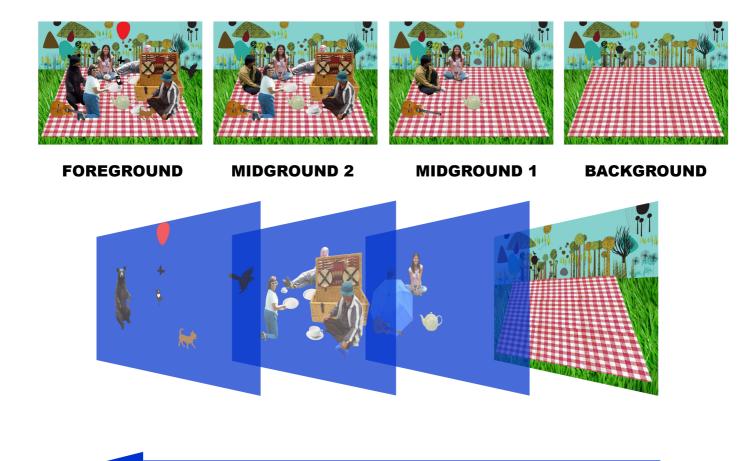


4 x 4 metres

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READY FOR ANYTHING A Glastonbury reveller prepares for the best and worst of the weather

Glastonbury enjoys a byte on festival's virtual picnic

GLASTONBURY festivalgoers will take part in a virtual picnic created by digital artists from Salford University.

'Picnic on the Screen' will allow people to interact in a virtual world that will be broadcast to the 177,000 crowd on the BBC Village Screen.

Festival-goers will join the picnic by sitting on separate picnic blankets that use 'blue screen' technology similar to that used by TV weather presenters. Cameras and motion trackers will allow them to interact with virtual picnic items and animated characters.

Programme developers, Charlotte Gould and Prof Paul Sermon, say they have created 'mysterious and surreal' situations.

Prof Sermon said: "It's about using the screen to empower the audience so they can control the content. We are providing the props but it's up to them to complete the story that we are hinting at."

The idea was developed in response to a brief from the BBC to find the best use for the interactive screen at the festival.