

Creating Your Own Pre-Recorded Puppet Skit

I have been creating my own pre-recorded puppet skits and curriculum media for a couple of years. I have been very impressed on how well they have come out.

I recently upgraded my recording equipment by purchasing a inexpensive condenser microphone (like you see in recording studios). I got it for \$60.00 from the Musician's Friend (www.musciansfriend.com) and it works wonderfully. I've also used a \$15.00 headset microphone from Office Depot.

I write the script and then give it to my voice actors. They read the skit together once or twice and then we record the skit. We can play back immediately and see if everything went well and then move on to the next scene.

Once I have all the skits recorded, I take the tracks and load them into my audio editor. I am using Multi-sequence from Gold Wave (www.goldwave.com). It is a fairly simple program that will let me create multiple tracks and do some beautiful editing.

Once in the editor I am free to go back and add or take away from each recording. Sometimes I add spaces between lines so puppets will have time to do the action (voice actors don't always allow performance room). I also can add background music, and sound effects. There are a number of free websites offering every imaginable sound effect.

Once I have it the way I want it, I will save it in a audio format such as a wav or mpeg file. Now I create a CD of the recording(s), print off a label with the skit name, the creation date and who the voice actors are, and then give it to puppeteers for practice.

To use these recording for performances, I usually dump them to my computer for easy control and playback, but you can also use a CD player.