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Bat to a Vampire

This trick requires a little additional help. Have someone stand to the side, out of view, inside the doorway about 12"-15" from the door. The only light will be a 24" UV fluorescent tube light ("Black Light"). The helper has a large rubber bat rigged to a fishing rod using non-fluorescent fishing line attached to both wings. Moving the end of the rod up and down will cause the wings to flap up and down as if floating in mid air.

This can be rigged a variety of different other ways. One is to run each line through a separate screw eye attached to the ceiling or molding on opposite walls. The bat's features are highlighted in fluorescent paint to show up better under the UV light. The kids watch the bat for 3-5 seconds, just enough to know what it is. Then using

either a pyrotechnic device from the Theater Effects company listed in the reference chapter, or a camera flash pointed out the front door out of view, give the kids a very bright flash. The bat is yanked out of view at the same second the vampire appears.

The vampire can be costumed in a large black cape, and already standing in the hallway behind the bat with its back turned and cloak draped over its head. To appear, the vampire spins around quickly, facing the UV light. Having the vampire use fluorescent make-up colors and a bright white or red vest will help it show up more brightly under the UV light. This illusion can also be done changing a large spider into a witch, a floating skull into a skeleton, etc. Practice with positioning, movement, lighting, and costume colors to get a truly professional look.

