

John's Enormous Little Show



LITTLE
STORY MAGIC



Papou opened his puppet box.

Out came Karagiozis, the cheeky fellow from his Greek shadow plays.

John loved those plays.

Tonight, he wanted to make one of his own.

“It needs a mouse,” he said.

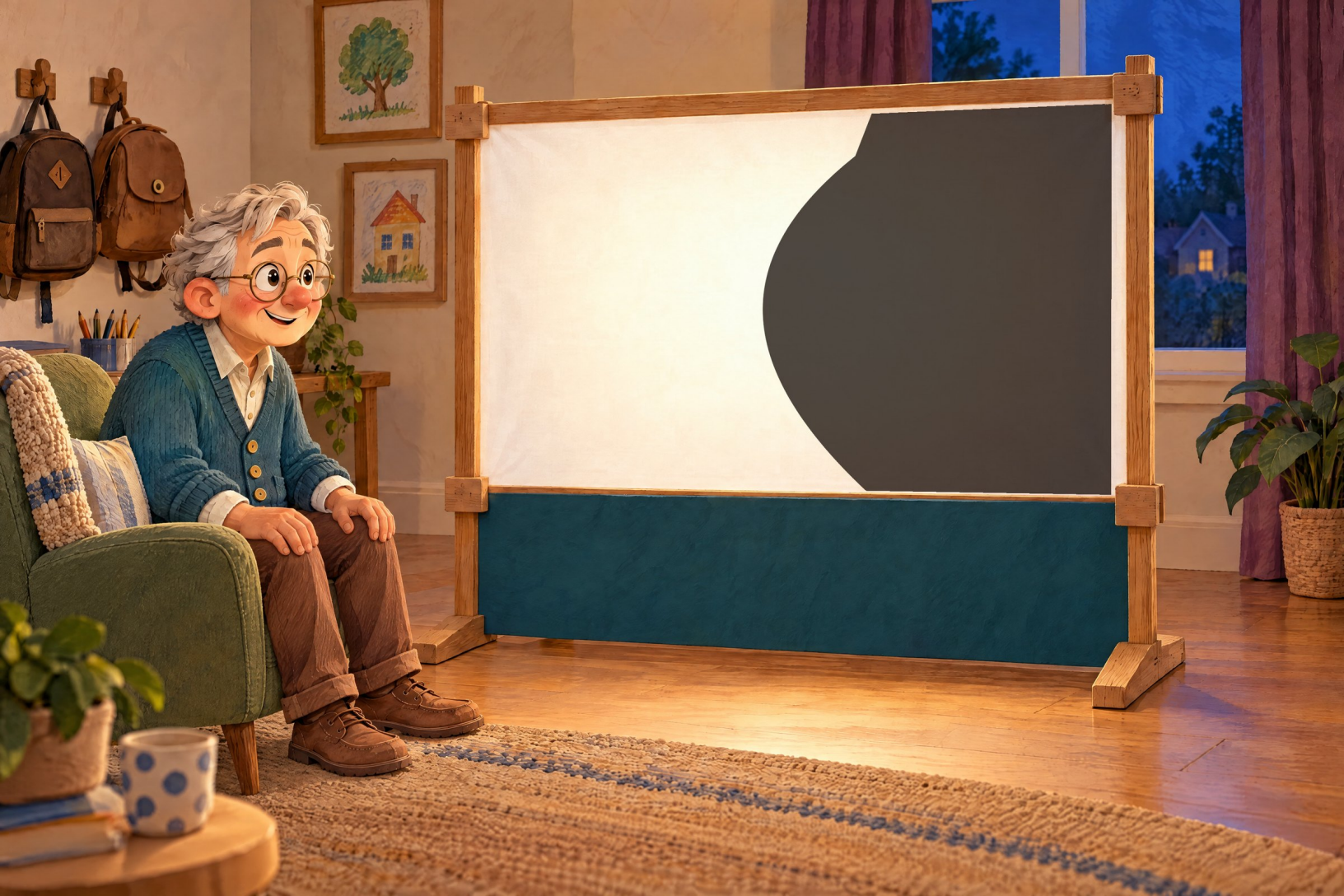
“And a GIANT.”



