

## Panama Canal

At the docks there's work to be done, sorting the cargo one by one. Pack things up and load on the ships to send down the canal. As night falls, it's time for some fun, dancing the night away at the local salsa bar.

### Environment

Create a docklands environment using wooden crates and different items to pack and load as cargo:

- Cereal & egg boxes
- Plastic bottles
- Shredded paper
- Bubble wrap
- Shaky bottles (filled with beans, pasta & lentils)

Fix wood to wheels to create a moving platform, or use a trolley, for transporting goods and attach rope for pulling it along. Alternatively roll crates/boxes over cardboard tubes.

Have wages ready to hand out to workers – pretend money or bags of bottle tops.

On the other side of the space, use a long table to create a bar area. On the bar place tumblers, cocktail accessories, pink lemonade, bowls of fruit, pineapple chunks and bananas to taste. Get in the party spirit with costumes and instruments:

- Waistcoats and hats
- Scarves and frills
- Flowers for hair
- Make-up and hairbrushes
- Maracas, castanets and shakers
- Carnival drum
- Merengue and salsa rhythms
- Big mirror for viewing costumes

**Costume** - High vis jackets

**Music** - Ruben Blades is probably the best known salsa musician from Panama, but there is a rich and diverse range of music to explore. Compilations such as *Panama! 2* are a great introduction to the different styles of dance music from this vibrant country.

### Activities

**Cargo** - The cargo is all mixed up - sort, stack and roll the cargo. Pack the crates with individual items. Feel the textures of the different packaging. Help each other fill the crates ready for loading. Sing as you work. Build rhythms with bottles filled with beans, pasta and lentils. Dance as you work, having fun!

**Shipping** - The sound of the container ship can be heard in the distance. Pull the rope and heave it (the platform) into the docks. Load all the crates onto the ship, pulling and pushing, helping each other lift and stack. Pull and push the platform off down the canal. Work is done, remove work jackets and collect your pay.

**At the bar** - Get dressed up for a night out on the town. Salsa rhythms get your feet tapping and hips swaying. Dance together, add instruments and have a party. Spin around the space, shaking rhythms and singing as you go. The bar opens. Take your wages and pay the barman, who will bring you drinks and bar snacks to taste and share. It's midnight, time to conga home...early start for work tomorrow...

### Links

Costume

Boxes