

Abra-Zine!

ISSUE NO. 5

Featuring the Cover
Art of Amine Saade

Fall 2014

FEAR

**Blackbird Motel:
Art that will Chill
You to the Bone!**

**BEHIND THE MUSIC:
John Black's "Shadows"
FREE MP3 DOWNLOAD
INSIDE! ABRA-ZINE
EXCLUSIVE!!**

**Astrologer Renee Francis
Uses the Stars to Solve
Missing People Cases!**



**The Whimsical
Witchy Cottage
by A Fanciful Twist
With Printable
FALL FREEBIES
INSIDE!!**

**Featured Article:
Interview With
Actor Stephen Macht
of Cult Classic
Monster Squad!**

**Plus:
Autumn Activities,
Recipes, Poetry,
Music, Fashion,
Crafts, Tarot,
Jokes, Games
& MORE!!**

**In Film: Interview
with Horror Director
David Scheinbaum:
MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT**

**REAL LIFE
STORIES
OF THE
DEARLY
DEPARTED!**

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ON PAGE 77!!**

Background Art Collages
By Karen A. Carter (Blackbird Motel)
Top: "Halloween Nights"
Bottom: "Night Boats"

CREDITS



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Other Content

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Interviews: Pgs. 22-28,32,35,37
Photography: Pgs. 4,21,62,64,66,67,75,77
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Fall Leaves Pgs. 31,74 (www.vectorbox.net)
Hanging Spider Pg. 73 (www.school.discoveryeducation.com)



"Fears" By Amine Saade
(Ecuador)
More on Page 38

Background Art: Top: "Transitions"
Bottom: "All in My Head"
By Blackbird Motel (Karen A. Carter)



FEATURED ARTICLE
Interview with
Actor & Film Star
Stephen Macht
See Pages 24-27

Comments or questions
about this issue, or a past issue?
Email Us @ AbrazineMag@gmail.com!

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Read about
my trip to
Salem, Mass.!!
on Pg. 66!



When we think of FEAR around this spooky time of year, we often think of the morbid or macabre. Maybe it's the Autumn season, when all that is living in nature, starts to slowly die, in preparation for the long winter ahead. Maybe it's the Halloween or Samhain spirit that celebrates our dearly departed. All Hallow's Eve is a completely reasonable time to fear those messages or sightings from beyond the grave. It is also very reasonable to fear those haunting apparitions that no longer exist on the same plane of human existence. Why do we fear death and the spirit world? You see my dearies, that is uncharted territory. As humans, it is very easy to succumb to the fear of the unknown. None of us know for certain what will happen after we leave this earth! Not only do we fear what we don't know... we fear what we do not understand!

It is very easy for us to judge other people based on our own personal fears. Sometimes fears of personal failures hold us back from doing great things in our lives. So why are most of us living like we are already dead? Because we are crippled by fear! It's not always the kind that has us covering our eyes during a slasher flick shower murder scene, or the kind of fear you feel in the pit of your stomach before going sky diving or bungee jumping, if you are afraid of heights. Maybe it's not all about sticking your arachnophobic hand into a jar of creepy crawly spiders, or falling into the deep end of a pool if you fear the water. Maybe it's more simple than that. Maybe you are afraid to take steps to better your own life? Some of us don't take that job promotion because we fear more responsibility, and ultimately failure if you can't meet said responsibility. Maybe fear is not settling down with someone you love for fear of commitment. Getting too far into a position where you can't back yourself out of can be a scary thought for many.

There are many different types of fear and we ALL have them! This is what makes us human. Fear is one of the most basic emotions, and the tool for survival. Our will to survive kicks into high gear as a response mechanism to fear in most cases. That is only when one is presented with the opportunity to face said fear, whether by choice or accidentally. Some of us shudder at the thought, and other adrenaline junkies may decide to face it, head on. No matter what the case, fear can either be a great motivator or life crippling, depending on how you look at it. In this issue, we look at our topic of fear from all different angles. I have managed to gather some hauntingly beautiful art, poetry, stories and editorials from all around the world. Some may scare you, some may inspire you, some may just flat out give you the creeps and make the hair on the back of your neck stand straight up! But what I hope they do is give you courage- the courage to face your own fears head on and stop living like you are already dead!

Have a Happy Harvest Everyone!

Justina Caruba
70707



Art:
"Red"
By Kate Wheeler
(Howell, MI USA)



“Fear makes the wolf
look bigger than he is...”



Click to Tweet
this Quote!

EDITOR'S PICKS



Top 20 Favorite Movies to Put Me in the Halloween Spirit! (In No Particular Order, I love them all!)

1. Nightmare Before Christmas
2. Frankenweenie
3. Paranorman
4. Monster House
5. Monster Squad
6. Dead Alive
7. Tales From the Crypt
8. Hocus Pocus
9. Sleepy Hollow
10. Beetlejuice
11. Halloween
12. Trick or Treat
13. Death Becomes Her
14. Mad Monster Party
15. The Corpse Bride
16. Evil Dead
17. The Rocky Horror Picture Show
18. The Addam's Family
19. Casper the Friendly Ghost
20. Ghostbusters

Top Ten Favorite Halloween Candy!

1. Snickers
2. Milky Ways
3. Twix
4. Peppermint Patties
5. Tootsie Rolls
6. Tootsie Pops
7. Smarties
8. Starburst
9. Rolos
10. Sour Patch Kids

Top Ten LEAST Favorite Halloween Candy!

1. Pennies
2. Fortune Cookies
3. Loose Mints
4. Apples
5. Baked Goods
6. Good & Plenty
7. Circus Peanuts
8. Black Licorice ANYTHING
9. Necco Wafers
10. Mini Cereal Boxes

“One of my favorite Halloween costumes I’ve ever designed for myself was “Miss Argentina” from Beetlejuice, in 2011! I hand sewed the dress myself and even sharpied the whole thing in red marker to give it the look I wanted, because I couldn’t find the exact fabric I wanted. I also constructed the cape out of floral wire and hand sewed the red sheer fabric around that which was extremely tedious! Painting my whole upper body in grease paint was the most long and grueling process ever, and I don’t think I’d ever attempt that again. This costume was blood, sweat, & tears, but I’m glad I got the pictures of this costume that I did! It really did come out great, I’m proud of it!”

 What was the best Halloween costume that you ever put together? Tweet us with a photo to @AbrazineMag telling us what you were!

Click to listen to my Favorite Halloween Music Station Only on:



Click to watch all of my favorite Autumn and Halloween vids Only on:



Tis the Season of HALLOWEEN

& The Mysteries Behind the Word
By TheseAnagrams



HALLOWEEN is my favorite time of the year. It's got that little extra something you can instinctively sense haunting the air around you. Explaining the eerie, sometimes even haunting feeling that comes along with the season of **HALLOWEEN**, I learned as a Stargazer, is related to "star-logic". As a Word Seer, however, I knew a more profound sense of the mystery could be learned from a discerning scry of the word **HALLOWEEN** itself. That "feeling" of something extra is due to the Sun's celestial position in the all-too-spooky sign of Scorpio. But the reason for the season is a most auspicious time of the year for all of us, because in the word **HALLOWEEN** hides the word **HEAL**.

This is what I found to be true to my heart about the **HALLOWEEN** season. Scorpio is the sign that rules over death, murder, obsession, other people's money, taxes, sex and the soul. It's possessive, jealous and suspicious. It's deep, penetrating and it so likes to dig. It's stubbornly fixed---so it hardly ever forgets a wrong.

The history of **HALLOWEEN** is quite fascinating, but I wanted to understand it down to its bones. While the stars are help, it's not enough to understand this profound feeling permeating the air around me that distinguishes itself from the other seasons. So I gathered all the other words that could be formed from the word **HALLOWEEN**, using only the letters contained within itself to unlock the message it keeps. It's called Lexing, and I personally believe that with an open and pure heart I'm able to mentally spiral on my penetrating journey. Here's what I got from the words living inside the word **HALLOWEEN**.

HELLO OWL,
WE LEAN ON ONE LAW
ONE LAW A WHEEL
WHEEL A HALO ... WHEEL A HELL
WE WHALE WHEN WE WOE ... WE HOWL WHEN WE OWE
WE HEAL WHEN WE ALLOW A NEW WHEEL
WE ALLOW NO ONE ALONE!

Here's the interpretation.

As a Stargazer, I know that on October 31st, **HALLOWEEN**, the Sun begins its transit at 7° of celestial longitude in the sign of Scorpio and completes the day at 8°. Ancient stargazers believed that every number from 0 to 9 had its own particular rate of vibrational influence and was thus assigned to each of the two luminaries, the Sun and Moon, and to each of the major planets. The number 7 was assigned to the planet Neptune and the number 8 to the planet Saturn. Neptune is the planet astrologically known to be associated with the spirit world and the supernatural, and it also rules over miracle healing and devout faith. Saturn, astrologically, is known as "Father Time" and the "Karma Keeper". He sees to it that we all pay our karmic debts at the appropriate time.

I found, inside the word **HALLOWEEN** are the words hinting to us that there is **ONE LAW**. A **LAW** that involves a **WHEEL** that is mixed with both **HELL** and **HALO**, meaning good or evil. Its words actually reveal how we cry when we are hurt, and complain when we get a bad deal. But lastly, it tells us that we **HEAL** when we can **ALLOW A NEW WHEEL**. Meaning, we can **HEAL WHEN WE** can turn the **WHEEL** of life in the direction of forgiveness. It's easy to see right away that inside the word **KARMA** are the words, **A MARK**. Now don't **WE ALL** get our chance to make **A MARK** on the world through our **OWN** actions?

Yes, we do. **WE** set our **OWN** individual **KARMA** in motion by the universal law of cause and effect, **ON** the **WHEEL** of life every day **WHEN WE HOE** our seeds, whether they are good or evil. **HELL** or **HALO**, **WE ALL** live under this **ONE LAW**.

But why should this message be hidden inside the word **HALLOWEEN**?

Well, I believe it is because **HALLOWEEN** auspiciously takes place during the time of the year when the leaves are changing into glorious beauty. It makes perfect sense to take our cues from nature.

Change is key here. Hidden inside the word **HALLOWEEN** are the words, **WHEN** and **HEAL**. It's very logical that we can't **HEAL** until we change; change our thoughts and our responses to our environment and toward the people in our lives. The word **HEAL** can be interpreted as the change that needs to take place in our thoughts and hearts in the form of forgiveness, as forgiveness does and will **HEAL ALL WOE**.

This **WHEEL** of life **LAW** that has been mysteriously hidden inside the word **HALLOWEEN** is also telling us that it will, **ALLOW NO ONE ALONE**, meaning that each of us lives under this natural law of things and need to take complete responsibility for the place where we find the condition of our lives and our relationships with others, **NOW**. Whether it be **HELL** or **HALO**, where you stand right **NOW** is the karmic result of your own "web weaving", so to speak.

If you need to erase **A** bad **MARK**, sorry, I mean **KARMA** and want to bring about good **KARMA** now, then you must behave as the changing leaves at this time of year. Be glorious and forgiving to everyone. Judgement and hate in the heart will ultimately be what hurts you. By considering the traditional costumes that we wear on **HALLOWEEN**, I went on to mentally spiral a bit further and saw how costumes could symbolically confirm our focus when taking the leap into changing our karmic course with others and our lives.

For instance, If you have an opposing view with someone, you can dress like the **WITCHES**, who get the **ITCH** to **SWITCH**. Or, if someone has physically hurt you or someone you love, you can dress like the **BATS**, which spelt backwards is **STAB**. If you need to settle up with someone who has offended your honor or dignity, dress like a **SPIDER** so your **PRIDE** **DIES**. And lastly, if someone who you need to make amends with is no longer present with us on this side of the veil, you can dress like a **GHOST** and have a **HOT HOST**. What I mean is, simply light a candle while speaking the words of love from your heart.

Forgiveness is always the gift you give yourself. Have nothing but love in your heart, for everyone and everything. It's important that you leave all things Scorpio behind you once the leaves have fallen. If **WE ALL** practice forgiveness right **NOW**, we can **ALL** be **ANEW** **WHEN** the **WHEEL** of life turns, bringing things **ANEW** in Spring.



TheseStars aka Renee Francis is a Research Astrologer who relies heavily on the stars to decipher the mysteries of life! She currently resides in Ohio. Visit her Facebook Page for more Astrology and Anagram Fun!



Artwork Above:
"Cornucopia"
By Blackbird Motel

That Falling Feeling

By Nicole Aguilar

Nicole Aguilar's philosophy is "Move more, eat better". She currently started up a Facebook page dedicated to helping other people with her tips and tricks on how to lead a healthier lifestyle. She is currently working on getting her official site up and running. She currently resides in LA, California, but is looking forward to making her much anticipated move to the San Francisco area in the coming months.



Photo By Catherine Asanov

I wasn't the most fearless child, but looking back, I was more willing to fall. I guess as a child, you don't understand risks or maybe you just don't care. I remember climbing jungle gyms and jumping off them like it was no big deal. When I think back to my first Spartan Race in 2012, I remember coming to the cargo net, where I started to climb without hesitation. Once I got to about three quarters of the way up, I froze. My legs were shaking, there was a pit in my stomach, and I started to sweat. I realized a new fear-- I was afraid of heights, but was it really the heights or the fear of falling? The cargo net is about 25ft high, on an apex, so you come back down the other side. There I am with a line of Spartans behind me waiting to go over and I'm having a panic attack. Unless you're toddler size, you're not going to fall through the square openings, nor will you somehow roll or slide down, because you are in fact HOLDING ON. There were so many people cheering me on and telling me that I could get over, but fear had taken over, so I reversed slowly back down and took the burpee penalty. Then there was the 7ft military style vertical wall. Once I got there, I was convinced I wasn't going over anything else, so every wall I came to that day, I took the burpee penalty.

For those of you that have never done a burpee, it consists of a jump up, squat, kick out into a plank, pushup, pull back into a squat, then jump back up. Each penalty is 30 burpees. At some point during my OCR career, maybe after the muscle fatigue or being disappointed in myself for being so scared of falling, I decided to get over this fear. Each race I did, I had my boyfriend and fellow Spartans behind me up the cargo net and then some on the other side, to help guide me over. Slowly, I gained more confidence and can now get up and over without any assistance. I get a boost up onto the vertical wall and can pretty much drop off the other side on my own... unless it's the 10ft wall. I still have someone grab me for that one! I've seen people fall, break bones, dislocate shoulders and bleed at these races, but not many of them give up.. They cross the finish line anyway, heal, and come back for more races. They don't let a fall keep them down. Let's face it --The body is capable of so much, it's just your brain you have to convince. The heights and fear of falling will affect me if I let my brain process what I'm doing. I've learned to not think, just do. The more confidence you have in yourself, the less likely you are to fall. You won't achieve greatness if you give in to fear.

Here is Nicole overcoming her fear, coming over the cargo net wall at the Spartan Race!





Art:
"Air Stands Still"
By Joanna Michalak
(Poland)

FEARING THE CHANGE OF LIFE



By **Darius Conway**

Darius Conway is the founder and CEO of Darius Conway Inc., specializing in Art & Entertainment, Public Relations, Marketing and Management. He recently relocated from his roots in Southern Georgia where he endured a negative living situation, and landed in the Jersey Shore area of NJ. He faced his fears head on when making the life changing decision to uproot everything he knew, in order to surround himself with brand new opportunities and possibilities. He is here today to remind you that you can too!

Fear is a common thing. Fear is a scary and very paralyzing thing. It is something that can keep one from doing many great things in their life. Fear can ruin someone's life or even make it better. So, do you fear the change in your life? A change in work? A big move?...Or a physical change?

A change in work can put a lot of pressure and stress on a person. You can become too concerned with how a new opportunity at another job would be and how you will be conceived. Changing a job can be hard on an individual, their family, or friends, but fear can make it worse. Fearing new chances and opportunities of any circumstance should never be a bad thing. We should look at it as a life transition or chapter, for hope and bettering of oneself. A fear of change of a new job is always hard, but it's an opportunity to grow.

Opportunities to move can be a long road to grow from. Moving can take a toll on someone but the fear to remain in the same place forever can as well. Moving multiple times in a year may seem like a problem to many, but beautiful to the one actually doing it. A lot of people fear to change homes and relocate. They do not want to leave their big houses and everything behind or move on with life. They are comfortable, but comfort can be their fear... A fear to step outside of their 'comfort zone'. Relocating can be a great fear to overcome. It's a life lesson that has been instilled in many family traditions today and throughout time. When an opportunity presents itself in a positive way, never fear a positive mistake, because there isn't any.

Being positive in one self is a long back and forth battle. If someone wants to positively change themselves to help their own self esteem, never fear a positive change. Magazine, social media outlets, and peers point out our flaws, because no one is 'flawless'. And we feed into it and want to change ourselves physically. No matter how old a person is past puberty, we all want to change something about ourselves. It's the truth. The fear to just be happy with yourself in the physical form is hard to fully achieve, but we can fight that fear and know that we are uniquely wonderful and beautiful, and WE CAN overcome judgmental thoughts.

Never fear a positive change or negative. Always transition with it peacefully. Let it change your life for the better, emotionally, physically, mentally, spiritually, or in any other way that makes sense to you. Always be up for change and never fear change in any way.



WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/DARIUSCONWAY

Ancient Amber & The Sunchildren Celebrate the Autumn Equinox

I've spent the past three years searching for picture stories that connect my children to the wonder of our natural world. I grew weary of reading those stories with such a modern and materialistic viewpoint, a viewpoint that might cause them to believe they are separate from the world they live in or even worse, more superior (which I consider one of the most debasing mental illnesses of our time). I turned up nearly empty handed in my search, so I began writing the stories I was searching for, myself, focusing on the viewpoints that I wanted. I ended up writing my first picture book *The Ancient Amber Beads* followed shortly by *The Sunchildren: A Seasonal Thanksgiving for Families of the Earth*. I felt *The Sunchildren* series was a great way to introduce children to the idea of Mother Nature and the more natural "holidays". I was not a fan of man made commercial holidays. Not only did I want to teach my children what it means to celebrate from within, rather than following an idea, I wanted to teach them the joy of creating ideas! I also wanted to emphasize a respect for the natural world and for each other's creative differences. Most of all, I wanted them to know it's absolutely okay to make up your own thing!

Within no time, I was interviewing artists and illustrators! I needed to find someone who could bring my vision to life! This is when I discovered Maryna Salagub. I fell in love with her whimsical illustrations. It was an easy commission choice. Since then, her and I have produced two of the four books together! This September I have released *The Sunchildren: Celebrating the Autumn Equinox*.

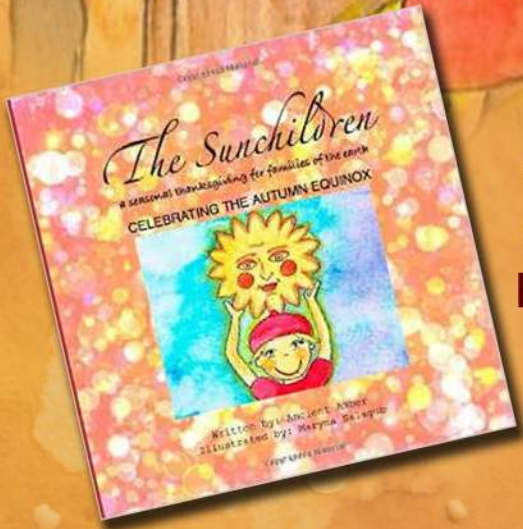
Book Excerpt

"Do you know of the Autumn Equinox? This special day is also known as the first day of autumn. On this special day, the daytime and nighttime are equal lengths and the daytime continues to grow shorter while the nighttime continues to grow longer. On the day of the Autumn Equinox, you should look closely at the natural world around you. If you look closely, you might make some discoveries such as this one. It begins like this..."



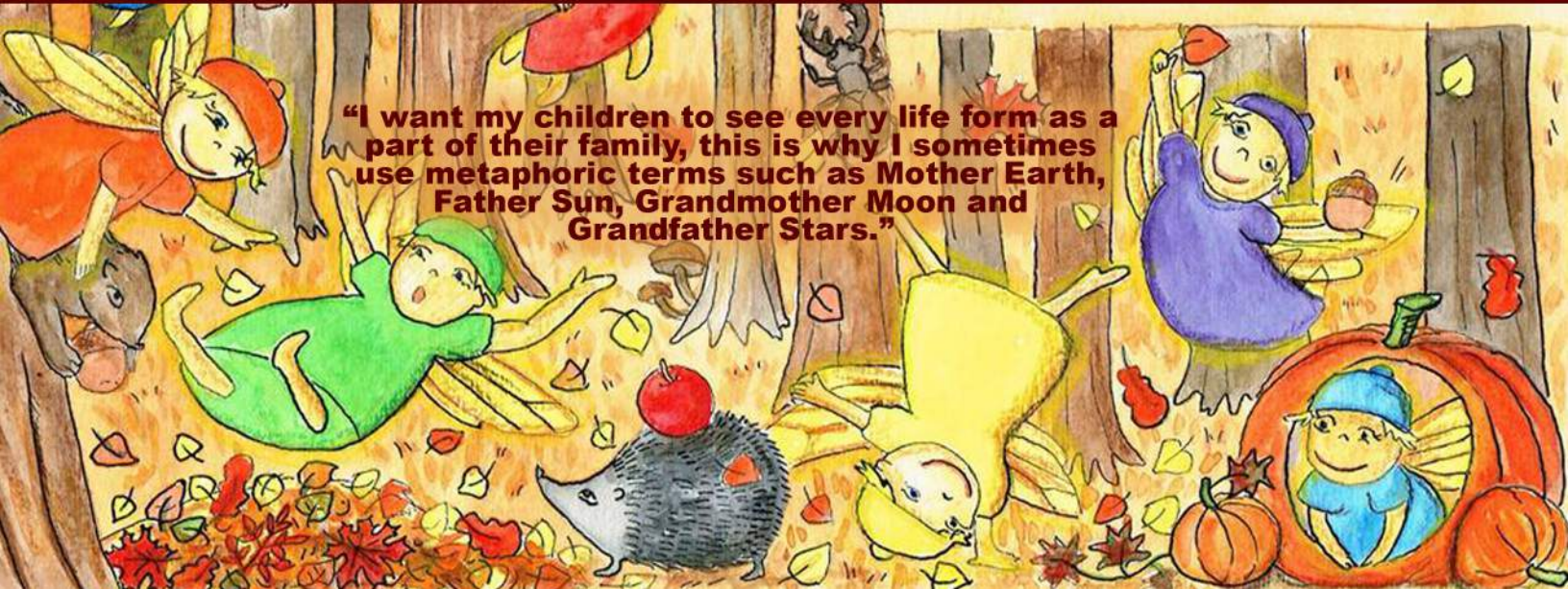
Seattle, Washington native author Ancient Amber, is a mother of two young children who aims to bring perspective and awareness to the diversity of the many families of the Earth through her stories. This perspective is not limited to human nature but includes all perspectives such as animals, plants, sea life, stars, planets as well as the many different perspectives of human kind. She has so far released books on Mother Earth, the Summer Solstice, and more recently the Autumn Equinox. She is looking forward to completing her seasonal series! Buy all of her books by following the link to her website, below!

WWW.ANCIENTAMBER.WEBBLY.COM



Buy The Sun Children Books on Amazon Now!

A story for the WHOLE family. Age: 5+. In the light of the forest live the Sunchildren. These special children anticipate the change of each season. Join them as they celebrate the beginning of Autumn. Watch as each of the Sunchildren show Thanksgiving in their own creative way! This story is a non-traditional Autumn Equinox story. It encourages creativity, self exploration and respect for others while celebrating a moment in time!



"I want my children to see every life form as a part of their family, this is why I sometimes use metaphoric terms such as Mother Earth, Father Sun, Grandmother Moon and Grandfather Stars."

Meet the Illustrator of the Sunchildren Series: Maryna Salagub

Maryna Salagub was born in Ukraine. She discovered her love of painting when she was a young child. She attended an art studio in Ukraine for eight years, which was like her second home. She had a teacher, Boyko Nikolay Yakovlevich, who taught her how to paint, but more importantly-- how to see beauty in our everyday lives. In 2010 she immigrated to Canada and began painting again. She is happily married and has two children.

Maryna's illustrations are whimsical, full of bright vivid colors and movement. She enjoys adding small details to her illustrations. These details encourage children to look at the pictures more and more, making new discoveries each time.

Maryna strongly believes this:

"Don't search for magic, create magic yourself!"



Celebrating Mabon

By Dena K. Miller



Mabon is the holiday of the Autumnal Equinox and is an earth based celebration to give thanks for the fruits of the earth, and a recognition of the need to share them to secure the blessings of the Goddess and the God during the coming winter months. Mabon is the second of three Pagan harvest festivals (preceded by Lammas and followed by Samhain also known as Halloween). (wikipedia.org)

Dena K. Miller joins us today to give us a tour of her beautiful Mabon Altar, which she prepared for this coming Harvest! Upon this carefully planned altar, she places items that represent each of the four elements: Leaves and pumpkins to represent Earth, feathers to represent Air, lovely scented candles to represent Fire, and an abalone & conch shell and a jar of tiny crystal balls and pearls to represent Water. To Dena, crystal balls are a tool of divination and symbolize moving forward toward the future, while the pearls represent the beauty in life.

