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The May Queen

Environment: Cheery blossom and lilac branches all round space. Baskets full of blossom and silk petals.. Pastel and white facepaints, thin and thick ribbons. Mirrors and fans. Giant Maypole hoop and streamer ribbons, bells, sm streamers and Morris dancing sticks with ribbons and bells. May Queen's throne, dressed with ivy and flower lights. Crown of ivy and blossoms. Drinks, strawberries and fruity sweets. Traditional old English music - reels and jigs.



Blossom Enter space and see, feel, smell the beautiful blossom all around you, Shake the branches and see blossom flutter down,. Play with baskets full of petals - see them falling, blowing around in the wind with fans, dropping onto mirrors. Paint flowers and petals with fingers and brushes on hands, faces and mirrors. Use mirrors to reflect pink/white lights around walls, ceiling, floors, onto people, like butterflies.



Maypole Light the maypole and see it spin, creating huge shadows on walls and floor - visually arresting. Holding ribbons or bar, move together round the maypole, or step inside and watch it spinning around you, make it dip and sway side/side, forward/back, up/down. Add handbells for rhythm as you skip and dance around. Spare streamers for those further away in space. Morris dancing sticks add a new dynamic for those who like to tap and drum - feel vibrations on wheelchairs. Light, happy group section with maypole as main focus.



May Queen/King Choose your king/queen who sit on the special throne and are adored by all. Bring out the feast of berry juice, strawberries and fruity sweets. Share and enjoy together, then chill as evening comes and the maypole spins gently round.

Observations Flowers and face-paint made a good introduction to the term, giving lots of opportunities for playful and focused 10-1 interactions, re-establishing relationships and familiarising clients with the space. Light and airy, open space good for new clients - non - threatening. The new maypole model was a huge success with many people remaining engaged and focused for long periods of time and uniting the group - easy access - holding ribbons or hoop, light, versatile, easily lifted so people could get in and out, shadows created another dimension, lots of lifting of visual focus. May Queen/King gave us the option to special certain individuals which was thoroughly enjoyed.



La Ardilla

Environment Squirrel. Trees and blossom, oranges in trees, on floor, in baskets. Crates and tubes. Orange press, fresh orange juice. Hardboard dance floor, Spanish costume; waistcoats, hats, sashes, hair flowers, fringed shawls, fans, red 'cloaks'. Spanish instruments; guitars, cajons, castanets and shakers. Broom handles for 'stamping'. Flamenco dancing projection. Orange juice and satsumas to taste.



Squirrel greets you and encourages you to gather oranges in baskets and crates, roll them down tubes, across floor to each other. Add tissue squares for 'scrunching', ripping, rolling up and wrapping oranges before gently placing in crates.











Orange press Roll or drop oranges into the press, then turn round and round, pushing handles all together until orange juice is found



Flamenco Work is over, time for a fiesta! Put on costumes, hear the Spanish rhythms and dance and sway to the music, tapping broom handles on the floor, swishing red capes, stamping feet and clapping hands. Add the instruments and the flamenco rhythms grow. Add projection for inspiration and support. Imitate the dancers and singers, spinning to a climax...then you can rest and taste the sweet orange juice you have made...



Observations Oranges were a good resource, smelt nice, felt good, rolled easily without bruising, created sweet juice to taste. Squirrel puppet was friendly, playful and non-threatening - made many friends. Tubes worked well for total engagement and real group unity. Fascinated by appearance of juice under press!. Flamenco costumes easy to put on and really affective. Clapping rhythms were a useful tool for encourage simple engagement. Lots of dancing and some singing. Projection had some amazing responses, people totally focused and enjoying the entertainment.



Dagda's Harp

Environment Detachable coloured voiles hung overhead like a rainbow lead to grassy woodland area (ivy and willow) where bowls of golden treasure/jewellery/coins are found. Tinkly metallic instruments/xylophones. Leprechaun puppet. Darker woodland area (camo nets and ivy) Dagda's Harp - lit, surrounded by variety of harps, lyres, zithers, autoharps. Tara's Hall poem on looper. Giant puppet, Finn McCool, baskets of bells, bohdrans for a ceilidh. Chocolate treasure in bark covered box.



