

compagnia
tpo



educational pack
KINDUR

the adventurous life of sheep in Iceland



compagnia
T P O
interactive
theatre for
children

“KINDUR” is a
show created
by TPO, a
theatre
company
based in Prato,
Tuscany, Italy.

TPO started in 1981 as a visual theatre group has been devising original visual theatre works devoted to children’s audiences since its very early years.

It is currently developing research on the use of digital technologies to animate images and sounds, a form of ‘immersive’ theatre where the protagonists are the actors, dancers and the audience itself.



KINDUR

the adventurous life of sheep in Iceland

Kindur means 'sheep' in Icelandic. Indeed this show is about the adventurous life of sheep in Iceland: from autumn when the sheep are all put in together in their pens, through the dark and snowy winter, to spring when the sheep are set free and can start their journeys in summer through the magical Icelandic landscape.

In Iceland there are many traditional stories about different animals, but we think that the life of their sheep is a wonderful story in itself, and have decided to tell it, without words, so that we can get closer to how sheep feel. This story is told by three dancers who interpret three sheep.

What makes the show special is that all the audience is invited to be part of a big flock of sheep.

At the entrance every child is given a special heart. It is a woollen heart that lights up when it is time to take an active part in the show. In some cases kids are invited on stage in small groups, at other times all the hearts light up at the same time and this means that it is possible to interact on the stage, together, from our seats.

'Kindur' is suitable for audiences between the ages of 4 and 8, but it is also rich with ideas and inspiring for adults.

three working sections

FOR TEACHERS

The teaching material in this educational pack is grouped in three working sections:

1

1 The show section

where each scene from the 'Kindur' show is introduced and described

2

2 The educational section

where some cultural, historical and scientific information about Iceland and its sheep is presented for each scene in ways that are accessible for younger kids

3

3 The game section

where some cultural, historical and scientific information about Iceland and its sheep is presented for each scene in ways that are accessible for younger kids.



Iceland, a magic land

Iceland is an island in the North Atlantic Ocean, just below the Arctic Circle, between Greenland and the rest of Europe. It is small but it has many different things: meadows and deserts, hot and cold water with glaciers as well as fire and many volcanos, winds that howl like wolves as well as blue skies and sweet flowers. In winter the nights are very long and in summer the days seem to be never-ending. Besides it is said that Iceland is the land where magical creatures like trolls and elves live.





Sheep in Iceland



In this land sheep are special: they are very brave and they travel everywhere, even towards the lands of trolls and elves. There are many more sheep than humans and they are different from sheep in other countries, for example, Italian sheep. They do not have a shepherd: they stay together inside pens during winter and then travel all by themselves in summer. But they have leader sheep, which look like dancers with their light, swift legs ...

A little history: sheep arrived in Iceland with its first inhabitants, who came from Denmark.

A curious detail: there are very few trees in Iceland because sheep eat all the sprouts.

Another curious detail: there is a sheep museum in the North of Iceland, in a region called Strandir.

A woollen heart

At the beginning of the show you will be given a soft woollen heart. Keep it with care, it will help you feel the way a sheep feels. And it will let you know when to simply watch the show and when you can also take part, on the stage or from your seat.



SCENE 1

Réttir

It is September in Iceland. You can hear some scampering and shuffling along in the mud. On stage there is a round space, in Icelandic it is called réttir, and it is the sheep's meeting point after their long summer journeys. Three sheep/dancers start moving about. It looks like a merry-go-round. As dancers move, they also move the grass blades on the screen, but there is also something else that moves: are they clouds, are they sheep-clouds? The weather is changing ...



a sheep cloud

a cloud sheep



In our show all of us become sheep. Let's get into this character, let's feel with its heart, let's see with its eyes. With a sheep's eyes the first thing we are going to see will be grass blades.

clouds
look like
sheep
rolling in the sky



Réttir



Réttir means 'round up' in Icelandic and corresponds to the moment in September when sheep are taken back to the valley after they have been wandering about freely and on their own all over Iceland all summer long. Men look for them for three or four days, on horse, and, in modern times, by jeep and even by helicopter. They gather them up and take them back to the réttir.

Yes, we said that réttir means 'round up', but it is also the name of the round fence where all the sheep are collected. Here in réttir everyone in the village finds and groups their sheep which they will take to their own pen, that is, the house where the sheep will spend winter.



Indeed, a röttir is a meeting point for everybody, for sheep as well as for people!

To conclude, let's remember that Röttir is also the name of one of the most important festivals held in Iceland on those days to celebrate the round-up ...of sheep!





here I am

Erla



Erna

Erna, there you are, how are you?



Adalgeir

welcome back!
how nice to see you again!



Adalbjörg

now you continue ...

.....

Hi!
Adalbjörg



Freyja



Tinna

.....



Iris

.....



Lillja

.....

.....

Katrín

Fjóra

.....



recite

SCENE 2

The breathing pen

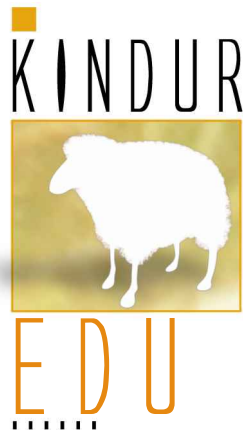
It is getting dark, the sun is setting, it is autumn! There is some wind moving the grass. The wind is the earth's big breath. Our sheep-dancers start breathing and invite all the audience to breathe. As they breathe, the turf behind them breathes too. Every breath brings a turf brick to the screen. Many breaths, many turf bricks, a turf house: it is our pen.



scent of earth



scent of grass



In making our scene we imagined that sheep too build their house, learning to be together. Every sheep is like a turf brick, it is a live brick! Every sheep is an important part of its group just like every turf brick is important to make the pen.