On one end of her altar she has a 7 day candle with the depiction of Lakshmi, the Hindu Goddess of wealth, love, prosperity (both material and spiritual). She also represents beauty and abundance. She has also filled this candle with sea salt, rose and lavender to represent love, and cloves to bring abundance. To Dena, abundance is not necessarily about financial gain, but rather having a heaping amount of joy, love, and peace within your life.

She also keeps a solid brass box on her altar which is a masculine energy that represents inner strength. She fills this box with beautiful quartz crystal which is good for grounding. A beautiful selenite stone tower that looks like a miniature castle, also has its place upon an earthy woody shelf, on this altar. Selenite is one of the best stones for grounding when working with spiritual energy, and it rarely has to be charged. It also casts a beautiful glow amidst the candlelight.

Some of Dena's most prized and personal altar items are placed upon her sacred space. One is a beautiful perfume vial to symbolize her mother and to remind her that her mother will always be there for her. Another is the relationship between a short pink candle (representing Dena and beauty) and a taller candleholder with a brass pillar base to represent a masculine strength) that symbolizes the love between her and her husband, Jimi.

When creating your own sacred space, Dena really encourages putting personal touches into the mix. It is important to incorporate things that really mean something special to you, whether it is just geared toward yourself, or if the items symbolize your relationships with the most important people in your life.

**WATCH DENA'S
MABON ALTAR
VIDEO TOUR ON
YOUTUBE HERE!**



MABON THIS YEAR FELL ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23. DID YOU MAKE A MABON ALTAR OR DECORATE A MANTLE FOR THE FALL HARVEST THIS YEAR? IF SO, PLEASE TWEET @ABRAZINE #MABONBLESSINGS!



THE SECRET:

A Protection Spell

By Dena K. Miller

Dena K. Miller is the creative mind and CEO behind Milady Leela Enterprises. She is an Autumn Goddess from Pittsburg, PA and aims to inspire others to "Live Beautifully". Dena spends most of her Fall days conjuring up magical herbal blends, salts, candles, & soaps, & incense. They can all be purchased in her Etsy Shop by following the link below!

Fear of the unknown is as uncomfortable as can be, for no one ever likes what it is they can't see.

Shadows of light lurk in paths along the way; we must focus on our strength for protection every day.

Finding our truth can be a very long road and mostly it is carried as a very heavy load.

Fear not I say, as you walk along the way, for beauty is abundant in the upcoming days.

Once you come close to the truth, you will know you are there, but the journey isn't over so still you must beware.

Continue seeking protection on your journey in this life, for pain, evil and misfortune are always and will be in sight.

Focus your mind on the beauty instead and then you can help others on the path you have led.

Fear not I say as you have walked along the way, with focus on truth you will find the secret to abundant beauty for all your upcoming days.



**As you walk your path on the journey of life, you can carry this medicinal blend of Protection Salt with you, or sprinkle it around you as you recite my Protection Spell poem chant.*

Life Journey Protection Salt

Sea Salt

Black Peppercorns

Pinch of Dried Sage

A Bit of Fennel Seeds

Pinch of Thyme

A Sprinkle of Rosemary

A Handful Rose Petals

A Sprinkle of Lavender

Add all ingredients to a bowl, cauldron, or mortar & pestle to mix,

Place in a medicine bag, paper pouch or bottle to carry or place upon your sacred space.

[Click to buy Dena's Homemade Autumn Herbal Blends Only On ETSY!!](#)



WWW.MILADYLEELA.COM

A FANCIFUL TWIST PRESENTS...

THE WITCH'S COTTAGE

*Story & Photos
By Vanessa Valencia*

It's time to let the celebration begin! Magic is brewin', and we're just waiting for you to join in...

Tales and gypsy wagons, ghosts from old photographs, cottages in the woods and witches casting spells are all part of what make up this year's magically haunted festivities. Characters from the past greet us, and lead us down dark winding paths, urging the telling of secrets. You see, the night I shared the gypsy theater wagon with its potions and spells (right here) I invented a wee tale, in order to avoid revealing a vast and spellbinding secret...



I was told by the old woman at the gypsy wagon, who was selling spells and incantations, that I would find the answer to my wildest dreams, if I followed a dark path into the woods, to an old cottage. It was very dark, and I walked alone down a path in chilly darkness, until I could see a glowing light in the distance. I was certain that I was unexpected, and had a feeling I should run, but I seemed entranced by the light...

I cannot describe what I saw. And, the only way for you to believe me, is for me to take you down the path with me. Will you come with me to prove that I wasn't dreaming? Down the dark path we go! You can almost feel the spells and magic fluttering in the wind, while gentle cold whispers of ghost's secrets dance around your ears.

We are here. Go ahead, take a peek through the window. Oh goodness me, the witches are busy this evening. I see a girl from 1893, trapped in the crystal ball. Can you see the witches? I can. I am told they are invisible to those who don't believe. Let's be brave and sneak in as soon as the witches leave to tend to their giant cauldron in the forest clearing.

I think they are gone now. Shhh, quietly, come with me...

The candles flicker as spirits dance, while in the distance the witches chant. Gather around, shall we try our own spell? Please don't forget, not a soul we should tell. You look at me wide-eyed as can be, and start to notice, I don't quite look entirely like myself. My eyes grow dark as night, as my hair changes shades. I look at you out of the corner of my eye and raise my left eyebrow so high, it sends chills down your spine.

I snap my fingers, and orbs of magic fill the air. Can you feel me standing, right behind your chair? Yes, you guessed right, this cottage is mine ~ and I will cast a spell for you, for a mere Transylvanian dime...

Wait, are you sure I am me? Or am I a 300 year old witch, pretending to be V? You'll never know my pretty. But I will tell you this, the last man who crossed me, was turned into... A dancing puppet ;-). Alas, that is another tale for another night. On this night, we shall twirl and play, because truth be told, you can't fool me, I can see those shoes you're wearing are extra pointy!

Come on, don't be shy, we know you are wearing your exquisite striped stockings ;) So, light a skull and make wish, then set it free into the night sky. For tonight is the night that wishes really do come true.

Who shall play us a tune as we mingle? Come now, let's dance around the room, and twirl in our spooky layered frocks! Let's welcome the ghosts of all those faces in photographs on the wall. But, be warned...It's nights like these, where anything can happen! Do share your spell, for that other-worldly brew. The one that makes us 15 years younger with each sip, won't you? Come with me, and I shall teach you how to turn into a bird. You can't imagine how handy that can be, for overhearing conversations and such.

Let's consult the great book! Oh, what do we have here? A lock of hair from the man someone loves. Beware of love spells, I say... Oh me, oh my! What is that, that I hear? Is it the real witches, getting near? (They won't like to know that we have been snooping around their spells!)





I MUST TRY TO REMEMBER HER WORDS...

I think she said that, once you enter this hauntingly magical world, you might never be able to leave! So, of spells and incantations, you must beware, or you might find yourself entranced, beyond compare! But for now, we cast a spell to be incandescently merry, as we take flight, to other hauntingly magical party destinations...

The End



Or have the faces in the photographs come to life? I think we must hurry up, and try to hide. I do think that when the witches are not around, the photograph faces serve as the witches eyes.

We have got to get out of here, can you hear them cackle?? Quick, take a pinch of this, and a pinch of that, and put it in your satchel. We stayed too long engulfed in dance and play! Just touching these magic ingredients is making me feel strange. I feel quite sleeeeeeeepy, don't you? We sneak out just in time, but I can only get as far as a tree, and find myself in the deepest sleep...

The next morning, I awake and find myself in a mossy little cove with a beautiful cherry blossom tree hovering above. Why, I knew it was just a dream. There is no such place, as where we dreamed we had been. Witches and ghosts, hogwash, silly tales...

Come with me. I will take you back to the cottage. Go ahead. Look through the window and tell me what you see! Oh my goodness, it was not a dream at all! The spells are alive, the cottage is real! In fact, spells and magic await your fancy! Although, there is one thing the old gypsy woman said, through a bit of a scary giggle...



Blogger Vanessa Valencia describes herself as "A strange and curiously artistic woman from the 1800s, trapped in the body of a 30-something year old girl living in bizarre Arizona. She built her cult following online with her whimsical original lifestyle blog filled with original artwork and her eyecandy photography of her cooking, crafting, & gardening!

She took to the blog world in 2007 and started hosting virtual blog parties with themes ranging from Mad Hatter's Tea Party to Halloween Extravaganzas! In these parties, bloggers would "RSVP" and then work to create a blog post tailored to the party theme. On the day of the party, all of the bloggers involved make their rounds and blog hop to each other's "party"! These parties are a great way to make new friends and discover some beautiful work! These parties are definitely something to rave about! Don't miss the next one!

CLICK HERE TO VISIT MORE OF VANESSA'S HALLOWEEN BLOG PARTIES!



WWW.VANESSAVALENCIA.COM

FALL FREEBIES!



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PRINTABLE HALLOWEEN TREATS BY A FANCIFUL TWIST

On a day where summer is trying to morph into fall, and dispositions strive to be jovial at all cost, there is only one thing a person can do... **BAKE CUPCAKES!** Of course, there is something in it for you, for being super wonderfully kind.

I made these fun lil' cupcake toppers for you. Although, you can use them for anything at all. You can even wear the mustache if you so wish ;)

All you have to do is print the next page and cut. Tape them from behind to toothpicks or popsicle sticks, then slide them right into your cupcakes...

Tip Print on thick cardstock for cupcake toppers, or glue them onto homemade (or store bought for that matter) trick or treating bags, to using them as gift tags or window decals. I think you will be able to find many uses for them...



Festive Fall Recipes

with Jonathan Kertis

NJ native, Jonathan Kertis is currently studying at the Institute for Integrative Nutrition in NY, to become a certified health counselor!



Background Art: "Autumn Leaves" by Zehra Inceoglu (Turkey)



The summer has sadly come to an end and it's time to move onto the autumnal fruits and vegetables. I do not know about you, but I love pumpkin...**EVERYTHING PUMPKIN**. Not only is it delicious, it is low in saturated fat, cholesterol, and a great source for fiber and Vitamin E. One of my favorite ways to enjoy pumpkin is in a smoothie. If you're a pumpkin fanatic, I highly suggest it!

Butternut Squash Soup



One of my favorite soups of all time has to be butternut squash. This hearty and nutritious soup will keep you warm on the Autumn nights.

All of the flavors used are earthy, warming, and have great health benefits, too. This recipe will yield you a lot of soup— this is not a bad thing, trust me!

Butternut Squash is very high in Vitamin A, higher than pumpkin. Vitamin A is a natural and powerful antioxidant which helps the skin, mucus membranes, and is essential for optimum eye sight. This delicious squash does not contain any saturated fats, cholesterol, and is a great source of fiber.

Ingredients

- 2 Large Butternut Squash
- 2 Cans of Coconut Milk
- 2 Cloves of Garlic
- 1/3 of an Onion, Chopped
- 1/3 Cup Olive Oil
- 1/3 tsp. Turmeric
- A lot of Sriracha (optional)

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit. Cooking time is dependent on your oven, the thickness of the squash, and how impatient you are.
2. Cut the butternut squash in half, remove the seeds, and coat with all sides with olive oil.
3. Bake the butternut squash until it is soft and you can pierce it with a fork.
4. Cut the butternut squash into pieces and add it to a high speed blender with the coconut milk.
5. Blend the ingredients together and all the onions and garlic until smooth.
6. Move the soup over to a pot and let it sit on a burner and stir in the turmeric.
7. Cook for 35 minutes while occasionally stirring.
8. Serve yourself a bowl and add some sriracha. Just do it!

When I am really craving something indulgent, I make some pan-fried italian bread coated in vegan butter, garlic salt, and a little parsley to top or dip into the soup. It's delicious and worth it.

Pumpkin Pie Smoothie



- 1 Cup Chopped Pumpkin or Pumpkin Puree
- 1 Frozen Banana
- 1 Tsp. Natural Vanilla Extract
- 1 Tsp. Ground Cinnamon
- 1/2 Cup of Almond or Coconut Milk
- 1/2 Cup Ice
- 1 Mason Jar – It's just cooler.

*Blend all of these items in a high speed blender to desired consistency. Pour into a glass and serve with more cinnamon or nutmeg sprinkled on top (optional).



GET MORE HEALTH ADVICE ON MY TUMBLR BLOG!

www.IntegrativeNutrition.com

Preparing Your Halloween Haunts with Mrs. Fun Ghoul



Ah...Fall is in the air and it's time to NOT do a little cleaning! This is the time of year to enjoy the change in weather as we pull out the comfy wool sweaters, along with those skeletons in our closets! This is the time to leave the cobwebs fall where they may and enjoy all that the Halloween season has to offer! I have a few tips and tricks in my own closet, as well as in the trunk in my attic, to share with you as you prepare your haunts for that special day on October 31st. So, get ready for when the ghosts and goblins come out and if you do a great job, they just may never want to leave!

Decorating with Old Photo Finds!



Stop by your local neighborhood garage, yard, or estate sales, or, even consignment shops, and look for very old black and white, or sepia (tannish) tone photos. If the photos are bought loose, also look for frames that will fit these photos while you are shopping; keep in mind to buy metal, old looking frames.

Place the picture in the frame and pick a location to place it. I like using the long table in the entranceway (see above pic). Take fake cobwebs and pull across the picture frames, stick in a few plastic spiders and enjoy!

Creepy Cupcake Display



Following the directions on the box of any brand of Devil's Food Cake (What did you expect at Halloween ...Angel's Food Cake?). Bake your cupcakes and let cool. Take one container of vanilla frosting split into three bowls; using food coloring, tint each batch of frosting in green, yellow, and orange. Frost cupcakes and top with a scary plastic spider or skull ring. Place cupcakes on a tiered stand like the one pictured here. (*Note: Tiered stands can easily be found in retail stores, as well as searching on the "web", or garage sales!)

Also feel free to decorate the tier stand with festive black and orange garland, orange lights, & small ornaments!

Dee-licious Dee-lights!



Intestine of Goat

To make your "Intestine of Goat", buy and cook Cavatappi (corkscrew) pasta according to directions on the box. Chop up: fresh broccoli florets, black pitted olives, grape or cherry tomatoes and mix with the cooked pasta. Mix one packet of Good Season's Salad Dressing and pour over the pasta and vegetables. Place in a clear bowl so all your guests can admire the "Intestine of Goat". Buon Appetito!

"Deviled" Eggs



Boil one dozen eggs until hardboiled. Peel eggs and cut in half; scoop out the hardboiled yolk and place in a bowl. Mix yolks with mayonnaise, mustard, salt and pepper until it is a good creamy consistency and is delicious when you sneak a taste! Fill each egg with the yolk mixture. Chop a red pepper, forming little red triangles— this makes the devil horns in these Devilicious Eggs! Beware of the after effects!

Mrs. Fun Ghoul is New Jersey native and Halloween Enthusiast, Dee Carubia. Her favorite fall activities are pumpkin picking, visiting Hacklebarney Cider Mill and doing puzzles. She is an avid ghost story collector and loves reading murder mystery books. All of the photos & ideas in this article were from Halloween Parties that she has hosted in 2009 & 2010.

LUNAR LUNACY

A Short Film By Marie Lombardi

Marie Lombardi, a film student in her first year of NYU, recently created a series of silent short films for a Sight & Sound Course. She joins us today to talk to us a bit about her latest project: LUNAR LUNACY!

AZ: Hi Marie! Thanks for chatting with us today! Congrats on getting into NYU, that is quite the accomplishment! Give our readers a little bit of background info on yourself. When did you realize that you wanted to study film?

ML: Thank you for having me, Justina! I'd say my interest in film stems from my work with the South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop. After participating in stage crew, helping to build sets and work lights, I developed a strong interest in set design, which eventually led me to pursue my studies in film.

AZ: Can you tell us a little bit about your project Lunar Lunacy? What inspired the film?

ML: The parameter for the assignment was special effects lighting. I came up with the idea to use light as a separate character within the film as a way to differentiate my project from those that used it as merely an accent to their story.

AZ: I really love the black & white film look that you used, it is kind of reminiscent of an old horror type of film, or maybe even a David Lynch film, like *Eraserhead*. Did you take your inspiration from any certain movies when creating this film short, and are you fond of the Horror genre? If so, what are your favorite horror flicks, old or new....

ML: I'm sure there has been some inadvertent inspiration derived from old school horror flicks, but none that I can specifically cite. I'm actually quite a big chicken when it comes to horror films so I tend to only watch them in a group setting when I am certain I won't be murdered mid-viewing. The most recent horror-ish film I enjoyed was *Cabin in the Woods*, but I don't think that classifies as a true horror genre film.

AZ: It's ok, we won't tell anyone how chicken you are! :-P Tell us a little bit about the story of *Lunar Lunacy*, and also where did you come up with the name of the piece?

ML: I was actually reading about weird phobias when I came across Selenophobia, fear of the moon. I thought it would be an interesting concept to play with and that's how the film was born. It follows the story of a girl who thinks the moon is stalking her. As for the title, I'm a sucker for alliteration and the title Lunar Lunacy just stuck with me.

AZ: Tell us a little bit about the challenges you faced while creating this project; since you were not able to use any sound to convey the story, was it difficult to accomplish a cohesive storyline without relying on dialogue and such?

ML: It can be incredibly difficult to convey emotion and story progression without dialogue! Luckily, fear is one of those emotions that tend to come across well on screen without relying on anything audible to provoke it. Also, I was lucky to have an amazing actress.

AZ: Who is your lovely actress in this film?

ML: The actress is fellow NYU student, Olga Zhuravleva. She is an incredibly talented filmmaker and actress from Moscow, Russia.



AZ: How did you achieve the effect of the moon following your character?

ML: We have absolutely no budget for these student films, so we have to get creative when it comes to props. A long garment hook and a paper lantern miraculously helped to achieve the effect I was looking for.

AZ: The ending is so silly!! Can you explain to our readers what message you were trying to convey with the way you ended the short?

ML: I wanted a quirky ending to correspond with the fact that most fears tend to be a bit bizarre. The tinfoil hat is an irrational solution to an irrational fear.

AZ: Who do you idolize in the film world? Are there any certain directors, actors, films, etc., that you look to for inspiration when creating your work?

ML: Wes Anderson, Tim Burton, and Sophia Coppola are some of my favorite directors. I look to film for inspiration, but I find that most of my ideas tend to come from a range of mediums and real life experiences.

AZ: Fear is our main theme of this issue...What are you most scared of? Have you ever conquered a fear?

ML: There have been fears that I have overcome in the past like heights, but I still have a deathly fear of any and all bugs. Even gnats freak me out. I doubt I'll ever conquer that fear even though it's incredibly irrational.

AZ: Do you think that your *Lunar Lunacy* film identifies with the theme of fear at all? If so, how?

ML: Absolutely. Although my film may seem like an atypical representation of fear, it is definitely the main theme of the piece and is the motivation for the plot's development.

AZ: Tell us a little more about your Sight and Sound course!

ML: Sight & Sound filmmaking is the basis for film production at NYU. The class as a whole created 140 films in 6 weeks. I personally wrote and directed 5 of them and crewed on another 15. Although it is an incredibly intense program, the long hours and hard work were worth it as it completely changed my perception of filmmaking. It's amazing to think of all the famous directors who started at NYU taking the very same course.

AZ: What grade did you get on this project?

ML: While each project wasn't graded, we did discuss it in an open forum and my professor seemed to really like it. I ended up receiving an A in the course.

AZ: Good job! Keep up the good work, and good luck in pursuing your filmmaking career! Thanks for talking to us today!

ML: Thanks again for having me and discussing my work!



CLICK HERE TO WATCH MARIE LOMBARDI'S LUNAR LUNACY SHORT ON VIMEO, AND TO KEEP UP TO DATE ON ALL OF HER LATEST FILM PROJECTS!!



ALL A SIN

A Psychological Thriller By Filmmaker Vincenzo Carubia

Directory and Filmmaker Vincenzo Carubia is usually known for his trademark lighthearted, comical films centered around his main character's path to self discovery. However, an "On a Whim" collaboration proved to be a very liberating and experimental experience for him. Vincenzo takes us down the proverbial rabbit hole and into the mind of a very disturbed individual in the one and only psychological thriller that he has released in his professional career as a filmmaker, to date. He sits down with Abra-zine! today to discuss the dark and twisted film, "All a Sin".

AZ: Vincenzo, so nice of you to be with us today! Please tell our readers what inspired the film?

VC: It was totally experimental. An old trainer of mine, Chase Cavalera was looking for something for his reel and I was not working on anything at the time. He had this alter ego that he goes by, a dark character name Allasin Wunderlynn. I saw this as an opportunity to explore a darker side of my creativity. Being that I am known for my musicality and comedic edge, it was very outside the box. I hadn't experimented with a dark twisted psychological thriller since I was a kid with friends. I was always that kid that gathered everyone and said "Let's make a scary movie". Not me, in my professional career. So I had a really short amount of time to pull it all together. I wrote a script in a day, and within a week had gone through several rewrites. The whole production from script to filming was about 3 weeks which is totally unheard of. The film did however take about 9 months to edit. With the time constraints and limited shots, my edit is almost an entirely different story than that of my script, at least different than how I wanted it to be visually. I did end up pulling together a pretty interesting and fascinating piece in my opinion. A little dark for even my taste, but art nonetheless.

AZ: So this film has obvious references to Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland. How did you manage to warp a story so twisted as it was already, into something even more sinister? Was there a certain format you followed?

VC: It's loosely related to Alice in Wonderland and I wanted to (and had) so much more to reference. I wish I could tell you a format or formula I have to writing my shorts. As a writer I just write until my heart's content. I started to think about what would be elements of the subconscious and I started visualizing a door slowly being opened. The green smoke was heavily inspired by Beetlejuice. Throughout the story he is constantly unlocking different doors in his subconscious. I used the angle of his innocence as a child and how quickly he was molded into this sick twisted man. As a child he was surrounded by a lot of pain, a lot of ugly, murder, and he was weak and vulnerable and susceptible to how that would affect him at a very strong level. The only positive memory he has is of reading the "Alice in Wonderland" book as a kid. With all of the characters and situations that Alice faced as a kid, it would seem that he related and attached to the story so much that it started to create this mental disorder, in conjunction to what he was exposed to. We assume he was probably beaten and tortured and told that it was a form of love. It's a very dark tale, but I feel by the end of it, we don't exactly FEEL for him, but we know that he was not well. Maybe he will find his way home. Either that or he'll forever remain deep in a rabbit hole trying to unlock doors that can't be opened.

AZ: So you said that you were the creepy kid that wanted to make the scary movies with your friends! What were some of your favorite psychological thrillers or scary movies to watch growing up?

VC: I really like *Seven* a LOT. It's not only films that inspire me though, I'm also heavily inspired by video games. Some great ones are *Silent Hill* (I've played almost every one) and *Heavy Rain* which is a beautiful story about an origami killer who has a problem very similar to Allasin. He has moments of black outs where he doesn't remember things. Horror films that I loved growing up are *Scream*, which also inspired the cover of my film, and *Memento* is a good one that comes to mind.

AZ: What do you prefer more - Slasher flicks with gore or psychological thrillers? And why?

VC: Psychological thrillers by far. I hate blood...ugh! Not to mention there's one shot in my film of a cow being slaughtered and I thought to myself, "Do I really want this in my film?" I may make an edit without it down the road, but at the time I felt like we needed to see how severe he's been twisted. That's the only gory shot throughout my whole film though, but it's pretty much the only shot that keeps me from wanting to share it with people. That and the fact that I think it was purely experimental and not my regular cup of tea. I'm working on something awesome right now, so I don't want to be known for something that was experimental at this time. The thing I love about psychological thrillers is, I like being on the edge. It's really the mystery of the situation and finding out what is really the cause that intrigues me more than the disturbing shit that is carrying us through the story. That's really all just fluff and gander! The true meat and potatoes comes when we figure out WHY.

AZ: What was your favorite moment when shooting the film?

VC: My favorite moment shooting the film, and my god this was the poor guy's least, was having Marc Hudson there the whole time, making me laugh through the stress. He honestly made the whole film with like 3 lights. I DON'T KNOW HOW HE SURVIVED THOUGH! He was also working 12 hour days on another film and then 12 hour nights on mine. He went 3 straight days with no sleep, but the energy he brought to the set was one that I could never do without. He's very cheery, very patient, and very pleasant to be around. Also I can't go without addressing the fact that all of the talents and artists working on the film did this purely out of the love of the art and believing in me. Having these people there with me through it and just being so patient and cooperative was a blessing and I loved the work that went into making something for practically zero dollars and 3 whole days. Labor of love.

AZ: What was the most challenging thing about working on the film?

VC: The length of the script, the having no money, and the time we had to do it...But I made it work! When you have a vision and a deadline, it's amazing the things we can accomplish when we really dedicate ourselves to our craft. Finally I would say the talent not having a lot of time to really study their roles was their challenge and after it was all shot, taking what I was able to get and molding it in a way that still fit what I was trying to do, was really challenging. I literally had to walk away from it for about 6 months before I got the internal motivation to just get in there and tackle it, and that I did!

AZ: Let's talk about the eerie soundtrack to *All a Sin*! Who composed the music and what was the process like for that?

