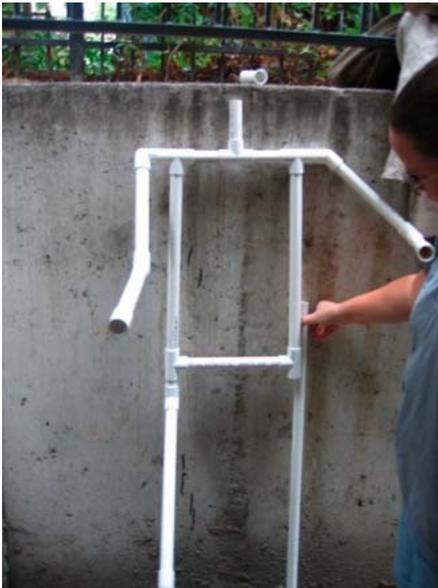


The Story of Shriek Manor

http://web.mac.com/tikimac/iWeb/Shriek_Manor/The_Caretaker.html

The Caretaker



The Caretaker figure began as a series of 3/4" PVC tubes. The tubes are quite sturdy and can stand up to the tough and cold Colorado winds that we frequently see in October.

None of the pipes have been glued so we can have future posing options. Only the right arm (left in this picture) had a hole drilled and a screw inserted at the joint so that the arm could handle the weight of a lantern.



After the PVC pipes were assembled, we attached pipe insulation in various spots to simulate the muscles and shoulders of our frail, old friend.

We also attached (with duct tape) a bag filled with poly-fill from the caretaker's neck and shoulders down to his waist.



Next, it was time to construct some hands.

The wrists are 3/4" PVC pipe with 5 holes drilled for "fingers". The fingers themselves are nothing more than heavy-gauge wire with cut-up pieces of BIC Accountant pens used as the finger segments.

The pen segments and wire were secured by spreading flesh-colored latex onto pieces of cottons and attaching the sticky "flesh" to each hand.



The underlying structure of the face was a white styrofoam head (a female head of all things!). We drilled out holes for the eyes and placed two blood-shot eyeballs (formally ping-pong balls) in these recessed areas.

The "face" is actually a latex mask that was cut and carefully attached to the styrofoam head. Once the face was secured, we used liquid latex to cover the holes in the ears, nose and mouth and then in-painted the holes to match the flesh tone of the face.

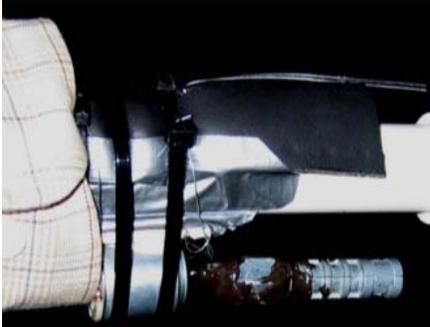


The Caretaker's clothes were picked up from the local Goodwill. The entire ensemble cost us about \$24, which is a good thing when you consider the first thing we did was throw concrete into the shoes (along with a PVC connector for the legs).

We also drilled a hole through the PVC connector and the shoe so that we could run a piece of rebar through the bottom part the Caretaker's leg in order to keep him stable in high winds.



While dressing the Caretaker, we also ran an electrical extension cord up one of his legs and tied it around the PVC "waist". This cord would be used to power the future lantern and a special motor attachment described below.



Since the Caretaker was in for a bit of a fright, we wanted to give him the ability to express it. To do this we added a high-RPM DC motor to his lantern arm with a piece of lead, attached at an offset. When the motor is activated it gave the Caretaker's entire arm a case of the shakes.

Obtained from www.Omarshahid.com



The last step was to attach a converted gas lantern and run its new electrical cord up the Caretaker's arm. Here's what he looked like all dressed and lit up before he went outside for his first Halloween season.

The old Caretaker is the only visible human inhabitant of Shriek Manor today. His job is to maintain the grounds, chase off trespassers and, of course, dig the occasional grave for a new "resident" and re-bury the "escapees".

Believe it or not, being the caretaker for Shriek Manor is not as glamorous as it seems, especially for this poor fellow who, wouldn't you know it, is afraid of creatures that go bump in the night...

Obtained from
Omarshantedtra.com