*the wind is
the scented breath of earth*





The turf pen

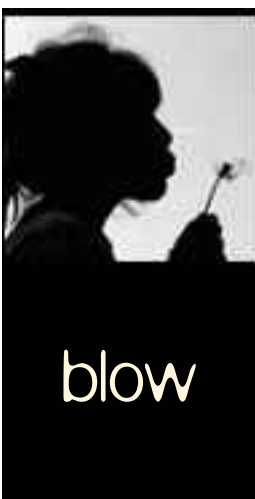
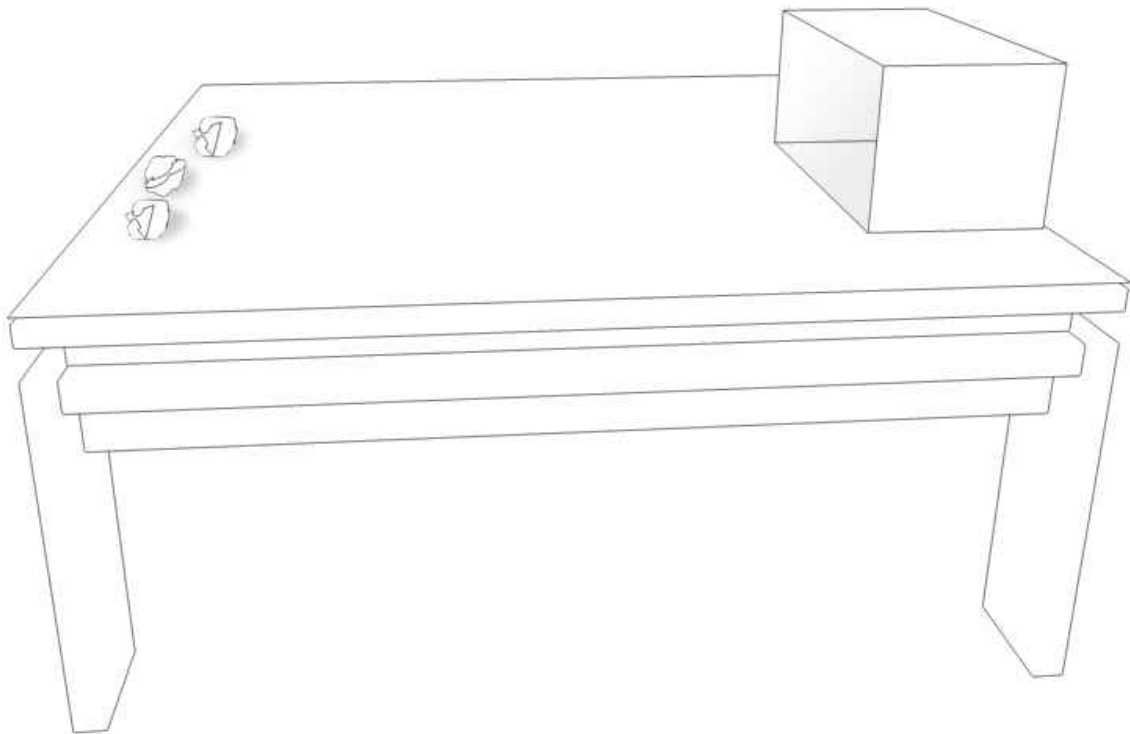
From the röttir, their round fence, sheep are taken inside pens. Now there are modern pens, but in the past, pens, like houses, were made of turf, a particular kind of soil rich in vegetable and animal substances. Turf could be found everywhere and gave the impression of being quite warm and of protecting sheep from the very cold Icelandic winters. Turf bricks don't have a regular shape. They look funny because from the outside grass keeps growing on them. So turf walls look alive, they seem to be moving, with a breeze, with wind and... just with a simple breath!



Let's make many small tissue paper balls and place them at one end of the table. At the other end let's place a big open cardboard box, which will be our pen.

By breathing we can send all our sheep balls inside their pen.

Like this!

