Audience to enter venue and meet up with Josh in the foyer – he gives the health and safety talk and welcome everyone to the building. The start should give a false sense of security to the visitors. Josh to introduce the idea of the ghost light and the superstition behind this.

*UP STAIRCASE – **RUNNER CROSSES PATH IN MIDDLE BAR***

Journey 1 - 1935 bar - (Music old time jazz)

Music is playing and we are transported to another time, the bar is open and a jolly bar tender is working, there is some 1930s vintage jazz music playing on an old record player in the corner – Bartender notices us.

BARTENDER (Jack)

Well hello there, welcome, welcome, come on in, don't be scared, I wasn't expecting anyone tonight but welcome to the Globe theatre here in 1913, built by my two bosses, brothers Alfred and Charles Lewis. Charles, a local confectioner, I'm sure you will have visited his shop before, he sells the best and biggest amount of Frys chocolate in the area, he samples it a lot too I think, between you and I, and his brother Alfred well he owns the butchers next door, you might have smelt the carcasses hanging out by the side door waiting to be taken in to the shop, Alfred well he can dice up a pig within 5 minutes of it hitting his slab.

I am so pleased to be here working in Teesside's first purpose built cinema to show silent movies, I'm guessing that's why you're here tonight to see our very own Ivy close, beauty queen and star of the screen, she's truly is a real beauty, I bet you have her picture cut out of the Daily mirror too – just like me (lifts a picture onto the bar) oh how I'd love to marry a girl like her, I've heard she loves it here in Stockton, one day she will come and watch her pictures in her home town and ill serve her a drink, imagine, imagine a boy like me with a real true movie star…….. (we hear someone coming up the stairs) Oh urmmm sorry sir, madam I can't keep chatting as much as I'd love too my bosses are coming and they are real harsh

He looks to nobody

Same again sir? A tot of Brandy (*he puts a glass down and it moves across by itself)*

Alfred and Charles enter he speaks directly to them

Good evening Sirs, it's a busy night tonight, a whole party of out of towners in, you can tell they are not local by the way they are dressed – Ivy Close fans I think

ALFRED

(looks slightly worried) We weren't expecting anyone this evening, but you're here and we are here so, welcome to our venue I'm Alfred Lewis and this is my brother Charles I'm pleased to welcome you to our brand new cinema, purpose built to bring Hollywood to good old thriving Stockton On Tees.

CHARLES

Tell them about the seating

ALFRED

We have 500 seats, 500!

CHARLES

Imagine how many sweets I can sell to all those people.

ALFRED

(Angry) Its not about sweets Charlie, its about theatre. (to the group) I guess we could show you inside the place?

CHARLES

There is 500 seats!,

ALFRED

Yes 500 seats……..(seems dubious of this point)

(The must starts to lift as the group leave)

*DOWN CORRIDOR INTO THE STALLS – **2 x RUNNERS CROSS OUR PATHS***

Journey 2 – the circle – music - creepy ambience?

Lead the tour into the circle, both stop and look around, look at each other and turn to the tour.

CHARLES

This is not 500 seats Alfie, this is like thousands of seats. It's happening again Alfie, I don't like it.

ALFRED

Don't let them see we are worried…… Ladies and gentleman may we present our theatre.

We hear a woman's voice shouting down to a guy below its an architect, with paperwork, the stage managers log and an angry face.

MRS CHADWICK

Mr Browne, you promised me that you would have the restructure of the building complete today – what on earth are you still doing here?

PERCY BROWNE

Mrs Chadwick, as I have told you on numerous occasions if you want perfection of an art deco piece, it takes time, it takes patience and it takes all of my commitment to my art. Now madam if you could leave me alone I would appreciate it.

MRS CHADWICK

(turning to notice the tour)

Oh hello, Alfred, Charles I didn't expect you to be here (nervously) and you have brought guests, (to the brothers) is this really a good idea? You know with it being the date of all hallows eve? You know what happens here tonight. Should you have these visitors here?