Rainbow See the colours of the rainbow overhead, feel textures, detach and dance with and among the colours, over, under and around. Follow the rainbow pathway to...











Leprechaun's gold Play with the golden treasure, see it sparkle in the light, spin bracelets and necklaces, hear the sounds in the golden bowls, drop and pour golden coins from one pot to another. Dangle gold on instruments and hear them sing, gather and sort, put them on, hide in bags. Meet the leprechaun and have some fun.



Dagda's Harp Hear the sounds of a beautiful harp playing far away. Follow the sound and find the magic instrument in a shady grove. Play the harps and make haunting, melancholy music together. Your music wakes the giant, listen to the words of the poem, then dance and sing together, before meeting Finn McCool who rewards you with chocolate treasure.











Observations Rainbow was visually arresting and encouraged movement and dance, at start of workshop, when inclination is usually to go and find somewhere to sit. Gold treasure was fascinating to many, need to have lots, so there are plenty of options for play and exploration. Keep beaters ready for those who struggle to play instruments with jewellery. Leprechaun puppet inspired some fantastic interactions - the photos clearly evidence changes in clients' abilities to now access puppets without fear in this third term. Harps sound lovely, but require constant checking that they stay in tune with each other. Giant puppet was a huge presence and chocolate treasure encouraged engagement from even the most timid of clients!



Orca (captive)

Environment Touching Pool - curvy pool, with blue voile, stripped plastic, bowls of water gels, small plastic fish, hand-puppets; crab, jellyfish, stingray, spotty fish, octopus. Fishing nets + bucket. Hermit crab exhibit. Orca pool, audience seating + tickets, inflatable orca, tubing orcas, blue voiles, black + white latex sheets. Assorted balls + hoops/rings. Captive whales projection. Microphone



Touching Pool Welcome to Seaworld! Come and explore the 'Touching Pool - 'splash' the stripped plastic, see it catch the light, hear its swishing sound, feel the wetness of the water gels as they slip through your fingers and toes. Make friends with the sea creature puppets, which all feel different and move in different ways. Catch fish in the nets and save in the bucket.











Whale Performance Get your tickets and take your seats, the show is about to begin. See Winnie the whale as she performs her tricks, jumping and diving, standing on her tail, scudding backwards, dancing on her nose. Say hello, feel her skin (+latex sheets), make friends and play games with her, throw balls, and hoops, see them spin, have fun together



Whales calling The lights dim, more whales are singing to each other. Make whale sounds in the microphone and sing together - sad, sad songs of the sea... Winnie splashes water from the tank, blue voiles streaming past you, over and under and around you, leading to the sea. With a mighty jump she escapes the pool and swims away....off to the sea - goodbye Winnie











Observations The 'touching pool' created a nice, safe, settling area for people to explore by themselves and with each other. The varying textural and movement qualities of the puppets were greatly enjoyed and enabled lots of 1-1 interactions and play. Creating an arena for an audience at the whale pool sanctioned engagement as spectators for a change - lots of total focus and wonder. The balls and hoops then enabled audience participation and Winnie made friends with everyone! The microphone sections was enhanced by the back projection of more whales, creating a melancholy dynamic with lots of call and response with vocal sounds. Excitement rose as the blue voiles streamed round the space and Winnie was encouraged to jump for freedom!



Orca (Free)

Environment Under the sea - sandy seabed with puppets from previous week + sea anemones and sea slugs, perspex 'bubbles'. Blue/green voiles and lighting, stretch wrap shark, sea slug 'tunnel'. Inflatable manta ray and white foam mantas. Jellyfish umbrellas. Whale sounds, whale projection. Fishy snacks.



Seabed With swimhats and goggles, swim down to the seabed. Meet the creatures of the deep, wibbly wobbly fluorescent anemones, strange sea slugs, crabs, jellyfish, octopus, spotty fish and manta. feel the textures, see how they move. find giant bubbles, spin and roll them, put on heads, hear strange sound of voices, tap them, flick them, gather creatures inside.