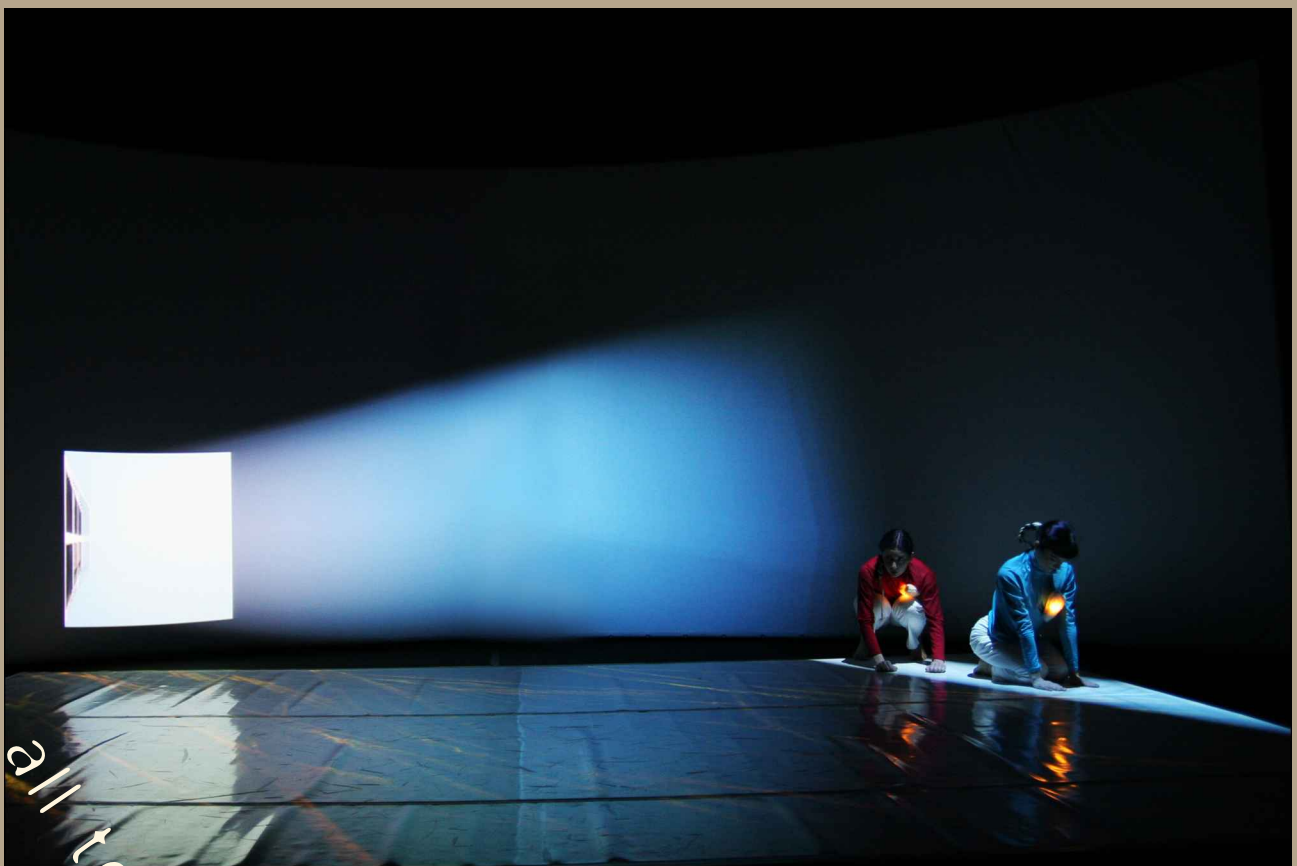


blow

SCENE 3

The wind is a wolf

Now it is winter. All the sheep are inside the pen because outside there is a bitter wind coming straight from the glaciers. We hear it moving about and passing through tiny holes; we can hear things fall, the wind even manages to open windows. So the sheep move here and there, afraid of their own shadows in the middle of this windy night: they look for the light ..



all together this way and that

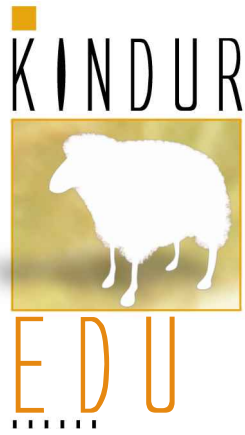




how does a sheep dance? can a dancer become a sheep? how does it feel to move arms as if they were legs and hands as if they were hooves? the face like a muzzle? With these questions our dancers have built their movements on the stage.

if we are close, the dark won't scare us



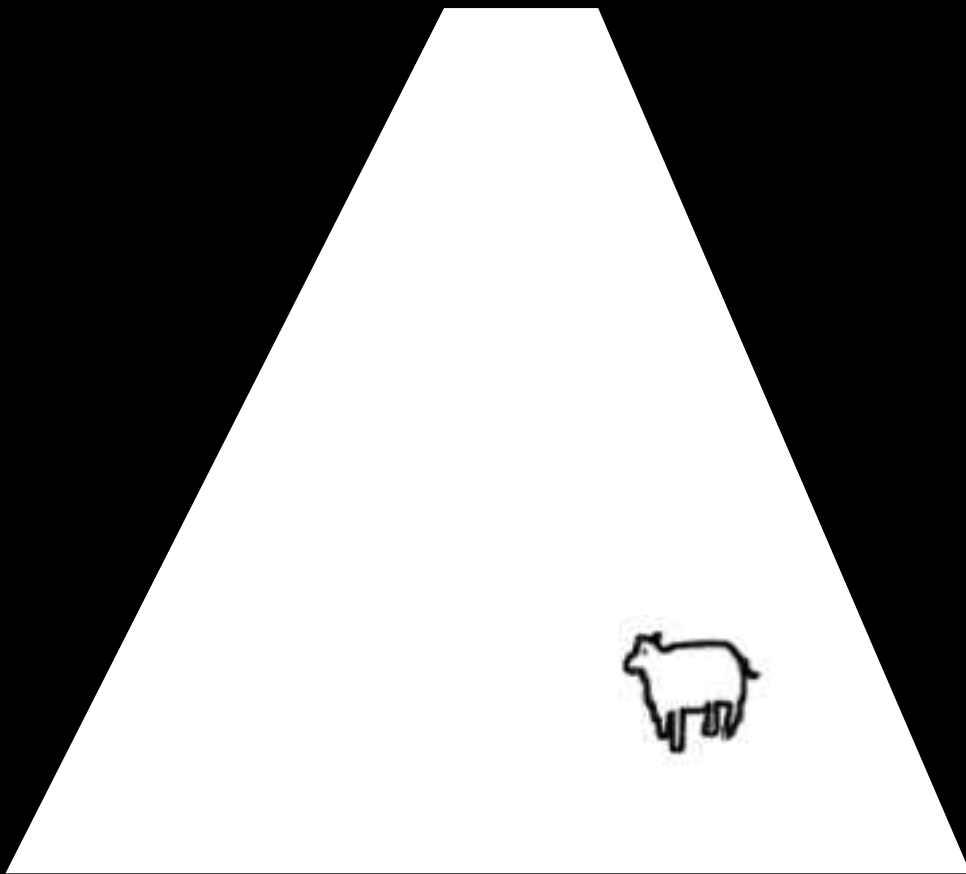


the wind

Especially in the southern part of Iceland the wind can be very strong because that's where the main glaciers are. For example, Vatnajökull is the fourth biggest glacier in the world, its hills and its mountains are only made of ice. And when the wind comes from there, it is a fury! It feels like a gigantic chilly paw. It attacks, it throws down many things and... it howls like a wolf.



how many sheep should we be if we don't want to be afraid of the dark?



print and
draw

P
L
A
Y

K
I
N
D
U
R

SCENE 4

The sheep's dream

After the wind, it snows. Every noise is muffled now. It would be impossible for the sheep to be out. The only thing they can do is lie down, sleep, dream. But in their dreams they are outside and play, they become as light as snowflakes and they float. It is a quiet dream, it is a dance lullaby.