ALFRED

(to our two performers)

What year is it to you right now Mrs Chadwick?

MRS CHADWICK

Its 1935, the time of great change for Stockton's Globe cinema

(The three talk together)

ALFRED

It's happening again

CHARLES

We should tell them, they deserve to know what they are getting themselves into by being here

ALFRED

(pauses for a while pondering on this idea) Ladies and gentlemen, do you believe in ghosts? Well you should because I for one died over 100 years ago

CHARLES

As did I But you can see us? And you can see Mrs Chadwick our theatre manager – you can see us all and you're here too. We should tell you It may have been over 100 years since we departed this earth but we stay here where our heart is living the same times over and over,

ALFRED

As long as the ghost light is kept on, see it down there, we can continue to live our 'lives' in this building after everyone has gone, Many thespians believe the ghost light wards off these spirits, but in reality they are there to give us spectral divas a lighted area to perform in and you are here with us, finally people who can see us, who can hear us.

MRS CHADWICK

Of course they are, it's the best time to be here 1935 the grand opening of the new and improved Globe a leading variety theatre including spectacular cinema facilities

(A small child runs by at that)

BOY

Good evening Mrs Chadwick, Mr Peterson has sent me to meet the film reel for tonight off the train, ill be right back miss (he whispers to the audience) Leave, leave now while you have the chance.

MRS CHADWICK

Good lad, now mind how you go. Here in good old 1935 *(looks at the others who nod nervously)* we have a lot of youngsters who are our runners, they fetch and carry for us and climb the stairs to the projection room, way up there at the top of the building delivering the film reels.

ALFRED

Its practice for these runners to work long hours but with their quick legs and desperation to help out at home with money for their families they never complain and they work so hard, despite being tired at times and overworked

CHARLES

(*Look to a child in the group, sinister like*) we are always looking for more youngsters to join our team how old are you young man? Well that's a fine age to join us, how about you young lady? We can take girls too, while they may not be so strong they are certainly still as nimble. A penny a week? Think of all the sweets you could buy with that?

ALFRED

Could you climb the dark stairs by candlelight? Could you run to Stockton train station and collect the film reel and be back in time for the film to play? You would take it up to the projection room up there It's a perfectly safe job

ALL

Perfectly safe

MRS CHADWICK

(*realising they have gone to another place in their heads)* Should we show them the rest of the theatre? I think they will like what we have done with the place and its nearly time…….

ALFRED

(looking at a pocket watch) You are right Mrs C, as always, lets go

Take the tour down into the bottom bar. Bartender should be at our next bar again.

*BEHIND GATHERED AUDIENCE – **RUNNERS CROSS OUR PATHS***

Journey 3 – Bottom bar – MUSIC *The Beatles can be heard from the auditorium with screams overlayed*

ALFRED

Ladies and gentleman here at the Globe so many events have happened, some of the greatest acts performed here after our time in charge. In the 60s we even had these 'popular bands' the Beatles and the Rolling stones

CHARLES

Very popular, they were, causing all sorts of problems for us, it was very noisy and not my kind of music at all but the young people seemed to enjoy it, despite the screaming and the crying

ALFRED

Oh the crying, talk about a haunting noise

MRS CHADWICK

Here in the stage managers log it states that not all fans had a nice night in this building, coming here and seeing their favourite stars. (looking through the book) The Beatles famously played at the Globe on **Friday 22 November 1963**, the day President Kennedy was assassinated, but that wasn't the most eventful thing that happened to Barbara Smith of Norton that night (gesture to the photo on the wall)

A Nurse opens the door and drags through a young girl our Bartender pops up from behind the bar (now dressed more of the 60s)

NURSE

Help, me get her a chair

BARTENDER gets a chair as the nurse brings through a young girl with blood all over her t-shirt

BARTENDER

What's happened to her? Another fainter?