VC: I did about 30 percent of the music. There is a lot of original scoring that I did myself and the rest was all through the sound library on Vimeo which was credited at the end of the film. They were songs that artists allow to be used in films. I also did all of my own ADR and sound effects recording, I do all my own in general. I had the song kind of in my head before I even shot the film. I mess around on the keyboard and saw how different instruments affected me. Instruments may sound really present up in a high octave and then you play it in a bass note and it'll send a chill up your spine. I opted for those types of feelings. I would hit record in protocols and just play and play and play, and then go in and see what worked and then elaborate on it and add other things to it. I could spend hours doing keyboard and music work! I'm now writing original songs for my newest project, *Swaggy*, so it's just another love of mine.

AZ: Fear is our main theme of this issue. What are you most scared of? Have you ever conquered that fear?

VC: I went on my first upside down roller coaster 3 years ago. That was something I swore I'd go my whole life without doing, but I'm happy I did it, it was pretty fun. However, I'm still not crazy about roller coasters. I just think of *Final Destination* (LOL), but no... aside from that, I don't like them... in general. Sorry world. Oh also I don't know if this is really a fear, but I can't go near the ledges of buildings or railings up on a 3rd or 4th floor or higher in a building. I HATE heights and I hate railings. I almost passed out and threw up at the Las Vegas Eiffel tower.

AZ: What do you hope people take away from this movie after watching it?

VC: I hope people don't think I'm a sick and twisted freak! I'm just an artist! I do plan on doing some horror in the future and having some twisted themes but this by far was probably the extent. Who knows, maybe I'll do something more, the future will tell. I'm now focused on musicality and spirituality. I have the urge to start doing visual poetry, just visual interpretation to poetry with beats. I want to have political messages and things that raise awareness.

AZ: That all sounds great! Well thank you so much for talking with us today!

VC: Thanks for having me!



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Interview with Actor

STEPHEN MACHT

By Justina Carubia

*You may know him from the cult classic **Monster Squad**, or Stephen King's film adaption of **Graveyard Shift**. Stephen Macht has graced many television and movie screens throughout his impressive Hollywood acting career which has spanned over four decades, but in our interview with him today, he tells us about the things that keep him humble, and his first love: **The Stage**. Not only is he an actor, he is a teacher, a storyteller, a father, a husband, a Jewish chaplain, and a very down to earth guy who just wants to do what he can to help out fellow mankind, and kill a few monsters along the way!!*

AZ: Thank you so much for chatting with us today, Stephen! As an actor, you really have done it all!! You've done theater, daytime soap operas & television, and even major motion picture films. Which medium is your favorite to work in, and why?

SM: I think the favorite for me was always the stage. I was a stage actor to begin with, all through college, graduate school, and even in New York. I did off Broadway and Broadway, and it was my stage work that got the attention of a young Canadian director who brought me up to Stratford Ontario Shakespeare Festival in Canada of 1975. It was off that stage playing John Proctor, that the Universal movie and television scouts saw me and signed me to a deal. So I really love stage work because for me, it is more of an immediate and real experience and I love the implicit feedback that you're getting moment by moment when you're up there, whether it's from the other actors or from the audience. I haven't done stage work in a while but I would love to play King Lear before I hang it up. I'm in the perfect age range to play that role at this point in my life.

AZ: Your bio is most fascinating! Not many people may realize this, but you are one of the most educated American actors of our time and you also were a teacher, not to mention you are a family man. How did you manage balancing your day job along with pursuing your acting career and still being able to be around for your family? Did that get difficult?

SM: I had been a teacher at Queens College, I was a tenured associate professor with a PhD in Dramatic Literature and I was acting in and around my classes. I taught from 8 to 10 in the morning in Queens and hustled into the city. I had two or three jobs starting with two lines in a Broadway show called *Vivat! Vivat Regina!* playing fifteen walk parts and two or three lines at the end of the show. I graduated to a take over role in *When You Comin' Back Red Ryder* which was an off Broadway production that got the attention of the Stratford director. I went up to Stratford, played those roles and I was scouted right off that stage. I took a leave of absence from Queens college and moved with my family to California in

1976. The only time I left my family throughout my career was when I would do Broadway tryouts, or when I'm on a job shooting movies all over the world. I have somehow managed to maintain a sane family life. I celebrated my 50th wedding anniversary two weeks ago with my wife!

AZ: Congratulations!! Many actors these days seem to put their education on hold to pursue their dreams of acting. You have successfully achieved both! How do you think your extensive education has prepared you for your professional career as an actor and what advice do you have for upcoming actors who are thinking of leaving their education to pursue their dreams in such a challenging career?

SM: Well there are two things. The major thing that I benefitted from out of all the education that I took, is I learned how to REALLY read scripts, whether it was a tragedy, comedy, melodrama, etc. I know what's going on in a script; I know how they're built, how they're developed. So that any role that I get, I run it over an implicit knowledge of what is the beginning, middle, and end, and how does my character participate in creating that. The other thing I learned, once I understand that, was how to get out of my head. Milton Katselas, a great acting teacher and professional who is no longer with us, taught me and every actor who studied with him, "No matter what you do, you have to run that script over your own internal lense. If you were that person, what would you do in that situation?" You must imagine yourself into that. He use to say, "If you were offered the role of King Lear to tour in the Aborigines Provinces of Australia, would you take it, or not? And if you can't answer that question about why you are doing that role, then stay in bed and don't go!" So he was saying that if you can't answer that specific question moment by moment by moment, in any script you take, then don't even bother being an actor. So it is important to learn what is going on in a script, moment by moment, and then how I would be as that character in that script, personally. So those are the two elements, and if you can't answer those questions for yourself, then you have to think, do you need more education as an actor, whether you're

male or female? Or do you need some other play study? That's not to say that there are not actors out there who haven't had any training at all, and just do it instinctively. But this is just my advice to young people: Get that training and learn to form those techniques where you're not just speaking lines.

AZ: Now one of your roles that got you noticed was when you played John Proctor in a theater production of *The Crucible* at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival in Canada in the 70s. *The Salem Witch Trials* is undoubtedly one of my favorite topics to talk about! Did you do a lot of research to prep for your role in the production and have you ever been to Salem, Mass.?

SM: I have never been to Salem, Massachusetts but Arthur Miller was a favorite writer of mine and I knew him personally. I was going to do a play of his, off Broadway when I was in the city from 1970-75. For some reason or another, it never panned out and I knew his agent, so that's the time that I got the Proctor role. I knew a lot about the period and I knew what a tragedy meant. For a specific example, Proctor was a liar about his sexual relationships with Abigail and he made this mistake in his life which he never really owned up to. But ultimately Proctor was a truth teller amongst a lot of hypocrites, and he tells it how he sees it. I personalized this role for myself and gauged my whole performance on the fact that I was a Jew amongst Christians, and that they hated me for being Jewish. I had never had an affair outside of my marriage, so I told the truth more symbolically substituting the affair aspect with who I was religiously. I was an alien amongst this group and I finally stood up and told them the truth. Proctor has a line at the end of the play. He says, "How can I sign my name and teach my children to stand upright in the wind.", and he tears up his confession. He says, "I know I am not good, but I will not stand accused of Satanism.", which is what they wanted him to do. He confesses that knew he made a mistake in his life, but he stands up for the purity in who he really is. So there is an example of me knowing when the reversal comes as an actor and I personally contribute to that. And that is the performance that got me the contract with Universal. I remember that Arthur Miller's agent was in the opening night audience and she wrote me a note. I went to breakfast with her and she told me, "I helped Arthur Miller develop this, and I've seen every actor on Broadway play this, and you are by far the strongest, most handsome Proctor that has lived up to this point." And that was quite a compliment for me. I even got a note from Arthur Miller that read, "My agent said you're good, I'm trying to get up there". He never made it up unfortunately, but at least I got to fulfill my dream of playing an Arthur Miller character.

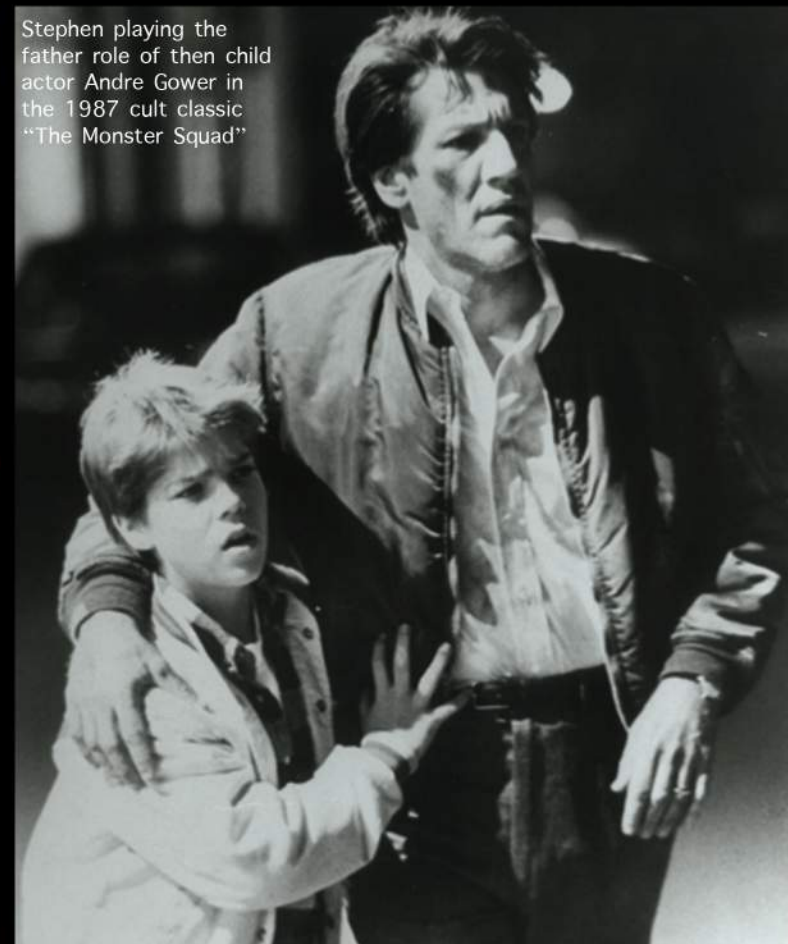
AZ: Let's talk about *Monster Squad*! This is one of my favorite cult classics of all time; I watched it obsessively growing up as an 80s kid and I still watch it every single Halloween Season! What was the most memorable thing about working on this film? Was it challenging to work with so many kids as well as monsters, on set!?!?

SM: It wasn't challenging, it was just FUN! We did it around Halloween and I remember my son Jesse, who is now 31 years old, was 4 years old at the time. My favorite moment in that film was when I'm fighting Wolfman. He starts belting me around and my kid comes in and distracts him and I put a stick of dynamite in his pants and say, "Suck on this, you son of a bitch!", and I throw him out the window. (Laughs)

He blows up!! So then we went outside, and there was a shot of all of Wolfman's parts coming back together again. My son watched that and he was four years old, and I'll never forget him saying this after he saw that come all together, he said, "Daddy, how'd they do that?" (Laughs) He was mesmerized by how they made Wolfman come back together like that! That was a particularly enjoyable moment for me!

AZ: Can you tell us diehard *Monster Squad* fans, something we may not know about the film, that would surprise us?

SM: Unfortunately when the film was made, the studio put a PG-13 rating on it and as a result, none of the people for whom it was made (8-12 year olds), ever saw it because they couldn't get in the theater to see it. After maybe five years, one of the actors, Andre Gower, went out of his way, working tirelessly to try to bring that movie back. Until about 5 years ago, when we had our 25th reunion, they finally rereleased it on Blu-Ray.



Stephen playing the father role of then child actor Andre Gower in the 1987 cult classic "The Monster Squad"

AZ: How do you think the Horror Film genre has changed throughout the years, and how do you think today's horror films compare or differ from the horror films of the 70s, 80s, or 90s?

SM: What's wonderful about *Monster Squad* is that it came from a particular period of Horror films. That film is about young people fighting off the evil in the world. And it was sort of an imaginary victory. It came from a more naive time. For example, the last time I signed autographs, a kid who couldn't have been more than 7 years old, came up to my table wearing a Jason mask, and asked me for an autograph. Afterward we had a colloquium where they asked me, "Could you ever make that movie again?" and I said ABSOLUTELY NOT. They said, "Why not?" I said,

"Because the young people now want to BE the monsters." The kid was wearing a Jason mask, young kids see that as part of being heroes. I said, "We're in another time... the kids in my film were FIGHTING the bad guys". There's a big difference in that. Now, what we're beginning to realize is, WE ARE the monsters that we have created in ourselves. Now you have shows like *Dexter* and *Breaking Bad* where those main characters are their own enemies. So it's not just black and white anymore.

AZ: So what is your favorite monster of all time?

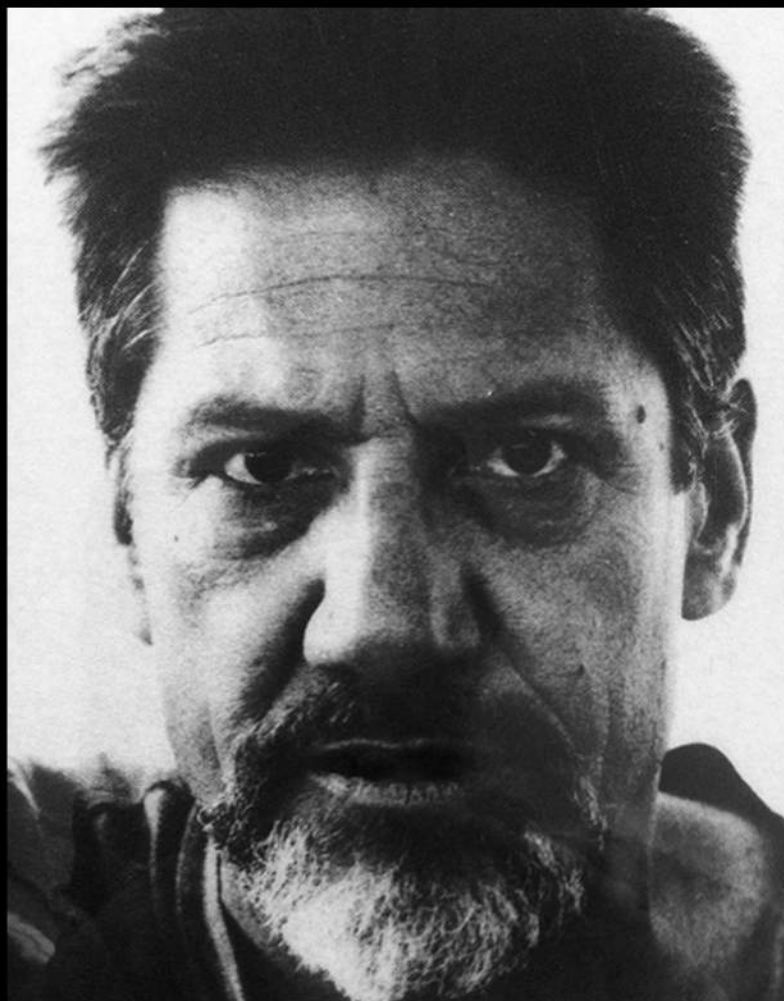
SM: Well, when I was being raised in the 40s and 50s, I enjoyed movies like *The Thing*, or even the Freddie movies later on. I got a chance ultimately to play in a way, my own monster in *Amityville 1992: It's About Time*. I bring a clock back to the family and it takes over, and that showed the transition that said the monsters in life, are not only those who are outside, but there's something inside of us that gets unleashed so that whether it be jealousy or some mistake that we make that has to do with our own egos, overpower who we are. Something that says, if that's unleashed, you can become a monster. By the end of that movie, I'm trying to kill everything in that house.

AZ: It looks like you often make appearances at horror expos! Can you tell us a little bit about your experiences with these events?

SM: I go to a lot of horror movie festivals which are a lot of fun, and a lot of the time they are reunions with a lot of the other actors. We always have a lot of fun, and there are always a lot of people who want autographs and memorabilia out of it. So I sign their T-shirt, "Suck on this, you son of a bitch!". Sometimes they come up to me and ask, "Did you know you were making such a classic?" I would tell them honestly, I had no idea; it was pure fun. I was cast as that father because I had done a TV series called *The American Dream* and the producer's wife fell in love with me and she said, "Get that guy as the father for that family", so that's why I got that role.

AZ: In 1990 you got to work on *Graveyard Shift* which was based on a Stephen King novel. How involved was Mr. King in the filmmaking process on that film and what was it like working with such a horror legend like him?

SM: Most of the Stephen King movies, well during the time I was doing them anyway, were shot in Bangor, Maine where he lives. *Graveyard Shift* was shot there as well, so he was around and I only met him once or twice, but there was one wonderful moment that I can remember about him coming to set. There was a moment at the end of the film where this "bat rat" consumes me. I go after it and I say, "We're going to hell together!", and I stab it and it envelopes me in its wings and claws. Well, one of the wonderful things about that was, the production actually paid about \$50,000 for that monster, and it ended up being a total failure. I had to put my hands in the outspread wings and claws, so when it enfolded me, it was actually me enfolding myself (LAUGHS) and its claws were going into my body and I was writhing around and all of that. The director called ACTION and I was doing that, and then somehow it occurred to me, I reached out to bite the "monster" aka my own hand! So I bit it, and in the middle of the take, Stephen King yells out, "LOOK! Warwick bit the monster!" So we had to do another take because we both broke out laughing, heheheh. But it was a lot of fun, that was a down and dirty movie.



AZ: So do you have any new upcoming movies of the horror genre that you might be working on?

SM: I would love to, but I have not done any in awhile. My work now has been confined to television for the most part. I did a role opposite my son Gabriel, who is the star of *Suits* on USA, and there may be more, but we'll see.

AZ: So you seem to really support your children who have also decided to get into the entertainment industry! Tell us a little bit about their projects!

SM: Sure! Gabriel is the actor and now also a director, I have an older son Ari who is a reality television editor and has been for the past 15 years. He has done everything from *Dr. Phil* to *Project Runway*. Then there's my son Jesse who started out as an actor in high school but then became a musician! He was with a band called *Burn Down the Mission* all through college, then 2 or 3 years after it, he went off on his own, got his own band and he just released his second record called *Suitcase Heart*.

You can find his music on www.JesseMachtMusic.com. He writes very beautiful music, but what can I say, I'm his father!

AZ: Our current issue is based on themes of FEAR! What is your biggest fear, and would you ever try overcoming it, if you have not already?

SM: When you talk about fear, it's a great thing. You also catch me right between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, the Jewish New Year and the day of what's called repentance. The biggest fears that we all have as humans are mistakes that we make: ego mistakes, that I'm right, everybody else is wrong, and my chosen way is the best way and the only way. We tend to not listen to other people, and what this period is about for me, is taking an internal look, and when I feel that I

am a much better person to do things better, is when I really in more humble ways, treat people nicely. My biggest fear is that I don't do that and that I just rashly act out from fear that my own personal needs are not being heard or attended to. It takes time, instead of acting rashly, to question, what is it that I really need? And can I be honest about that, instead of getting angry at somebody or accusing somebody else, and taking responsibility for my own needs and to just say to somebody else, "Listen, I need a little respect here...Do you think I'm right or wrong? And can you give me a little attention? And can my needs be met, as well as yours?" And this is the time every year, but really you should do that everyday, to wake up and question yourself. Take a look at your own behavior. It's out of these fears, that horror movies are born. Because it's those people, that have gone way, way beyond acknowledging, and based on their own fears they start to commit gruesome acts. I mean look at Dexter, he's a murderer! I don't care if he's murdering people who are worse than he is, HE'S STILL A MURDERER! I mean, Tony Soprano finally gets told off by his psychiatrist. She says, "I can't talk to you anymore, you're a psychopath and you're only bullshitting me by trying to look at all your mistakes. You don't wanna look at em, we've done it over and over and over again. So get out of my office." So again, the actor has to personalize and realize what your fears are and then capitalize on that. We are always looking to blame somebody else for what we do not get or achieve. In many ways it has nothing to do with anyone else, and everything to do with YOU.

AZ: So do you have any advice for our readers on how to overcome their own personal fears?

SM: Yea, to really day by day, take a look at everything you've done. And also set up a meditation practice that you can do each night, where you go over all of your interactions over the past day. Take a look at where you think your needs were not met. Examine it. Think about it. Think about the hurt, or why it happened, and think about whether you were the cause of it or not. And then go back to the person and say, "Lemme just get things straight, can we go over the facts?" The very act of having to come into contact with another person in dialogue is a partial way of resolving dispute. But if you don't, you won't challenge yourself, and that's not taking responsibility in the matter. So a daily meditative practice is crucial, and then you must go take action. Also ask for forgiveness from that other person, or at least go over and take a look at the problem together. I still don't do it all the time myself, but now I am able to catch myself more regularly when I do it.

AZ: That is excellent advice! Have you ever had any supernatural experiences? Do you believe in the paranormal?

SM: Oh Absolutely! I had one experience where I was playing a Blackfoot Indian Warrior Chief, in a movie opposite Charlton Heston called *The Mountain Men*. There comes a moment in that film, where I had captured him because he took my wife from me. I spend the whole film getting back at him, then I capture him and I give him the traditional chance to run for his life.

I was a much younger man at that time, I had done the movie in the 1980s, so I was around 38 years old or so. Anyway, there comes a moment in the film where I let him go, and my indians run after him. There's a shot where I'm pawing at the earth and I'm looking at a little running creek. So the director says, "Ok, all I want you to do is spend about 30 seconds looking at this river, then your Brave is gonna come back and stand at your feet. Look up at him and he'll say, 'He got away...!', then get up and kick him, and then run off.... ". They called action, and I'm looking at the river, and I'm looking at my reflection in the river. All of the sudden, I am not looking at my reflection in the river, I was IN the river looking back at ME, pawing at the grass. So I'm saying to myself, "Why are you always so upset? Why don't you get in here with me? GET IN THE RIVER WITH ME. And just let it go. Stop worrying about so much stuff. What are you so upset about?" And then I hear, "OK, CUT!", and the director says, "What the hell's the matter with you, didn't you see your Brave, standing right next to you!?" I came back to myself and said, "Forgive me! Let's do it over again." And we did another take, but for that moment, I was not there. I was totally out of body, in the river. So I had to reflect about that. That happened 34 years ago. At the time, there were a lot of unresolved issues in my life, and finally life was telling me, "Flow With the River". Understand the impediments that get you so frustrated so that you can't just flow along with life and enjoy it. What is it about YOU, that gets you so upset all the time? Take a look. That's what it was telling me. And so I have been flowing more with the river, as it told me.

AZ: That's a crazy story! So Do you have any events coming up?

SM: When I am not acting, I am an ordained Jewish chaplain, and I have been marrying people, baby naming people, doing bar and bat mitzvahs, and I am the celebrant at funerals as well. I do that independently as well, so if you know anybody who wants to get married, let me know! They also don't even have to be Jewish. I really feel honored to be able to do those other events and bless other people where it's not really about me. You get to realize the humanity and the greatness of the human being. So I am finding another role that I can do day by day which is this chaplain role, and celebrate all of the life cycle moments.

AZ: That's very interesting and very different from your role in the entertainment industry! How did you actually get into that?

SM: I started studying maybe 12 years ago. It all happened over an event where I got into a car accident with my wife and we almost got killed by an 18 wheeler, but we survived. When I woke up, I thought, you know, it's time to really think about what's important. How can I help other people directly? So I started studying in my own tradition, and I found out many things about my life. I graduated two years ago with a Master of Arts in Jewish studies and have been specializing in doing these life cycle events. I have been trying for whatever time has allowed me left, to help other people. I find the most direct way for me, is to celebrate those life cycle moments.

AZ: That is an amazing story, and seems extremely life changing! Thank you SO much for taking the time to talk to me today! It has been such a joy to get to know more about you and your experiences in life and your work. I appreciate you being a part of "Abra-zine!", very much!

SM: Take care, I'm glad to talk to you as well!



WWW.STEPHENMACHT.ORG

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Middle of the NIGHT

An Interview With David Scheinbaum



LA native, David Scheinbaum sits down with us today to tell us all about his up and coming slasher flick, "Middle of the Night", in which the cast of a reality TV show find themselves trapped in a house with a psycho killer!

Hi David! Thanks so much for hanging out with "Abra-zine!" today!

AZ: Please tell our readers a little bit about yourself... Where are you from, what do you do?

DS: I was born and raised in Los Angeles. I grew up in the theater. I produced and directed a lot of plays and festivals over the years. About 5 years ago I left the theater to make films.

AZ: When did you first realize that you wanted to be a filmmaker?

DS: I've wanted to make films since I was a little kid. I loved movies growing up. That's all I watched.

AZ: What was the first film you ever made? Looking back on your earlier projects, how do you feel you've grown as a filmmaker?

DS: The first film I made was about 4 years ago. "What Comes Around"...the film was decent, but the continuity was really bad. I learned the hard way, but learned a lot. You learn something every time you film something. I have grown so much as a filmmaker from this film. Making this film was like going to film school. You have to fail a little bit as a director. It's painful, but you really learn.