Bíum bíum dillidillidó,

dance your dream like a flake in the snow



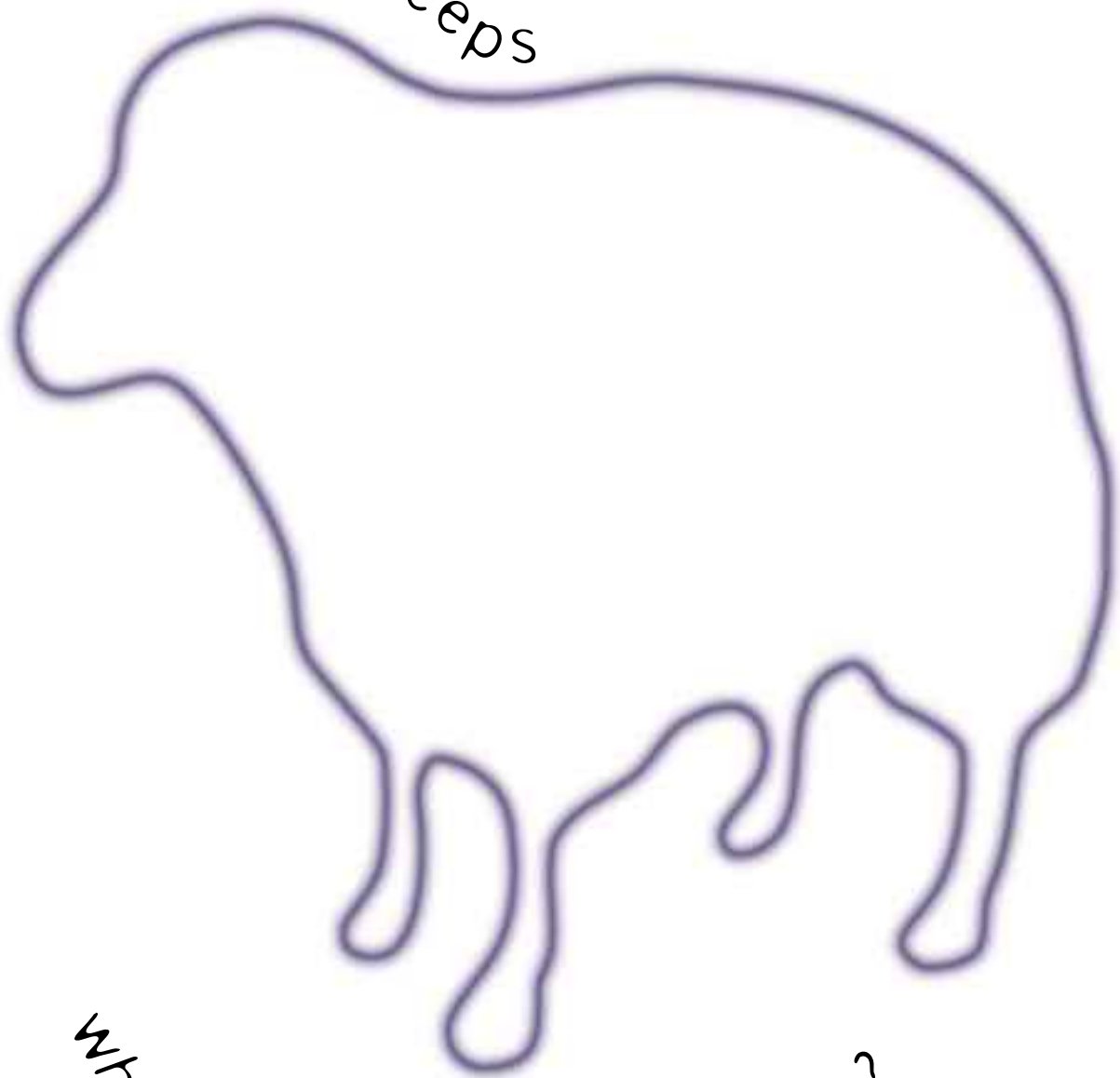
A lullaby for the night

Winter nights in Iceland can be very long. On 21 December, the shortest day, night starts around 3 in the afternoon and ends the next morning around midday. There are only three hours of light. So all you can do is stay at home because outside it is dark and cold. But from the very early days Icelandic people have known that stories and lullabies send the fear of the dark away. One of the most famous lullabies has these words... more or less:

‘Sleep sleep my baby sleep, I cradle
you in peace / the mighty mountains
are away and a violin for you I play /
when cruel storms rage and the blizzard
locks you in a cage / follow the dance
of three candles / and drive away the
winter shadows’.

Sleep sleep my baby sleep

a sheep that sleeps



what dreams can she dream?



print and
colour

SCENE 5

Northern lights

In this scene sheep dream of painting, painting with their bodies. As they move they leave streaks of colours all about the stage: green, pink, orange, yellow... Now it is time for us to become painters and paint by moving our hands, our arms, all of our bodies! In Iceland, in the long winter nights, this dream at times becomes true: it is the northern lights, a storm of colours spreading through the sky.



/o
o s e c o / o u r s

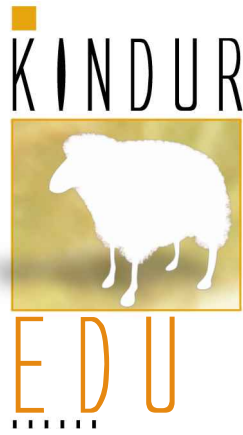


Sheep dream of colouring the night sky

In this scene there don't seem to be colours. Where are they? Black has hidden them...but when dancers move they are back.

How is it possible? Even if you don't see them there are cameras that track every moving thing, both on the stage and in the audience and they 'tell' the computer to erase the black colour hiding the other colours, precisely where people are moving.

come and move all it's our coloured ball



Northern Lights

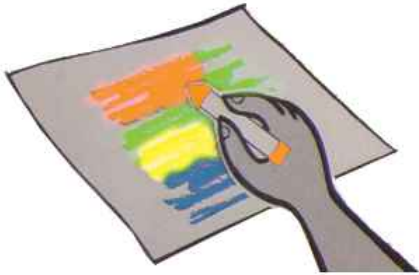
Northern Lights happen at night in winter in the countries near the North Pole, the sky 'switches on' and beautiful streaks of coloured lights cross over it (at the South Pole this is called Southern Lights). These lights are produced by the sun and its winds. Indeed, the sun keeps sending particles charged with energy to the Earth, but the Earth sends them back most of the time with its magnetic field. Only some of these particles enter the atmosphere, especially near the Poles. Here these particles clash with the atoms of the air and from this clash an incredible display of colours is produced, which lights up the night sky.