NURSE

No, not fainting this time, she's screamed so hard we fear she has ruptured her stomach

BARTENDER

Really? I mean know these fans are crazy but that's is madness

The girl starts to choke and blood pours out of her mouth

GIRL

(crying) Let me go back in, please, I need to see Paul, please, please (she starts to cough again)

NURSE

Can I get some privacy here please?

Charles taps his watch

ALFRED

Let's leave, this kind of thing did not happen to us back in 1935 – Audiences were more refined. In the days of the vaudeville theatre.

<u>Journey 4 – Auditorium –</u> MUSIC - Vaudeville theatre loop

We come into the theatre and we see a group of performers on the stage a lone gentleman sits in the theatre – there is a prominent light on the stage, the ghost light, two very stern usherettes stand either side of the stage with torches

RUNNER 1

(Dashing past) Go, go, go while you can.

CHARLES

(proudly) By 1935 the Globe was a premier variety theatre which presented different musical acts within one performance. Back when ours began they would feature a 'variety' of forms of entertainment that included comedy sketches, dance, magic, acrobatics, animal acts, juggling and ventriloquism.

MRS CHADWICK

Your average worker was no longer tired from their work but they were very bored by it and lived to be entertained by this variety theatre

ALFRED

And whilst the ghost light is on in our theatre our very best show continues on, night after night to an audience of one man, and now all of you……..

VARIETY SHOW HOST

Ladies and gentleman welcome to tonight's performance, we have stunning performers from all around the globe to entertain and dazzle you, My performers used to travel from theatre to theatre, touring for upwards of forty weeks a year By performing in several venues a night, our biggest stars could earn the big, big money. We all worked hard but the stresses of this lifestyle meant that many of us died very young. And by the end of the 19th century, there could be as many as 20 acts per show and our performances would last up to four hours.

Four hours may sound bad to you but since we got trapped here in this beautiful theatre, we have performed none stop, signalled only by the flickering of the ghost light – but be warned doing what you love, every day, every hour, every moment can take its toll even on the most professional of us all……. Ladies and gentleman prepare to see the hardest working performers in town – be but aware tiredness really can kill……..

Show plays out here, creepy performers, SHOW HOST TO TAKE US THROUGH WHAT IS GOING ON – runners continue to come through the auditorium throughout looking worried.

VARIETY SHOW HOST:

Let me introduce:

The Claudette Corbet. A Beautiful Doll Clown from deepest darkest Peru. Be careful with her, she was jilted at the altar and is seeking revenge for her lost love!

The Dusk Brothers. Frank and Freddy. From Tennessee in the U S of A. The brothers were triplets! What happened to the third brother you ask? Something with a prop gun, but we don't talk about it. Was it murder? Only they know for sure!

LaMaria and El Diablo. The Ventriloquist and his dummy. El Diablo is a disciple of the devil! Maria used to be his wife! But now she is his dummy!

Maria Plyasatskaya, the Russian Black Widow Ballerina. Married 12 times. Only 7 of her husbands have ever been found. The other 5 are Missing, presumed dead!

Now introducing the beautiful Minnie Delight! Our resident Queen! She has travelled the world delighting audiences. But look closely and you'll see the makeup is covering deadly burns!

Demarcus the 3rd. Tap dancer extraordinaire! He has a dark secret. He loves the smell of burning flesh! Just ask his parent, oh wait, you can't. He ate them alive!

BARTENDER

(*Appearing as if from nowhere creeping up behind our audience back in his Edwardian clothes*)The variety theatre was one of the many places were people could come along and get a drink as they were entertained

ALFRED

Not now Jack, the show is on

BARTENDER

The show is always on (he laughs)……..

USHERETTE

(shining her torch) shhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh

And you, and you and you (*shines it on our guests and finally our original audience member he is asleep, or so it seems, the other usherette walks from the other side*)

(angrily) Shhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh, do you hear me? Shhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh how dare you. (*walks over to snoring sounds at that one final snore and he is gone she shines the torch in his face)* Wake up, wake up you rude man the show is on a loop (shakes him, he is dead)

MRS CHADWICK

(flicking through the log)

Argghhhhhh I'm sorry Doris, I believe this man is dead, in 1953 a gentleman died in this very auditorium.

