



Theatre Home Delivery

LUNA - a play about the Moon

Scene 6: Launch of Apollo 11

For two actors | Ages 11 - 16 years (KS3 & KS4)

This scene has been taken from *LUNA - a play about the Moon*, written by Toby Hulse. It is an opportunity for you to develop your puppetry skills using object theatre.

Object Theatre

A form of puppetry in which everyday objects are manipulated to give them life.

What happens?

In this scene, we hear excerpts from a famous speech by John F. Kennedy in which he declares that the USA will reach the Moon by the end of the decade, underscored by some funky launch music. The action on stage shows the construction of the Saturn 5 rocket, its launch, and its separation en route to the Moon.

What you'll need beforehand

Decide what household objects you will use to build the Saturn 5 Rocket. Maybe you could use thermos flasks? Or plant pots? See what you can come up with. Remember to consider the stages of separation. Here's an animated video to talk you through the three stages:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8dpkmUj8xU>

Lighting and Costumes

When you are puppeteering, the focus is on the object you are animating. Think about interesting ways you could light the object, perhaps using torches or bike lights. What costumes could you wear to make you 'invisible'? These don't have to be black, perhaps you have some fairy lights on to make yourself look like space! Be creative, but don't draw focus.

Music

Here's the audio file you will need to underscore the action: [DOWNLOAD HERE](#)

**Scene Six.**

The actors reveal the objects they are going to use to build their rocket.

JFK

[Recording.] The eyes of the world now look to space – to the Moon and to the planets beyond – and we have vowed that we shall not see it governed by a hostile flag of conquest, but by a banner of freedom and peace. We shall send to the Moon a giant rocket – more than 300 feet tall, the length of this football field and made of metal alloys some of which have not yet been invented and fitted together with a precision better than the finest watch – on an untried mission to an unknown celestial body and then return it safely to Earth. And if we are to do all this and do it right and do it first, before this decade is out, then we must be bold. We choose to go to the Moon. We choose to go to the Moon in this decade not because it is easy – but because it is hard.

The actors construct their rocket.

Jack King

[Recording.] We're approaching the 60 second mark on the Apollo 11 mission. T minus 60 seconds and counting. We've passed T minus 60. 55 seconds and counting. Neil Armstrong just reported back, "It's been a real smooth countdown". We've passed the 50 second mark. Power transfer is complete - we're on internal power with the launch vehicle at this time. 40 seconds away from the Apollo 11 lift-off. All the second stage tanks now pressurized. 35 seconds and counting. We are still 'Go' with Apollo 11. 30 seconds and counting. Astronauts report, "It feels good". T minus 25 seconds. 20 seconds and counting. T minus 15 seconds, guidance is internal.

Construction is complete. The actors are ready for lift off.





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12, 11, 10, 9, ignition sequence starts, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0, all engine running...
LIFT-OFF! We have a lift-off, 32 minutes past the hour. Lift-off on Apollo 11.

The rocket takes off.

We see the first and second separations.

Finally, we see Apollo 11 enter Earth's orbit.

The end.



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