This spectacular phenomenon has been the source of many legends and superstitions. Eskimos once believed that the lights were the spirits of seals, whales, and caribous, and the Algonquian Indians of Canada believed that the lights were reflections from a huge fire built by the "Great Spirit".



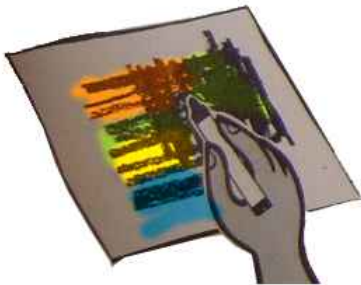
Did you know that you can also paint by taking colours away from paper?

The drawings you make with this system are called **GRAFFITI**



This is how you do this:

Take a piece of paper and colour it all with different wax pastels. Use the colours you especially like.



Then with the black pastel cover it all.



Now take a toothpick and draw... 'scratching' black away ...the colours hidden by black will appear.

This is more or less what happens in the show when, by moving, you colour the black screen with many colours, the colours of the northern lights... Indeed, your movement tells the computer to erase the black covering the underlying colours. Depending on the movement you make, you can draw the screen of the show just like in the "graffito"



colour
scratch

SCENE 6

Spring

Spring has come and the sheep can leave their pen. Now there is light and there is the sun. You can hear busy bees and you can also jump into puddles while you see ravens fly about. Our dancers invite a group of children to play with the sounds of spring.



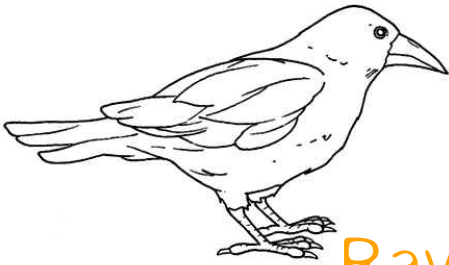
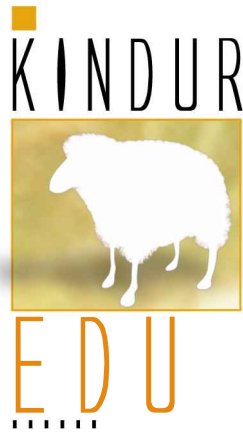
ice, crack, water, chack



From March it is very clear that the days are getting longer. At last the sheep leave their pens and go out into the open air! Something pops up from under the snow. With more sun some flowers start budding and then some brave bees might be back, and if bees are back, ravens are certainly around.

<i>in Iceland:</i>	<i>sunrise</i>	<i>sunset</i>
January	11,19	15,44
February	9,56	17,29
March	8,22	18,56
April	6,43	20,22
May	4,40	22,15
June	3,16	23,38
Juli	3,07	23,55
August	4,49	22,15
September	6,15	20,37
October	7,36	18,56
November	9,23	16,59
December	10,50	15,44





Ravens

Ravens are very important in Iceland. Indeed we find them in many ancient stories. For instance in the legends about Icelandic gods it is said that the powerful god Odin always had two ravens named Huginn and Muninn on his shoulders. They seemed to be telling him everything they had heard flying among humans and their houses. This is why Odin is also called 'The Raven God'.



In another important story it seems that Floki, an explorer looking for new lands through the northern seas, reached Iceland just following a flock of ravens. It is him, Floki, who gave Iceland its name, meaning 'land of ice'!



what do these mud spots look like?

?

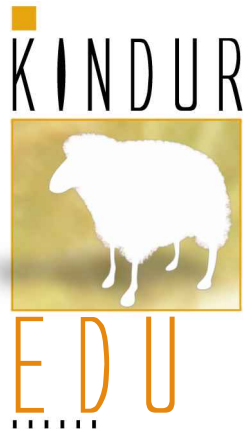
seek

SCENE 1

The journey

It's time to leave, time to go away. Our sheep's journey through Iceland begins. On stage you can see valleys, mountains, rivers while the weather keeps changing. Near a beach there's a desert, a desert of stones. Every stone has a sound, a voice which can grow bigger and bigger. You just have to move, you may stamp your feet.





