



The Cat's Journey

MOST
ENJOYED BY
2-5

adapted by Fabrizio Montecchi
from Sweden's beloved children's book *Kattresan*, by Ivar
Arosenius • translation by Anne-Charlotte Hanes Harvey
puppets by Nicoletta Garioni • performed by Dockteatern Tittut
AN AMERICAN PREMIERE

Peek-a-boo! What's in the tent? What's in the trunk? What's behind the frame? A rooster, a fish, a pig... a girl! A cat! A fat cat!! And what will we do with the light? Make shadows. Make shadows to watch. Colored shadows to watch that can run and fly and talk and eat. If you take off your shoes and go into the tent with the puppeteers, you will see the trunk of shadow puppets. You will see them come alive. They will go on a journey and have a feast. Peek-A-Boo Puppet Theater, Dockteatern Tittut!

• A SYNOPSIS OF THE STORY •

The puppet play is done by two puppeteers and more than forty shadow puppets, inside a tent where we sit on the floor and watch as the puppets are taken out of a trunk. They are flat and clear, like sun-catchers on sticks, and as the light shines through them they cast brightly colored shadows that bend and shimmer. We see them and their shadows and they shift and come impossibly, magically alive, even as we see the puppeteers holding, moving and talking to them. Sometimes a puppeteer's shadow walks into a scene. Sometimes they all dance together.

The sweet simplicity of these puppets is nothing less than enchanting. If you are grown, they will take you into a world of imagination you will be privileged to revisit for a moment. If you are young they will take you to a place that feels like home.



Things to **imagine**, think about and do

If you would like an adventure of your own, look up this site on your computer: <http://www.dockteatern-tittut.com>. It is all written in Swedish so you will have to find your way around! You will see photos of **The Cat's Journey** (look for the word, *Kattresan*), as well as photos of the performers (*medarbetare*): Ing-Marie Tiren, Christer Dahl and Sophia Segrell. All of them speak English, and when they come here you will like meeting them.



Do you have any puppets? Can you make one? Some puppets are made of a leftover sock on your hand with painted eyes. You could make one. Some are

made of a picture cut out and glued to a stick. You could make one of those, too.

They could talk to each other. If you wanted to, you could take your puppets into a room where it's dark except for one lamp. Stand between the lamp and a blank spot on the wall and see if you can see the shadows of your puppets. Maybe they can talk to each other. If they can, you can do a play!



Imagine going on a journey down the sidewalk from your house with your pet, or a pet you'd like to have. Where would you go? Who would you see? Tell your story. Draw a picture of one of the things that will happen.

Peek a Boo!

Guess Whose Shadow?, by Stephen R. Swinburne. *A photo-essay on how light creates shadow.* (ages 4-10)

Gregory's Shadow, by Don Freeman. *Gregory Groundhog and his shadow desperately look for each other when they become separated.* (ages 4-8)

Shadows, by Deanna Calvert. *Children teach their shadows to do everything their shadows can do.* (ages 4-8)

What Makes a Shadow, by Clyde Robert Bulla. *Simple words and illustrations explain how shadows are produced. Includes suggestions for making shadows.* (ages 4-8)

The Warrior and The Wise Man, by David Wisniewski. *Intended for slightly older children, this story is illustrated with pictures of shadow puppets. A lovely book.* (ages 8-12)