Deeper down Swim through the shimmering blue/green voiles, under, over, through, touch the giant fish who leaps through the water, feed the greedy sea-slug, who crawls and shuffles and nibbles your toes. Glide through the blue water with beautiful manta rays, catching the light and ripples on their slowly flexing fins.











Jellyfish The dynamic changes and a bloom of jellyfish appears bobbing, dancing, spinning, twirling through the water, making stunning moving shadows all around you. Hide inside them, feel their tentacles, hear them swish and flutter around you. Come together and make a giant organism, then bob away, filling the space with movement, as whale calls echo through the space and whales appear, swimming towards you. It's Winnie - say hello and play together.



Observations Seabed provided a calm settling, exploratory space with a variety of tactile opportunities. Latecomers who missed this were literally thrown in at the deep end! Visually stunning workshop with lighting effects and beautiful props, each of which had different movement qualities - fish, slug, mantas, jellyfish. Totally immersive. Probably too much in the workshop, as slug became a big feature. Up to artist teams to discard one section. Not enough time to properly connect with Winnie at the end, although this connection had been well established in last week's workshop.





Pingu

Environment Pingu projection to set scene. Pingu character in costume + seal pup. White Parachute covering floor with 'ice hole' in middle, filled with silver fish (cut out space blanket), fishing nets, bucket, jingly fishing lines with fish on end. Polystyrene snowballs - varying sizes, clear plastic 'fishbowls', penguin toys, puppets, mask. Bowls of white tissue 'snow', electric and hand fans, wind sound. White boxes to build shelter. Hanging stalactite chimes, metallophone. Ice pops.



Pingu Watch and listen to projection for a bit. Life-size Pingu appears. Play games with Pingu snowballs, skating, snow angels, communicating with sounds, intonation and gesture rather than words. Help him crack the ice-hole and find shoals of sparkling, flying, shimmering silver fish. Catch them in nets, gather in buckets and bowls, feel them crinkle, see them glint in the lights, pass them around, play games with seal-pup puppet and another penguin.



Snow Blizzard Hear the wind blowing round the space, feel the air moving - electric and hand fans, throw confetti snow into the air, see it flutter all around with air movement from fans, catch it, dance with it, gather it and try again. Build a shelter with white ice blocks (boxes), stack them high, knock them down, pass to each other, hide behind, peep through.



Icicles The blizzard dies down, safe in the shelter, play icicle chimes and metallophones, making icy music together. Then feel and taste freezing cold ice-pops before travelling home.

Observations Projection first - all clients may not have made connections with video, but enjoyed appearance of character anyway. Animation provides a different action, is different and unpredictable compared to more natural films. Plus, may have been familiar. Most people loved the character, responding amazingly well to sounds and gesture, rather than words and enjoying 'naughtiness', playfulness. Fish provided a good multisensory prop with their own movement qualities. Poss variety of fish colours might have been interesting? All action took place in high end for a change, which some clients found challenging. Far too hot in studio - even with electric fans. Confetti snow visually and texturally awe inspiring. Need good alternative beaters for chimes



Heart

Environment Low End - Red and white blood cells (plastic and polystyrene balls, varying sizes) Veins and arteries - ducting, timp and globes, red water gels, tambours, red flashing lights, paddling pool filled with red voiles. High End - Red/clear stretch wrap across space like membranes, giant heart balloon. Doctor character + stethoscopes, bohdrans, and gathering drum, giant red ball, trampete, red heart balloons, red streamers and voiles. Medication - red juice and Love Heart tablets.



Blood Cells Bouncing, falling, rolling cells, send them down tubes, roll them in globes and on hoops, hear them drop on tambours, spin them in globes. Call down tubes, connect with others, see them dance. Feel the cold, wet water gels.



Doctor Come to the waiting room, the Dr is there, ready to listen to your heartbeat, take your pulse. Build 'heartbeat' rhythms on bohdrans and drums, feel the vibrations through giant ball, pulsing and bouncing on ball and trampete, making heart balloons bob and dance around the space.



