

## **Umbrellas**

A cheap and easily available prop, umbrellas have many uses. Clear plastic ones have beautiful translucent qualities and white material ones take projections brilliantly. As they are a familiar object, there is an added surprise when they are seen and used in different ways. Umbrellas are easy to decorate - with fringes, bead, fairy lights, ribbons whatever best suits the theme. They can be painted and opened like flowers, or used carefully positioned to reflect light or projections.

They have a variety of uses:

- To encourage movement and dance - lifting high, turning, swaying, spinning on the floor.
- To create a safe place for two - sheltering together.
- As a playful prop to hide behind.
- To catch fluttering petals or confetti.
- As 'jellyfish', for use in underwater activities, when adorned with thin strips of thin polythene dust sheets taped around the edge.
- Adorned with strips of space blanket to reflect the ambient light and to spin round. Space blanket fringes also create their own sounds and can simulate rain falling around you.
- To house fairy lights, creating a portable light source.
- As a portable screen on which to create shadows or project video onto.
- To create set, for example quickly creating a French cafe by using large parasols (Marchand de Vin).

## **Links**

Weather (Activity)

Workshops – The Umbrella Tree, Weather Forecast, London's Drowning, Orca Free

## **Videos**

Itinerant musician

Umbrellas in projection