

Introduction to THE INVISIBLE MAN

Hello and welcome to this introduction to THE INVISIBLE MAN, brought to you by Marc Parry. This introduction will take about five minutes to listen to.

The Invisible Man will be led through our streets during the summer of 2021 but as he is invisible, he may be hard to spot.

We might become aware of a crowd gathering around an unusual sight - a grey coated Scientist, who has the air of a jailor, exhibiting a larger than life figure. It makes us think of old-fashioned freak shows!

The Invisible Man, whose name is Griffin, is visible only because of his clothing. Almost 8 feet tall, broad and lumbering, he is an imposing apparition. His head and hands are wrapped around with grubby white bandages. His long brown trench coat, is unbuttoned at the front showing his invisible torso - just a pair of braces indicating the overall broad shape. The coat is corduroy with leather lapels and reaches down to where his ankles would be. Sometimes his heart can be seen lighting up and beating in the empty cavity of his chest; sometimes his ribs glow! His braces hold up his empty black trousers with their long and hollow legs and he wears big heavy boots.

On top of his bandaged, ball-shaped head, sits a stylish brown fedora hat. There are several large holes or sockets in his head and blue light shines from within. Sometimes he wears goggles with electrodes connected to pads on his forehead. The goggles have round brass rims. The electrodes lead to a glowing box carried by the Scientist and through these Griffin's thoughts are transmitted. The box is about 12 inches tall and 8 across, or 30 cm by 20cm, with knobs on top, like an old-fashioned Bakelite radio. Filling most of the centre is a glowing blue dial from which you will hear strange music and sounds, as well as The Invisible Man's voice. Most of the time it is the Scientist's voice that we hear.

The Invisible Man can only speak when connected to the glowing machine. Otherwise, he uses hand gestures to help him communicate, and his head moves around as he does so. The dirty bandages around his hands make them stand out against the dark of his coat. Sometimes he appears to be in pain, and sometimes he becomes angry; at other times he is inquisitive. He moves cautiously, as if he is afraid of the world. The Invisible Man is trying to understand the world and escape his captors; he wants to be seen by the world, and for people to accept him, rather than treat him like a monster or ignore him as if he doesn't exist.

The Scientist wears a protective helmet, with their lab coat. It has a white visor that can lift up, and it protects the face with a Perspex screen. Under the lab coat is a piece of blue segmented flexible body armour, plus a grey shirt and a blue tie. As well as the glowing box, the Scientist carries an old-fashioned camcorder, which they use to film the Invisible Man. Sometimes the Scientist is male, sometimes female. The Scientist, a strict chaperone, likes to be in charge, but above all they are trying to control their captive. They also want to study him, but are wary of The Invisible Man and scared of his powers. The Invisible Man has tried to escape before!

The R&D for The Invisible Man was supported by Blueprint: Without Walls R&D Investment fund and supported by and co commissioned by Without Walls, Salisbury International Arts Festival (part of Wiltshire Creative) and Stockton International Riverside Festival (SIRF).