CHARLES

(eating sweets) Oh dear, oh dear this just won't do, all of this commotion is ruining the show, they will miss it

ALFRED

Don't worry dear Charles Mrs C has it under control, she will have him up and out of here before the next performance

MRS CHADWICK

Oh my dear gentlemen, it is fully under control, the undertakers have given a speedy diagnosis of death and are removing the dead body now, don't worry I'm sure he will be back in his seat for the next performance,

USHERETTE (Doris)

(up close to an audience member) He always is, sometimes in this seat, sometimes in that, sometimes up here or often over there – always sitting, waiting, waiting to take his last dying breath

CHARLES

But what if the seat is already taken? We get big audiences here in this fabulous venue

USHERETTE (Gloria)

Oh its ok, he will always share his seat, a simple breath on the neck may be all you feel of him, but don't worry he will show you no direct harm. (shines the torch)

ALFRED:

Let us move on, your frightening our guests. While the performers are on their break lets go on up to the stage – somewhere you might never find yourself.

As we walk past the small window we see Ivy close – trapped in a silent movie reel. She is trying to get our attention with a dramatic display

Journey 5 – Up onto the stage – MUSIC – spooky Ambience?

*Our guests are greeted by the stage manager who is sweeping the stage – **RUNNER** goes past?*

STAGE MANAGER:

Mr Lewis hello, I don't actually have any of these people on my performers list, you do know there is not long before the music hall loop begins again……..

ALFRED

Don't worry my boy, I just want to give them a quick show around

CHARLES

Yes don't worry – it will just be very quick, I promise you worry too much

STAGE MANAGER

(To Charles, more sternly) To be frank sir, I'm in charge of health and safety and this is really not the healthiest and safest place. I wouldn't like anyone to be struck on the head……. You know if they don't follow the rules and if Polly the stage door keeper sees you on here she will…….

CHARLES

Are you forgetting who's theatre this is?

STAGE MANAGER

No sir, certainly not sir

ALFRED

Oh don't mind him, he's worried about some unofficial rules of the theatre you may not know.

(goes to the front)

Look at that, look at how wonderful our theatre is.

STAGE MANAGER

Sir please tell them about the rules, please sir, please

CHARLES

Oh for goodness sake, you must never whistle in the theatre

STAGE MANAGER

(DRAMATICALLY) In the good old days of theatre, scenery was manually lifted into the air by men hoisting it with ropes. Our stagehands would cue each other by whistling.

Meaning any actor who whistled backstage might accidentally cue a stagehand to lift or drop scenery, potentially putting an unaware performer at risk of being crushed by a wall or a sandbag.

The best way to make sure you don't become a theatre ghost is to refrain from whistling altogether.

CHARLES

Feeling better now?

STAGE MANAGER

Yes, thank you sir (as he walks away we see blood all over the back of his head)

ALFRED

(still looking out) Silly superstitions, that's all they are

MRS CHADWICK

Mr Lewis you know they are not all superstitions, be careful, what you do and what you say, you know what happens

ALFRED

Oh you mean……

ALL

No!

ALFRED:

I said nothing

CHARLES

You're not even thinking of it Alfred are you? You know what happens

We hear the cackling sound of witches but there is no obvious sign of them – our characters don't react

MRS CHADWICK

Tell them about David, that will entertain them

CHARLES

Oh yes, it is suggested that the ghost of David Burlington, one of our most famous theatre directors who continues to oversee the happenings here at the theatre.

ALFRED

What a control freak

MRS CHADWICK

Some who have worked at the theatre have reported seeing his spirit sitting alone up in the balcony (*she waves up to the circle)* or wandering the lobbies, occasionally stopping to speak to patrons or even being here up on the stage

Whistling is heard again and a sandbag falls behind the crowd they go to look.

