

Starry Night

Step into a world inspired by Van Gogh's 'Starry Night'...the night sky fills with stars and swirling clouds. Create patterns in the sky, dance amongst the stars and visit sleeping villagers in the town below.

Environment

Set the scene using blue lighting and white organzas hung and swirling around the walls. Project an animation of 'Starry Night' onto a wall or back drop for the final section of the workshop. Create different areas for activities:

Lay a large mirror on a table with stars on top – when lit these will reflect onto the ceiling. Create patterns using:

- Blue and white facepaints and brushes
- Cut out silver and gold stars
- Small mobile mirrors for moving reflections

Lay a long black cloth in another area on the floor. Above this hang a 'rice swinger' filled with blue rice and/or glitter, created using a tube, with a hole at one end, plugged until used. Next to this set out:

- A line of golden/silver gongs and cymbals of different sizes
- Various metallic/silver containers
- Extra blue rice, dyed with ready-mix poster paint inside zipper bags

Create a sleeping village using white boxes of different sizes. Cut out the windows and place press-on lights inside.

Also in the space:

- 'Moons' – white paper lanterns with battery lights inside, attached to sticks.
- Metallophones for 'twinkly' sounds.
- Milky way stars for a taste element.
- Hand bells to add atmosphere to the final section.
- Church bell sound effects.

Costume - blue organza tabards

Music - Minimalist music lends itself to this kind of workshop, being understated and subtle. *Glyph* by Harold Budd and Hector Zazou has many tracks that would work well here.

Activities

Reflections – See the mirror and stars reflected on the ceiling. Move the stars around and see the reflections change. Add swirling clouds and stars by painting onto the mirror using brushes or fingers. Feel the softness of the brushes, tickling skin. See the skyscape grow on the ceiling as the mirror is filled with patterns. Use mobile mirrors to move patterns and watch them fade in and out of the light.

Rice – Settle around the black cloth and watch the swinger sway up and down. When the stopper is removed, a stream of blue falls over the instruments and containers. Hear the different sounds the rice makes. Catch some as it falls. Play with the rice, making patterns on the black with fingers and toes. Pour the rice into different containers and onto instruments.

Starry Night – As night falls, the lights come on in the village and the projection of the painting appears on the wall. Moon lanterns light up, dance with them in the space, twirling and swirling in the night sky. See the shadows created as they move. Play the metallophone and listen to the sounds. At sunrise the church bell rings, play the hand bells to wake the villagers. Listen to each other play, taking turns, stopping and starting, playing in rounds. Time for breakfast – chocolate stars!

Links

Rice, projections, face paint

Video - Starry night

