

Up The Creek!

for an unspecified number of performers and a floor that creaks

Frank Felice

Performance Notes

Mark all the creaky spots on the floor with a small piece of tape. (An extremely creaky floor works best.) Amplify this with at least two PZM style microphones, taped to the floor. Run these through a PA system and distribute the speakers through the hall. If desired, you could use a sound tech to do fancy things like panning and reverberation, etc., but this is not necessary. Performers should take care when performing this piece to avoid hitting the microphones with their feet. (it will help to perform in stocking feet)

The Piece Proper

An announcer comes on-stage to give cursory announcements, and then takes a wound up kitchen timer set to three minutes, sets it on a table (chair, piano, etc.), and states: “And now for something completely different.” He/she then leaves stage. A number of similarly dressed performers come on stage with deadpan expressions on their faces. The meander around the stage in no particular fashion, but looking rather bored, looking at the ceiling, etc. As they notice that the floor is creaking under their weight, they start to “work the cracks,” unobtrusively finding the loudest cracks until all performers are on cracks simultaneously. When the kitchen timer rings all performers lunge for the timer. The announcer sticks his/her head out the door and says in a stage whisper “Hey! Don’t you know that there is a recital going on?!” All performers the leave the stage as they came on, except they look a bit sheepish.

dedicated to Michael Schelle, and *The Composers in Red Bowling Shoes*

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