We then hear slow clapping from David in the circle.

The witches of Macbeth speak this time they appear further in the auditorium.

WITCHES:

First Witch
Round about the cauldron go;
In the poisoned entrails throw.
Toad, that under cold stone
Days and nights has thirty-one
Sweltered venom sleeping got,
Boil thou first i' th' charmed pot.

ALL
Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire burn, and cauldron bubble

We then hear more slow clapping from David in the circle.

Everything should go on quickly and pull attention everywhere

Doris and gloria to appear behind the audience

BOTH

SHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH

The witches of Macbeth speak again and again they appear further in the auditorium.

Second Witch
Fillet of a fenny snake,
In the cauldron boil and bake;
Eye of newt and toe of frog,
Wool of bat and tongue of dog,
Adder's fork and blind-worm's sting,
Lizard's leg and owlet's wing,
For a charm of powerful trouble,
Like a hell-broth boil, and bubble.

ALL

Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire burn and cauldron bubble

CHARLES (Looking scared)

You thought of it didn't you? The Scottish play – you have done this

We then hear more slow clapping from David in the circle. He is joined my 3-4 ***RUNNERS*** *all clapping*

ALFRED

Do you think im mad, nobody would invite a shakepearean tragedy into a theatre, then or now – that really will kill of your audience.

MRS CHADWICK

Oh look at David, coo eeeeee I think he's lovely. If I could get out of here id go straight to the graveyard and get him some flowers from a fresh grave (sees the reaction to this) what? Its what we do it's a symbolic gesture at the the end of a production or its death. Actors really did not make a lot of money, so this was an inexpensive way to say thank you to the director while buttering him up for the next round of auditions, not me though id just get them as a token of my sweet love

DAVID claps again

A **RUNNER** brings in a graveyard bouquet

MRS CHADWICK

Well I never thank you my boy now where did you get these? Oh actually lets not discuss that – well not yet anyway

RUNNER

The ghost light is flickering – get away, while you can

Our show host appears again, even more tired, he starts his speech again and the music starts.

ALFRED

Lets go, onwards to see more of our wonderful theatre.

As we walk out into the corridor we meet the Stage door Keepers

STAGE DOOR KEEPER, POLLY/JAMES – (1953)

And where do you think you're going?

STAGE DOOR KEEPER, ELIZABETH – (1935)

Urm its my door, Mr and Mr Lewis are here

STAGE DOOR KEEPER POLLY/JAMES

Don't start this again, its 1953 right now, I'm in charge, you've been dead years.

STAGE DOOR KEEPER ELIZABETH

Its 1935 and you've been dead years too, if you want to split hairs

STAGE DOOR KEEPER POLLY

Yeah, we are both long gone

(*THEY BOTH LAUGH HYSTERICALLY LIKE ITS THE ULTIMATE IN JOKE*)

ALFRED

Ladies, please – we have guests

STAGE DOOR KEEPER POLLY/JAMES

Awwww don't you start with your this is our theatre rubbish, you were never in charge when I worked here, these are my stairs and my stage door. In 1953 nobody even remembered your names.

MRS CHADWICK

Can we just pop through Polly, Elizabeth, we just want to show off your wonderful modern dressing rooms

STAGE DOOR KEEPER POLLY/JAMES

(softening) They are wonderful aren't they? All part of the 2021 re- furbishment

STAGE DOOR KEEPER ELIZABETH

I think they are too bright

STAGE DOOR KEEPER POLLY/JAMES

You would……..

MRS CHADWICK

Can we see them please girls

STAGE DOOR KEEPER ELIZABETH

I can take you up to see those rooms indeed Mrs C, its lovely to have YOU here, and I suppose you can bring your 'friends' with you

STAGE DOOR KEEPER POLLY/JAMES

Me too

(they go to leave but quickly turn)

BOTH:

Wait!

STAGE DOOR KEEPER ELIZABETH

You have not said hello to Olive Thomas, you know if you don't she will cause no end of mischief tonight.