AZ: Can you tell us a little bit about your latest project "Middle of the Night"? What is it about? Did you write the script as well, or are you solely directing the project?

DS: My new film MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT is my first feature film. I wrote, produced and directed the film. It's about a group of young guys and girls that are cast on a new reality TV show called WEST HILLS. They move into a house in the hills for 30 days to film the show. On the first night they are stalked by a killer that once used the home as a murder house. Awful things start happening to the cast members as the night progresses. I always wanted to turn a comedy into a horrible tragedy. It works. The first hour of the film is pretty funny and the 3rd act of the film just rips the audience to pieces. There's a big payoff in the last 15 minutes of the film. It's explosive and very scary. It's a modern day Halloween.

AZ: What inspired the story?

DS: I started writing this film in my head while I was living in Austin, Texas. I think about things for awhile before I sit and write. When I returned to LA 2 years ago, I wrote the script in a week. I kind of just came up with this story about a reality TV show filming in a haunted house. I'm not a fan of reality TV shows, but I watched some to do some research. I watched some of Jersey Shore and I had to turn it off because I couldn't stand it. Such dysfunctional people! I watched some of The Real World too. I had to turn it off after 20 minutes. Same dysfunctional people. I was laughing a bit. The producers of some of these reality shows know exactly what they're doing. They cast a bunch of attractive guys and girls and they put them in a house filled with booze because they know it's only a matter of time before the sparks fly.

(continued) That's why the film is so funny. You can totally relate to these characters. They move into a house, they get really drunk on the first night, and some of them start hooking up and some even start fighting. There's some really funny moments in the first 2 acts of the film.

AZ: Tell us a little bit about your awesome cast & crew! How was it working with them, and what was the funniest moment on set? the scariest? the most memorable?

DS: My cast was great. They worked really hard. I had to replace a few actors and crew members due to schedule issues when we first started filming and that was tough. The crew I ended up with was great. My post production crew is the dream team. Everybody was really patient with me. The funniest moment on the set wasn't funny for me. I fell in the pool while we were filming a scene. I was backing up and slipped. The look on everyone's face was priceless. The scariest thing that happened on set was when somebody clogged a toilet. It ruined the plumbing system for the night. None of us could use the bathrooms. The girls were not happy. The most memorable moment was when we filmed a flashback scene that happens in the film. The killer has a bunch of girls in a basement killing them. We turned the living room into a torture chamber. I cast about 10 girls for the scene and they did such a great job! We had a lot of fun that night.

AZ: What do you love the most about working in the horror genre? What do you like least?

DS: I love working in the horror genre because they're fun to make. This is my first horror film, but I have 2 sequels written for MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT and 2 more in the works. We think we have a franchise here. There's nothing that I really dislike about the genre. The horror film market is really hot right now. It's fun to be a part of it.

AZ: Where do you take most of your inspiration from? Who are your favorite horror directors? What were some of your favorite horror flicks growing up?

DS: My inspiration comes from a lot of people. My favorite directors are Stanley Kubrick, Quentin Tarantino, Martin Scorsese, Sam Mendes and Robert Altman. My favorite horror film directors are Wes Craven and John Carpenter. They made some of my favorite horror films growing up. Some of my favorite horror films are *Halloween*, *A Nightmare on Elm Street*, *Hell Night*, *Friday the 13th* and *The Shining* is by far my favorite horror film directed by the genius Stanley Kubrick. But my mentor is action film director Andrew Davis, who directed *The Fugitive*. His sister was like a mother to me growing up. Andy was always really good to me and let me work on 3 of his films. I never knew what a steadicam was until I worked for Andy. Everything I know about making films is what I learned from Andy. I sat next to him mostly on set helping him with video playback. He's an action director. Always lots of cameras and video monitors on his set. He was my film school.



AZ: Wow! That's so amazing that you grew up surrounded by such greatly talented people! Being that you are a director of Horror Flicks, I am going to guess that you love Halloween...Am I right? What was your best Halloween costume growing up? What was your worst?

DS: I loved Halloween when I was a kid! I always had cool costumes. I was Dracula a few times. I grew up in a very safe neighborhood. Kids had it good where I came from. Halloween in my neighborhood was always a blast!

AZ: Our Fall Issue is based around themes of FEAR! What are YOU most afraid of? Have you ever conquered your fear? If not, do you think you ever will get the urge to try to?

DS: I have a big fear of heights. I can't be on top of a building. It's something that I don't think I'll ever conquer and I don't think I'll ever try.. Heights just freak me out.

AZ: When will "Middle of the Night" be released? Are there any premiere dates that we can let our readers know about? And if so, where will that be held?

DS: The film will make its world premiere at Long Beach Comic-Con at the end of September. The film should be released shortly after that.

AZ: Comicon! That's SO cool, what an achievement! Do you have any plans for a DVD or internet release, and when and where can our readers expect to find that as well?

DS: We have a lot of distributors already interested in buying the film. It really depends on who we sell it to. People will eventually be able to buy the film on Amazon, Target or Walmart. We have international distributors interested as well. I'm sure it will play in a few theaters too.

AZ: What do you hope your audience takes away with them after watching the film?

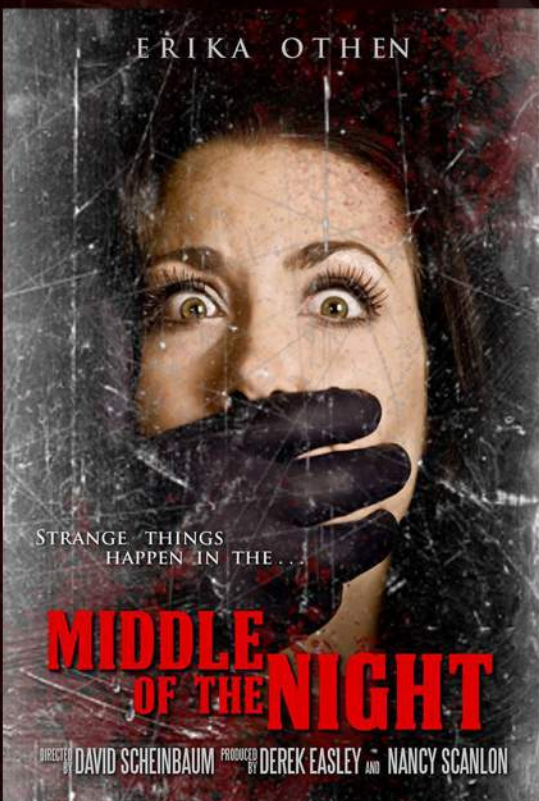
DS: I hope the audience walks away like they've just seen the best rock concert ever! When we premiere the film at Comic-con in a packed theater full of horror fans, they have another thing coming. The director's cut of the film has an amazing soundtrack. I can screen my cut there and at most festivals. It's going to be riot. I'm not going to sit in the audience and watch the film. I'm going to sit quietly in the back of the theater and just watch the audience.

AZ: What are your goals for the film? Are you planning to enter any festivals, or trying to get it to the big screen, etc.?

DS: I want to get the best distribution deal as possible. I want it to play in theaters all over the world. I want it on blue-ray DVD. I want it online for people to view. I hope for the best. It's hard to tell where a film will go. Some do great, but a lot go nowhere. We're very optimistic that we'll get good deals.

AZ: WOW!! Well this all sounds amazing! On behalf of all of Abra-zine's readers and supporters, we wish you the BEST OF LUCK!! Thank you so much for chatting with us today David!!

DS: Thank you for interviewing me. It was a pleasure!



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Fall Fashion Season Around The World



By Darius Conway

As the Fall comes into our lives, so does the nice look of one's individual Fall fashion. It is the time and season to put the bright pastels and neon colors aside to rest until next Spring, and pull out the muted balance of colors for the fresh Fall season. This season is diverse all around the world-- A diversity that partially makes us who we are.

The world is full of diversity in language, culture, food, and even in our very own unique fashion sense and style. In India the fashions are usually culturally influenced with drapery of fabrics and jewels-- A representation of a person on the go and a balance of "less is more". It's all about mixing prints and fabrics of silks and satins to create a status of position and comfort.

Eastern based countries love a sense of relying on comfort more so. If it's a cold and breezy Fall, be prepared to see someone in layers of some sort: A classy trench coat or maybe a pair of tights under a pencil skirt. It's usually the color palette that brings Fall into full spectrum. No matter where one is in the world, Fall is here in our lives, enveloping all of our senses! It's in the sights we see, the things we touch, smell, and feel in our hearts, not to mention the things we wear. Fall can influence so much in one's life through the things one wears. So, no matter if you are in Japan, Milan, New York City, Brazil, or even in India, remember-- It's Fall! So embrace your fashion style in whatever way that is best for you!

Happy Fall Fashion Season!



Darius Conway studied Fashion at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah Georgia. He is currently working on his own Fall Collection for his line "Darius" by Darius Conway. See more of Darius's clothing designs and fashion sketches on his Instagram!

Fashion Sketch
By Darius Conway

The World

Samantha's Fall Fashions

P 11 year old Samantha Diaz loves to pass her time expressing herself through the fun fashion app "Polyvore". Today she shares with us, some of her favorite looks for this Fall season!

As we fall into Fall...

Click on any collection to visit on Polyvore!

This look is perfect for September, the month that overlaps the seasons, when the sun still beats hot like summer at noon, but the Autumn air is crisp and breezy at dusk and dawn. In Fall, it's all about the layers!

This eccentric look lets you unleash your quirky side this Fall! Sip some cider in style with this sweatshirt paired with patterned leggings and some clunky heeled platform boots! The leopard gold clutch adds a nice scary touch!



Pumpkin picking never looked so cute, in this sleeveless chiffon dress layered with a sleeveless denim vest. Shield the sun in those pumpkin fields with a safari fedora, and keep those ticks off your ankles with some leather laceup boots! Accessorize with a cute phone case and an earthy brown leather satchel, ideal for holding those little baby pumpkins!



POLO THE FUR KING IS FEARLESS AND HE TELLS US WHY YOU SHOULD BE TOO...



Polo The Fur King
Graffiti Piece in
Trenton, NJ
By Willie Kasso

Polo, also known as "The Fur King" is a trend-setting, self-made entrepreneur who single handedly built 3 companies from the ground up. He is the CEO/Founder of Exclusive Fashion and Furs, Dessaline's Clothing, and Team Randolph Clothing (east coast division). He also has his own magazine, Bosses That Meet Bosses which features budding talent from all over the world, and has dressed numerous celebrities to date, including Metro-City who opened for Keyshia Cole, Rapper/Actor Ice-T, his lovely wife Coco, Nicole Lyons, Melina Hayes, and Vinicius Machado from Starz Network's new hit series POWER.

AZ: Hi Polo, Thank you for being with us today! First tell us why they call you Polo "The Fur King"!

PTFK: It actually started when I was a little kid. My mother bought me a 3 button Polo shirt. Even though I was only in the fourth grade, I knew it felt good on my body. I told my mother how much I loved the shirt and that's all I wore. Even until now I've worn so much of it that people started to call me Polo. And I am The Fur King because I work with furs in my fashions.

AZ: Can you give our readers a little bit of background behind the work that you do? When did you start fashion designing and what inspired you to go that route as a career?

PTFK: It all started on the city streets and also seeing my father wearing his suits etc. As I was growing up and hanging out, watching people, studying the way they put their outfits together, and observing different styles became extremely intriguing to me. Quite a few of my friends, as well as others who knew me would come to me and tell me that I had a real eye for fashion and that I should get into it. They made sure to tell me that I better make clothes for everyone and not only myself. So in 1998, I decided to go full speed ahead. And here we are 16 years later, still in the game of custom designing fashion for the masses.

AZ: In your seemingly blooming career, you have dressed many celebrities so far! Who was the very first celebrity that you dressed, and how did you get that first big break?

PTFK: I won't say they were huge celebs at the time, but they were definitely on their way to becoming some of the biggest R&B singers. The group was called Metro City. They already had a deal with Universal Records, and at the time they were on tour with Keyshia Cole, as well as on her television show. My company, Exclusive Fashion and Furs, was asked to do the styling for the group. It ended up being their biggest performance ever, and the rest is history.

AZ: Aside from being a wonderful designer, you also run a magazine "Bosses That Meet Bosses"... What made you want to tap into the realm of publication releasing?

PTFK: When I started this magazine I was actually in a hospital bed suffering with asthma. I called up my graphic designer and said, "Hey let's start a magazine!" He immediately agreed. I've always told myself that one day when I become popular or in a place of power, I would help people. Whether it was giving them money, or feeding them, or just something I could do for people because that's what I love to do. When I got into the magazine world, it was the same thing. I just wanted to see people win. But I also knew that I couldn't help everybody, but the plan was to help the indie or the underground entrepreneur get into our publication because I knew that they might not have the opportunity to get into the bigger publications. So BTMB Magazine had to reconstruct the magazine because in the beginning it was myself, along with my creative graphic designer David G. Duke. David and I knew for this magazine to work and grow, we needed just a little more guidance. That's when I brought in the incredible Sha-Lu Lewis as editor in chief and Danaya Azure as a writer/interviewer. Since then the magazine has grown by leaps and bounds.

AZ: You seem to have a lot of help with everything and have things running like a well oiled machine! Who are all of your wonderful staff behind the scenes that help you out with everything?

PTFK: Good question. Well the truth is, I own 5 companies, and honestly speaking I only get help with one of them and that is Bosses That Meet Bosses Magazine.

(continued) My clothing line and my clothing companies I run all by my self. I do all the phone calls, all the ordering, all the designing, all the pick ups, all the running around, and I pick out all the fabrics. But if I do ever need help I can always call on my partner Sha-Lu Lewis because she definitely has no problem holding me down if need it. Even with her being the editor in chief of our magazine, she also is the face and model behind another clothing line I have called Land Monster Clothing, so it's a beautiful thing that I can call on her if necessary. I also have partnerships with other people, like my good friend Milton Saul, who has clothing line called I Am Me Clothing. His brand represents awareness, and I believe in the cause. So when I was asked to get involved, of course I obliged. These are the kinds of things that have made me successful.

AZ: Please give us a little background info on the mural that was painted in your honor! Who painted it, and where is it located? Also what inspired them to do this mural of you?

PTFK: What an honor! Wow! I am still amazed about the mural as well. The person that painted it is Willie Kasso it is located in Trenton, NJ. He was inspired by a front cover of a magazine I was on out of Houston, Texas. He saw the cover and felt well he might not quite know who I am, but if you are making front covers of magazines you must be somebody. He asked me how I would feel if he did a mural, and of course I was flabbergasted.

AZ: Can you tell us a little bit about "Fear"... what role did fear play in you going for your dreams? Did you have any fears when you started out, and if so, how did you overcome those fears to be as successful as you have been in your industry?

PTFK: Honestly I had no fear because I never had a dream about being a fashion designer. This was so far from my mind it's not even funny. The reason why it's so funny is because on any given day, I don't look like I'm into fashion, but when you see my clothes, or me wearing my clothes, or red carpets events, it's like oh this man is about his business. On a regular day I don't look like much, so there was nothing to be fearful about. But as far as people not wanting to see me succeed, ok well that's a different story. But for those kinds of people, it's very simple, all you have to do is keep going. Stay focused. Never let those kinds of people know what you are doing, and while they are praying on your downfall, you are just quietly passing them by. They will look up and see all your success on TV, on radio, or publications like yours, and by that time it will be too late for them to even debate, lol.

AZ: Can you give our readers some words of wisdom on how they can overcome their own fears when pursuing their dreams?

PTFK: Yes, just keep your mind right, your grind tight, and your time right. Remember, even a broken clock is right twice a day, so just stay focused, and always stay ready so that you never have to get ready. Believe in yourself and never ever stop fighting. My father told me one time that it's all about timing. If you are in line at the fast food restaurant, and you get too impatient and get out of line, what happens when you decide to come back to the line? The line just got that much longer because you didn't wait, now you're looking at the person that you were in back of, ordering at that counter. So basically, people just wait your turn, it's coming!

AZ: That is EXCELLENT advice! Thank you so much for talking to us today!
PTFK: Thanks for having me!

[CLICK HERE TO BUY THE LATEST ISSUE OF BTMB MAGAZINE!](#)

[VISIT POLO THE FUR KING'S OFFICIAL WEBSITE!](#)



Actor Vinicius Machado, Star of hit series POWER on Starz Network Wears Polo's fashions on set!



Polo The Fur King Hanging with Ice-T & Coco



Coco posing in Fur King Fashion!



Ice-T rockin some Fur King Fashion!



Madame Grotesque's Creepy Children Gallery





AZ: You must LOVE Halloween! What are you gonna be for Halloween this year?

MG: I absolutely adore Halloween. I'm afraid I dress like Morticia Addams every day. So I'm sorry to say but there will be no change on Halloween! I think I will be busy creating Creepy Children and Ghost Children anyway, seeing as I've stupidly promised myself to bring a new child to life for every day of October.

AZ: Our issue is about Fear. What are you most afraid of? Do you think you will ever try to overcome your fear if you haven't already?

MG: People and overly happy things, such as unicorns, rainbows and the like. The girls' toy section in any shop is an absolute nightmare. I highly doubt that I will overcome those fears, for I will always hate people and I will always hate "cutesie" things.

AZ: What is your favorite creepy that you've ever drawn? And which seems to be the most popular amongst your fans?

MG: I really enjoy creating all of the Creepy Children, so that's a very hard question. There's a lot of frustration and sweat that goes into bringing them to life, so automatically you make this attachment to them before they're even "alive". I think I will have to say it's a tie between "Cleaver Boy" and "The Girl Who Lives Under Water". "Cleaver Boy" was when my work really started to develop, and "The Girl Who Lives Under Water" is very dear to my heart. I adore using blue, and I don't use it very often, since you know...blood is the reoccurring theme. But it has a lot of significant meaning to me, too. There seems to be several favorites amongst supporters; I think "The Girl With Her Skulls" and "The Girl Who Loves Bunnies" are definitely up there in the top 5.

AZ: It looks as though you have jewelry available for purchase as well! Do you create the jewelry pieces yourself as well, or do you have those made specially? What is your jewelry making process like?

MG: I create the jewelry myself, I enjoy doing it but it can be quite time consuming, not to mention more expensive. It's awesome to see my work in jewelry, but for me 3D crafting is nowhere near as expressive as drawing or painting. I'm definitely a traditional 2D artist.

AZ: Thank you so much Paige, for giving our readers a little peek into the mind of a creative genius such as yourself!

MG: Thanks again for the interest! I really appreciate it.

Welcome to Madame Grotesque's Creepy Children Gallery where innocent children have gone terribly mad!! Today we sit down with Paige, the creative creepy genius behind Madame Grotesque, and find out what inspires her to depict once innocent children in such deranged and deadly situations. Also, we'll find out how she handles being compared to macabre legends like Tim Burton, and we learn what separates her from the pack when trying to carve out a style that is all her own!

AZ: Thanks so much for chatting with us today Paige! Tell our readers, how long have you been drawing?

MG: Ever since my stubby sausage fingers were capable of holding a pen.

AZ: Your work is very twisted, but in such a cute and creepy way! What inspired you to draw your very first Creepy character and do you remember what it was?

MG: I'm not 100% what exactly inspired me to create the Creepy Children series. I've always loved Tim Burton's tragic tales. I liked the contrast between innocence and terror, as well as dark humor. Children are universally known as pure and innocent (well, so they'd like us to think anyway) and they're something we can all identify with. But when they're mixed with a slightly sinister twist, like say, holding a meat cleaver, it makes them very creepy. Hence the name, Creepy Children. I do believe "Infatuation Girl" was my very first Creepy Child.

AZ: I am sure you've heard this before, but your work is very reminiscent of Tim Burton! That's a good thing, I love his work! But I understand as an artist, we want to stand out on our own without these silly comparisons. What is it about your work that differentiates you from artists like Mr. Burton?

MG: Yup, hear that all the time. There's two ways you can go, you can take it as a compliment since he's famous and making a lot of money. Or, you can be insulted because you either don't like his work or...insert other reason here. Don't get me wrong, I used to really love his work. Although over the years I feel the style gets a little old and predictable. I prefer his original art work, poetry and concept art over his films by a long shot. But I suppose when someone has a style of their own you should expect their work to be similar right? When it comes to the differences personally I see quite a lot. I like to think that I have more detail in my work, and I'm a little more particular with my line work, whereas he's very free flowing with inks/watercolors. That works for him and no one could ever take his style away from him. I just prefer to be neater because you know... OCD.

AZ: What is your favorite Burton movie?

MG: I think *The Corpse Bride* has to be my favorite. The storyline is more original than that of *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. Not to be a spoiler alert, but compare the plot of *TNBC* And *The Grinch*. Just saying! But the music from *TNBC* is genius.

AZ: What is your most favorite scary movie of all time?

MG: Surprisingly I don't really watch many horrors at all. I'm more a fan of psychological thrillers, I feel like their stories have more spunk than horror. Anything that is sinister and has a good story line, I'm there. Although at the moment I've been more into playing games of that sort. I adore the story for *Murdered: Soul Suspect*. If that was a film that would be my favorite. But I'll go for *Sweeney Todd*, for the music and story aspect.



"The Girl Who Lives Underwater"



RAVENOUS RAVENS



BY LARRY VIENNEAU

As a child, artist Larry Vienneau had a tragic accident which turned his world upside down. However, he took away from it what would eventually become one of his greatest passions in his life, the very rare form of art: Scrimshawing. Today we'll learn a bit more about this unique art form, his personal process of creating and why he is so obsessed with the ever so mysterious raven!

The blackness of a raven is interpreted as the symbol of death and a harbinger of evil. In nature the raven scavenges for food and because of this he represents the most basic of instincts: survival.

It is amazing how actions early in life can create a chain of events that can forever change life's direction. My life has been a series of these events. At sixteen I broke my neck in a diving accident. As awful as the accident was, I did physically recover and that event changed my life. About a month before the accident my mother had bought me a Scrimshaw Kit during a vacation on Nantucket Island, MA. Believe it or not, that little kit did change my life. I had always loved to draw and the scrimshaw was a wonderful distraction during and after my recovery. It also proved to be important later in my career. Through scrimshaw I learned patience, drawing skills, it improved my self esteem, and it would also allow me to pay my way through college. When I was 17 my parents allowed me to spend the summer on Nantucket where I scrimshawed and took commissions. I was one of the youngest persons doing it in the country and my work was featured in a couple books on scrimshaw. I continued the summer on Nantucket all through the remainder of High School and throughout College and sold my scrimshaw work.

After high school, I went to Southeastern Massachusetts University (now U Mass Dartmouth) and received a BFA in painting and I attended Southern Illinois University Carbondale and earned a MFA in Painting/Printmaking. One of my favorite teachers once told me that drawing requires nerve and that a student that failed to draw dark was a coward. "Draw dark!!", she used to say. "If you make a mistake, make a huge one! Drawing takes courage; learn from your successes as well as your failures!!" I am now a drawing teacher. My students soon learn my favorite comment, "Draw Darker!" I love to draw with charcoal and pen and ink. I enjoy pushing the values as dark as they can go. After college, I had the opportunity to move to Alaska for a job opportunity, where I ended up living for a dozen years. My most lasting and powerful memories of the beautiful Alaskan landscape, are of these dark and majestic birds.

The blackness of a Raven is startling, its contrast against the sky or snow is remarkable. I have chosen to work exclusively with black and white in my "Raven Series". Though color could be useful I feel that this natural contrast is vital to my imagery. Like old black and white movies, my prints allow the viewer to use their imagination. Rich bold values can be very powerful and beautiful. Black and white allows the viewer to be more interpretative. I once saw a colorized version of "Casablanca". I was really disappointed because I had envisioned the color very differently.

Etching attracted me very early in my career; I was fascinated by the extremes one could archive with aquatint and mezzotint techniques. Printmakers often comment about the quality of a black before anything else in an etching. In fact, a good dense black is a sign of great technical skill and a printmaker displays it with great pride. So for me the image and traditions of printmaking dictate to me that high contrast black and white are absolutely necessary for my Ravens. Ravens are the most intelligent bird on the planet, the most playful of bird species. They slide down snow banks, apparently for the fun of it. They chase the cars of anyone who struck a member of their flock. They even engage in games with other species, such as playing with wolves and dogs. Ravens are known for stunning acrobatic displays such as flying in loops or interlocking talons with each other in flight. They have complex vocalizations that borders on language. They also use tools and will even spar each other with sticks or leaves.

I often find inspiration from a traditional or historic account of the raven. First I decide on my title. Having a title helps me with the image and mood of the piece. Humor is often important but I also select titles that force the viewer to think more about the imagery. Next I look through references to find the right pose or gesture for the raven or ravens. Then I spend hours doing preliminary sketches, followed by a series of drawings using pencil, traditional gouache (opaque watercolor), ink and charcoal. My next step involves using digital technology. I scan the drawings and rework them with Photoshop. This digital tool allows me to adjust the value of the drawing and I can even move and reorganize the image. I use filters if needed. Next I print the drawing from my computer and continue to draw with the traditional tools. I repeat this process several times so the traditional and new technologies merge seamlessly.



