

NDMAC PAPER THEATRE

THE BATTLE OF WESTMINSTER BRIDGE

The National Disability Movement Archive & Collection is proud to present this paper theatre. Pop out the parts and build a diorama of the iconic disability rights protests on Westminster Bridge.

Westminster has been the sight of many actions: its proximity to parliament and being a bottleneck for traffic in central London made it the perfect location for the campaigns for disability rights and accessible transport.

NDMAC is a Shape Arts project that archives the crips fights for civil rights. Learn about how disabled activists developed the social model, fought, negotiated, and won partial rights. Scan the QR code or head to ndmac.org to learn more.

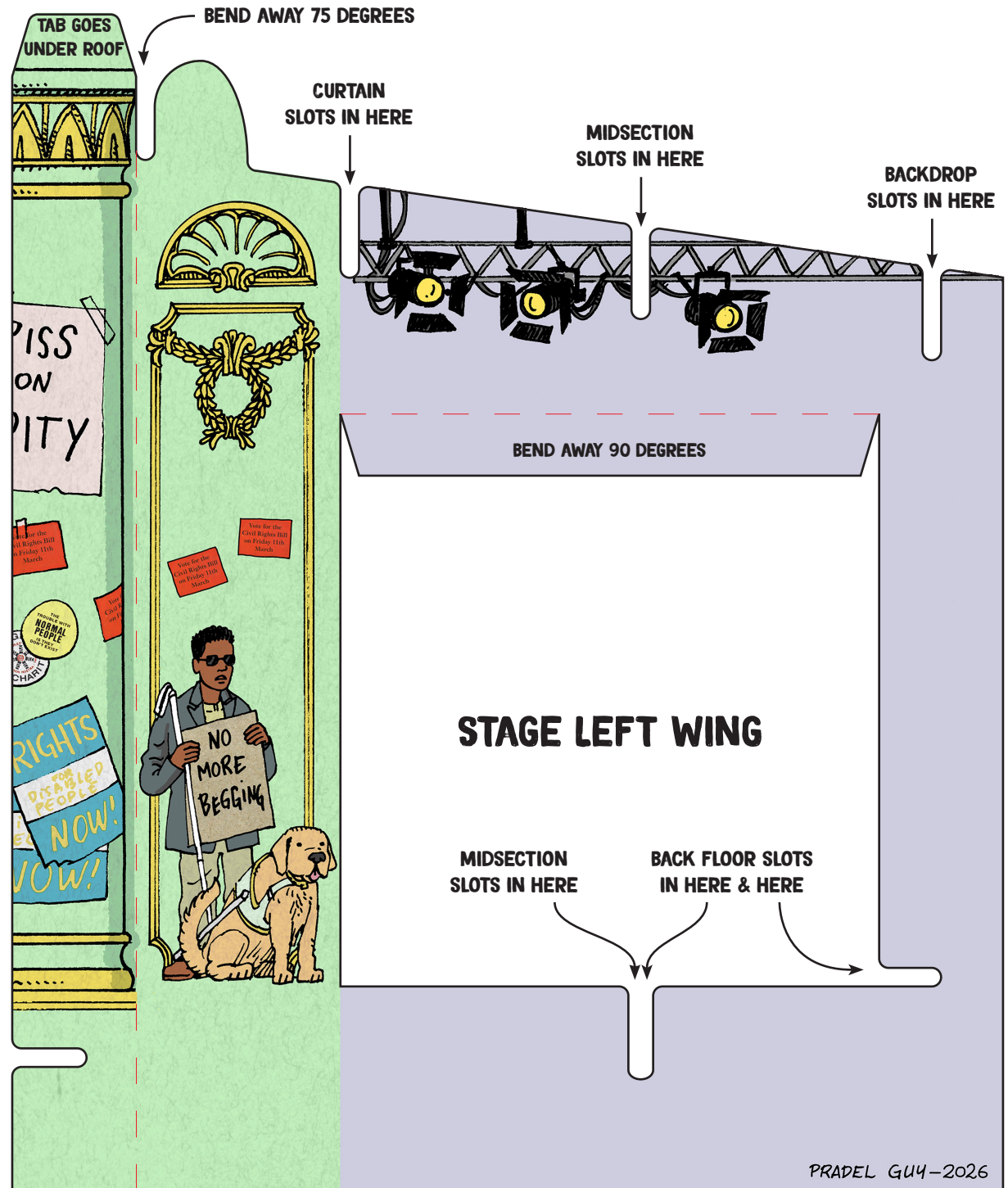


NDMAC / The National Disability Movement Archive & Collection



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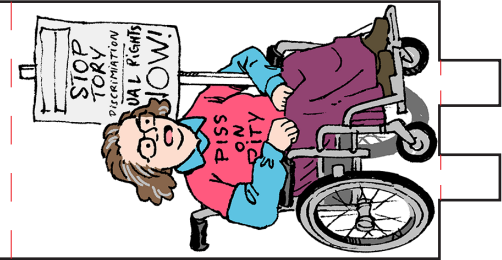
ROOF

