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Alive or a Prop



In this trick we use a costume to disguise a helper to look like a prop. This may be a scarecrow or dummy costume with the character sitting limply in an awkward position on a porch, in a lawn chair, on a step, leaning up against a wall, or a tree, etc. As the unsuspecting trick-or-treater approaches, the character snaps to life.

This works best when surrounded by several other dummies. Then, even if the kids have their suspicions, they still aren't sure which dummy is real. This can also be performed with a costume that looks like a pile of old rags, a bush, a pile of yard debris, a statue, yard decorations, or anything inanimate. Use painter's stilts for added height, and gloves on the ends of sticks for added arm length. To throw in a twist, use a headless dummy in a large chair with a helper hiding behind it covered with a black cloak, and his arms in the arms of the dummy.

