

How To Be Scary

Allen Hopps

Timing –like telling a good joke, timing is everything. Watching your prey and knowing when to strike. Look for guest distraction and position to tell you when to strike.

The Unexpected- Coming out of complete hiding must be done swiftly or out of the view of the audience. The scare comes from the reveal- suddenly you are within threat range.

Distance -is the difference between comedy and horror. Imagine a Bear attack. From 75ft away, watching a bear crawl into a VW bugs window is hilarious. The camera in the car suddenly filled by a bear's head is terrifying.

Invasion of space- The sudden change of distance or the continuous creep into their space is a great way to instill fear

Dread of impending attack- Posing to give an iconic image to the guest. Man in a window, boots under a curtain, silhouette, Statue scare, blocking an exit.

Attack- Works best as a charge. Suddenly and loudly invading personal space, as soon as you reach the guest- back off and retreat or the effectiveness is ruined.

Vulnerability -of the guest (position, focus, size, prep). Look for a moment when the guest has been distracted, written off your hiding spot, looked back to see how far back her friend is, anything that shows their psyche is in a state of change. The transition periods of the brain in-between searching and evaluating are the best time to strike.

Adaptability and knowledge of techniques -(Scares list) Having a technique to pull out of the bag when nothing else worked, or to escalate the fear of a guest is priceless. The days of the haunt one trick pony are over.

Stalking	underglide
statue scare	foot grab
mind invasion	hand flash
reach throughs	Bark behind
pop outs	Clacker gloves
curtain attack	Shaker can
curtain startle	Slap stick
sliding	Stretch ball
drop panel	Rope trick
door startle	Knife attack
wall bang	Share my stuff
disembodied lies	Excited chatte
name chant	
looming	
camo scare	
lurking	
<i>puff</i>	
2 second suspense	
overhead startle	
foot plant	
mock charge	
wall slap	
spider startle	

Prop use – It is the skill of the actor to recognize the effectiveness of his props. Always focus on the audience. They will tell you if the cleaver hand is working or if another approach would be best. Try to use the same prop weapons all the time. Know their range and how they move.