

The Snow Queen

Around the Snow Queen's castle everything is frozen, a fairytale world of glistening snow. Sheets of ice cover the ground and the trees are full of icicles. There is much to explore in this strange world before entering the Ice Castle and playing music on cold metallic instruments to wake the Snow Queen herself.

Environment

To create an ice tree wrap foil around branches and attach foil icicles and battery lights. Use foil on the floor to create pathways to the tree. Place white organza around the edges of the space to create a snowy landscape. Also used in the space:

- Ready cut pieces of foil
- Silver rah-rahs (pompoms)
- Metal cabasas, shakers (ice sounds)
- Microphone
- Cool blue lighting
- Foil curtains

For the ice castle, use large sheets of acrylic mirror to line the walls and floor. Place smaller mobile mirror pieces around the room on the floor. In the corner, the snow queen puppet is frozen, encased in a white mosquito net dome. To support the activities you can also use:

- Polystyrene snowballs and ice cubes
- Various metal bowls
- Chimes hung in the space
- 'Ice' instruments and beaters
- Drumsticks that light up
- White and silver voiles and cloths to create icy world
- Ice pops for tasting

Central to this workshop, the Snow Queen puppet is made from a painted polystyrene mannekin head, adorned with a crown of sticks and battery lights. The head is then mounted on a short length of broom handle and swaddled in sheer white cloth to conceal the puppeteer's arm (see photo). The puppet can be suspended within a mosquito net ready to be animated.

Costume – Fur hats and scarves

Music - Using chimes, vibratones, metallophones, metal cabasas and shakers will add a fitting atmosphere and, being metal, they will also feel cold to the touch. Microphone work can focus on cracking and scratching sounds, reinforcing the overall soundscape. For active supporting music, listen to rhythmic pieces by Steve Reich for inspiration, like *Electric Counterpoint*, and for the Snow Queen herself, take inspiration from *New Nordic Folk* by Swedish band Groupa.

Exploring the ice world – Skate up the foil pathway and hear the ice crunch and crackle under your feet. Find pieces of foil and see it shimmer in the light. Scrunch up the foil, roll it, tap it, make ice balls and icicles to hang on the tree. Play the icy instruments and dance with the sparkling rah-rahs. Make icy sounds in the microphone...

Entering the ice castle - Ice mirrors cover the walls and floor...follow your reflections to the ice castle. See yourselves and each other, in front, behind, beside you. Feel the cold ice cubes, then drop white snowballs all over the ice. See them roll and jump, slide them down small mirrors and watch the reflections tumble around. Explore the instruments with beaters and sticks that light up as you play. Sharp, clicky, rhythmic sounds gradually give way to resonant ringing chimes which echo around.

The Snow Queen awakes, hearing the music. She melts and appears from within her snowy dome to greet everyone and say hello. She offers ice-pops as tasty gifts for you to take home.

Links

Puppet, Mirrors, Cloths

Video - Snow Queen