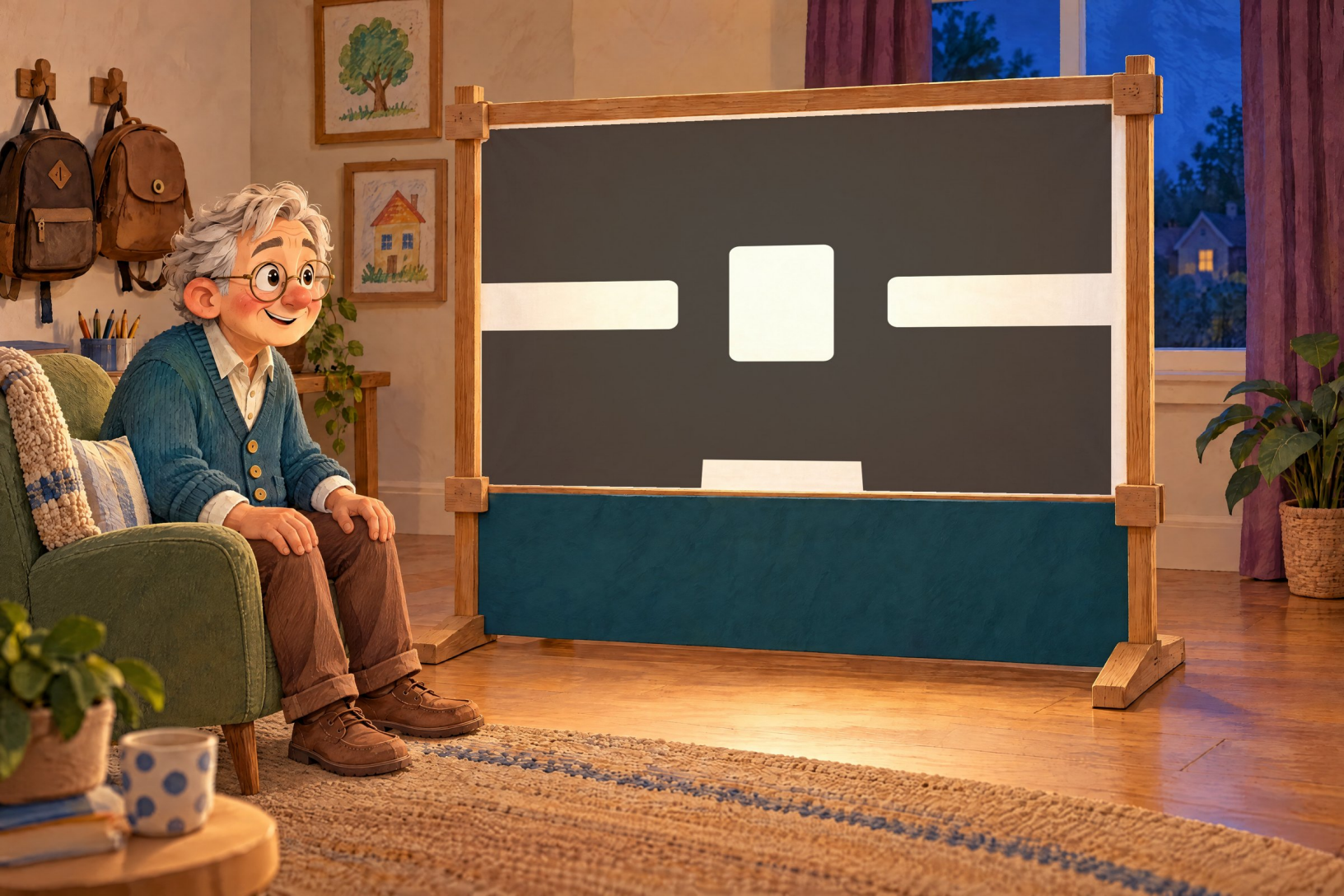
Julia drew a little house for the mouse.
Papou helped cut the puppets from cardboard.
John's mouse was small.
John's giant was enormous.
“Will he fit?” asked Julia.
“He's a giant,” said John. “He needs to be enormous.”



Papou fastened a white sheet across the little stage.
He put a light behind it.
Then he sat down in front to watch.



Behind the sheet, John lifted his giant.
The audience saw—
one enormous knee.



John lowered the giant a little.
Now Papou saw a belt.



Lower still.

A nose filled the stage.