"Raven Vase"
Inspired by Aesop's Fable, THE CROW AND THE PITCHER OF WATER. Etching on Paper, 5 inch by 7 inch 2014.
A thirsty crow found a pitcher half full of water, but when the crow put its beak into the mouth of the pitcher he could not reach far enough down to get a drink. He tried and he tried, but at last had to give up in despair. Then a thought occurred to him; he took a pebble and dropped it into the pitcher. Then he took another pebble and dropped that into the pitcher until at last, he saw the water mount up near him. After adding a few more pebbles he was able to quench his thirst.

[CLICK HERE TO SEE A VIDEO OF AN EXPERIMENT DONE TO SHOW HOW INCREDIBLY SMART THESE CREATURES REALLY ARE!](#)

In 2009 I began working with photopolymer etching plates. In the past an etching involved coating the plate with a petroleum bases sealer then emerging the plate into vat of acid, cleaning with solvents, re-coating, and more acid baths. The process was extremely hazardous to the artist as well as the environment. In 2009 I began working with newly perfected and safe photopolymer etching plates. These are UV light sensitive printing plates, which are exposed in sunlight and processed in tap water!! In the past I would have spent 20-40 hours creating the printing plate. Now I use that time to do my finished drawing. I use my computer and printer to transfer my drawing onto a transparent sheet of plastic. This serves as my negative for the exposure to the sun! I use the photopolymer process to transfer the original drawing to a printing plate from which I can hand print an edition. Finally, I write a narrative. This usually takes me the most time of all!



Larry Vienneau is a Professor of Art at Seminole State College, in Sanford FL. He has exhibited in the USA, Canada, South America, and Hong Kong, Russia and won awards in national and international competitions. His work is in four museum collections, and he has illustrated numerous books on Native American Oral traditions.



"EDGAR GETS AN IDEA"

Etching, 5 inch x 7 inch 2012

Edgar Allen Poe's tragic early life was filled with death, fear and abandonment. By the age of six he refused to go anywhere near a cemetery for fear of evil spirits and ghosts. In "The Raven", Poe explores several topics that are found throughout his career, including the heartbreaking death of a beautiful woman at a young age, and the grief of the young man for his lost love. The motif of the "devil-beast" as the omen of despair and grief, appear in the form of the raven. In "The Raven," the black bird stands as the essence of grief caused by loneliness and separation and the vision of a ghostly presence. Here, Poe struggles to find a symbol for his fear. A large black bird suddenly swoops overhead tossing his hair into disarray. He stops and takes one long look at the raven. Then this ebony bird beguiling his sad fancy into smiling, he suddenly recognizes his new antagonist.



with Larry Timmerman

AZ: I see you have done a piece based on Edgar Allen Poe! I love him! He was quite the creepy dude... I take it you are a fan? What is your favorite work of Poe?
LV: Of course I love "The Raven" but "The Tell-Tale Heart" always got to me as a kid!!

AZ: Poe often uses fear as a backdrop to all of his work, and the Raven seems to be synonymous with themes of the macabre! Our Fall Issue is also based on themes of Fear... What are your biggest fears? Have you ever tried to overcome them, and if not, do you think you ever will?

LV: I have a fear of heights! I had a spinal injury due to my diving accident, so that contributed to that fear. I have learned to live with it but I have never conquered it.

AZ: What is a scrimshaw and how is it used?
LV: I grew up in New England. My hometown is steeped with nautical history and traditions. Scrimshaw was the first truly American art form. It began on the whale ships of New England in the 18th century where whalers would pass the time by etching artwork into bones or teeth of whales or tusks of walrus. This traditional process of scrimshaw survived until the ban of commercial whaling. It now survives as a rare hobby to artisans; my brother is now one of the last Scrimshanders on Nantucket.

AZ: After going through your amazing body of work on your Facebook page, it seems as though many people have stolen your work to use commercially without your permission. That must be so frustrating! How do you deal with such things as an artist, and what measures can other artists out there take to avoid such unfortunate instances like your own?

LV: This is incredibly frustrating. I have found dozens of instances where people have used my artwork for book covers, music event posters, music CDs, webpages, and other abuses. It is infuriating because of the laziness of these people. If they would take a few minutes and did a Google image search they would find the artwork has a copyright and an owner. Most people are very apologetic once they find out that the art has an owner, but others are just nasty. I have used the Digital Millennium Copyright Act many times to remove my artwork from websites. When I first started using the internet to sell my artwork, the websites guaranteed that "The images would remain the intellectual property of the creator". They also promised that a credit tag would be attached to all images. I soon realized that this was not true. I added watermarks to all of my images but those older versions are still out there circulating. The truth is I shouldn't need the watermark, my art is displayed on the sites I use with my name and copyright statement. But once that credit is deleted the image floats nameless. I have a blog which I use to shame people who steal artwork: www.imagepirates.wordpress.com.

AZ: On your FB page, I saw some of your art on book covers and stuff. how did you land those gigs? That is so cool! Please tell us what books those are and where can we find them? Anyway, best of luck to you and your career in art!
LV: I lived in Alaska from 1989-2001. I became friends with John Smelcer, an Alaskan Native writer. We collaborated on many books. Some of the books are out of print but many can be found on John's website, www.johnsmelcer.com.

AZ: What advice do you have for aspiring artists such as yourself?
LV: Well to start, I am an old fart....60.... yup old fart. I aspired to be an artist as a child. Despite having some horrible art teachers as a child and terrible self-confidence, I persisted. I think some young artist expect that fame will find them. If fame is what you want then art is the wrong field of study. I studied art because I loved it. I made lasting friendships in college, I learned from my friends as well as my professors. My advices to aspiring artist- do not give up!! Learn to network, the internet is incredibly useful despite its pitfalls. One of the most important things I learned as a student is to learn from your mistakes, failures are part of the process, let them be a learning experience.

AZ: What are you gonna be for Halloween this year?
LV: I am going to be a Dad. I usually take my daughter (now 13) out to trick-or-treat. Since she is a teenager, I will be there to keep her safe (out of sight - I am now embarrassing to her!)

AZ: Can you answer Lewis Carroll's famous question - Why is a raven like a writing desk?
LV: I have no idea, lol!

Background Art:
"Raven's Call"

Lower Right:
"Inquisition"

First light had not appeared on the horizon. I fumbled though the undergrowth beneath the ravens roost. The sky abruptly exploded with accusations. I stood in awe of the raven's anger. I was not the first to see this fury. Inquisition: An investigation that violates the privacy or rights of individuals. A rigorous, harsh interrogation. A tribunal formerly held in the Roman Catholic Church and directed at the suppression of heresy. Heresy: From the Greek "haireisis", meaning "free choice".



Cover Artist Amine Saade

"Fear"
Acrylic on
Canvas



21 year old artist Amine Saade creates a dark yet emotionally beautiful somber world in acrylic paint in her pieces such as "Fear", which we decided to feature on our front cover this issue. The Miami, Florida born artist who currently resides in Ecuador, captures the raw emotion behind the feeling of fear in the most simple way. We don't see the figure's face, as she covers it with her hands as if to shield herself away from the world. Many of us who don't dare to venture into the realm of conquering our fears, often hide away, not allowing the world to see us for who we really are. Her piece below titled "Silence" is equally chilling and somber, as if to say that when we are living in fear, we are not truly being heard. As human beings we need to SPEAK UP! We can only overcome fear when we put our own inner voice into motion, not only listening to it, but acting upon it as well.

"This piece means a lot to me; it's what I feel most of the time. It's a feeling that I want to overcome. Another name for this piece would be "Nightmares" or "Anxiety". I want to get over my fears and anxiety, but it's a hard thing to do. I feel stuck in my own mind, in my own prison of fears and nightmares. Most of them are imaginary and illogical, but feel very real to me. The ones that are closest to reality are possibly the hardest ones for me to personally get over."



Fear is an emotion induced by a perceived threat which causes entities to quickly pull far away from it and usually hide. It is a basic survival mechanism occurring in response to a specific stimulus which is perceived as a risk of significant loss of health, wealth, status, power, security or of anything held valuable. In short, fear is a motivating force arising from the ability to recognize danger leading to an urge to confront it or flee from it (also known as the fight or-flight response) but in extreme cases of fear (horror and terror) a freeze or paralysis response is possible. It is worth noting that fear almost always relates to future events, such as worsening of a situation, or continuation of a situation that is unacceptable. Fear can also be an instant reaction to something presently happening. All people have an instinctual response to potential danger, which is in fact important to the survival of all species. The reactions elicited from fear are seen through advantages in evolution. Fear can be a manipulating and controlling factor in an individual's life.

"Silence"
Acrylic
on Canvas



The Disturbingly Macabre Art of



Blackbird Motel

"Black-eyed Susans"
Mixed Media
on Board



By Karen A. Carter

Spartanburg, SC native Karen A. Carter has been fascinated by mortality since the tender age of six when she witnessed a very traumatizing gruesome event. Today, she tells Abra-zine! her story, and explains why she's so fascinated with depicting such macabre scenery in her beautifully dark paintings.

I have been drawn to death as far back as childhood when I saw the body of a man brutally murdered on the sidewalk in my hometown of Spartanburg, SC. Spartanburg is right up there with New York City and Chicago where violent crime is concerned. I don't know who the man was or anything about him other than his death. He was stabbed in the back. The knife used to kill him was still in his back as he lay face-down in a pool of his own blood. People were just standing around looking like it was a carnival exhibit. I must have been six or seven at the time. After that, I was haunted by nightmares and night terrors. The strange thing is, that the older I grow, the less I fear death. In fact, sometimes it seems very peaceful and comforting to me.

I went to art school at SCAD (Savannah College of Art and Design) in Savannah, Georgia where there are two magnificent old cemeteries with elaborate monuments and sculptures. These have been very inspirational in my work as have Victorian post-mortem photography. Photography was a new and magical media at that time, requiring light to capture the image and darkness to transform it. It was the Victorians who romanticized death with their Books of the Death, death masks, and weavings of human hair. Those photographs are hauntingly beautiful, especially those where the body is laid out in the parlor surrounded by flowers and houseplants. They speak volumes about the Victorians and their religious convictions. To them, death was a transcendental state from one realm into another. In the 20th century, people became more nihilistic, lost much of their religious faith, making death something too awful to think about. It had to be sanitized by mortuaries, removing the body from the home to be embalmed or cremated. Much of my work is about death as a mystic experience, not necessarily oblivion and nothingness. Other pieces are about the fear of death and the nightmares it brings.

The thing I fear most is psychosis. My mentally ill grandmother lives in a nightmare world of demons and evil beings who constantly torment her. She can no longer tell the difference between waking life and dreaming. To live with that much fear and no escape from it is truly hell and she is trapped there. I think if she had been able to bring her dark side out into the light as I have, she might not be where she is now.

REAL LIFE STORIES

...OF THE DEARLY DEPARTED



“Shadow of Death”
by Blackbird Motel Art

"THE BOY AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STAIRS"

By John Black
White Plains, New York, USA

In the summer of 2004, my mother and I were living in a duplex apartment in an old Victorian house that had been converted into a series of offices and apartments. Most of the time we lived there was relatively uneventful, until the final summer we lived there.

Now, I should preface this by saying that I've never been much of a believer in the paranormal, nor am I religious in any way shape or form, but this particular situation successfully scared the crap out of me.

I had started seeing my first "real" girlfriend that summer, who was a bit on the nutty side. One night, we were getting ready to go leave the apartment, on the third floor of the house, when I went to go check something on my computer. When I turned around to say, "Okay, let's go," she was standing at the top of the stairs with this pale cold stare, positively terrified at something that was downstairs. When I asked her what was wrong and said we should get moving, she froze, and lost it on me, and kept telling me that there was a little boy bleeding at the bottom of the stairs. I looked, nothing. I couldn't see a damn thing aside from the poorly lit bottom to the stairwell.

I tried to convince her that there was nothing there, but she refused to move. So we went back into my bedroom and laid in my bed for about an hour. When we went back, she didn't see anything, so we walked down the stairs and we went on our way. I just thought to myself, "This chick is absolutely nuts" and thought nothing more of it.

Three months later, when my mother and I were planning to move to the neighboring town, she mentioned the move to a coworker of hers at the hospital she worked at, just down the block from where we were moving. The co-worker then made the natural inquiry, "Oh, well where do you live now?" When my mother told her, and mentioned the exact building, the coworker replied with, "Wait, you mean... THE MURDER HOUSE!?"

As it turns out, the house that we were living in was formerly home to a young family of 5 in the early 1900s. Sometime around that era, the father of this family went completely insane and murdered his wife and three kids, including a young boy, by way of stabbing in the middle of the night.

I was frightened by this prospect, but thought little of it until about two weeks later, when I happened to be down at the village library with that same girlfriend, and we got bored and decided to look up old newspaper headlines for our village paper. I remembered the story of the mass murder, and decided to scroll through early 1900s listings to see if we could find anything related to it.

The moment when my girlfriend shouted, "STOP!" as I was scrolling through the front pages and went dead cold in that dark room, followed up by, "That's... that's him," was one of the most terrifying feelings I've ever experienced. There he was, the boy she saw on the bottom of the stairs, right alongside his father, mother, and two infant sisters.



John Black is a singer-songwriter from the White Plains area in New York. You can check him out on his official website www.JohnBlackMusic.com

Art:
"Isobel"
By Blackbird Motel

REAL LIFE STORIES OF THE DEARLY DEPARTED

Art:
"Threshold"
By Blackbird
Motel



REAL LIFE STORIES OF THE DEARLY DEPARTED

"PENNIES FROM HEAVEN"

by Serafina Giordano
Elizabeth, NJ USA

One morning as I was sleeping, I had a visitation from my deceased cousin Joe's wife, Linda. She came to me in my dream, and she proceeded to tell me about a penny. She showed me a penny and put it in her purse. She was trying to tell me that she used to keep pennies in her pocketbook, as she would find them. She told me that this message was for her husband, my cousin Joe. The message was a simple: Thank you for the pennies. It didn't make sense to me, because the message was for Joe. Now, soon after I had this dream, I had to attend a wedding, which just so happened to be for Joe's daughter. I had no intention of going for whatever reason, but I changed my mind last minute because I had to deliver this message to Joe.


The day of the wedding came and I went. When I saw my cousin Joe, I went to him and I said, "Joe, I had a visitation from Linda and she showed me a penny and her pocketbook. She also showed me something about her child. I don't know what that could mean, but the message is "Thank you for the penny." He looked at me and was totally stunned, as if he had seen a ghost! He told me that he had put a handful of pennies in her shoe before they buried her. Also, Linda loved to pick up pennies and she would put them in her pocketbook. She had a poem that she had taught to her children called "Pennies From Heaven" and it goes like this:

*I found a penny today just sitting here on the ground
I'm told it's a reminder that my Guardian Angel is around.
They toss them down from heaven whenever we are down,
It's a way to make us smile and wipe away our frown.
So don't forget this little story of how the angels care,
This angel penny is a reminder that there are angels in the air.*

Now a few years later, my cousin Joe sadly passed away. I went to the wake and I gently placed a penny into his jacket pocket. I went to sit back down and proceeded to fidget in my seat. Joe & Linda's youngest of 3 daughters BJ, was sitting across the room, and some kind of force compelled me to go up to her. I said to BJ, "I hope you don't mind but I put a penny in your father's jacket." She looked at me, and started screaming, "YOU!!! YOU!!! YOU are the one, YOU'RE THE ONE!" I quietly said, "Who? What are you talking about?" She said, "Before my father passed away, he told me the penny story, and I asked him who told you this story?" She wanted a name from him, and all that he said, which still freaks me out to this day, was, "This person will come to you when it's the right time." We both looked at each other in pure AWE AND AMAZEMENT! I love you Joe and Linda! They are now both happy in heaven together.

Now, my sister and I left the funeral home and proceeded to go back home. We talked about the whole penny thing all the way home! You think its over? Hold on, there's more! As we pull into my sister's driveway, she gets out of her side and starts screaming. I freaked out, "What is wrong!?!," I screamed back. She said, "As I got out of the car, I looked down and there are 5 pennies staring at me!" She remembers getting into the car and there were no pennies on the ground. All I can say is 5 pennies represents Linda, Joe, Sandy, Jennifer and BJ.

And to end this story, I talked to BJ on Facebook and we chatted for awhile, going over the whole incident. She told me that when she went back to her house after talking to me at her father's wake, in the middle of her bare wood floor, was a shiny penny.



Serafina Giordano is a painter and party stationary designer from Elizabeth, NJ. She has had multiple experiences with the paranormal.

"THE VICTORIAN LADY FROM THE ATTIC"

By Linda LaSpata
Hamptonville, NC USA

When I was about 5 or 6 our family bought the house next door to our Nonna. It was an older house with two floors, a cold dingy cellar that had a dirt covered floor, and a huge attic. The stairs to the attic were carpeted and there was linoleum attached to the frame to cover the exposed beams which were held together with cobwebs. It was very cozy up there. The house had a cast iron bathtub, radiators in the rooms for heat, and a wooden staircase that had a wooden spindle banister that we could actually slide down to the parlor. The stairs would creak when you walked up and down and over the years we learned which ones to step over.

Anyway, one night I was watching TV in the parlor while my family was in the kitchen eating supper. I was lying down on the sofa with my head facing toward the stairwell and I thought I saw a little glow coming from the top of stairs. I didn't give it much thought at first because we always kept the bathroom light on at the top of the stairs.



I continued on watching the TV set but out of the side of my eye I saw this glowing light coming down the stairwell more and more. When I finally looked up I saw a little old lady dressed in a black Victorian type dress with a veil on top of her head and she was coming slowly down the stairs holding a lit candelabra. The usually creaky stairs did not make any creaking noise throughout this whole experience. The candle seemed to make the whole stairwell glow.

I wasn't scared, but got up and ran into the kitchen and asked my parents who the lady was coming down the stairs. They asked me who is in the house? They got up and went into parlor and looked up the stairs. My dad went upstairs and said, "No one is in here, you must have been sleeping!", but my mom said she was told that an old lady used to live in the attic a long time ago. Well my dad told my mother, "Don't put those things in her mind, now she will be scared to go upstairs again!", but I never was. In fact, we had this strange mirror built into the wall in the hallway and I always felt like someone was watching me through it from the other side, like a looking glass. Maybe she always had an influence on me. I love the Victorian era and always called my living rooms a "Parlor". Makes you wonder!



Linda LaSpata is a caregiver at a nursing home in Hamptonville, North Carolina. She has had multiple experiences with the paranormal.

"Midnight Fog"
By Blackbird Motel

"THE PALE GIRL IN THE HALL"

By Ian Hunt
Columbus, Ohio USA

Back in the Winter of 2004, I was working over in the Czech Republic at what was once a Nazi youth camp. I had been working there for several months at the time where I did a bit of everything, which included keeping the wood stove (which heated the entire building) going 24 hours a day. Every two hours I would have to get up, head down the hall, down the stairs and outside to then enter the furnace room where I would load up the stove and then head back to bed as quickly as possible before I would have to do it all over again in another two hours. It usually took me 10 to 15 minutes each trip, depending on the wood I had to get and how many rats I had to chase out before I could finish.

One night around 3 am or so, I got up and walked down like I usually did. Everything was fine; I filled the stove and took out the ashes. I warmed my hands over the coals and then tossed them out, closed up the furnace room and headed back to bed. As I entered back into the main part of the building and headed up the stairs, I heard the sounds of little feet and children's laughter. I thought nothing of it since there was a family just down the hall with 3 kids and they would often use the dormitory style restrooms when theirs was in use, not to mention they also used to try and scare me so this wouldn't be the first time I might find them waiting for me just around the corner of the stairs.

I slowed my pace and quietly snuck up the stairs in hopes of getting the jump on them. Just as I rounded the landing I saw a soft white glow. I slowly walked up the rest of the steps leading to the hallway. I then jumped out into the hall expecting to see the neighbors kids only to find a small pale white girl. She was radiating the white light I had seen from the stairs. Her eyes were a piercing ice blue and her hair was a soft glowing gold color. Upon seeing her I froze. She smiled at me and laughed, ran down the hall and turned the corner.

I won't lie, I never use lights after dark. I have great eyesight and always prefer to simply keep the lights off. That night however, I turned on every single light from the hall to my room. I think it took well over 3 hours before the hairs on the back of my neck and arms finally stopped standing upright. It took me several nights before I would dare walk the halls again without the lights on. I can still see her face like it was yesterday and it gives me goose bumps even now just thinking of that night.

"Spirit Lake"
By Joanna Michalak



Ian Hunt is a professional vagabond and avid storyteller. He loves to collect and share his stories from his travels and adventures all over the world!

REAL LIFE STORIES OF THE DEARLY DEPARTED

THE GUARDIAN GHOST

By Donna DeLuca
(Brick Township, NJ)

When my son Robert was 2 years old, he saw this man appear to him every night, for about a year. He called this man his friend; he would talk and wave to this man out of nowhere. One day I received a box from my husband Bob's cousin who lost her father. Inside, there was a picture of Bob's father when he was in his prime; Bob lost his father when he was 12 so I guess he was in his early fifties or late forties when he died. When Robert saw this picture of his grandfather when he was in World War 2, he said, "Yea mom, that's the man who comes to see me". Robert would see this man on and off until he was about 5. Fast forward to one night in January 2013, when Robert was in his teenage years, he was crossing a busy street and had gotten hit by a car. He spent some time in the hospital in very critical condition, but he pulled through and is luckily still with us here today. A few months ago, a little over a year after the accident, I took Robert to a psychic who is very well known around the Brick area in NJ. She told him things that his grandfather was telling her, things that only Rob knew. We mentioned no word of the accident to this woman, yet she turned around and said, "Your grandfather wants me to tell you that he broke the rules in January 2013 when you did something you weren't supposed to be doing." Robert had actually been carelessly jaywalking the night of his accident. The psychic went on to say, "Your grandfather wants me to tell you that he was there that night, and he shielded you." He had known that it was going to happen since the day Robert was born. The EMTs at the scene said they didn't think Robert was going to make it, but his grandfather had saved his life. Also there is no way this psychic could have known about this accident at all; at the time of the accident, Robert was a minor, so his name was not released in the paper. We left the psychic in tears of amazement that night.



Donna DeLuca is a New Jersey native from the Brick Township area. Her son's near death experience has opened her eyes and sparked her new found interest for researching the afterlife and signs of spirit guides.



Art:

"Have No Fear"

By Joanna Michalak

Based on the Music by

Bird York

REAL LIFE STORIES OF THE DEARLY DEPARTED



Art:
"A Room With a View"
By Blackbird Motel



REAL LIFE STORIES OF THE DEARLY DEPARTED

"A WHISTLE IN THE DARK"

by Renee Conway
Port Clinton, Ohio (USA)

While living in Colorado, I experienced one of the best haunted jobs ever. I was working for CAM Theatres. CAM Theatres, assigned me to manage their twin movie theater, The Royal Gorge. Not only did I manage the daily operations, but I also performed as the projectionist. It's the projectionist job where I also experienced one of my most chilling ghostly encounters. As the projectionist it was my job to build up the movies showing at the theater. Most people don't know that before the advent of digital delivery to movies houses, films came in twenty-minute reels that had to be married into one big reel on one of a 3-tier platter system. One platter would spin feeding the film into the projector as one of the other platters would spin to collect it and have it ready for the next showing. The third platter was used to either build up a second feature, or just to have available if you experienced a "brain wrap", so without missing too much down time, you could quickly get movies back on the screen. It took me a good three months to feel comfortable with my duties as a projectionist. A simple breeze could cause your film to feed irregularly, generating a "brain wrap".

My management position came with a decent salary, a vehicle, and a grand apartment over the theater. It really was one of the best jobs I ever had. Parallel to my apartment was the projection room. I could go out my apartment door, make a quick turn, and open the door to a long projection room, where there were two platter systems and projectors for each theater. At the end of the room, was another room with a door that was used to store our holiday decorations and our old movie posters. Now I've always been sensitive to the feeling of spirits, and I never felt quilt alone up there in that projection booth, but I never felt afraid either. It was actually a very peaceful space to be in, even with all the sounds coming from the equipment. Anyway, it was custom in the movie business, and before the advent of digital delivery, that new films ready to break on Friday night were delivered on Thursday in two cans with 4 or 5 twenty-minute reels that needed to be built up to the platter system. I typically got into the habit of building up a new movie as soon as possible because I always did a preview run to make sure the film was okay for the Friday night break. You see, some projectionists are lazy, and if you were getting a circuit film, it was possible the projectionist marked the reels wrong or gave you your reels 'tails up' -meaning it was backwards. I can't remember the movie I was building up at the time, but I remember well, the help I got that one afternoon from "The Other Side".

You need to know, that in the middle of the two platter systems, was a stationary editing table to make up preview movie reels, -- and also to adjust movie reels if the previous projectionist was lazy and didn't send off the reels with the film in the right direction. Also kept nearby against the wall was a build-up table. A build-up table could be wheeled over to either platter system so you could marry the reels into one large reel on a platter. The build-up table, like the platter system, has a pulley system. The pulleys can be moved up or down so that they could be aligned with one of the 3 vertical platters in the system. You would put a movie reel on a spindle component on the build-up table, feed the film through its vertical pulley system, and attach the film to a component on the platter. Then you turn on the platter to "pay up" the reel to the platter. At this point, you can walk away from the reel getting "paid up" so you can get your next reel ready. Remember earlier I told you about the lazy projectionist who had the movie before you? Well, my next reel in this particular instance was delivered backwards, so I had to use the editing table in the middle of the room to fix it. While I was over at the other table fixing my reel, I heard a loud distinguishable whistle.