BEND FLAP BACK
80 DEGREES →

CURTAIN SLOTS
INTO FLAP

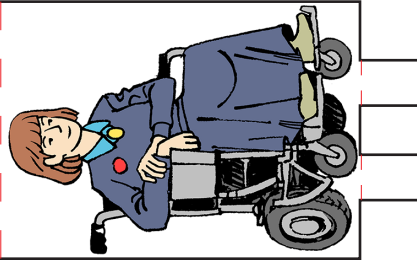
BACK FLOOR

BEND FLAP BACK 90 DEGREES
BACKDROP SLOTS INTO FLOOR



THE PROTESTERS

One of the invisible strengths of the disability rights campaign was its incredible logistics. Public transport was not accessible and many campaigners were scattered around the country, so it required great coordination without the internet to arrange transportation and tactics.



JANE CAMPBELL

Campbell was one of the biggest negotiators during the disability rights campaign, as one of the co-chairs of the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People, an umbrella organisation. She later became a Peer to continue her work.

SLOTS INTO STAGE RIGHT WING

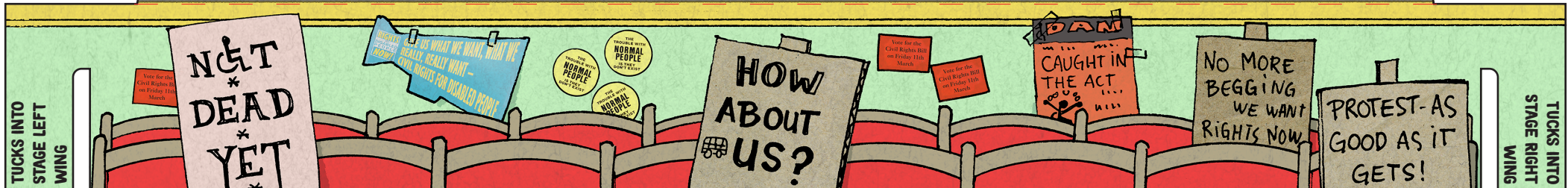
SLOTS INTO STAGE LEFT WING

STAGE FRONT AND FLOOR

BEND BOTH FLAPS BACK 90 DEGREES

CURTAIN SLOTS IN HERE

CURTAIN SLOTS IN HERE



CURTAIN

← SLOTS INTO ROOF



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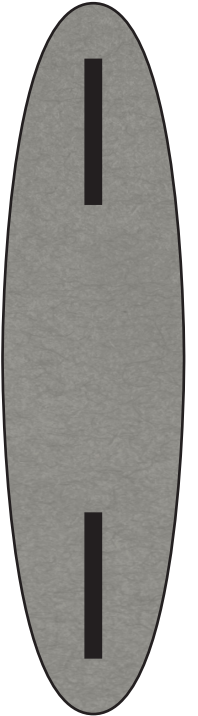
One of the most common direct actions in the campaign for disabled rights was blocking the buses to protest their inaccessibility. Protesters would move in front of a bus then chain or handcuff themselves to it, or lie in front of it. CAT, the Campaign for Accessible Transport, and then DAN, Direct Action Network, were the organisations that most often employed this tactic.

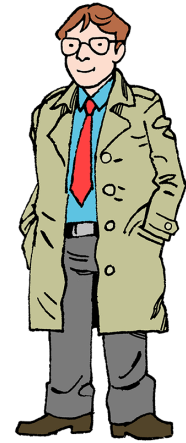
Public had mixed reactions - some where sympathetic, others could never take the bus. couldn't take their bus. The reply was that wheelchair users could never take the bus. During one action, the protesters were short on handcuffs, so had to buy pink ones from a nearby Soho sex-shop!

BLOCKING THE BUSES



BASE FOR BLOCKING THE BUSES





ROGER BERRY MP

Roger Berry is a Labour MP who was a known supporter of disability rights. As part of the campaign, he advanced a radical disability rights bill that was defeated under a Conservative government, but helped pave the way for the passing of one: the Disability Discrimination Act was enacted not long after.



THE POLICE

Rather than struggle to lift and insert wheelchair users into vans, it was common for police officers to let protesters go rather than arrest them! Wheelchair users used to also set their breaks, so that police officers, not realising, would struggle to move them.

