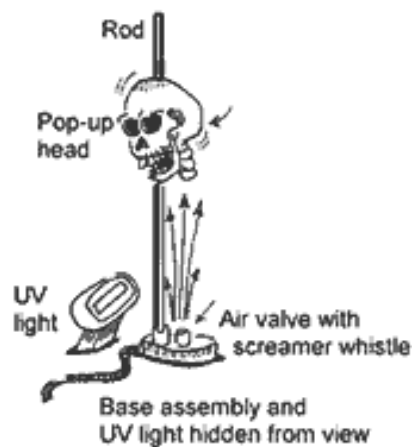




http://www.hauntworld.com/JPfeiffers_HowTos/haunted_mansion_effects.html

Haunted Mansion Effects



There are several tricks used in the Haunted Mansion of a popular theme park that we'll quickly discuss. Make shrieking heads that pop up for a split second. Attached small ghoustly molded heads to a rod about 24" long, with the base and pressured air valve that performs two functions.

When a blast of compressed air is piped through a hose to the valve, it creates a loud shriek, and shoots the head up the rod. Since the air blast is so brief, the head quickly drops back out of sight. Paint the head in ghoustly fluorescent colors, and illuminate with UV light.

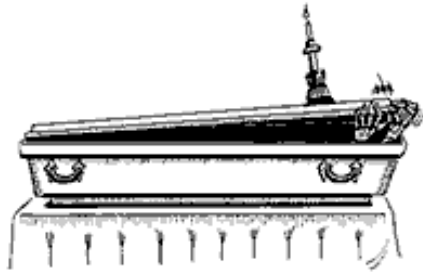


Another trick is used for the portrait in the parlor entrance, the crystal ball with a woman's animated head inside, a small ghoustly image of a woman giving a warning at the end, and the ghoulish animated faces of several inverted busts who are singing in base tone voices to passing guests.

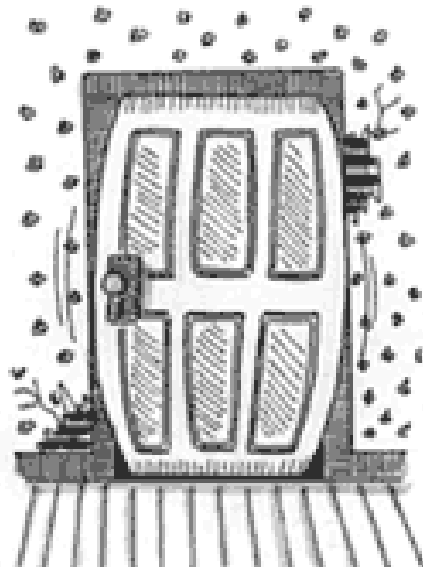
These are images that can be projected onto the objects from a hidden VCR projector. You can perform this by projecting the image onto a Styrofoam wig stand, a faceless bust or dummy, or

any flat light-colored surface from a hidden video projector position overhead and behind the guest, playing a prerecorded tape on a VCR. Use your camcorder to tape just your face or head, masking the remaining background in black felt (cut hole for head or face).

The ghosts that appear to be seated in your car are actually seen through a reflection in a darkened glass window panel. This effect can be created using the same type of lighting techniques described above with the transformation rooms trick.



Our friend trying to escape the coffin can be made with some plastic prop skeleton hands being pivoted up and down on a mechanized rotating rod assembly. You could also power the hands with the compressed air tracked on rods like the popping heads. If you add a person experienced with mechanical devices and movement, and they have a good imagination, you'll be amazed at what they can fabricate at fairly reasonable prices.



The bending, breathing doors can be made of foam rubber treated with latex paint to resemble wood grain, with a rotating mechanized device attached to the backside of the door to create the bowing motion. Many of these effects can be easily recreated when using prop builders familiar with available materials and mechanized devices used in the trade.

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