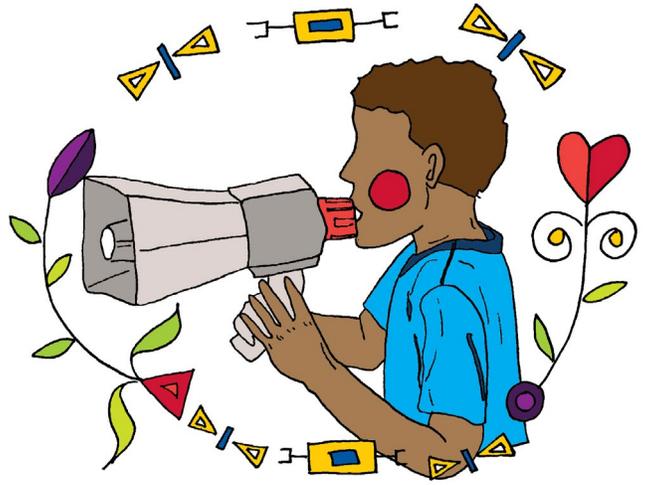


# Victory Rally Toy Theater



Aspiring puppeteers will learn how to make a tiny toy theater and paper style puppets.

Ever wonder how to make your very own theater production? This activity will teach you basic puppet making skills and storytelling.

The theme of this play is based on the ongoing movement of ending racist mascots. For as long as sports teams have existed in the United States, so has the tradition of racist and derogatory imagery of Native American people. Native activists, artists, and many Native communities from all of the nation have worked tirelessly to bring this tradition to an end.

Each Victory Rally art kit provides illustrations of youth who symbolically carry the torch to put an end to racism. The drawings are stylized in ledger art style with having no face. Some tribes use this design concept to honor the spirit of an individual by not including face details.

These drawings also depict the triumphant name change of the professional football team the Washington Redskins during the summer of 2020. This would not have happened without the hard work from the Native communities and allies who wrote letters of support. Let's celebrate this win by creating a play that shows the long overdue name change and the future without racist imagery.

Guidelines: Create a storyline that shows a feeling of "victory" over racism. How might that look, sound, or feel? Note: this is not a play to "play Native," unless you are Native. This is your chance to show how allies can help create change by caring and supporting a movement to end racism. Feel encouraged to create your own characters i.e. a monster mascot, yourself, or magical talking protest signs.

## Art Kit Supply list

- shoe box
- colored pencils
- index cards
- wooden sticks
- glue stick
- 4 illustrations
- tape
- scissors

## Step By Step Instructions

- 1 Wanzi** Start with coloring in the four illustrations found in your kit. These will be your puppets! There are extra index cards for more characters, or you can use them to draw something for your toy theater's backdrop.
- 2 Numpa** Cut out illustrations and extra images, then tape puppets to end of stick. Make sure to be generous with tape so it is secure and won't fall off. If you created extra designs for a backdrop you may glue to the deep side of the shoe box, i.e. where your shoes would fit inside.
- 3 Yamni** Now that your puppets are ready, you can move on to assembling your toy theater. Take the deep side of the shoe box and stand up horizontally (long side) on its side. This will be the background. Then take the lid or top of shoe box and place at the bottom. Be sure to place the theater's backdrop snugly inside the bottom so it sits up right and is secure. Tape the sides together so it won't move around.
- 4 Topa** Decorate your theater. Does it need the title of your play in the background? A border design for the sides, or completely colored in to be one solid color or multiple colors? The world is yours, have at it.
- 5 Zapta** You are now done making your toy theater. Now its time to create a play!

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Hapistinna [female given name; Dakota for third born girl] Graci Horne, better known as Graci, was born and raised in Mnisota [Minnesota]. Her bands are the Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota people and Hunkpapa Lakota and Dakota people. She is a multi-disciplinary artist, specializing in painting, print making, puppet making, photography, film, and poetry.

Horne holds a degree in Museum Studies from the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, NM. Her work is defined by landscape hues and the colors of water and is often rooted in undertones of Dakota culture and social themes. Horne is an Independent Curator and works full time as a Community Artist teaching workshops for people ages 5 – 100.

LEARN MORE ABOUT GRACI AT [GCIHRN.COM](http://GCIHRN.COM)

See the how-to video on Hennepin County Library's YouTube channel [bit.ly/30GGQFw](https://bit.ly/30GGQFw) (search Victory Rally)

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