STAGE DOOR KEEPER POLLY/JAMES

It is tradition to greet Olive every time you arrive at the theatre to stop her getting out of hand

(try and get everyone to say hello or good evening as they go past her picture)

STAGE DOOR KEEPER POLLY/JAMES

Right this way, It's just up these stairs,

(rattling her keys as they go up the stairs)

STAGE DOOR KEEPER ELIZABETH

I suppose you want to know more about dear Olive? Well her story is a sad one. Once a chorus girl who was whisked out to Hollywood, she embraced the American lifestyle and while there she made a handful of silent films and married esteemed and very handsome theatre director David Burlington.

DOOR KEEPER AND MRS CHADWICK

So handsome

CHARLES (to audience)

Oh for goodness sake, every time that man's name is mentioned, same reaction from these women – he wasn't that great

STAGE DOOR KEEPER POLLY/JAMES

May we continue? So on a trip to Paris David told Olive he had met another young lady and what happened next is, and has always been up for debate, the official reports say Olive accidentally swallowed an overdose of David's medicine, mercury bichloride, which is poisonous in large quantities, but ive never been so sure.

STAGE DOOR KEEPER ELIZABETH

I mean one has to wonder how she could have "accidentally" emptied the entire blue bottle of pills. Accidently indeed, there is no way, Olive died a slow and tortured death and she slipped away two days later, and her body was sent back to her home.

STAGE DOOR KEEPER POLLY/JAMES

But then an odd thing started happening. Workers here began telling friends they had run into Olive backstage. Impossible, they were told. Olive is dead.

STAGE DOOR KEEPER ELIZABETH

She has been seen for as long as I can remember with her old silent movie pal, local Stockton girl and first Miss World, Ivy close wondering the corridors clutching a bottle of blue pills laughing and joking one minute and crying for her lost love the next.

STAGE DOOR KEEPER POLLY/JAMES

We are here, up this corridor is the dressing room that she took her final breaths

As we approach the dressing room door we see the Bartender go in with two glasses, Ivy close and Olive Thomas are sitting doing their make – up they are fully oblivious to us

BARTENDER

Miss close, miss Thomas here are your drinks

OLIVE

Why thank you jack, Jack you think I'm beautiful don't you?

BARTENDER

Oh yes, very much so miss

OLIVE

Why would he cheat on me? Why (she starts to sob)

IVY

Oh Olive dear, don't start this again

BARMAN

He must be crazy Miss Thomas, you are beautiful

IVY

You see Jack thinks your beautiful

OLIVE

A barkeep? A silly little no hoper barkeep thinks I'm beautiful, oh lucky me, of course he does, desperate boys like him always do, I bet you love it everytime we ring the bell for champagne, its your lucky day little jack

IVY

Don't be unkind Olive

OLIVE

Unkind to this little baby, are you so desperate for attention Ivy that you will allow some little barkeep to flatter you?

IVY

You are out of control, calm down Olive, be a lady.

(Jack starts to crush a bottle of blue pills into the glasses throughout the sequence)

OLIVE

What do you know? I've taken the same advice from you over and over again, but what really do you know? A washed up movie star.

IVY

That's not true

OLIVE

Yes it is, Once they could hear your voice on screen nobody wanted you anymore, your horrible British accent. How can you say anything? Go with your silly barkeeper, nobody wants you, nobody wants to hear any of your advice.

BARKEEPER

Miss Close, we should leave, Miss Thomas I will leave your drink here, I think you need it to calm down

OLIVE

(looking through the mirror at herself)

How dare you, tell me to calm down……. But I will take that drink little barkeep, make your day.

They go to leave, as they do Ivy pulls out a pistol from her bag and lifts it as Olive takes the final gulp of her drink and starts to choke

From behind the crowd we just hear the clapping of David once again

DAVID

Bravo, Bravo

He walks slowly through the crowd clapping

What a performance…….*(he goes to Olive and holds her)* Bravo my girl, your best performance to date, Jack my friend thank you for saving me a job, always a sucker for a pretty face and sure makes a deadly cocktail, and Ivy, lets

make sure its not only your movies that stay silent (Olive takes her last breath), Goodnight dear Olive death will make sure you stay young and beautiful forever.

