

My work focuses on making theatrical puppets and props, often taking a lot of inspiration from folklore and the natural world around us.

For this project, I chose to create the serpent from the opening of the Magic Flute. To do this, I actually elected to create two puppets; one three dimensional puppet of the serpent's head and upper body that can be directly interacted with onstage, and a shadow puppet of the serpents whole body, with the idea that these two could be used in tandem to create the impression of a much larger creature. For this, I decided to reimagine the serpent as a sea serpent, the idea being that the opera would now take place on a mysterious island in the middle of the ocean. The design takes a lot of influence from Viking and Nordic mythology, as well as drawing on inspiration from ocean creatures to create a more naturalistic look.

The large scale puppet was created using plastazote foam for the head and the body frame is fashioned from willow. The fabric used to create the body I dyed and treated myself, to create a fluid, seaweed-like look. The main aim with this design was to create a lot of natural movement in the serpent's body. The design also incorporates a fin-flapping mechanism and an opening and closing mouth. The eyes are hand painted, on vacuum formed domes.

The shadow puppet was designed on Adobe illustrator and laser cut in MDF. Resin was used to add colour to the scales, which would show up in the projected shadow. The puppet is three pieces which can all be moved independently, meaning the serpent can be portrayed as both one entire creature and emerging individual sections of the body, that can perhaps be used alongside the large onstage puppet.

My other works can be found on instagram, at: [@isobelshuttlewood](#), and on my Facebook page: [@isobelshuttlewoodart](#). I can be contacted by email at [isobelshuttlewooddesign@outlook.com](mailto:isobelshuttlewooddesign@outlook.com).