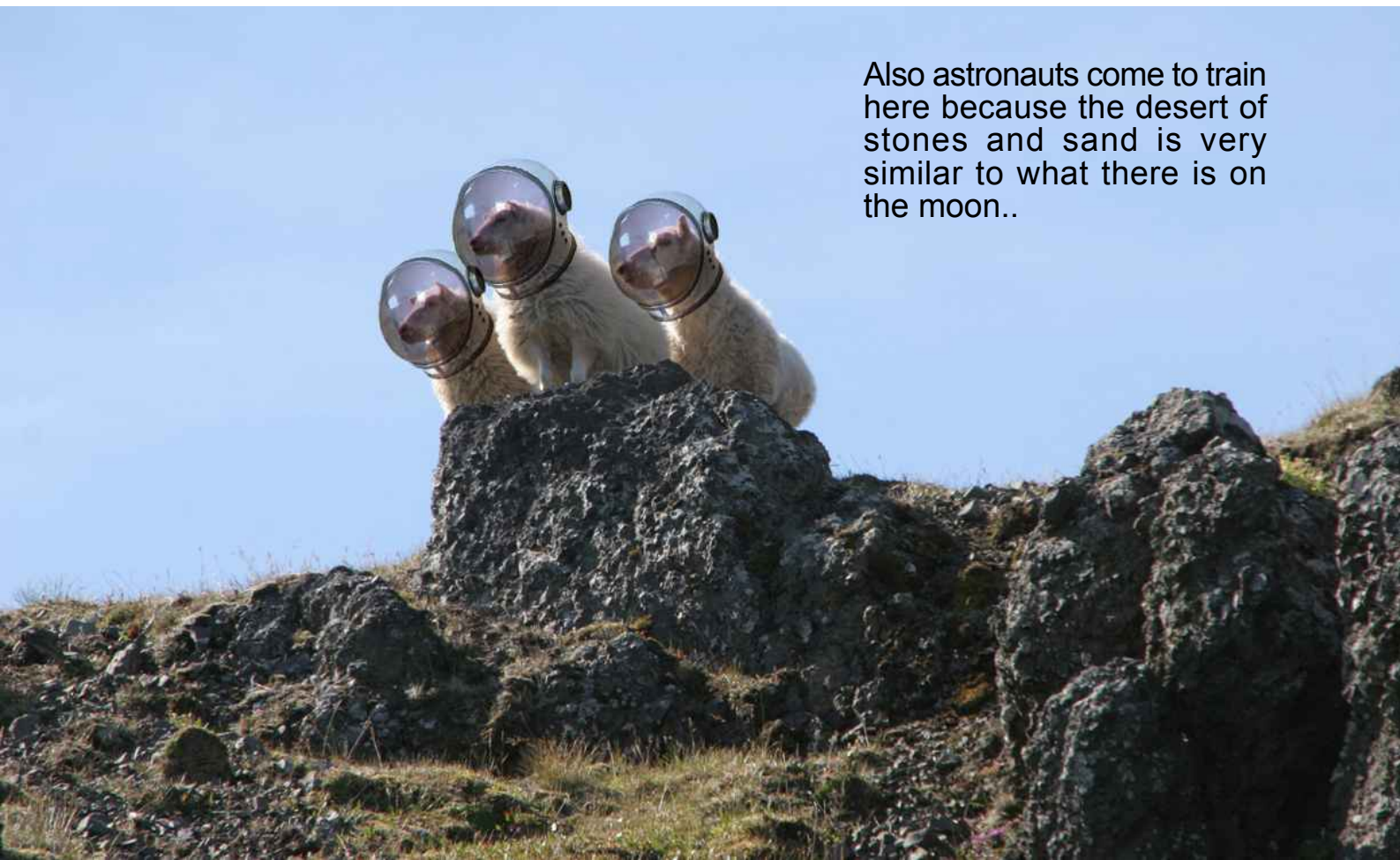
In our show sounds too are very important. What does a sheep hear with her ears? For example in this scene we have imagined what a sheep hears while travelling through a desert of stones and sand.

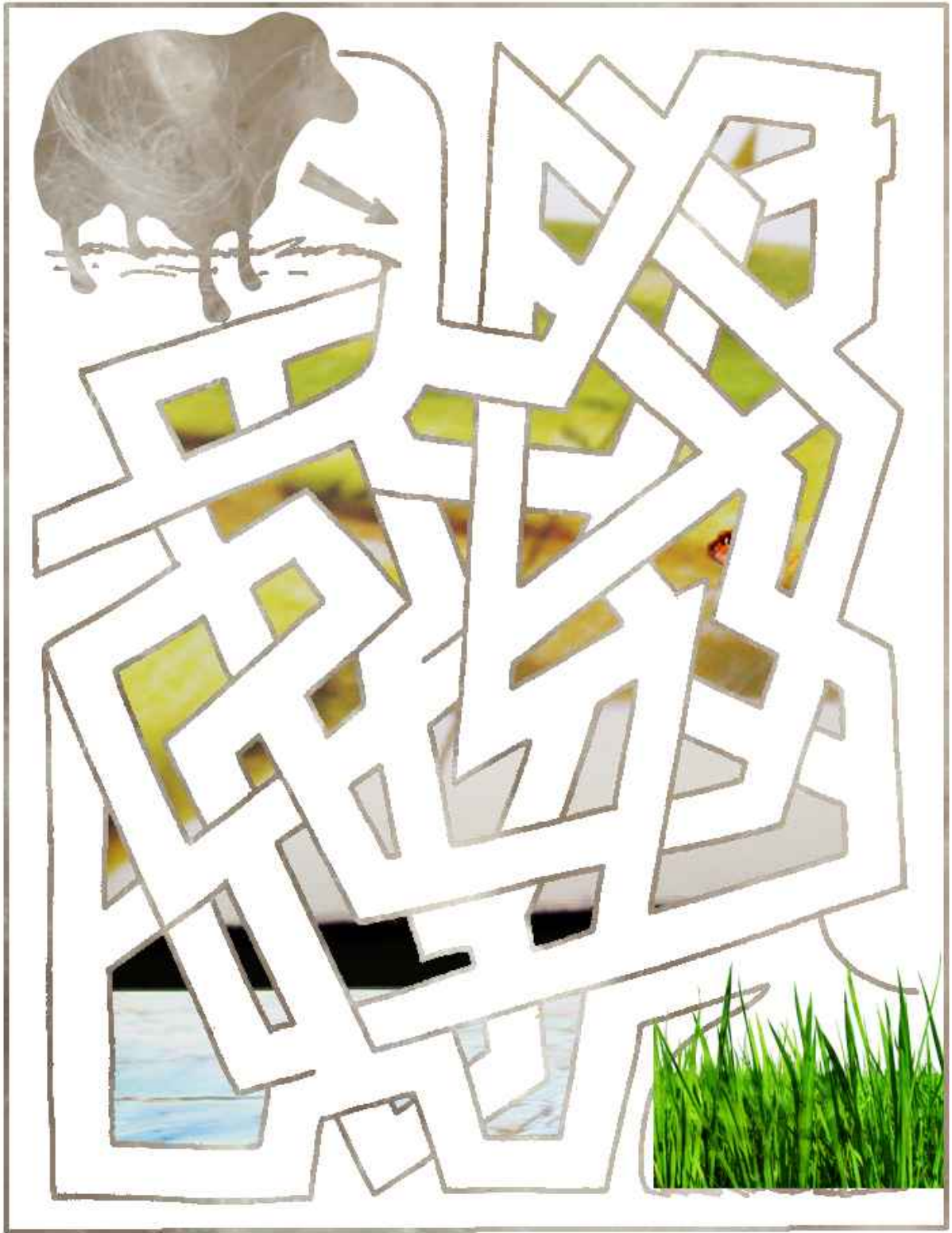
The Inland of Iceland

Sheep take a long journey inland during the warm season because farmers want to keep them away from what they grow in the fields. Sheep eat every sprout they see and always seem very hungry.