A whistle, so loud, that it immediately had my head turning to the doorway near the platter system I was using to build up my movie. I was sure someone was going to be standing in that doorway when I turned my head. When I turned, I thought I was going to see either my boss, or my assistant manager who worked my two days off, but there was no one there. When I looked down at the build-up table, my reel was almost done for which I needed to be there so that the taped end of the film to the reel didn't pull the whole table into the platter system and cause damage. I thought to myself, "Wow! Who was that? Someone was trying to get my attention to catch the reel before it finished." That Friday night after the movie was done, as usual, I went down to the pub to meet up with my boss and his wife, have a quick cocktail, and talk about business. This particular evening, although I didn't want my boss to know that I was still not quite skilled with all the equipment and almost missed the reel ending which could have caused some damage if it had gotten pulled into the platter system, I had to tell them about the whistle experience. As I was explaining the incident, I noticed my boss' wife start to smile. I told her, "You know, I never quite feel alone up there in the projection room, and sort of got a feeling that is was someone tall, very light skinned, with green eyes, who was up there with me sometimes, only this time he whistled at me to get my attention that the reel was going to end".

They giggled. I said, "Please tell me about the theater's past. Don't worry about scaring me, because I grew up in a house that had spirits in it, and well, I don't get a bad feeling from him at all, I think he wants to help me". Smiling at me, she said, "The man you describe sounds like Chic. He was the manager for the old owners. His office was in the backroom of the projection booth. He died in there, at his desk, from a heart attack." I was fine living and working with a pleasant helpful ghost, but what gave me the chills was what transpired the next evening when I learned my friendly ghost wasn't through connecting with me yet. I was working the box office for the second show. It was the Thanksgiving holiday where most of the college kids were back home with family. Anyway, a young college aged girl came in with a few like friends. She was very friendly, instantly offering up information about how she used to work for "Chic" as the box office girl, when she was in high school. I immediately asked her, "Did you like him? Was he nice?" "Oh, he was great to work for, I worked here all my high school years", she answered as she took her tickets. As she was walking away with the excitement of being back and with the enthusiasm to see her movie with friends, she spun around half way between the box office and the concession stand to add, "He was very quiet, if he wanted ya for anything, he would just whistle".

REAL LIFE STORIES OF THE DEARLY DEPARTED

Art:
"Sylvanian Spirits"
By Blackbird Motel



REAL LIFE STORIES OF THE DEARLY DEPARTED

Jacob Corey Larson: Poetry



24 year old New Jersey born artist Jacob Corey Larsen had a difficult life growing up. At the age of 4 his parents in their active addictions, stopped being able to care for their son, and he was forced to move away. He was raised by his uncle in Liberty City in Miami, FL. He relocated to NJ as an adult and now resides in Keyport where he revels in his passions for rapping and entertaining, the very passions that got him through his rocky upbringing. He also loves to dabble in the art of poetry. He is currently getting his website up and running.

Liberty City

Poetry that spoke to me with all those jokes I used to see, clowning like an obscurity full of insecurity, to me I value purity, humility and quality. I can't talk about the walk to see the endless possibility to fatally fall for me, unbalanced no stability, and so it used to be more problems than it was worth to me. So I let it out of me and you moved out without me until I got to finally see that all those people aren't really reality. I feel pity and leave quickly feeling rather shitty that I had to grow up poor down in Liberty City. Fear and anxiety talking about equality, what the eyes can't see all the pain inside of me. Through years of dark tragedy from what my parents had for me, now I struggle tremendously to be the one I want to be. As I sit here patiently thinking of what they said to me, my mind starts distancing and in this instance I start to sing. I share the pain, the struggles and binds in hopes that my lyrics will blow your minds of my fear and pains.

Living Like I'm Dying

Make a scene so profound. Hear a scream. Get found face down on lean pushing up daisies ain't mean. Unless you seen it go down you'll be found drowned with your hands and feet bound by a block of concrete. A glock in your glovebox deep under water behind the wheel for real. I breathe out truth and live my life as if I'm dying. I'm only 24 not lying and feel like an old man grown so cold. Throw the world my backhand. Try just to expand the idea and understand all that I did. Don't lie it's been proven as fact. Hop off Front Street and check how you act.

Dark Thoughts

True dark thoughts begin slipping in my mind. Always too deep to speak. I cannot sleep. I rinse and repeat until I fall from my feat and breakdown. If I ever meet my fate I pray to God my soul he take, that I may awake alleviated from this hate.



Background Photography
By Recluser Dark Artist
(Spain)

RecluserDark



Recluser Dark Photography



RecluserDark (Alba) is a self-taught photographer born in Barcelona in 1982. For many years she has been captivated by industrial landscapes, urban parks, cemeteries, old architecture and abandoned places. Each single picture is a moment in time, a world by itself in which the beauty, desolation, calmness, hope or sadness has been trapped in a timeless portrait.



WWW.RECLUSERDARK.COM

FREAKY PHOTOGRAPHY

BY VINCENT CARUBIA

Model:
Ashley Allocco



“This shoot was done on Halloween night in the Fall of 2010. The inspiration behind the photos was plain and simple; it was the scariest night of the year and my roommates and I were feeling super creative. My one roommate Garyl had tons of fake blood left over from a shoot that he had worked on that day, so we just used my bathroom as the set and went to town. My lovely roommates Eva Humber, Ashley Allocco, Amelia Johnson, and Kendall Green were my models for the shoot.” - Vincent Carubia, Photographer



Models L to R:
Kendall Green,
Ashley Allocco



Model:
Amelia
Johnson



Models L to R:
Ashley Allocco
Kendall Green,
Eva Humber



Death Dolls

A Story by Samantha Diaz, 10 Years Old (NJ, USA)

Once upon a time, many years ago in the year of 1823, there was a young girl named Tessa. She loved dolls very much. She had exactly 137 dolls. Not just any dolls, "Death Dolls". There were three "Death Dolls" who were the leaders. Their names were: Chrissy, Chessie, and Ruth.

Whenever Tessa puts her dolls away, she gets a large crate and neatly stacks them in order. Then, she stores it under her bed. Tessa will get in her bed, close her eyes and try to sleep. She would even try to count some sheep. The "Death Dolls" knew about Tessa's insomnia and they fed off of her fear of the dark. They would come to life as she lay there in the dark, and taunt her with their evil little giggles. Then the dolls had a plan...

Chrissy said, "Maybe if we steal her breath, then we can grow to be human just like Tessa!"
Chessie said, "That idea is most evil and excellent!" Ruth said, "Let's steal her soul!I hate my name...."

So after Tessa eventually fell asleep finally, the dolls crept up onto her covers. They went up to her mouth and breathed in all of Tessa's youth. The life started to drain from Tessa. The dolls were getting stronger! They breathed more and more, and were eventually so strong that...

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK! All of the sudden there was a knock on the door. Tessa's mom peaked her head in and the dolls went lifeless. Her mom saw that Tessa had appeared to have fallen asleep with her dolls, so she went and put the dolls back into their crate, under the bed. She kissed Tessa's forehead, placed an oil lamp on the nightstand next to the bed, and left the room. The dolls tried again... but this time they didn't realize, she wasn't sleeping.

Tessa had awoken from her mother's kiss, but she just had her eyes closed. So when she heard a crack in the floor she got up, looked at the floor and saw her "Death Dolls" moving. She couldn't believe her eyes! So she got up and ran to where she had her plastic bat. She hit every single one. It didn't work! They were way too powerful now that they had some of Tessa's life in them! Then she remembered that the dolls were plastic. So Tessa got a large block of wood, placed the death dolls down on top, and took a rubber band to tie them to the it. She put them where the sun usually rose at dawn. When the sun rose, the dolls melted and she never had trouble sleeping again.

That was the end of the "Death Dolls", forever.

A HOUSE WITH NO DOORS

By Karen A. Carter

Climb dark, narrow stairwells
Into closets black and deep
When you find yourself trapped
In the House in your sleep.

There are objects hidden there
With mysterious pasts
In old steamer trunks
With rusty, broken hasps.

To open this trunk
Is to waken the dead
And revisit those things
You wish you had said.

The trouble with this house
Is finding the door.
This House will absorb you
Through its carnivorous floor.

"This is a poem I wrote in my sleep. I think it has something to do with my Grandmother's dementia and that alternate universe she lives in where a strange woman follows her everywhere she goes to steal her memories, possibly. I try not to deconstruct things too much. It takes away from the magic and mystery."



The House on Rte 513
(Background Photo)
By Laura Flashberg

"I have been passing by this abandoned house on Route 513 in Califon, NJ for a few years. I'm surprised it is still standing. There are a lot of signs and barriers to ward off trespassers. It's located on a busy road with no place to park, so I had to slow down while driving to take pictures from my car with my cell phone. It is a huge house with a wrap around porch and is extremely scary looking! It must've been a beauty in its day. It has a backdrop of open fields and mountains. I would like to know its story. Why was it left in this condition and why wasn't it sold? Who was the last family/person/persons who lived there? Looking at the house brings the movie "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane" to mind.

Did something sinister happen there? Is it haunted? Will I find out the answers to my questions? It scares me but, that is what has aroused my curiosity!"

If anyone knows the story behind this house, please email us at
AbrazineMag@gmail.com



ART:
"DIA"
BY LORENA
LAMMER
(GERMANY)

THE DAY OF THE DEAD

POEM BY LIZ ESTRADA
(CALIFORNIA, USA)

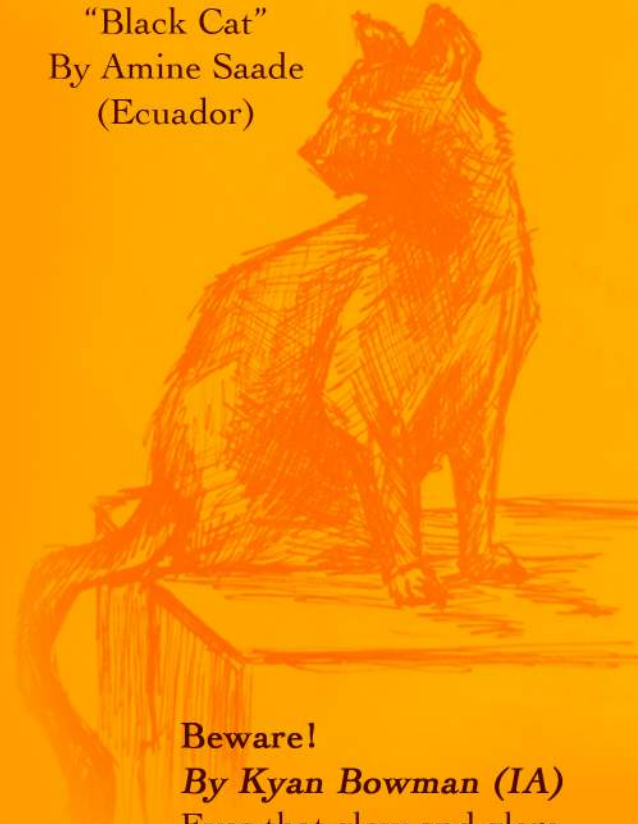
WHEN HALLOWEEN IS OVER
ANOTHER SPECIAL DAY COMES
THAT IS
THE DAY OF THE DEAD
WE CELEBRATE IT
WISHING OUR ANCESTORS
BEING HERE
CARRY THEIR SPIRITS
IN THE GOOD PATH
WE DRESS
AS DIFFERENT DEAD PEOPLE
A DEAD BRIDE,
MUSICAL AND A DANCER
WE GO CREATIVE
WITH THE DAY OF THE DEAD
ALSO PAINT OUR FACES
TO SUGAR SKULLS
AND SOME OTHER SKULLS
I LIKE TO CELEBRATE THIS DAY
ITS FUN
A LOT OF ACTIVITIES
DANCING,GAMES,
FACE PAINT AND EVENTS
ONLY TWO DAYS
TO CELEBRATE IT
THEN WHEN THE NIGHT FALLS
WE GO TO THE GRAVE YARD
WHERE THE LOVES ONE
HAVE PASS AWAY
STAY THERE TALKING OF THEM
SAYING GOOD THINGS ABOUT THEM
REMEMBERING GOOD TIMES TOO
WE DECORATE THE GRAVE STONE
WITH FLOWERS AND
PUT SUGAR SKULLS ON TOP
THEN PUT CANDLES
ASIDE THE GRAVE STONE
PLAY LITTLE MUSIC
TO ENJOY THE MOMENT
ONCE A YEAR
WE CELEBRATE THIS DAY
THE DAY OF THE DEAD
TO REMEMBER OUR LOVED ONES
AND WELCOMING THEIR SPIRIT
OUT OF THEIR SOBER
THE DAY OF THE DEAD.



FIND MORE
LIZ ESTRADA
POETRY ON
DEVIANT ART!

Autumn Haikus

"Black Cat"
By Amine Saade
(Ecuador)



Power Outage Haiku
by *Josie Scasso (NJ)*
Tonight, lights go out.
I hear my trembling soul cry.
Dark truth is revealed.

The Ghost of Myself
By *Jonathan Kertis (NJ)*
I used to know you...
You're just a memory now.
What have I become?

Spider Haiku
by *Alyssa Bubnick (NJ)*
There was a spider
It crawled fast under my bed
I'm never sleeping.

Leaves
By *Eigil Panteleon (NJ)*
Gilded leaves fall down
Weeping insignificance
Slain by one's own fate

Startled Haiku
by *Nicole Aguilar (CA)*
I'm alone at last
Oh, there's a creek at the floor
F*&\$!, cat is awake!

Latte
By *Avinash Patel (NJ)*
I need a latte
Pumpkin Spiced, please and thank you
Shove it in my face

Beware!
By *Kyan Bowman (IA)*
Eyes that glow and glare
Behind spiders' tangled silk
Marked: Reader Beware!



Hide and Seek

Poem and Artwork (Left) "Spellbound"
by *Karen A. Carter (Blackbird Motel)*

It has been this way since first grade
and my first math book.
Blue and green.
It begins with acquisition and loss,
Red apples, furry kittens,
Yellow ducks.
But with acquisition eventually comes loss.
Kittens die, apples rot and wither
And yellow ducks get crushed under the clumsy feet of Toddlers.
This was first grade where I hid in a storm drain during Recess.
I found comfort in solitude
And a place to hide.

On cold days I kept close to the warm cinder blocks
Of the garbage incinerator
Where nests of baby birds incubated by the fires
Of burning garbage and yesterday's
Soured milk cartons,
Uneaten lima beans,
And blue-lined writing paper
With less-than-perfect letter "O"s.

Art:
"Death on
a Pale Horse"
By Blackbird Motel



Kerry Marley Poetry

With Art By Monique Malknox

Circus of Fleeting Breath

I worshiped you,
Madly thrumming against the walls.
You looked past me,
Unaffected by my broken rhythm.
You summoned darkness to surround me
In my naivety, strangling the light
To mock my vain attempts
At earning your attention,
But, in striking contrast to my flailing limbs
Drumming out my desperation
Against your cold stone,
You did not move.
Dance. Dance. Dance with me —
The repetition of my futility.
You wouldn't even do me the honor
Of holding me at arm's length.

People stared,
Mesmerized by my disjointed movements,
As random nerve endings fired.
They saw only my self-destructing.
You were the constant —
So constant that, to them,
You became the scenery
Unnoticed by my motion.
They didn't know the reason
For my dissonant beating against the
concrete;
Trying to change what is certain,
But I was their little circus of fleeting breath.
They, too happy to observe
The funny sight that didn't concern them,
Would not bestow the gift of death,
And so, I danced.

Spindle-Shadow

Hello there, spindle-shadow,
Pretty girl who looks like me,
You're nicer than the mirror
Who's contrary as can be.

Staring at the pavement,
Connected by our feet,
Unlike glass-encased reflection,
I and my shadow really meet.

When dusk brings blackest midnight,
Blending night from sky to ground,
The silhouette of my identity
Is nowhere to be found.

I have lost, among the others
My shadow on the wall.
I wonder, unable to find her,
Was she ever there at all?



"Happy Halloween"
By Monique Malknox



Branches

A Poem About the Fear of Falling in Love

We were sitting in a tree
On the first day of spring,
No one was around,
There was only you and me.
I sat on the bottom branch,
Dangling my little feet
So far above the ground.

You wanted to climb higher,
So I stood carefully,
But didn't follow you.
I could tell
From the way you smiled,
That you wanted me
To climb out on a limb,
But I refused.

I can't do that anymore.
I've done that once before,
But branches were too
thin,

And the one I climbed with then
Didn't reach my hand
To catch me when
The little tree-fingers snapped
And I plummeted to
The waiting earth below.

So, I will stay right here,
Holding on to the tree trunk
Where it is safe,
And the ground isn't so far away.
Maybe I'll just jump down,
Where there aren't any branches,
And you don't have to worry
About four-letter words
Like love.



Kerry Aileen Marley is a 19 year old Greenville, SC native. She is an avid writer, who can most often be found writing poetry, lyrics, and dabbling in prose. She also runs a few blogs in her spare time. She is currently in college where she studies fashion design, and plans to launch her own clothing line soon. She already does her own custom orders! She loves singing, recording music, and can speak French with a limited working proficiency. She is a fun loving Capricorn who loves cats and the color purple.



Art:
"Violrtta"
By Monique
Malknox

VISIT KERRY'S
OTHER SITES:
DEVIANT ART
WEBSTORE
POETRY BLOG
VEGAN FOOD BLOG

Shadows

The Journey Behind the Music

By John Black, Songwriter/Musician

I wrote the song "Shadows," from the album of the same name in the summer of 2009. The song, like many I've written since, is about the feeling of suffering from depression, in this particular case, after a traumatic event. Like many of those in my field, I've struggled with depression all of my life, something I've never really revealed to a lot of people, especially in a public forum.

That summer, my longtime band, Sarah's Redemption, named after my deceased sister, called it quits in a rather dramatic and angry way. I had spent four years building it, struggling to keep members and to record what would become our first and only album. When the final lineup finally came together, it was like magic. We were all so close and dedicated, and the music just came together perfectly, almost effortlessly. We made this amazing record, so perfectly crafted that it practically blew up practically overnight among our local circuit and earned us the dedication of such a wonderful group of fans. We were on top of the world, playing some of the greatest shows I've ever played. It was such a rush. Then things sort of started to go south when we had a lineup change. I started drinking pretty heavily to cope with the changes. Crowds started to dwindle, our hometown venue closed, my voice began to become shredded, and I slipped into the throws of darkness.

Eventually, the group came together and asked me to take vocal lessons, which was the greatest decision I've ever made. After meeting my amazing vocal coach, the great Roland Burks, my voice changed, and I found myself unable to sing those old songs anymore without hurting myself. This changed the group, and my mentality. I became much more mellow and subdued in my writing, and the new music I was putting out didn't fit the mold of what we were doing, so the guys didn't want to play it. They felt like they were becoming a backing band to a singer/songwriter, rather than having an equal role. As a result of this, I started Makeshift Lullaby on the side, and had every intention of pursuing both projects; however, after many months of this, inner turmoil began in the group. After playing Warped Tour that year, we broke up in August, quite dramatically, after I made the final decision to disband. I felt betrayed by them when the idea was floated that they would go on without me, using the same name and music, both of which were insanely personal to my family and me on such a human level. Eventually the idea was dropped and they all formed a really great new group with their own music, but the damage had been done. I had lost my closest friends. I had lost my baby.

A few weeks later, things weren't looking good for the Makeshift Lullaby project, and I began to wonder if I'd made a tremendous mistake. As a result, I slipped further into my depression, and began drinking again to self-medicate. I would slip in and out of consciousness throughout every day, just watching the sunlight go by, until the night came again.

The name "Shadows" has several meanings in this instance, and it became a theme for the album. For me, I had both slipped into the shadows and become a shadow of my former self. I became empty, fearful, and terrified. It also applies to watching the sun make its way across the room throughout the days and feeling isolated. I began to think that my youth was slipping away and that my music career was no longer relevant to anyone out there. Eventually, I finally sat up and slipped out of it with the help of my girlfriend at the time. She was so supportive of me and hated to see me hurting. One day in late August, I finally penned the song by myself over a bottle of wine and an acoustic guitar. The song helped me cope, and later I found my strength and righteousness, eventually culminating in me writing a song about finding yourself again and knowing who you're supposed to be, the album's closing track, "Paper Bullets."

"I sat down that morning to write a suicide note, and by the end of it I had given myself a very long list of reasons to live."



What a lot of people don't understand about depression, and people who think about suicide, is that it's not that a depressed person feels low 100% of the time. We also experience amazing highs. We feel them so intensely. That feeling of being on stage to a packed house of fans screaming your lyrics back at you, the experience of a first kiss, and the unmistakably amazing feeling of being able to lay in bed all day with your partner and just spend a whole afternoon making love naturally, without inhibition, consequence free, and look her in her eyes as you share this amazing experience with one another. These moments can bring us to tears.

We experience such a rush, such intensity during these highs, that when they're taken away from us it makes our lows even more crippling. That's when we find ourselves hiding away for days at a time, struggling, trying to medicate ourselves back to health. First it's the highs, then it's the lows, and then, after too many of those lows, we feel nothing. We become empty shells of ourselves. That's when those dark thoughts set in.

The most important thing a person with depression can do is to seek support. Find help. Realize that you are not alone in what you are experiencing. There are plenty of people out there going through this with you, a lot more than you probably realize. The help is there if you look for it. You can find your happiness again. You have things to live for, and they're worth living for.

I'm now going to reveal something here that I've never told anyone before.

A few years ago, during a particularly bad bout of it, I woke up one morning and determined that enough was enough. I truly intended it to be my last day on Earth. I was ready to meet my maker, determined that no life at all was better than a life in emotional turmoil. I was ready to be reunited with Sarah after so many years.

I sat down at my desk in my underwear, a full week's worth of facial hair grown in, and decided to write a suicide note. I wrote for hours, saying my goodbyes and giving my sincerest apologies to those I love for failing them in this way. I apologized to my parents for what I was about to do, I wrote words of encouragement to my sisters, asking them not to take the same routes that I did in life or fall into the darkness themselves as a result of my actions. Then I started writing to former lovers, one in particular who I never got over, and told them that they deserved so much better than what I gave them.

Then, as my penned my apologies, it hit me: I deserve better.

I sat down that morning to write a suicide note, and by the end of it I had given myself a very long list of reasons to live. I reread it four times that morning, and suddenly, I felt inspired. I felt inspired to live a life that was worth living. I felt inspired to live twice as hard for the life that Sarah never got the chance to have. I had done it. I had brought myself back. Finally, after so many hard years.

Now, that's not to say that my depression still doesn't get the best of me from time to time, and I still wish I could read that letter from time to time when I need to remind myself. Instead, I try to find the beauty in things when I'm at my worst. As the kids say, "The struggle is real."

Last year, I was struggling with it again. The isolation, the fear, the darkness. At around this time, something terrible happened. A close friend of my father's, a man he grew up with and shared so many memories and stories, threw himself off a bridge after having a really rough couple of years.

My father was devastated, angry. He was hurting so bad. He asked me to play at a memorial that they were putting together for him the following week, and he chose the song "My Man" by The Eagles, their favorite band. The song told the story of a man close to the band, a friend that had taken his own life. It's a beautiful tribute if you've never heard it. It didn't hit me until I got up to play the song and looked at a whole room full of his closest friends, relatives, and family members in the eyes and gave my condolences to his children for what they were going through. It was one of the only times in my life I've ever seen my father cry, and it broke my heart to see him hurting this way. While I sang it, somberly and in tears, I realized again: This man mattered so much to so many people, and he deserved better than this. He deserved happiness.

Always remember: You deserve better. You deserve to feel happy, to have those moments, to feel the thrilled of the packed house, or a first kiss, or the afternoons of lovemaking the way nature intended. You matter. You deserve life. Don't deny yourself those moments because of fear, or anger, or pain. Don't hide in your shadows, running from them. Make your shadow chase you. And if you find yourself in one of those crippling states where you feel paralyzed and helpless, seek the help that you need to bring yourself back, because you matter.

"Don't deny yourself those moments because of fear, or anger, or pain. Don't hide in your shadows, running from them. Make your shadow chase you."



ROSEMARIE ELIZABETH
photography

"SHADOWS" LYRICS

Off the Album SHADOWS By Makeshift Lullaby

Words and Music by John Black
and Makeshift Lullaby

I lay awake in bed and wonder how I got to be so numb.

I watch the sun make its way across the room

Until the day is done.

It's not the shadows I live in that I find to be

A growing cause of concern,

But rather that they continue to haunt me

Even when the sun makes its return.

Have I passed my prime? Have I all but lost my mind?

Have I made the biggest mistake of any or all time?

I lay awake in bed and wonder how I can ever be so numb.

This bottle that I drink from puts a harsh tone

On the words of my tongue.

It's not the shadows I live in that I find to be

A growing cause of concern,

But rather that they continue to haunt me even when the

Sun makes its return.

Have I passed my prime? Have I all but lost my mind?

