

PRODUCTION ELEMENTS

Fig making in *YIBIYUNG*



The first picture shows a real fig

This is the effect the Production team wanted to create for the figs that are used in Act 2. The figs are shown in bags, hanging from a tree, however the actor playing Yibiyung, Miranda Tapsell, has to take a bite into a fig at one point and the fig is also squashed over her face in the same scene.

So a fig prop had to be made that could be filled with an edible substance that would look realistic and effective on stage but could be reused for performance after performance.

To come up with the eventual prop, a variety of approaches were tried to create both the outer shell of the fig and the edible innards.



FIRST APPROACH:

Making a plasticine mould fig with two halves.

A real fig is used to create the plasticine mould.

Then the plasticine mould is covered with silicone.

In this photograph Pinkysil skin safe silicone is the pink substance surrounding the fig. Once one side is done, the other side needs to be turned and covered in the

silicone too. Then the plasticine would be removed so a case is created. The resulting effect wasn't exactly what the production team were after so a second approach was tried.

Fig props for *YIBIYUNG*: Eddi Goodfellow



SECOND APPROACH:

Plasticine mould fig dipped in liquid latex.

The picture shows the latex dipped fig drying. 12 coats of latex were done on each fig and then the plasticine mould fig could be removed from the inside, leaving a fig casing which can then be filled.

6 fig cases were made which can then be reused and washed out nightly, but because of usual production wear and tear, more will be made during the run of the show.

Fig props for YIBIYUNG: Eddi Goodfellow

FINISHED FIG-PROPS:

Final product was latex dipped.

Final coat of latex had a drop of violet Indian ink in it to achieve the purple colour. Each fig casing has twelve coats of latex.

Earlier attempts had involved painting the figs – but the paint peeled off and the actor would have ended up eating it by accident, so was not as safe.



Fig props for YIBIYUNG:
Eddi Goodfellow



FIG FILLINGS:

Each fig casing has a slit along one side where it can be filled with edible fig insides.

Inside the final fig casing couscous mixed with red and green food dye (very small amount, to prevent staining costumes) is combined with strawberry topping and a drop or so of chocolate topping (the topping creates the necessary tackiness). This makes a great fig-like inside effect, which the actor who plays Yibiyung finds tasty to eat each performance. She pulls aside the outer before biting into the fig on stage.

The assistant stage manager mixes up the filling and re-fills the casings as part of the pre-set for the show prior to each performance. The figs are then hung in their bags on the tree.