

## London's Drowning (sou'westers n hats)

**Environment** Large white boxes scattered round space. Small white shoe boxes with windows. Big Ben and London Eye landmarks. Stephen Wiltshire London drawing projections. Pool with silver/plastic strips, silk seas. Blue/green streamers, bells and tubophones, clear bead curtains. Large cream umbrellas. Large sheets of thin polythene. Chocolate stars.



**Building London** Play with large white boxes, building towers, knocking them down, helping each other carry them, passing to each other, pushing with hands and feet, rolling, playing like drums, feeling vibrations of instruments (i.e. sax) through them. Create a 'London landscape near and around Big Ben. Add windows with smaller boxes. Projection covers the structures.



**Down comes the Rain** Hear the rain falling - drip, drip (bead curtain on box) Find umbrellas and catch projections, hide beneath/behind them, spin them high and low, shelter each other. Add instruments and dance with streamers, filling the space with swirling rain and sound. Play with plastic strips which glisten in the light.



**The Flood** Bring out the 'silk seas' which ripple across the floor like a river overflowing. Dip your feet in the 'water', feel it with your hands, dive under it as the water rises, walk along the rippling water. Then fill the space with the polythene sheets which shimmer and ripple as electric fans lift and swirl them around participants and buildings. Eventually the water recedes and London appears again under the stars, so swim away....



**Observations** Boxes are light, maneuverable and fun to play with, encouraging cooperation and play. Also make a great backdrop, taking projections beautifully - especially the Wiltshire line drawings. Umbrellas are good props though maybe too large for the present studio! Streamers more difficult now that groups are less mobile, smaller sparkly ones easier to handle. Thin polythene sheets were stunning, reflecting the coloured lights and moving like water when lifted by the fans. Fantastic! Mesmeric.

