

Derelict Cinema

Environment: Slatted white lighting, dustsheets and cobwebs covering piles of higgledy-piggledy chairs. Feather dusters, brooms, brushes and dusters. Usherette character behind screen. Film reels, containers and film strung around one end of space, attached to walls, ceiling (red lighting). Projectors and black and white film ready to play. Trailers for forthcoming weeks.

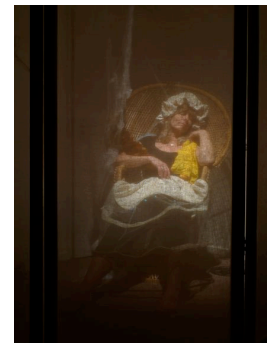


Dustsheets Explore cobwebby space. Pull off dustsheets, flick off the dust, dustsheets billow across the space, over heads, around bodies, on floor. Move around, under, over dustsheets, dress up, hide, play with the whites. Roll them up and stash them away.



Film Hear the sound of rustling film, touch the film, pull it out, roll in film, dress up, create rhythms with hands, feet, shaking film. String the film around the space, creating patterns with strips and curls. Roll the containers across floor, drop them and hear different sounds. Pat and tap them, play with beaters, creating united, upbeat 'musical' piece.

Usherette Lit behind screen. Hear a sneeze/snoring and find the character sleeping in cobwebs. Wake her/him see interactions with film-goers. She needs help to clean up. Find the dusters - soft and tickly - feel them on your arms and faces, tickle toes and hands, sweep with the brooms and tidy up, flicking the dust, sweeping the floor, polishing and righting the chairs until the cinema is ready to open. Find seats and get comfortable.



Projections Enter projectionist - greet group and attempt to get equipment going - flickering sounds and lights of old projectors. Then project old Charlie Chaplin/Laurel and Hardy DVDs. Enjoy watching films together. Films change to show trailers of forthcoming film experiences of the term - Star Wars, Octopus Odyssey, Avatar, South Pacific... Use shadows to become part of films - swim in the sea, fly through the stars. Popcorn arrives, so enjoy refreshments. Trailers end and usherette leads group back to foyer.

Evaluation Light open space meant there was little anxiety on the part of new clients on entering the space. Dustsheet section enabled all to engage without being embarrassed and not knowing what to do. However, as always in the first week of term, some new carers found it easier than others and we had to cajole and encourage those who were a little unsure. The filmstrip provided a new tactile experience for us and we greatly enjoyed exploring its sound and tactile qualities together, as well as the fact that it went on for miles! The comic character brought humour to the workshop - as always, clients were kind and helpful to her/him and thoroughly enjoyed interactions. Tidy-up was busy and fun and all settled easily into projections and popcorn.