The inland of Iceland corresponds to a third of its space: mountain ranges, highlands whitened by volcano dust, scattered rocks, black sand deserts, stone deserts. According to popular legends, this was the place of bandits, a little bit like the American Far West.

Also astronauts come to train here because the desert of stones and sand is very similar to what there is on the moon..





take "ERLA" to eat



print and
draw

print the page and with a
pencil draw the path that the
sheep Erla has to take in order
to eat grass!

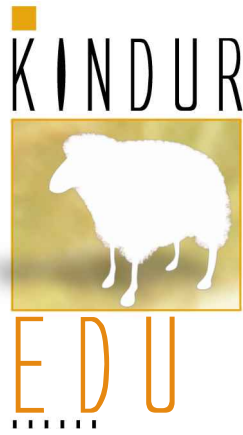
SCENE 8

Trolls

In this scene our dancer sheep meet up with stone giants. They are very ugly, they have a dull voice, but they are not bad guys... Sometimes they do funny dances because, being made of stone, they don't know how to move. They are trolls and might be the guardians of a volcano...



farther and farther away ...



someone sleeps like a stone all day

Trolls

Many Icelandic people think that trolls really exist. According to most legends, trolls are magical characters who live inside rocks and inside volcanos. Icelandic trolls are very big and very ugly, but in general they are not bad guys. It depends on how people treat them. They can live more than 100 years but they sleep most of their lives because daylight blocks them and they have to wait for the arrival of night to start moving.

Going through Iceland it is possible to see scattered rocks that look like people or animals. As a matter of fact, they are sleeping trolls.



trolls are giants who sleep like stones

If you were a snoring
troll, what sound would
you make?



imitate

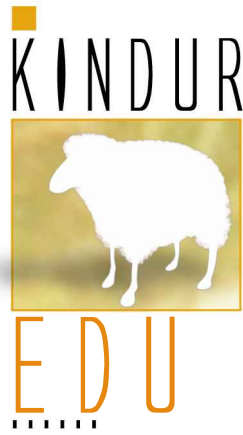
SCENE 9

The Volcano

During their long journey sheep also have to face the volcano, a dragon spitting fire everywhere. Our sheep have to run from one place to another to avoid being burnt. No part of the ground seems safe. But the volcano is always ready to attack and, if one goes faster, the fire goes faster too. It seems like a war, instead it is how the volcano plays with everyone near it.

But fire and ice live together in Iceland. Water stops fire and fire warms water...in the end a white cloud rises and hides everything.



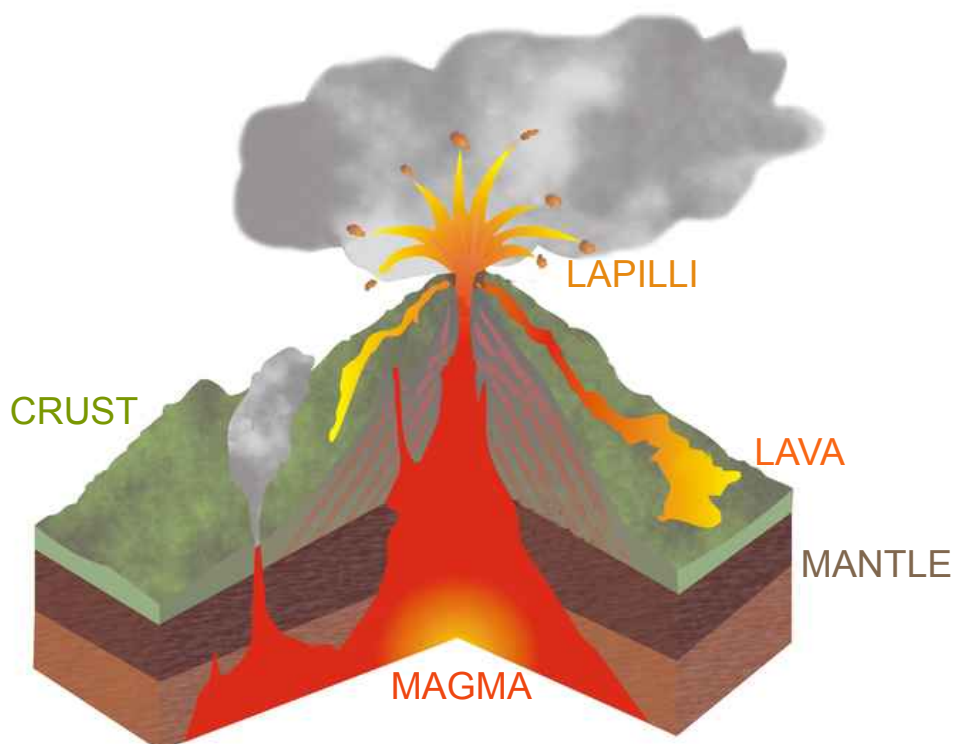


Volcanos

Even if Iceland means 'land of ice', this country is also the land of fire. There are many volcanoes, precisely 130, which are often inside glaciers because here ice and fire, hot and cold, can be very close. This is because Iceland lies on the ocean fault. But what is a fault? It is a very deep breach separating enormous pieces of land, in this case, two continents, Eurasia and America. In this deep gap volcanoes throw out lava, which becomes new land. This is how Iceland was born. It is one of the youngest lands in the world, it is a child land. The most famous volcano these days is Ejafjallajokull; in 2010 its ash cloud blocked most planes in Northern Europe, even though it is one of the smallest Icelandic volcanoes.

How a volcano works

Let's remember what the earth, our planet, is made of: The ground on which we walk is called the CRUST, just like that of pizza. Under the CRUST, there is the MANTLE, a layer of very hot soil because it covers and wraps the deepest layer, the heart of the Earth, which is boiling, boiling so much that it is all melted. This boiling liquid is called MAGMA. As you can imagine, MAGMA is always on the move and at a certain point, where it finds a hole in the CRUST, that is, a volcano, 'puff', it comes out and when it goes out, it takes the name of LAVA. LAVA is red, boiling, and flows outside like a fire river. Together with the lava stones, which for the occasion are called LAPILLI, also come out, as well as ash and gases. All this with a lot of noise and smoke!



