

http://www.hauntworld.com/JPfeiffers HowTos/giant ghost.html

Giant Ghost



For a really big scare, make a 20' ghost puppet. Start with a very large balloon (18"-24" diameter). Make the head using the balloon covering it with several layers of newspaper strips and paper mache paste (mix 1.5 cups flour, 1 cup water, 1 tbs. Salt, and it's optional to add a couple of serious squirts of wood glue for strength.)

Once dry, position it under a very large section of light weight cloth (like cheese cloth) for the head shape, and carefully drill two small holes on the top about 3" apart. Attach a piece of fishing line to control the head.

Now for hands, get a pair of extra large black rubber gloves, and stuff them for shape. Hot glue the hands to the edge of the sheet with the palms facing outward, and tie heavy duty fishing line to each hand. These hands will be controlled like a marionette.

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Using cheesecloth, sewing or hot gluing several sections around the base of the large cloth covering the head and hands until the desired length of the body is achieved. Each section will be the width of the fabric bolt used.

Attach three large 1" screw eyes to 3 locations across the top portion of the front of the house. Run the three lines into a second story window or operate from a safe spot on the roof. Let the ghost lie in a heap behind a bush, and as the kids approach, draw all three strings in to bring the ghost to life. Practice with line manipulations to improve your animated techniques. Use luminous or fluorescent paints under a UV light for added effect. Hot glue plastic tubing, chicken wire, metal weights, or something light weight around the inside base of the fabric to maintain shape under windy conditions. Use inexpensive fabric, since it will take up to about 12 yards.

You could also use plastic sheeting to save money. Connect pieces using duct tape or packing tape attached from the inside.

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