Casa de Sade

Coffin (Toe Pincher)

Halloween Yard Haunt Prop Building
Build your own coffin materials used:

- 1 sheet of plywood 1/4" inch thick (hardware store)
- Wood screws (hardware store)
- Paint, black flat latex (hardware store)
- Hinges, two (hardware store) Optional decorative items - - Stand Skull Ghostly Hand CD Player Glow stick
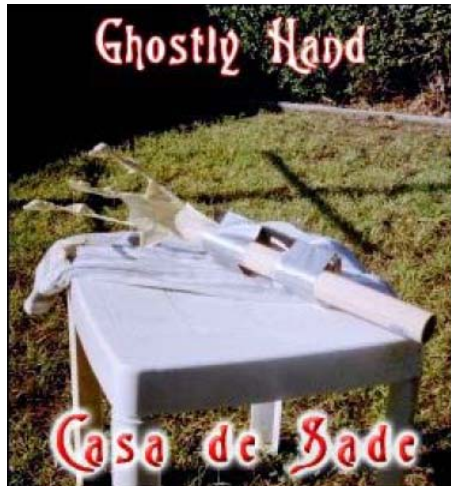
Inspiration:

In my quest to slowly bring my then 7 year old to the dark side, I took him to pick out his pumpkin at a pumpkin patch. After making his selection, we took a look around the patch and came across a displayed coffin. He looked at me and said, "I want one." What had previously been a *potential* prop suddenly became a I-gotta-build-it-NOW prop.
So, we headed off to our local hardware store to make the appropriate purchases and grabbed some coffin plans.

Midway through the construction he asked about the coffin's ownership "Whose is it?" I looked at him and said, "It's *your* coffin!" Which degraded into a fine intellectual discussion of personal property rights: - It's *your* coffin! - I'm not coughing, you're coughing!

Enhancement:

I set up the coffin just to the right of the walkway to the front door. I placed a glow-in-the-dark skull inside and laid a Glow Stick right in front of the skull for lighting.

One Ghostly Hand reached out at the passerbys. I made a minor modification to the instructions in that I duct taped a wooden dowel and a sliver from a paint bucket to add width.

I took the coffin plans and cut them accordingly to build half a coffin for that zombie-bursting-out-of-the-grave effect. The above pics show an unpainted and unhinged pseudo-full size coffin that stands about 3.5 feet tall. It's currently designed to stand straight up, so it needs to have the bottom cut at an angle to give it the appropriate look.

Lessons Learned: Light your props. I didn't have any external light besides the street light, and unfortunately that alone left it too dark. The quick Trick-or-Treaters missed it all together, so I'll be adding a low-wattage bulb to help the coffin stand out from the darkness. And for added fun, I'll throw in a bumble ball to get a random thumping sound as it rolls and bounces around inside the coffin