Blood See the blood flow as streamers and voiles swirl around the space in constantly flowing lines, then take your medication - red juice and love hearts, relaxing gently on velvety red blankets, as heartbeat slows to a gentle pulse.



Observations Good variety of small and large multisensory props for exploratory play. The playfulness encouraged plenty of engagement. Drumming section created a sharp change in dynamic - enjoyed by all. Excellent interactions with Dr character, probably a familiar figure in their lives - taken very seriously! Felt clients not so familiar as they used to be with the giant physic ball and trampete - also more nervous - is this because they now have less physical activity in their lives? Several clients on holiday at present therefore groups tending to be smaller, much more individual engagement possible as a result.



da Vinci

Environment Elastic creating angles and lines at Low End and on maypole structure. High end - da Vinci's studio - work benches, mannikin figures, heads, hands, cogs, wheels, wood instruments, lolly sticks and chopsticks with white tack. Chalkboard and chalk, parchment/tissue paper and graphite pencils, easel. Gingerbread men/jelly babies and drinks.



Elastic Find elastic maypole, spin, tip, bounce, stretch lines, lift and drop the structure, go round outside or get in middle, make lines different shapes by moving hoop, rocking, swing, lifting over heads. Explore elastic patterns and lines at low end, moving joining, lifting, walking on, tension/release











Machines Play with cogs and wheels, spinning, listening to sounds as they turn, making sculptures. Build mechanical rhythms with light, scratchy, click-clack wood sounds, tapping, hammering, sawing work rhythms, singing as you work.



Paper and Drawing Hear the sounds of scrunching, ripping, flapping paper, roll it, tap it, tear into strips/tiny pieces. Add graphite pencils and make your marks, inspired by objects around studio - people, bodies, heads/hands/feet, wheels and cogs. Draw round bodies or make patterns at chalkboard, create pictures at the easel



Observations

Maypole elastic structure very successful - gave lots of variety to original maypole by allowing tension/release options, creating shapes.

Great atmosphere in the artists' studio, good to bring group together round table for a change - more unifying. Good engagement in rhythmic section - nice light variety of sounds and instruments enabling lots of exploratory play and listening. Parchment paper had nice qualities, smooth and shiny to touch, good sounds when scrunching, tearing, strong enough to cope with heaviest handed drawers. We were shocked by the developmental drawing level of many of our older, quite able artist clients. Gingerbread men enjoyed by all



Two Sisters

Environment Low End - mobile mirrors, 3 planed mirror boxes, giant mirror balls, silver bowls, coloured multi-faceted balls, purple/green/white face-paints and brushes. High end - giant mirrors on walls, purple/green 'mountains' concealing purple/green sister puppets, blue-green Chinese wind fans, green/white streamers, baskets of lavender, lavender oil/gel, Indian bells.



Reflections Play with multiple reflections, self, body parts, spinning balls, dropping bouncing, rolling over mirrors. Change reflection with face-paint on selves and mirrors.



Two Sisters appear, move together - mirroring and copying movements, greet everyone individually and together.

Green sister - energy and movement. Introduces fans and streamers, encouraging large movements and travelling. See colours dancing through the air, create patterns, feel the silk fluttering and swishing beside you. Cover selves/each other in colour, step on silk like a green pathway, see it ripple and roll around you. Twirl streamers into spinning shapes in space











Purple sister - calm and stillness. Brings baskets of sweet-smelling lavender to touch and smell. Relax on purple cloths and enjoy massage with lavender oil or soothing gel then taste purple/green grapes before the sisters bid farewell



Observations Reflections section enabled lots of entry points with variety of mirrored surfaces. Coloured balls were an instant draw for many people. Face paints enabled us to get close to clients with gentle touch. 2 halves of workshop created two different sections with contrasting dynamics - low end; personal engagement with variety of objects, high end; more focused watching and responding. Puppets - visually arresting - attention drawn to the magical focus and synchronised movement, everyone watching - small movements required focus. V. contained puppets - enabled ease of engagement. Green/Purple sections quite different - big movement and purple calm.



