



<http://www.evernighthaunt.com/bodyswinger.html>

The body swinger

The body swinger is a revamped idea that we used a few years back....its started as a small room that our audience could look into through a barred window...at the back of the room we had a man in a straight jacket mumbling and saying stuff to the audience....well since they felt safe with him at the back of the small room they had no idea that just below the window was another actor that was about to pop up and scare the hell out of them. So this year instead of using a second actor I created the body swinger which a single actor can trigger from the back of the room.

Materials:(these are the materials for the swinger only - Not the room itself)

Wood for the base, spare 2x4 pieces worked for me

3" wood screws

1 small pulley

Rope

Strobe Light

1" PVC Thick Wall Style

1 - 1" Pvc "T"

PVC Cement

A screw in eye hook

The setup:

Create a base according to the illustration below using the 2x4 pieces, space the pieces far enough apart for your PVC "T" to fit between with some space on each side. Drill a 1 1/2 inch hole where indicated.

Now cut two 12 inch pieces of PVC, position your "T" inside the mount and attach the PVC through the holes and into the "T" If everything fits well you can cement the pieces into the T. The PVC body shaft will depend on the length of your fake body and the height of your window, so measure from where you will place the mount to about a foot from the bottom of your window and it should work well.

Now attach your body securely to the body shaft and cement the shaft into the T.

Now once everything is mounted securely above the window raise the body up and mark where the head will rest, this is where your small pulley will be placed. After you place the pulley you simply attach some small rope to your fake body, run it through the pulley and run the rope to the back of the room where your actor will be sitting. Attach an eyehook a few feet above the actor and run the rope through this. Now your actor should be able to raise and lower the body from his seat.

The Score:

When your audience come up to the window have your actor get their attention by calling to them...have him ask them a few question I find that this gets them closer to the bars, especially when they dont quite hear him the first time. When the audience approaches the bars your actor simple lets go of the rope he was holding and the body crashes into the bars only inches from the audiences faces.....For an added effect you could trigger a strobe light as the body swings down and have your actor scream.