Have I made the biggest mistake of any or all time?

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BY MAKESHIFT LULLABY!**



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If you or someone you know is thinking about suicide, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.
www.SuicidePreventionLifeline.org

A SONG BASED ON A BOOK

Lyrics and Music By Justina Carubia
Book By Francesca Lia Block

Writing this song was a very new experience for me. Not in the sense that I have never written a song before; I have written literally notebooks full of songs, most of which are very personal and derived from personal experience. I very rarely used to venture off into the land of fiction with my solo material, to write a piece inspired by something that I read, let alone something floating around pop culture. That is why this song was so different for me. I really let my imagination run wild and just wrote whatever I felt like this book represented. And here is the real kicker: I hadn't even read this book yet at the time I wrote this song. I was just literally sitting on the little chaise lounge in front of my bookcase, looking up at all of the magical worlds I have yet to explore in those pages that resided upon my fiberboard shelf. "The Frenzy" by my favorite author Francesca Lia Block, really popped out at me.

I think I did read the little blurb on the inside flap of the removable cover. That's really as far as I went with my pre-existing knowledge of said book, but I kind of took all that I knew surrounding werewolves and the latest pop culture crazes (Twilight Saga, True Blood, etc.) and just started thinking of what it would be like to be trapped in a car with a feral beast after it sees the full moonlight. And even better, is I wrote the song from my own personal perspective, so I kind of liked toying with the idea of me being this sly woman just having this animalistic power over a poor defenseless little man (LOL!) So unlike me in real life, but I feel like songwriting is a whole other level of storytelling and just like an actor portraying a character in a film, you can also take on other personas in song form as well. I definitely do think there is a level of sexuality, sensuality and mystery that come with the supernatural (werewolves & vampires), that is intriguing to a lot of people, and it seems to be what's hot these days, so why not capitalize on it? I do remember posting it on Facebook when I wrote it, I think right to Miss Block's wall, and she actually "LIKED" it! Well, that just made my LIFE!

"The Frenzy"

So it's getting pretty dark now
You're gonna lose the light soon, honey.
You should've gotten in that car
You shoulda taken that ride
When ya had the chance...
Cuz I got my eye on somethin,
I'm getting pretty hungry, baby Mmm Mmm
Am I making you nervous?
Cuz I could see the sweat
Dripping from your hands

Cuz you are the one
You are the one...
You are the one...
That I gotta have

Cuz I can't control this hunger
It's got it's hold on me
And I'm never gonna let it go
You'll never find
The strength inside to
Fight me, you can hide
But you'll never get away from
The Frenzy.

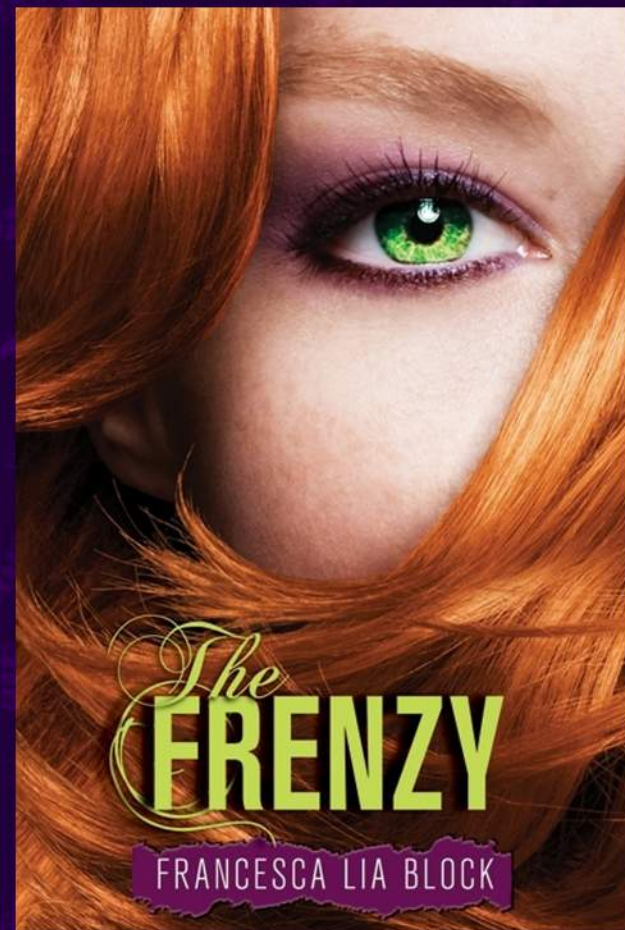
So now that we're alone now
Do you feel the tension honey?
Cuz I can see your heart beat
Trying to fight it's way to me
Through your chest...

You were never a believer
Of the supernatural baby,
Mmm Mmm
But then I see the moonlight
And any doubts that you had
Were put to rest

Cuz you are the one
You are the one
You are the one
That I gotta have

Cuz I can't control this hunger
It's got it's hold on me
And I'm never gonna let it go
You'll never find
The strength inside to
Fight me, you can hide
But you'll never get away from
The Frenzy.

Don't move too fast
Cuz I will be the one
To show you how it feels
To be at the mercy of an...
Of an animal
You can run faster
And Faster
AND FASTER
Don't think that
I won't catch up...

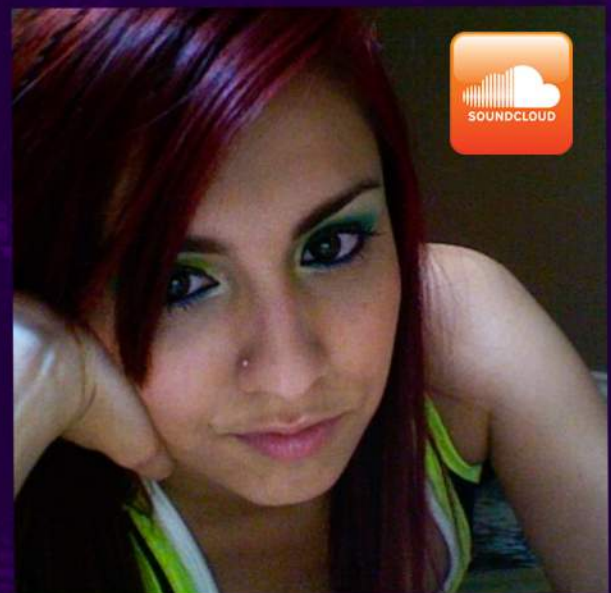


FRANCESCA LIA BLOCK

The Frenzy Synopsis

Something happened to her when she was thirteen. Something that changed everything. Live knows she doesn't belong anymore-not in her own skin, not in her family...not anywhere. The only time she truly feels like herself is when she's with her boyfriend Corey, and in the woods that surround her town. But in the woods, a mysterious woman watches Liv. In the woods, a pack of wild boys lurks. In the woods, Live learns about the curse that will haunt her forever. The curse that caused the frenzy four years ago. And that may cause it again, all too soon. While Corey and Liv's love binds them together, Liv's dark secret threatens to tear them apart as she struggles to understand who-or what-she really is. And by the light of the full moon, the most dangerous secrets bare their claws...

[CLICK TO BUY THIS BOOK ON AMAZON!](#)



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DOWNLOAD THE FREE MP3 OF
THE FRENZY! SONG INSPIRED BY
A FRANCESCA LIA BLOCK BOOK
WWW.JUSTINASWORLD.COM

The Music of Saint-Saëns

Danse Macabre

Some of you may have heard this whimsical yet dark orchestral arrangement throughout pop culture during your lifetime. Danse Macabre, Op 40, is a "tone poem" for orchestra written in 1874 by French composer **Camille Saint-Saëns**. According to wikipedia.org, a symphonic poem or tone poem is a piece of orchestral or concert band music, usually in a single continuous section that illustrates or evokes the content of a poem, short story, novel, painting, landscape, or other (non-musical) source. The piece originally started out as a vocal piece based on the work of French poet **Henri Cazalis**, which was based on an old French superstition. The poem/song's title actually translates to "Death Dance", which according to legend, Death appears every year at midnight on Halloween. He summons skeletons from the grave as he plays his fiddle and they dance for him until the rooster crows at dawn. This signifies that it is time for them to return to their graves until next year. It is a pretty spooky concept if you think about it!

The harp that opens the movement plays a single D note twelve times which signify the twelve strokes of midnight. There are many different instruments which make up the beautifully creepy orchestra, such as a solo flute, solo violin, soft chords from a string section, woodwinds, oboe, and an xylophone (to symbolize rattling of skeleton bones).

When this piece first premiered, it was not received well by audiences who were actually quite unsettled and disturbed by the innovative sounds the compositional genius had brought to life. However, despite the lack of support during its time, the future had seemed to generate more interest for the song.

It has been used many times in Halloween cartoons including the Halloween special on PBS in 1980 and also shown in public schools in the 1970s. It has also been used in other bits of modern pop culture such as Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Grimm, The Magicians on BBC (TV Series), and Tombstone (Film), just to name a few.



Danse Macabre

Original Poem
By Henri Cazalis

Zig, zig, zig, Death in cadence,
Striking a tomb with his heel,
Death at midnight plays a dance-tune,
Zig, zig, zag, on his violin.
The winter wind blows, and the night is dark;
Moans are heard in the linden trees.
White skeletons pass through the gloom,
Running and leaping in their shrouds.
Zig, zig, zig, each one is frisking,
You can hear the cracking of the bones of the dancers.
A lustful couple sits on the moss
So as to taste long lost delights.
Zig zig, zig, Death continues
The unending scraping on his instrument.
A veil has fallen! The dancer is naked.
Her partner grasps her amorously.
The lady, it's said, is a marchioness or baroness
And her green gallant, a poor cartwright.
Horror! Look how she gives herself to him,
Like the rustic was a baron.
Zig, zig, zig. What a saraband!
They all hold hands and dance in circles.
Zig, zig, zag. You can see in the crowd
The king dancing among the peasants.
But hist! All of a sudden, they leave the dance,
They push forward, they fly; the cock has crowed.
Oh what a beautiful night for the poor world!
Long live death and equality!

Art:
"Dance
Macabre"
By Blackbird
Motel



The Creeper Gallery

A Peculiar Collection of the Morbid & Macabre

Story & Photos By Justina Carubia

This past summer, I had the pleasure of visiting one of my favorite places of all time: New Hope, Pennsylvania. For anyone who has never been to this charming little tourist attraction along the Delaware River, it is a must see for anyone who values artsy fartsy little shoppes and quirky little treasures and antiques!! Not to mention the scenery alone makes you feel like you're in a whimsical little romantic novel, and just spending a few hours there is an alleviation from the pressures of the real world. All of the interesting folk who reside and wander around this magical little town, do so as if there is not a care in the world. I personally have been frequenting this little village, pretty much since I was in diapers, and still like to make my way back to my artsy mecca at least a few times a year, just to feel grounded, like I'm going back to my hippy chick roots. Every time I go is a new surprise, and I enjoy when I see new little unique shops pop up into the mix of things.

This one shop in particular, really caught my eye right off the bat, and upon entering, I was just in awe! This was indeed the most peculiar shoppe I had ever seen here, and it was really so intriguing to me and the company I visited with! First off, when you enter the shoppe, there is a sign that says "Pictures Are Encouraged!", which is very different from many of the "No Photography" rules most shop owners smack down on their potential patrons. Inside the shop, there are antique cabinets, chests and window case displays of macabre taxidermic pieces, old dolls with painted faces, ouija boards, voodoo dolls, mannequin parts, religious relics, shrines, etc. This was by far the most unique shop that I have ever seen in this town, in the 30 years I have been visiting.

Upon more discovery of the shop's background, I learned that most of the pieces in there had been materials restored and creepified by the shop's very eccentric owners, artists D.L. Marian and Danielle Deveroux. D.L. (Donna) is a Bucks County artist that has spent 20 years exploring the Gothic Art Genre. She has 5000 pieces in collections worldwide and her work has even been displayed in the TV & Motion Picture Industry and Universal Studios Theme Parks. Her work has also been displayed on the cover of many worldwide magazines, publications, and book covers. Danielle is mixed media artist who loves working in acrylics and clay. She loves finding old antique and vintage pieces to put her magical touch on. She really loves to create things that look decades or even "millennial" old. She admires Tim Burton and often looks to him for inspiration when creating her own work. These two creepy ladies have brought their talents together to make something so extraordinary and unique, and they love sharing their vision with the visitors of New Hope.

Visit this destination yourself,
in person or on the web!

The Creeper Gallery
Gothic Fine Art * Antiques * Peculiars
7 West Bridge Street New Hope, PA 18938
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www.TheCreeperGallery.com



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“The tri-state area’s biggest, most exciting, most electrifying Halloween event returns for a delightful 28 nights in 2014!”



“I went last year and it was absolutely BREATHTAKING to think about how many man hours went into carving every single one of those pumpkins! I hope to go back this year!”
- Justina Carubia
- Editor in Chief of Abra-zine!

See more than 5,000 individually hand-carved, illuminated jack o' lanterns in this elaborate walkthrough experience. Meander through an historic, 18th-century riverside landscape and discover a breathtaking display — all made of jack o' lanterns! Walk through a covered bridge adorned with jack o'lanterns on all sides — even the ceiling! — and emerge to the sight of Sleepy Hollow Country's most iconic inhabitant, the Headless Horseman! Oooh and ahh at intricate pumpkin portraits of characters from Washington Irving's famous tale, The Legend of Sleepy Hollow.

Tumbling acrobats and circus characters will put a smile on your face, and a special 10th anniversary pumpkin cake will whet your appetite for...more pumpkins! Witness the incredible sight of gourd-filled Jack-in-the-Boxes springing up and bouncing around. See slithering ground snakes, a giant spider web, and go gaga over a collection of shrunken Little Monsters. Gaze in amazement at a working doomsday grandfather clock. A giant sea serpent adds some hiss to the Undersea Aquarium while comical, squash-eating Venus pumpkin traps sprout in the garden. Blaze's perennially popular Jurassic Park includes a triceratops, a pterodactyl, a brontosaurus, and a T-Rex!

Come gawk at more jack o'lanterns than ever before. Tens of thousands of visitors experienced last year's Blaze®, which was sold out EVERY NIGHT! Complete with sound effects, elaborate synchronized lighting and the second volume of an all-original-soundtrack by recording artist Richard Christy, this not-to-be-missed spectacle is the area's most innovative Halloween happening.

Recommended for all ages.

Blaze is handicapped accessible, as there are no stairs to negotiate through the installation. However, there are some narrow and slightly sloped brick paths and it is a walk-through experience along uneven, unpaved, soft-surface terrain. Handicapped parking is available, but your car must display a handicapped placard or plate.

Adults, \$20; Children 3-17, \$16
(Saturdays \$25, \$20)
FREE for children under 3

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All of the photos on this page were taken by Avinash B. Patel. He is a Halloween enthusiast from South Plainfield, NJ. You can find more of his Halloween photos on his Flickr stream [HERE!](#) You can also view his portfolio or hire him to shoot your engagement, wedding or event photos from his official site...

www.AvinashPatel.com



THE SPIRIT OF SALEM

A Visitor's Guide to a Witchy Good Time!

By Justina Carubia



FOOD AND SPIRITS

You didn't think I was going to talk about my trip and not tell you about all the hot spots to sit a "spell" and enjoy some hearty yummy comfort food, did you?!

Well first things first, when you arrive in the heart of Salem you are going to notice that Roast Beef is a VERY popular thing here. I personally did not try it, but there are places literally everywhere for it. One place that comes to mind is Sammy's Roast Beef. You can't miss the billboard for the place. Apparently Kelley's on Revere Beach is the best one to go to. Another awesome thing to get in the New England area is seafood. It will most likely be fresh, since Salem is right on the water. The place we at on our first day here was Murphy's Restaurant and Pub, which had amazing Fish and Chips and New England Clam Chowder. Everything just tasted so fresh and delicious! I think the prices were pretty reasonable here.

One place that we ate at that was very interesting at the time, was The Great Escape Restaurant. Apparently this place was an old jail that had been converted into a trendy hot spot for Italian cuisine. It was a very neat concept! The staff wore the jailbird outfits with black and white stripes, and the designers of the restaurant had used the theme of their remodeled environment to their advantage with all of their marketing. They left the corroded brick interior and some of the jail cell doors which was a pretty cool atmosphere to dine in. The food was very delicious but was pretty overpriced for what it was. Also I remember the parking being a bit weird. Since there wasn't anywhere for patrons to park, they did offer free valet, which was nice. Sadly in the past year or so, The Great Escape was bought out by an up and coming burger joint (A&B Burgers) that will soon be taking its place in the coming year.

One fun fest that you MUST do if you decide to visit Salem, if you are of drinking age, is to check out the Wine, Beer, & Mead festival at the Knights of Columbus across the Salem Common. This festival is called Harvest Fest and is run by a company called Pamplemousse. Our advanced tickets were about \$25 a person, but that included open bar for about 2.5 hours, snacks like cheese, fruit, and other picking foods, and also a complimentary souvenir wine glass with the Harvest Fest logo, and also said Salem, Mass. They also sold T-shirts there for extra money, and had live music going on. A guy was playing acoustic guitar and singing 90s tunes which was fun. There was also a photo booth where you can put on some costumes and take a souvenir photo. This was definitely one of my favorite events we went to here.

There were also a couple other good places to eat. There was Rockafella's Bar in Derby Square which used to be a bank. This place had yummy lobster mac and cheese and the clam chowder here was better than the one at Murphy's; it had ham bits in it if you like that smokier flavor! And the last place I'd like to list, is The Old Spot. This place seemed to be the place to go if you wanted some hearty comfort food, and we needed our fuel here for our five hour trek home. We ate here on our last morning in Salem, I had the french onion soup to start and then the chicken pot pie which was delicious!! It came in a little glass bowl with a slab of square crust just resting on top. The chicken and veggie chunks were huge and hearty and was nice and warming for the chilly day! My boyfriend had the Shepherd's Pie which was the same type of glass dish with layers of mashed potatoes, corn, and beef. Actually after all of this food, we would have much rather gone back to sleep! Hahah!

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

We did a couple other attractions during our trip here. One was Scary Mary and the Audio Corset. This was a very interesting show! It was held at Salem Movie Theater which is a small little local theater. The premise was set around this band fronted by the character Scary Mary, who is supposed to be a high school metal babe who fell victim to a prank gone wrong 30 years ago, resulting in her soul being trapped in an audio cassette tape that had gotten lost over time. This show acts as her resurrection as she performs the band's original music in between short independent horror films from all around the world. This was definitely a fun one for adults as far as the content goes, and also it was way afterwards. It ran very late! I'm not sure if they do this every year, but I'm glad we caught it!

Another thing we did was the Witches Cottage (It is now renamed Gallow's Hill theater). This was a special effects show in a darkened theater which retold many of Salem's urban myths and legends. This show was complete with creepy lighting, fog machines, and I remember some of it being very comedic. I would say this show is for adults, especially since it was after hours, and came with a complimentary local seasonal craft beer.

Our first night in the Salem area, we spent attending a production of *Evil Dead The Musical* at the Lynne Arts Center, in Lynne. This was actually not in Salem, but maybe 15 minutes on the outskirts. I remember this part of MA being VERY shady and slummy, but the theater itself was very nice, clean, and welcoming. Our splatter zone tickets came with complimentary ponchos as they spray fake blood into the audience toward the end of the play. They also had a concession stand where I paid \$8.00 for a small dixie cup of alcoholic beverage. Jeez! I guess I'll consider that as a donation to the arts, hahah! The play however, was AMAZING, and my boyfriend and I were peeing our pants, laughing the whole time, so the money spent on the tickets were well worth it! I just wish it weren't in such a shady area.

One thing that we didn't get to do that I really wish we did, was visit the Pickering Wharf, which is a marina where you can walk around, and visit many different quaint little shops and such. There is also a really cool pirate ship called *The Friendship of Salem*, in the middle of the harbor, at the wharf. We finally did find the House of Seven Gables that everyone was talking about the whole time. The house was the basis for the classic novel by Nathaniel Hawthorne. It sits right on the water, and is available and open for tours. I really wish we could have gone, but it just gave us more of a reason to go back and visit once again!

Overall, the quaint town of Salem is filled with so much spirit and has something to offer everyone who comes to visit. There are attractions for young kids (carnivals and rides in Salem Common), to the nightlife for the young pub crawlers and club hoppers. There are even quaint shops and relaxing B&Bs for the older crowd as well. No matter what age, everyone can appreciate the magic that Salem has to offer during the Autumn season. What's more important, is that no matter how dark and shadowy Salem's heavy past remains, the town's people don't wallow in sadness. They celebrate their rich history and share it with all of the curious foreigners who flock to their native town just to take a little piece of that magical spirit back home with them. And maybe even a T-shirt!

New England is one of the best places to visit in the US, if you are looking for the full Autumn experience. Not only should you visit for the scenic aesthetics, as the leaves change all sorts of beautiful fiery colors (a photographer's dream), but it is also rich in some of the USA's most notable haunted history. New England is not a state of the US, but a region of the northeast, consisting of the modern day states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. New York is technically not a New England territory, but it is right on the border on the West side of the region. Although it is not a New England region, New York still has some notable spots that are equally magically eerie and great to visit around the Autumn season and Harvest holidays, especially Halloween!

One of the most popular pieces of supernatural history in the New England region of the US, comes from Salem, Massachusetts- The Salem Witch Trials. I remember learning about this subject in middle school and have been fascinated by it all through my teenage years and into my adult life. Witches have always been a full blown obsession for me, and I finally did get to visit that quaint little witchy town, in October of 2012. We actually went the week before Halloween, which I am glad we did because many people we knew tried going last minute the week of, and things were just way overcrowded and all of the bookings for the tours, shows, etc. were SOLD OUT. I would also recommend staying on the outskirts of Salem, which is A LOT cheaper! We stayed in Danvers, which is about a 10-15 minute drive from the center of town in Salem. We were only there to sleep and shower in the morning so it didn't make much sense for us to splurge on a fancy bed and breakfast (which would have been nice, but if you're trying to save, chain hotels on the outskirts are the way to go).

Upon our adventures in Salem, we really made the best out of the 3 or 4 days we were there. We booked everything we did at least 3 - 4 weeks in advance to ensure we got to do everything we wanted. Here are some of the things we did when we went, that I think are worthy of checking out if you do decide to make the trip.

You can see Max and Dani Dennison's house from the movie *Hocus Pocus*. Somebody actually lives here, so there are no tours running through, but you can drive by and snap some pics of the house. It sits by the water on Ocean Avenue in Salem. Also you must make it a "point" to visit The Burying Point which is the oldest burial ground in the city of Salem (1637). There, lies the bodies of Captain Richard More (Mayflower Passenger), Justice John Hathorne (Judge of the Witchcraft Court in the trials of 1692). He was actually related to author Nathaniel Hawthorne who was famous for penning the classic tale of the *House of Seven Gables*, which you can also see in Salem. The author added the W to his name to disassociate himself from his uncle who was partly responsible for the persecution and hanging of 22 innocent people who were found guilty of witchcraft.

Not too far from The Burying Point was a memorial ground placed for those 22 people wrongly accused and hanged in the name of witchcraft. This memorial ground consists of engraved stone benches for each of the victims of the trials. These were placed in a square or courtyard type of setting. Many people would leave flowers in remembrance, or even letters from anonymous people, to the deceased, thanking them for being so brave and courageous and setting an example for those who are discriminated against for different reasons in today's day in age. On the ground at the entrance to the memorial square, lies a quote engraved in the stone. It reads, "I am innocent. I am wronged. My life lies now in your hands. If I would confess, I should save my life. Oh Lord help me, I am wholly innocent of such wickedness. God knows I am innocent. I do plead not guilty. I can deny it to my dying day. I am no witch." The whole place leaves a very heavy and somber feeling in your heart. You can really feel all of the pain and darkness that these benches represent. Also another tidbit of information: There are no convicted witches buried in any of the burying points throughout Salem. Witches were hanged and thrown in ditches or into water, for they were not to be buried in sacred and religious cemeteries. Also the exact location of Gallow's Hill, where the "witches" were hanged, is actually unknown. There is some speculation upon where it really is, versus where the modern day town of Salem declared it should be. (WATCH A VIDEO HERE ON THE SPECULATION OF THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE REAL GALLOW'S HILL!)

Aside from visiting these memorial grounds, we also explored a few museums which offered up a wealth of knowledge about the whole subject matter for which we were there to learn about. A few of the museums we visited were The Salem Witch Museum, which had an animatronic display of scenes from the witch trials along with a recorded story, The Witch Dungeon Museum which had a dramatic reenactment with actors on a stage in the main room followed by a dungeon tour with wax figures showing the extremes which the accused had endured during those times of persecution, and lastly The Witch House which was not a tour or an educational attraction, but more of a spooky one with more entertainment value. This house was actually the home of witch trial judge, Jonathan Corwin. The house has been kept in its old fashioned state and is very eerie and creepy at night, where they now host ghost story attractions. Actors dress up and give creepy ghost story monologues by candlelight.