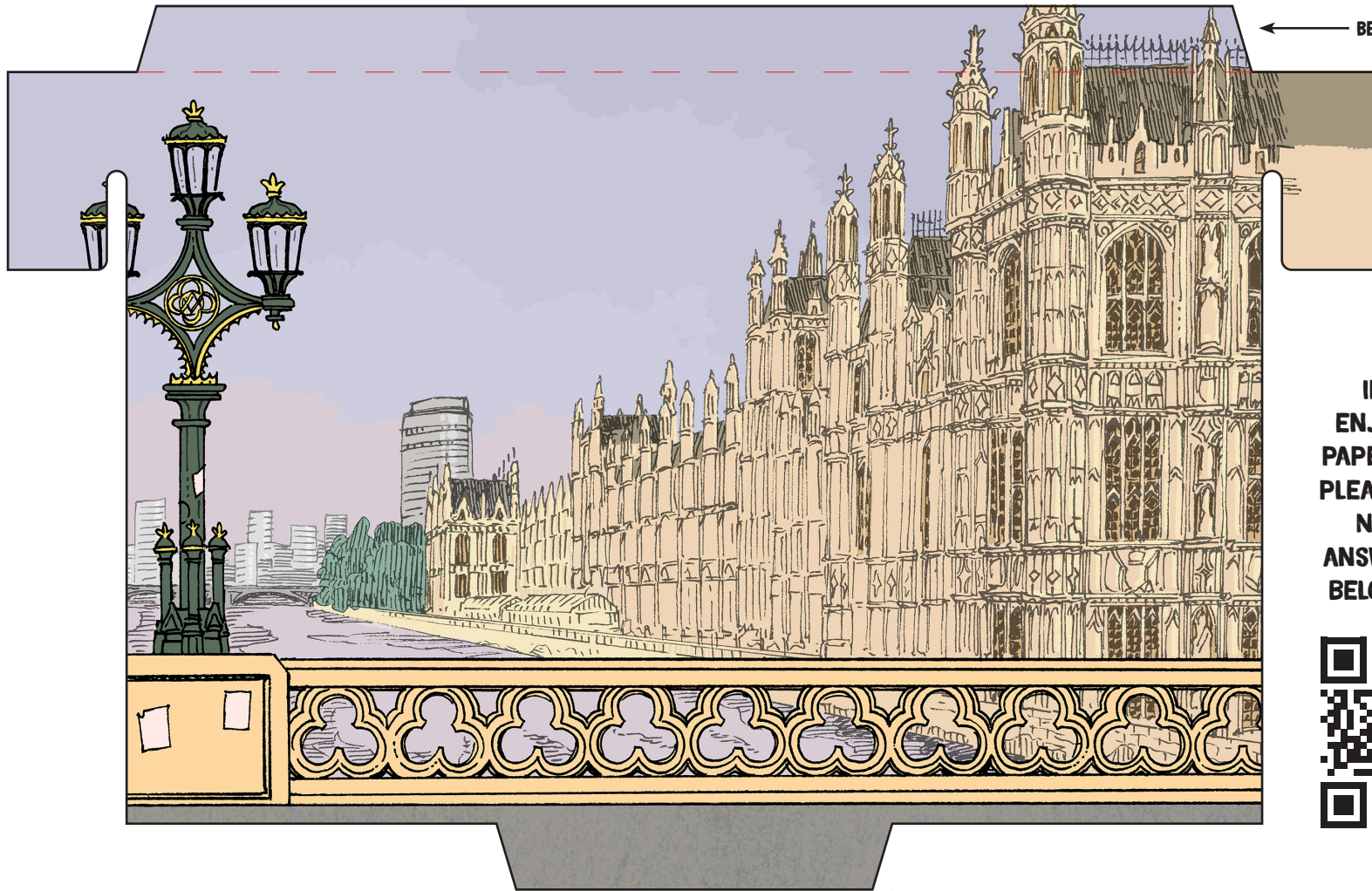


**BASE FOR ROGER
BERRY MP**

BASE FOR THE POLICE

**BASE FOR JANE
CAMPBELL**

**BASE FOR THE
PROTESTERS**

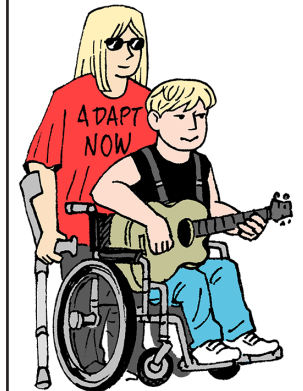


BEND AWAY 90 DEGREES

IF YOU'VE
ENJOYED THIS
PAPER THEATRE,
PLEASE SUPPORT
NDMAC BY
ANSWERING THE
BELOW SURVEY:



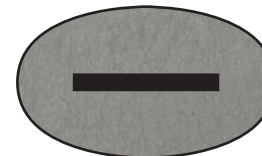
BARBARA & JOHNNY
Barbara Lisicki and Alan Holdsworth AKA Johnny Crescendo were partners and champions in the disability rights campaign. Lisicki was a leader in the direct action protests, forming the Direct Action Network along with Alan and others. Alan was a performer under the name Johnny Crescendo, becoming a big name in the scene of the disability rights campaign.



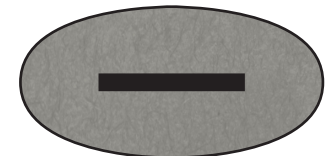
BACKDROP

SLOTS INTO
BACK FLOOR

BASE FOR WILLIAM
HAGUE MP



BASE FOR BARBARA
& JOHNNY



WILLIAM HAGUE MP

Conservative MP William Hague (later party leader) led the passing of the Disability Discrimination Act in 1995. The DDA is now predominantly seen as the flawed compromise, passed to placate the growing disability rights campaign before something more radical was forced through, such as Labour MP Roger Berry's bill.