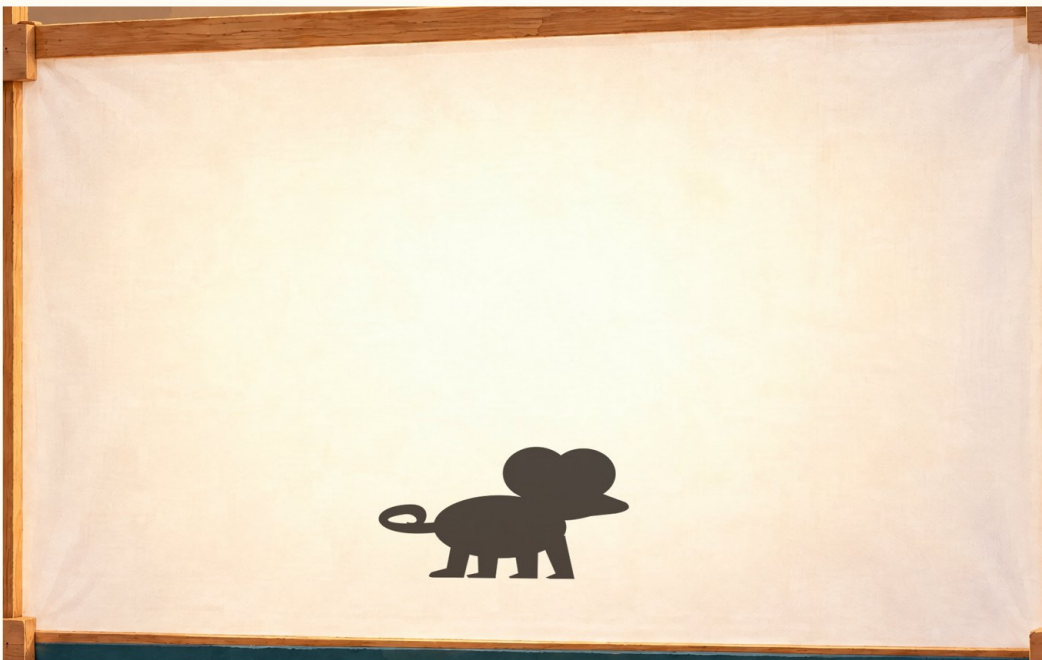
“Good evening, Nose,” said Papou.

“There's a whole giant attached,” said John.

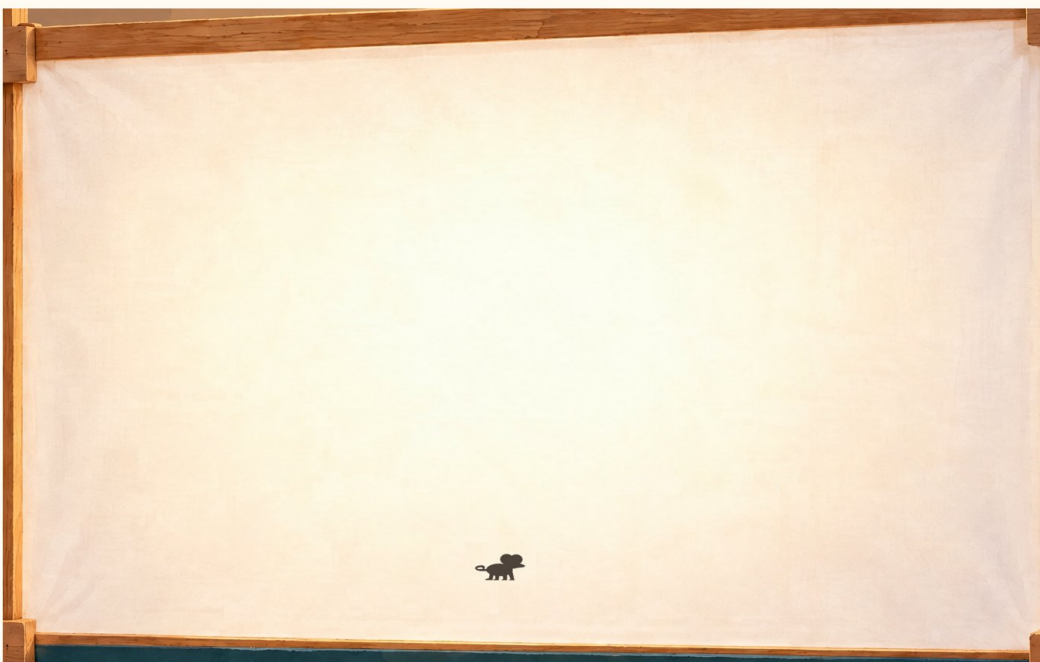
“I look forward to meeting him.”



John lowered the giant and sat on the floor.
“My play won't fit.”
He reached back for the mouse beside the light.
Across the sheet crept an enormous hand.
“John,” whispered Julia. “Look!”



John looked at his hand.
He looked at its huge shadow.
Then he picked up the mouse.
Near the light—
BIG mouse.



Near the sheet—
little mouse.
John did it again.
Julia squeaked both sizes.



“Papou! Could we make a little giant?”
Papou helped cut one from a scrap of card.



John held it near the light.
A giant rose across the sheet.
“There you are!” said Papou.
The show could begin.



Julia's little mouse opened the door of its little house.

“Would you like to come in?”

John gave the giant his deepest voice.

