



"Mommies and Daddies, kids, kittens and puppies!" That was the way we started our backyard puppet show. Merry, Kerry and I hid behind a sheet that hung over Mommy's clothesline. When everyone was seated, we bounced the puppets up one by one. An elephant with a head cold sneezed and blew his nose—it sounded like a trumpet! A beaver appeared with braces on his teeth, and a hippo in a tutu flunked ballet school by pirouetting through the floor! A groundhog whispered that he couldn't find his shadow, a tiger growled that he preferred polka dots to stripes, a lion roared that he couldn't comb his mane! Our animals made everyone laugh, and Merry couldn't

stop giggling from behind the sheet. After the show, Mommy brought out a tray of yummy cookies. Merry, Kerry and I said that *making* the puppets was as much fun as putting on the show. We made puppets from paper bags, from socks, and by sewing pieces of felt together. First, we chose the animals we wanted to make and collected scraps and buttons to paste and sew. Cotton

## BETSY McCALL GIVES A PUPPET SHOW

for a mane, a paper-roll trunk, pink lace for a tutu, button eyes and cardboard ears. We used the bottom of a paper bag for a face, and where it folded over it became a mouth that flapped when it talked! Using the thumb and fingers of one hand in a sock, we made a slinky snakelike animal that became a tiger with stripes. And we traced pictures of other animals, which we cut out in doubled felt and stitched together—leaving room at the bottom for a hand to slip inside. The more yarn and sequins and paint and color we added, the sillier they looked—and the more we liked them. And now they're toys we'll play with all year long, to remind us of our first puppet show.



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