The most famous volcano in Iceland is called Eja-fjallajökull, which means "island- mountain glacier".

It seems like a very difficult name to pronounce, but in Icelandic it is pronounced like this:

Eja-fjatla-giocud

It is also funny if we say one part at a time

Eja

Fjatla

Giocud

and then all together

Eja Fjatla Giocud



recite

SCENE 10

Waterfalls

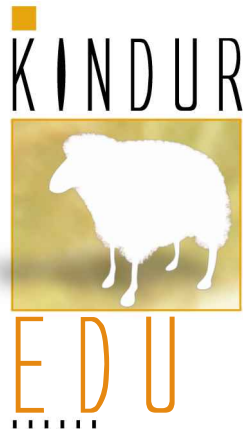
We hear a big noise. It is the ground that vibrates. On the screen magnificent waterfalls appear and resound like a big musical instrument. Water takes very high leaps, it falls on rocks, it rebounds and flies up again, in a play of colours and sprays. Sometimes sheep shut their ears not to hear the roar.



booming bubbles



bump...bam...bong



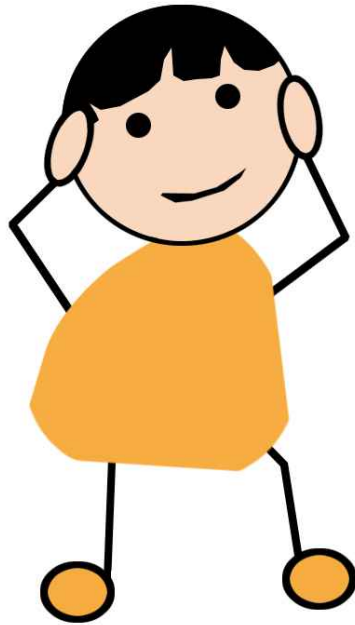
Waterfalls

In this land it rains and snows a lot because it is near the North Pole. Its enormous glaciers melt in summer and give way to many rivers. So Iceland is the ideal place for gigantic and powerful waterfalls, which we find in various parts of the country, especially in the north and in the west. The most famous ones are Dettifoss in the north, as big as the Niagara Falls in North America, but made of grey and black water, due to the volcanoes; and Selfoss, which looks like stairs made up of gigantic waterfalls.

In Iceland there isn't only cold water, there are also many hot water springs and pools that are naturally hot because of MAGMA. So every town and village have their own hot water pool, where kids and grownups alike go and bathe in every season, to warm up from the cold, to have fun...



If you put your hands on your ears you can
hear a sound that is similar to the noise of
Icelandic waterfalls



If you now breathe with your nose and keep your mouth shut...

can you hear
a noise
that seems
like running water?



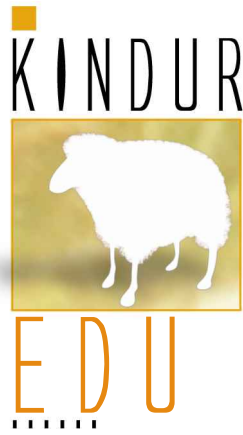
listen

SCENE 11

The Elves' party

Where do sheep want to get to in their long journey? They want to go and meet the elves and they especially want to take part in their big party. But elves are magic creatures hidden among grass blades. Sheep know how to find them: you have to look around and see if there are hairy flowers. When all around there are 10, 100 or 1,000 hairy flowers we have definitely arrived in the elves' land. Now we can call them and at last the party begins.





Elves

The 'elves', or the 'hidden people' as they are sometimes called, are another mysterious Icelandic people.. They too can look like people, animals and plants, but their world is invisible to most of us, as elves can only be seen if they feel like it. They live in nature in the most faraway and isolated parts of Iceland, especially in meadows. They can do many things; in particular they know how to party and how to dance very well!



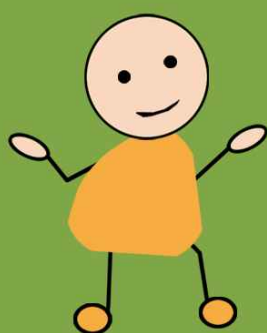
Hairy Flowers

In summer, in Icelandic meadows, there are many flowers which look mysterious too because they don't have petals, they seem to have hair, like people's hair. Or white wool, as if they were sheep flowers. The wind ruffles their ever moving 'heads' in a continuous dance. They are called cotton grass, a kind of flower that lives where there is a lot of water, near marshes and bogs.



The wind moves the hair of hairy flowers to all sides

and invents different 'hairstyles'...



Choose the 'hairstyles' you like the most.

Once you have printed this page, cut out the 'hairstyle' you prefer, following the dotted line, and put it on the character above.



print
cut out

In the TPO company there are many people who work to make the shows you see at the theatre.

TO DO THE SHOW "KINDUR"

DAVIDE and FRANCESCO
directed all the people so that the show is really nice

ANNA, PAOLA and ERIKA
invented the dances and the movements

ROSSANO
programmed the computers so that images, sounds and music move together with the dancers and the audience's movements.

ELSA
made the images and thought of how they should be in space and how they should move; she also made this book with Stefania

SPARTACO
made sounds and the music

MARTIN
programmed the lighted hearts

STEFANIA
had a lot of ideas on sheep and wrote the words you hear in the show and the ones you have just read

FIAMMA
devised and sewed the dancers' costumes

LIVIA
built the scenery and the props that you see in the show

CHARLOTTE, ANNAPIA and ANA
recorded the voice you hear at the beginning of the show, in different languages

MASSIMILIANO and ANDREA
arranged the stage, the lighting and everything needed for the show

VALENTINA, VALERIA, FRANCESCA and LINA
organized timetables, dates and money from their office, they also spoke with many people on the phone so that everything could work well



cut out your face from a photo of yours and glue it here



print
cut
glue

DID YOU LIKE



..... ?

write to us by clicking here



this is our guestbook

