

Elemental Gazette

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Your source for the latest news from Elemental Effects

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Believe It or Not!

In June of 2008, Ripley's Believe it or Not makes its return to New York, bringing with it the classic collections of the bazaar, strange and unbelievable.

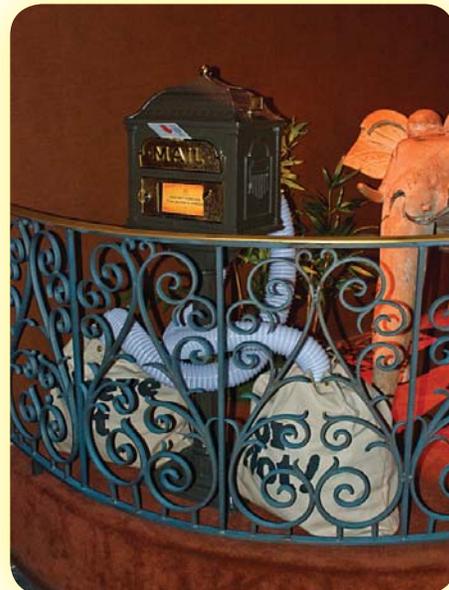
Elemental Effects was given the opportunity to produce several displays and gags for the odditorium.

Water Vortex: Located in the front lobby, this 8 foot tall, 5 foot diameter tank produces a water tornado. The system also incorporates LED lights to constantly shift the color of the water. E2 designed and fabricated the pumps, filtration, lighting and control for this system. The tank was specified by E2 and supplied by Waterdog Products.

Grace McDaniels Kissing Both: When a guest approaches this booth there is a lady with her back to them. When they place their hand on the handprint the woman spins around puckered up for a kiss. This is the guest's first glimpse of Grace McDaniels, The Mule-Faced Woman. We provided the capacitive handprint sensor, turntable, audio playback unit and control for this element.



Q&A Mailbox: As the guests make their way through the atrium they find an antique mailbox with a letter sticking out. A video screen mounted in the mailbox displays a question concerning the volume of mail sent to Ripley's, when the letter is pushed in the screen displays the answer to the question. E2 provided the LCD screen, designed & fabricated the letter switch and integrated both into the mailbox.





Walter Hudson: Once listed as the World's Heaviest Man, Walter Hudson weighed in at 1400 pounds! In the New York odditorium Walter is suspended from the ceiling above the atrium and level with the mezzanine. E2 designed and provided Walter's swing, the model representing Walter's daily food intake and the Rigging frame which includes an automated chain hoist for the plate of food and a rotation motor for Walter's swing.

Tribal Mask Room: When guests enter this room the display cases, which house a collection of nearly 30 rare tribal masks, come to life. Masks wiggle, appear, disappear, pop-up and sink-down, all time to a musical track. E2 provided the animation mechanisms for the mask room as well as the animation control for the mechanics and lights.

Fireplace Walker: In the corner of Trophy Room 1 the sits a fireplace. It looks fairly normal; dark wood mantle, stone surround, grating and a nice bed of glowing coals. But in closer inspection there is a person in a grass skirt walking on the coals and they must be hot because he keeps lifting up his feet to cool them off. This was an interesting element to create. The first challenge was the bed of coals; this was cast in clear fiberglass the painted and lit from inside. Next came the legs and their animation mechanics; these are cast from silicone to give them a realistic flex and texture and animated with pneumatics and a 4 point pivot mechanism.



Whale Call Horn & Plankton Scope: Trophy Room 2 contains various large animals. On the far wall is a display about humpback whales and under this display sits a cabinet with an antique horn speaker and a microscope. Guests are prompted to press buttons to hear whale song and see the plankton that is the primary food source for the whales. E2 updated the horn speaker with modern components and modified the microscope to view a video screen.



Shrunken Head Alter: Amongst Ripley's collection of authentic shrunken heads is a small alcove in the wall that serves and the Shaman's alter. Inside there are offering pots and a small fire. Strange images seem to be dancing in the flames. E2 provided one of our SimFire systems and the firewood casting for this element. The 3D projection system was provided by others.