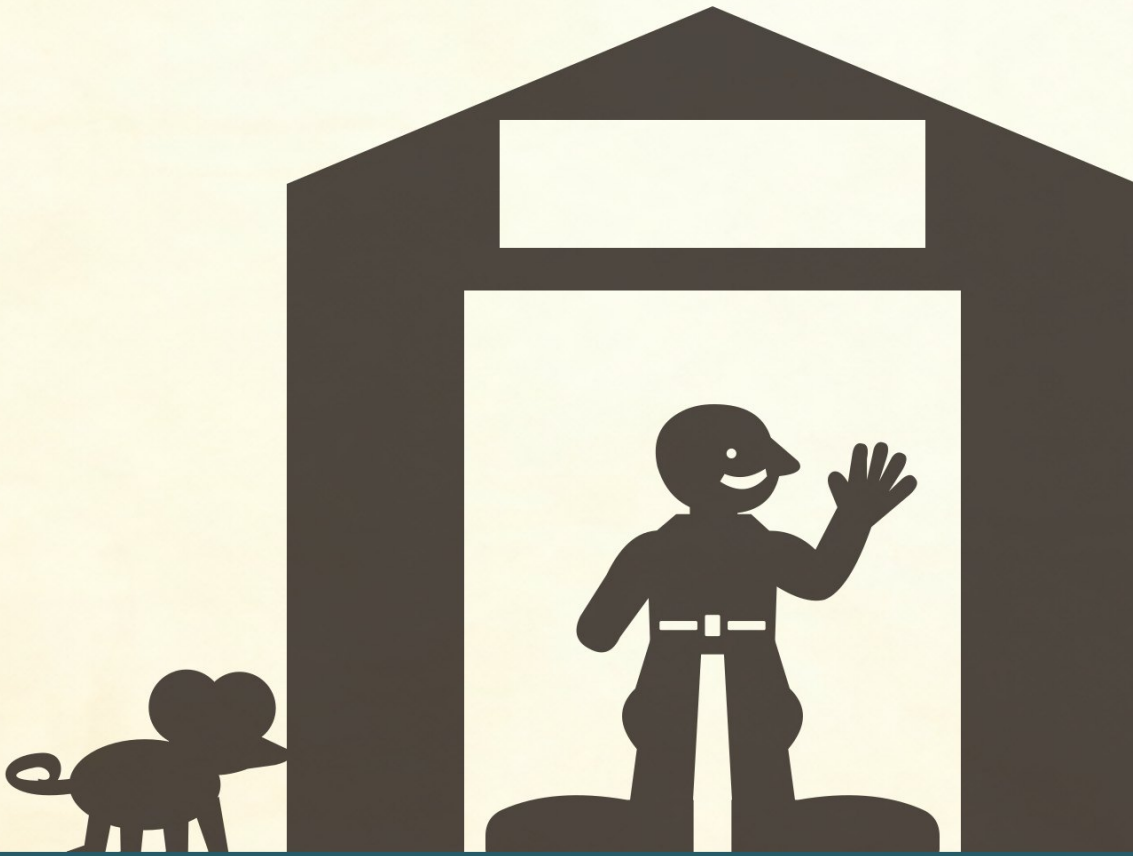
“VERY MUCH.”

The giant looked at the door.

One foot was bigger than the whole house.



“Perhaps just my nose?” boomed the giant.
“You brought that last time,” said Papou.
John nearly dropped his puppet laughing.
Then he remembered the mouse.
He moved his little giant towards the sheet.
The enormous shadow began to shrink.



Smaller.

Smaller.

The giant's foot fitted by the doorstep.

His shoulders fitted beneath the roof.

“MIND YOUR HEAD,” John boomed.

Then, in a tiny voice—

“Oh. I don't have to.”



The mouse welcomed him inside.
Two small shadows waved from the window.
Papou clapped.
“Again!”



John bowed carefully, keeping his puppet upright.
“A little show,” John said proudly.
“An enormous little show,” said Papou.



Behind the sheet, Julia grinned.
She brought the mouse towards the light.



Two great round ears rose above the roof.
From the little house came an enormous—
“SQUEAK!”

A little more to share

A show to share

John's mouse-and-giant play is an original family story inspired by Greek shadow theatre. Papou is the Greek word used here for grandfather. Karagiozis is the cheeky figure from his puppet box.

Big mouse, little mouse

Try the two squeaks together, or enjoy listening quietly. With a fixed light and sheet, moving a card towards the light makes its shadow bigger; moving it towards the sheet makes it smaller.

Made with care

Created by J. Ladis and Haley Dell for Little Story Magic. This digital edition uses manual page turns and a separate read-aloud. The cardboard figures and house apertures retain the same authored shapes throughout.

Greek shadow theatre — Hellenic Ministry of Culture

Changing shadow size — Science Buddies