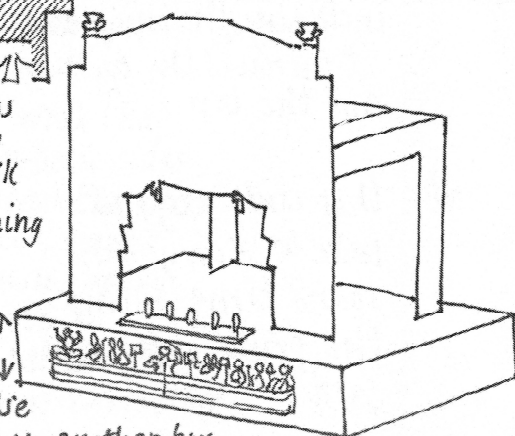
top drops

wings in pairs like this don't get lost or fall over

make the card wider than the scenery



top drops help to mask the opening



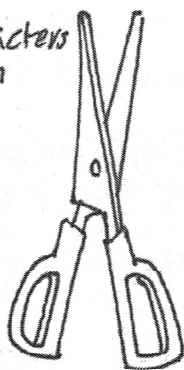
If you raise the stage on another box, you can include the orchestra and add footlights (christmas lights / torch bulbs)

characters and slides

cut around characters leaving a margin



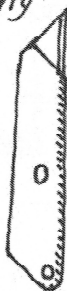
use paste/glue to stick them onto postcard-weight card



use scissors to complete cutting to the edge



leave the coloured base in place



ask an adult to use a craft knife on a cutting surface to remove the 'counters' (the bit between the legs etc.)

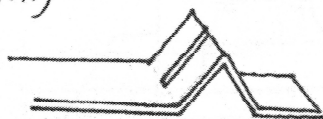


slides

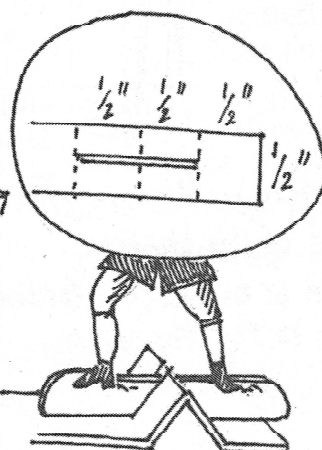
← 10" / 25cm →

↑ 1/2" / 2cm ↓

cut strips of card (medium weight)

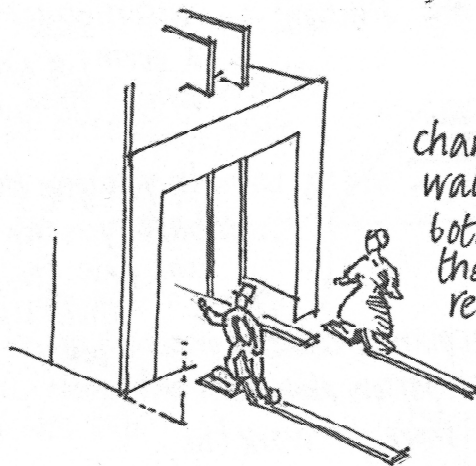


score the folds with scissor blade and raise section with slot



measure three squares from the end - cut a slot in two squares to hold characters firmly

put characters in the slots - they can be taken out and swapped over



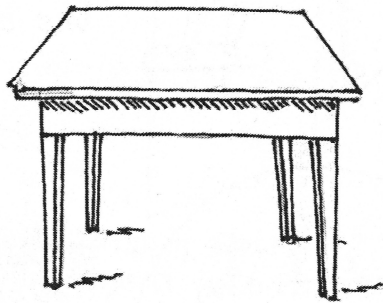
characters waiting on both sides of the stage, ready to 'go on'

when a character is speaking, move the character a little from side to side

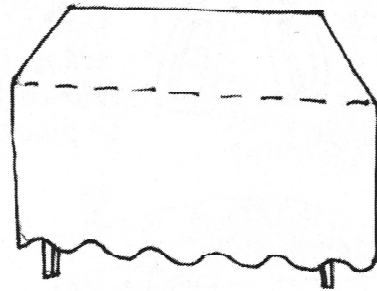
on the back of each character, write the name and 'plate number' (the page from which it was cut out) You need this when performing as you will only see the back

setting up a performance

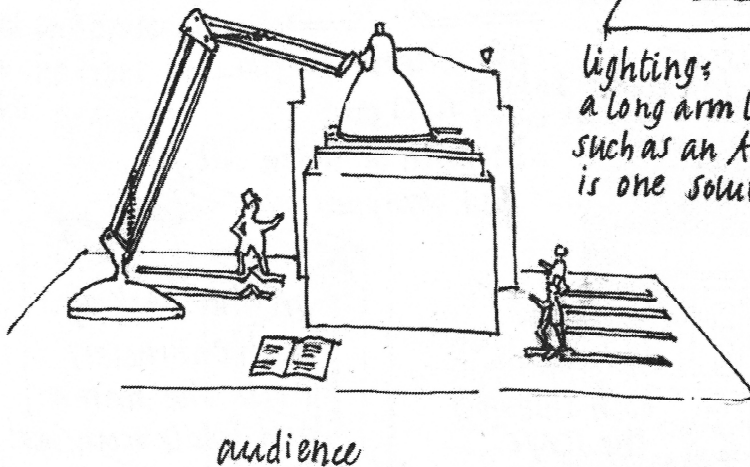
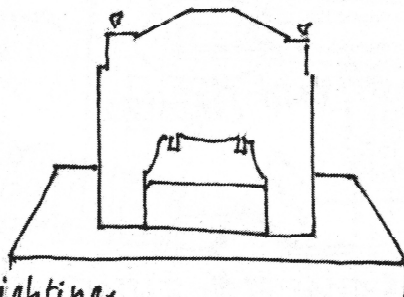
table - about 3ft x 2ft
(1m x 70cm) would be ideal



use tablecloth or blanket
(dark colour is best)



some performers like to screen
the sides of the theatre,
but it can be interesting for the
audience to see the action

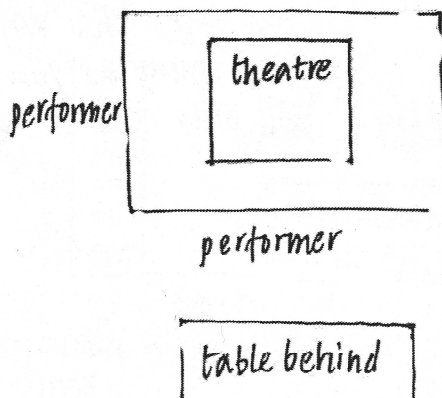


lighting:
a long arm lamp
such as an Anglepoise
is one solution —

alternatives include
a string of Christmas tree
lights fixed within the
stage.

If you give the theatre a
base, you can cut a slot
and have footlights to

show up the characters
better



performances can be done
by one person alone,
or by more, to work the
characters from both sides
of the stage, speak the parts
in different voices, work
background music, lights,
sound effects etc.
Have another behind for
spare scenery and characters