MRS CHADWICK

I think we should leave, leave them in peace for eternity. (*She puts off the main lights and leaves only the mirror bulbs on)*

ALFRED

well, things sure got a little gritter after we left the theatre business.

CHARLES

Yes, so ladies and gents, as the cinema age took over we sold the theatre to the ABC group and the age of cinema in Stockton was born. The hammer horror movies were a big hit with our clients, these were the big classics of the time

ALFRED

Sadly it wasn't all rosy in the world of theatre, it was sadly in 1918 when we had our first projection room fire, a fire that killed a young boy, a hard working runner,

CHARLES

The early motion-picture industry primarily used nitrate film. This film is flammable, and produces its own oxygen supply as it burns. Nitrate fires burn rapidly and cannot be extinguished, something that we found out the hard way, the night we lost poor Arthur

MRS CHADWICK

Gentlemen, you know its not good to discuss Arthur, He is the only one of our friends that workers here to this day hear around the building – it may scare these ladies and gentleman.

ALFRED

Rather, ok lets get back to business, our refurbed theatre of 1953 brought about the advent of the 3D movie.

CHARLES

Oh yes, the film really popped out at you, right up out of the screen. It was like they could reach out and touch you. I get chills thinking about it all.

We get to the auditorium again but by now there is a projector up on the stage its flickering

MRS CHADWICK

The first ever 3D movie to arrive here at the Globe on the 25th April 1953 – The House of wax

The film trailer soundtrack starts to play as we walk into the auditorium we see many wax models along the stalls walk way

VINCENT PRICE (loud and powerful)

I'm rebuilding my exhibition from the ground up. I'm going to give the people what they want. Sensation. Horror. Shock. Send them out in the streets to tell their friends how wonderful it is to be scared to death

The waxworks all move position

Once in his lifetime, every artist feels the hand of God, and creates something that comes alive.

The waxworks all move position

I'm afraid that the visit of a such distinguished critic may cause my children to become conceited. To you they are wax, but to me, their creator, they live and they breathe (*raises his hands)*

The waxworks move towards the audience

CHARLES

Alfred, I don't like 3D movies, I've said this before

ALFRED

Im not too sure about it myself old chap

MRS C

Stop the film!

The music stops and the models freeze again.

CHARLES

I can smell smoke Alfred, oh no, I can smell smoke

ALFRED

Oh dear, oh dear I was hoping this wouldn't happen again.

RUNNER ONE

Help, help! There is a fire, in the projection room. Help, help we don't want the place to go up, fetch water, please.

RUNNER TWO

Where is Arthur?

RUNNER ONE

He's out at the railway station

RUNNER TWO

No, no he's not, he was up there with you, I saw him go in

RUNNER FOUR (panicking)

I closed the door behind me, I shut in the fire, I've shut poor Arthur in there, oh no he will have perished, its all my fault – ive killed him, forgive me, please, please forgive me *(he pleads with the other runners, they turn away)*

ARTHUR:

(Burnt) I forgive you Louis, Help me, I cant breathe, please, please help, I forgive you.

ALL RUNNERS

Leave, Leave, Leave while you can, Leave

The WAX characters move once again and say…..

Leave

The VAUDIVILLE characters and WITCHES appear on stage and say

Leave

Clap, clap, clap from DAVID, IVY OLIVE and say

leave

NURSE and GIRL

Leave

USHERETTES

Leave

STAGE staff

Leave

EVERYONE

Leave

ALFRED

It may be time for you to leave my friends

CHARLES

Its time for us to go, to return to whatever time the ghost light takes us.

RUNNER

Please, please for your safety its time to leave

JACK

This way everyone, its always time for a drink – to calm your nerves of course……