

Pirate Ghosts

A short film wrought from felt and fabric on the high seas.

[See the video \(YouTube\)](#)



The Inspiration:

Initially, *Pirate Ghosts* was just a song. During the summer of 2005, I had a contract with myself that I had to do a new art project every day and record/document the whole process as I went. The project lasted around 60 days.

The *Pirate Ghosts* song was one of the pieces from that Summer 2005 project. And so I decided to create a video to go along with it.

The Process:



In keeping with my desire to work with simple, renewable materials when possible, all the elements in the *Pirate Ghosts* movie were made from felt or fabric. They were then photographed on a neutral background so they could be clipped out to create floating elements (png files). These elements were then loaded into Macromedia Flash (no, not Adobe), and animated in sync to the music.

In addition to the pre existing music, some Foley needed to be recorded for the intro section - a creaking boat and waves splashing. The audio was recorded on a laptop using Audacity, an open source recording program.

The sound of the splashing waves was done with a wooden cutting board in a big plastic tray filled with water.



The sound of the creaking boat was done with a bundle of extension cord being twisted slowly.