If you are into more audience participation type of attractions, I highly suggest going to see Bridget Bishop vs. The People at Town Hall in Derby Square. In this hour or so long attraction, the audience acts as the jury in the courtroom, while Bridget Bishop and many different witnesses take the stand. In the end, you, as part of the audience will have to use the testimonies from both Bridget Bishop and the witnesses to determine whether or not she should be found guilty of witchcraft and hanged, or if she is innocent. The outcome differs with each audience, but after the audience comes to their fictional verdict, the actors do tell you what really did in fact end up happening to the real life Bridget Bishop. After this attraction, there is a small museum in the downstairs of Town Hall where you can find more information and see some paraphernalia from the Civil War, as well as more facts from the Witch Trials.

Darby Square was really so much fun! This courtyard is filled with many souvenir shops and some haunted attractions as well as vendors and food. The sights and sounds here are really something to be a part of. You can just really feel the spirit of Salem here! There are creepy characters walking around in costume, and even a booth where you can get real vampire teeth applied to your canines. We opted to get a caricature done by an artist there which was fun! If you are into the creepy ghost story thing, there are candlelit ghost tours you can sign up for. There are so many different companies that run these things here. We did one when we went, and it was a lot of fun, but if you are not up front to hear the guide talk, it can get very boring, so be sure to keep up! Also they give you styrofoam cups to put around your candle to catch the wax. They do warn you to be careful not to burn your cup, but guess who ended up burning her cup? HAHA! Yup, yours truly. Also it does get very chilly at night during these ghost walks, so dress warm and do what we did before our tour congregated in the square, pick yourself up a nice hot spiced apple cider!



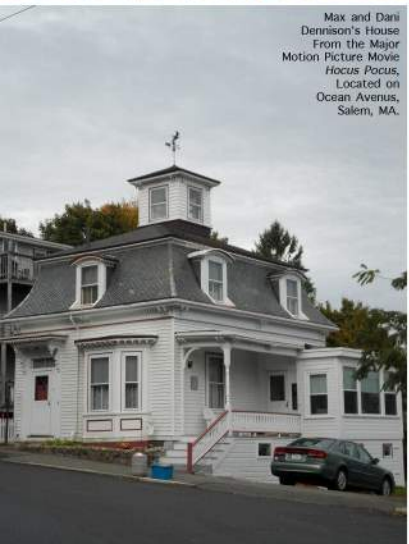
Ponchos ready for the splatter zone at Evil Dead The Musical at Lyne Arts Center in Lyne, MA.



"Witch House" and home of witch trial judge Jonathan Corwin. Now used for Eerie Evenings Spooky Ghost Story Attraction!



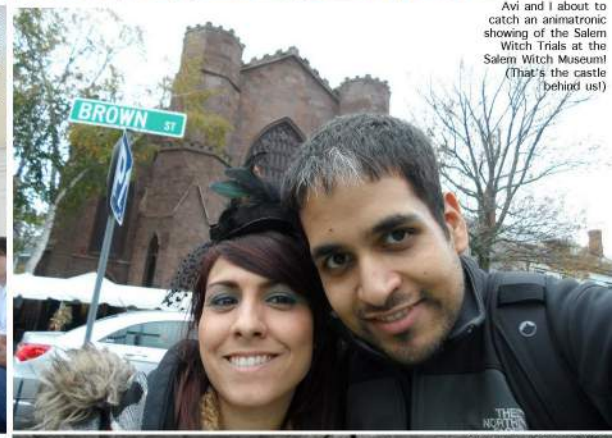
Avi and I getting caricatures in Derby Square!



Max and Dani Dennison's House From the Major Motion Picture Movie Hocus Pocus, Located on Ocean Avenue, Salem, MA.



Actors portraying the courtroom hearing of Bridget Bishop to an audience in Town Hall in Derby Square.



Avi and I about to catch an animatronic showing of the Salem Witch Trials at the Salem Witch Museum! (That's the castle behind us!)



Avi and I posing with our complimentary wine glasses from Harvest Fest at The Knights of Columbus!



THE BURYING POINT
1637
The Oldest Burying Ground In The City Of Salem
Here Are Buried
Capt. Richard More
Mayflower Passenger
Justice John Hathorne
Of The Witchcraft Court.
Samuel McIntire
Architect
Gov. Simon Bradstreet
Chief Justice Benjamin Lynde
Rev. John Higginson

The oldest burying point in Salem!



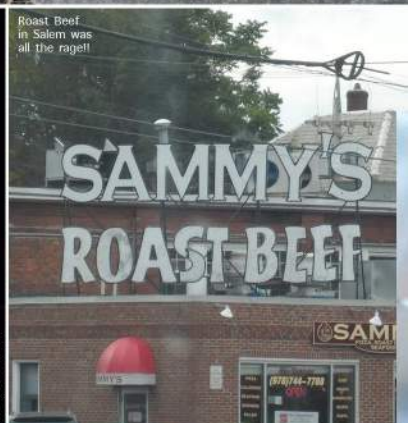
One of the 22 engraved benches in remembrance of those who were persecuted and hanged as-witches as result of the Salem Witch Trials of 1692! Giles Corey was the only one who was not hanged, but pressed to death for refusing to confess to witchcraft.



Avi and I with our illuminated candles and spiced cider in hand, ready to embark on our ghost walk tour! HOW SPOOKY!



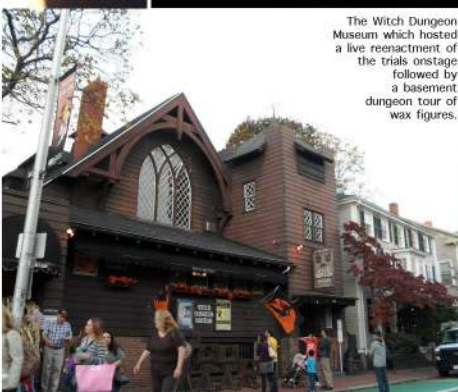
Scary Mary and the Audio Corset performing original music in between short horror films at The Salem Movie Theater!



Roast Beef in Salem was all the rage!!



Avi posing with Frankenstein, one of the many crazy characters to make an appearance in Derby Square!



The Witch Dungeon Museum which hosted a live reenactment of the trials onstage followed by a basement dungeon tour of wax figures.



Some hearty chicken pot pie at The Old Spot in Salem, MA. DELICIOUS!

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO TIMOTHY WILTSEY?

Solving Mysteries with the Stars

By Renee Francis
Psychic & Astrologer



On the night of May 25, 1991, 5-year-old Timothy Wiltsey disappeared from a carnival in Sayreville, New Jersey. After twenty-three years of suspicion about what really happened to Timothy Wiltsey, I'm wondering still, if we will ever know the truth, even now with this latest development.

Timothy's mom, Michelle Lodzinski, has finally been charged with his murder.

As it appears, a new level of confidence has overwhelmed the powers in blue. Their investigative work up to this point was able to convince a Middlesex County Grand Jury to hand down an indictment for 1st degree murder against little Timmy's mother. I'm sure, donning silent grins, their August 6, 2014 arrest of 'Mommy Lodzinski' was bittersweet in that this particular date honored what would of been Timmy's 29th birthday.

Every report seems to offer the time of 7:30 PM for when she proclaimed to have discovered him missing from a line of people waiting to get on a ride after she left him to go buy a cold soda.

As most of us Jersey folk know, a few days later Mommy Lodzinski started shifting her story line about the events of that evening. No matter what the temperature was outside that August, her changing story misted a steamy swirl of suspicion about her ever since. I'm sure the shadow of her behavior that she cast on herself has lingered heavily upon police right up to this point. It will be interesting to learn what they've finally got on her that has their old case on a path of possible closure.

What police didn't know when 'Mom Lodzinski's' decided to start weaving her web of lies about Timothy's vanishing from the Sayreville Carnival was that there was help written in stars for that moment in time. It was help that could have possibly assisted in getting closure sooner. But sadly, the police, like most people, believe that the stars are just for prettying up the night time sky. Yet, I'll demonstrate here that Timothy's case, as well as the other missing children cases I have profiled, will beg to differ. I want readers to know that we do have help when our children disappear. Missing is only a matter of perception.

You see, at 7:30 PM on May 25th in 1991 the stars held a wealth of disturbing parallels between the astronomical process and the events in the Timothy Wiltsey case.

When a child disappears, or anyone for that matter, there are 360° of possible directions we must consider to begin a search—not to mention the miles in distance. Isn't it comforting to know that the gravitational pull of the planets on our Earth and our bodies at the time of a disappearance can actually help to eliminate most of the 360° and that the planets' measurement can even offer us the distance? I think so.

In the case of Timothy Wiltsey, the celestial longitude of the planets Saturn and Neptune by the exact details of their measurements was carving out an area of land for which 11 months later offered the partial skeletal remains of Timothy Wiltsey. While the planet Pluto's position in the astronomical chart offered the same direction by its position in the star chart. Again, the stars are not just for our visual nighttime pleasure. They are a part of measurable system in the universe in which we share by living within it.

Since we haven't thus far been able to get the truth from 'Mom Lodzinski' as to what really happened to Timothy —let's see what the stars had to say at the moment she decided to lie about his whereabouts.

The Moon was 4 degrees Scorpio holding its tightest applying aspect with the planet Saturn at 6 degrees Aquarius which in its total degrees of celestial longitude measured 306°. In the map below, I drew a 306° vector line from Lodzinski's home at 362 Augusta in South Amboy and extended it 4 miles out to the Raritan area where Timothy's remains were found. Then I drew another 4 mile vector line from her home measuring 286° for the celestial longitude of the planet Neptune at the time of the disappearance, which extends to the other end of the area near Red Root Creek of the Raritan River.

It was in between these two vector lines that Timothys' remains were found. NOTE: In this map, I drew my vector lines out 4 miles, because both the Moon and the Sun were measuring 4 degrees in their zodiacal sign positions.

Here is another interesting find. The planet Uranus at the time was in tight aspect to Mercury. Mercury is the planet that rules our words and the statements we make. Uranus is the planet of change. So it's no wonder that Mommy changed her original story a few times in the days that immediately followed. However, how uncanny is it that, Uranus, measured 283° of celestial longitude and when you invert the number to 238° it vectors from her home, some 1.91 miles right over the area of the JFK Memorial Park in Sayreville where "Mommy" decided she would weave her story (Mercury) to report Timmy strangely missing (Uranus).

From experience, these exactitudes suggest that Mom Lodzinski knew exactly where Timmy was at the moment she spiraled into weaving her story that he went missing at the carnival.

Another indicator to me that she knew Timmy was already expired was that Venus at 18° Cancer was in an exact trine to Pluto at 18° Scorpio. Cancer is the sign that rules the home and the mother, while Pluto rules death and the corpse. I can't help but to think Timothy died at home. It's also the aspect that puts his remains in water, but it could also indicate he died in water. Without an exact time of birth I can't be sure.

But here is the part of the numbers I like the best. Mars is the planet of murder. Mars at the time of the crime measured 29° of Cancer (remember, Cancer rules the mother). It's a karmic delight to know that "Mommy Lodzinski" got arrested for his murder on what would of been his 29th birthday. And don't you think it's a bit 'spooky' that Mars at the 29th degree of Cancer, which in full celestial notation measures a total of 119° of longitude, is the same numeric digits that marks his mother's own 11/9 birthday in 1967? Off topic for a second: The date 11/9 seems to favor murder—as it was the same date that New Jersey's John List murdered his entire family and then went on to elude Westfield police for 18 years, but let's stick with the case of Timothy Wiltsey.

Speaking of birth dates, I'll add here that when Timothy William Wiltsey was born on 8/6/85, the planet Pluto, the ruler of the corpse and death, was measuring 2° of the water sign, Scorpio. From their home at 362 Augusta, South Amboy, it is a little over 2 miles (as the crow flies) from his home to Red Root Creek where his remains were found. It was also a little over 2 miles from the Carnival to Red Root Creek. Jupiter, the planet of Justice, at Timmy's birth measured 11° and it was 11 months later when his partial remains were finally discovered two miles away from both his home and the carnival. That's two separate planets with their own orbital speed, revolving around the Sun. They give us exact details as they appeared in this case.

This map to the right is to illustrate the disappearance chart's center point positioned over the home on Augusta and shows where the planets were positioned when flipped 90° and put at ground level. Remember this chart is erected for 7:30 PM for when she said Timmy went missing. This is how we use the stars in future cases of the missing.

The Stars and their measuring numerics revealed some pretty fascinating parallels in this case, but what really happened to him that fateful day? Without an exact time of Timothy's birth on August 6, 1985 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa to set the stage for his life, and his demise, I can't with any certainty arrive at a cause of death with confidence.

But, I can break down a few of his planetary aspects at his birth to take a few stabs at the possibilities.

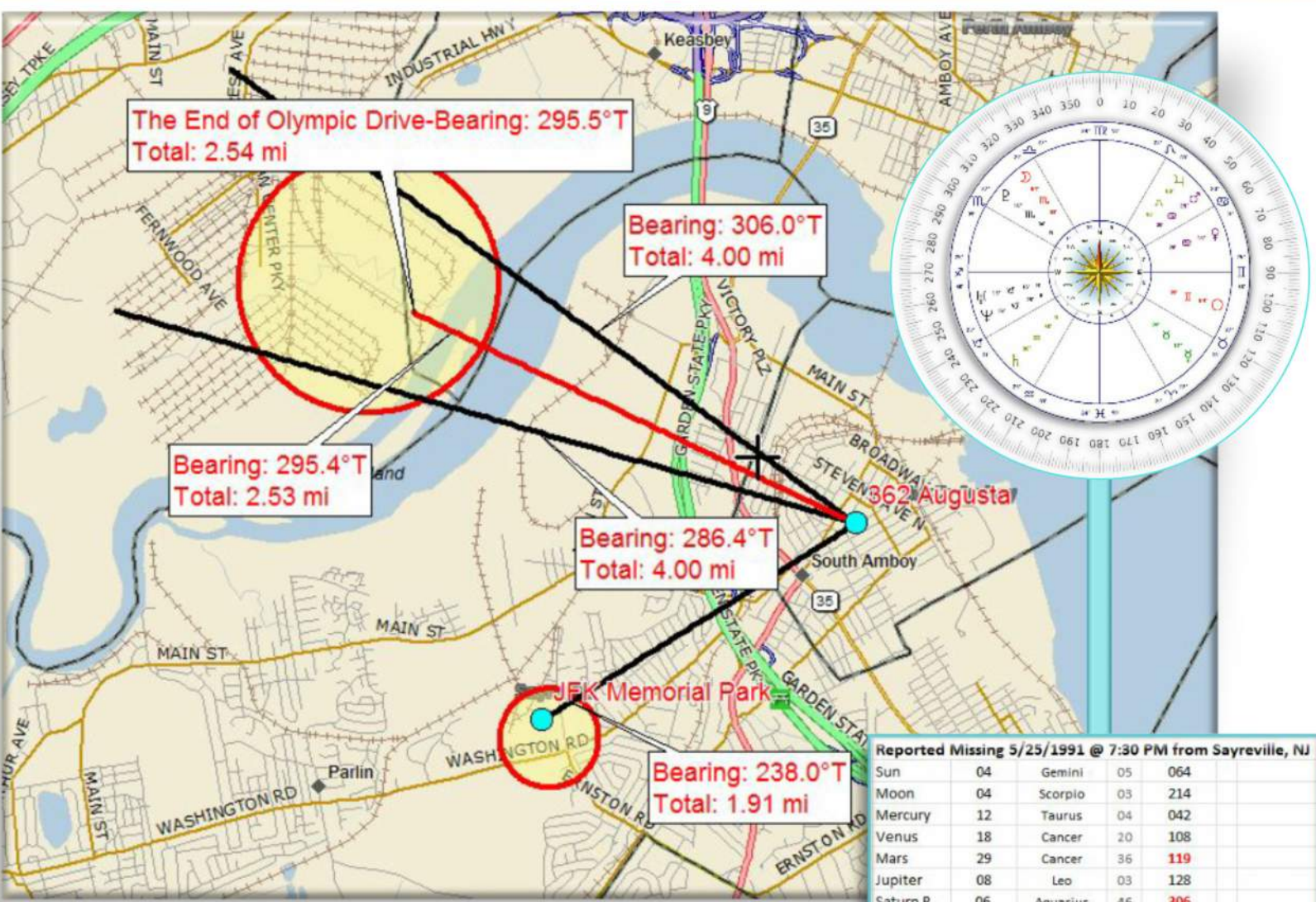


Renee Francis is a Research Astrologer who has conducted her own astrological study in the matter of missing children. Learn more about her work and how we can use the stars to find the missing at www.MissingChildrenBlog.blogspot.com

- Sun Exact Trine to Uranus - The Sun being the life force energy is afflicted by the ray of Uranus and suggests his death came quickly.
- Sun 14° Leo Square Saturn 21°Scorpio - By age 5 1/2, Timothy's Sun had progressed to be only 1 degree away from an exact square to Saturn---this aspect suggests an early death--- while the degrees in progression foretold of the round about age of death. Saturn stops or limits everything it touches. To the Sun it could indicate the heart stopped, but...
- Mercury Retrograde is exactly Squaring Saturn - An indication of fluid in the Lungs or something digested. Wherein that could of been the cause of his death first before the heart stopped.
- The Moon in Aries is another indicator of the life force energy and its aspect to Mercury retrograde sort of makes me feel that he made have expired due to his mothers' (the Moon) own mistake or forgetfulness (Mercury Retrograde). This aspect is making me think that he either drowned because he wasn't being watch properly, (Mercury Retrograde) or he digested or swallowed something lethal that was not properly secured. Moon in Aries with a Retro Mercury could also suggest to a blow to the head from the Mother that wasn't intended to be lethal, but was, ultimately.

- Venus in Cancer in Trine to Pluto in Scorpio and in opposition to Neptune suggests the watery elements in which his remains were found --in the silt of the Red Root Creek of the Raritan River. But that Venus Pluto aspect together with the Moon Mercury aspect sort makes me feel he may have drowned or choked--but if that's true why didn't she just get him help?
- Now there is one more aspect that bugs me, and it's Mars in Leo opposite Jupiter---this aspect to me has me thinking that Timothy was a physical handful---meaning that he had a lot of energy. Could his mother just have turned her head for a minute and before you know it he was in trouble? Or did he drive her to her very last nerve and she snapped with a lethal slap?

For my own edification, I would love to know and I'm crossing my fingers that the powers in blue get to extradite "Mommy Lodzinski" back to New Jersey early September and we hopefully learn what really happened to little Timothy Wiltsey.



Reported Missing 5/25/1991 @ 7:30 PM from Sayreville, NJ

Sun	04	Gemini	05	064
Moon	04	Scorpio	03	214
Mercury	12	Taurus	04	042
Venus	18	Cancer	20	108
Mars	29	Cancer	36	119
Jupiter	08	Leo	03	128
Saturn R	06	Aquarius	46	306
Uranus R	13	Capricorn	16	283
Neptune R	16	Capricorn	25	286
Pluto R	18	Scorpio	34	228
ASC	25	Sagittarius	46	265
MID	24	Virgo	58	174

Timothy Wiltsey Disappearance

FEAR ACCORDING TO TAROT

By The Four Queens



The Four Queens is a Tarot blog, Etsy shop and Youtube channel offering affordable spiritual counselling, Tarot readings, in-depth articles and useful free lessons. These useful tools were all conjured up by the quirky and easy to love Kelly-Ann Maddox, a qualified spiritual counselor, award-winning Tarot reader, and free-wheeling Chaos witch. She received her diploma with distinction from the UK College of Holistic Training in 2013.

Even people with very little working knowledge of Tarot have some kind of imprinted visual memory of certain cards in the Rider Waite deck. Why? Because they have long been used in movies to represent impending doom! By the time I was fourteen I had already seen several movies in which the central characters had visited a Tarot reader and gasped with trepidation at the sight of cards like Death, The Devil and the Ten of Swords (which depicts a rather gruesome murder scene involving, well, ten swords). It is natural for people to associate such themes and visual imagery with fear, but what are these cards really saying when they come up in someone's reading? Should someone be filled with fear if these cards show up?

I've been reading Tarot for over a decade now and my journey as a professional Tarot reader has been four years in the making. During that time I have built up an internal index of meanings and interpretations for each card, and I am always delighted to see the cards that are usually associated with fear. This is because I have learned that such cards serve a meaningful and profound purpose. They encourage people to reframe their response to their own worries and see them in a new light. Death doesn't really symbolize the impending demise of the querent but in fact usually represents a complete metamorphosis or the need to deal gracefully with unexpected change. Death usually shows up to remind a querent that change is a natural part of life and needn't be feared or resisted. The Devil usually appears to encourage a querent to examine their negative thought patterns and bad habits. This card often heralds a time of self-improvement and a renewed sense of control over one's behaviours and choices. The Ten of Swords is another card that represents change. Far from bringing news of a murder, it actually correlates more closely with the idea of 'murdering' the old order of things and becoming a new version of yourself. Another card that is often feared is The Tower because it shows a scene of destruction, fire and peril. Often, this card shows up to remind a querent to be strong in their core so that they can cope with any external chaos that may seek to shake them off their perch!

Many Tarot readers choose to use decks with gentler and softer imagery so as not to frighten their querents out of their wits! But I have always appreciated the perilous appearance of some of the cards in the traditional Rider Waite deck because they serve to show us that everything is not as it seems at first sight. Sometimes all we need to do is adjust our perspective and see the positive side of our fears. When a querent feels nervous about creating positive change in their lives, the cards in their spread will often encourage them to face their fears and make peace with them. Fear can be used as fuel. I often tell my clients to 'ride their fear like a powerful horse', much like the imagery of the Death card in Rider Waite deck. Fear is your internal challenge, your call to action and your opportunity to prove that you are willing to go the distance to make your life extraordinary. When you 'feel the fear and do it anyway', you get to witness your own light pulsing out into the world. You get to congratulate yourself and gather the evidence of your own strength.

You can't always eliminate fear completely, especially when you are approaching a new phase of your life and trying to take it by the reins. Fear is a natural response to change, but the way you choose to respond to your fear is everything. Fear can make or break you. Many of the messages in the Tarot deck serve to remind a querent of that and help them to master their fears, accepting that they are present but refusing to allow them to act as chains. Fear is a central theme in Tarot, but its presence is much more positive than people realize!



Above Cards From the Rider Waite Tarot Deck, From Left to Right: 10 of Swords, Death, The Tower, & The Devil

WWW.THEFOURQUEENS.COM



Mini Samhain Reading!

\$9.20
USD

THE FOUR QUEENS

The Four Queens Tarot is serving up something very special for this Harvest Season and you can only get it in her Etsy shop! This reading offers a glimpse of the Samhain energies for you this year. Cards are drawn to help you consider what you are ready to say goodbye to in your life and how you can ease your fear of moving ahead with plans. This reading also reveals any warning elements or hidden factors which you may be having difficulty seeing. Samhain often brings deep mysteries to the surface and enhances your intuitive powers. Make this year's Samhain as inspiring and spellbinding as possible! 500 words minimum (PDF file).

E

Visit Kelly-Ann's Etsy shop to find more details and/or to purchase a reading!

Ghoulish Jokes

Q: Why did the skeleton not cross the road?

A: Because he had no guts!

Q: What do witches get in hotel rooms?

A: Broom Service!

Q: Why do witches fly on brooms?

A: Vacuum cleaner cords aren't long enough!

Q: What do you get when you cross a psychic with a clown?

A: A Happy Medium!

Q: Why did the monster eat the lightbulb?

A: Because he needed a light snack!

Q: What do you get when you cross a teacher with a vampire?

A: A lot of blood tests!

Q: How do you make a witch itch?

A: Take away her W!

Q: What runs around the cemetery, but does not move?

A: The Fence!



Art:
"Nicole Witch"
By Monique Malknox
(Poland)

SLOW DOWN.
YOU'RE MAKING
ME NERVOUS.

I'M GOING UNDER
THE SPEED LIMIT.

CARS ARE DANGEROUS.
AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF
DEATH?

A LITTLE.
BUT WHAT ARE
YOU AFRAID OF?



SUPERDEATH.



FREAKY PHOBIAS!

It is human nature to have a fear of something! Most fears are actually very common! However, there are some very strange and sometimes comical fears that do exist! Can you match the proper fear name to its definition? Feel free to print this page out and use a pen to draw a line from fear name to proper answer! Not sure of one? Check out the upside down answer key at the bottom of the page! Try not to cheat though! What's the fun in that!?!

Fear Name

1. Ailurophobia
2. Musophobia
3. Pneumatiphobia
4. Necrophobia
5. Placophobia
6. Chiroptophobia
7. Mottephobia
8. Omphalophobia
9. Achluophobia
10. Bufonophobia
11. Hylophobia
12. Nosocomophobia
13. Phobophobia
14. Nebulaphobia
15. Pupaphobia
16. Entomophobia
17. Paraskavedekatriaphobia
18. Ambulophobia
19. Pogonophobia
20. Catotrophobia

Definition

- A. Fear of Beards
- B. Fear of Mirrors
- C. Fear of Death or Dead Things
- D. Fear of Friday the 13th
- E. Fear of Tombstones
- F. Fear of Insects
- G. Fear of Spirits
- H. Fear of Forests
- I. Fear of Darkness
- J. Fear of Cats
- K. Fear of Walking
- L. Fear of Mice
- M. Fear of Belly Buttons
- N. Fear of Moths
- O. Fear of Toads
- P. Fear of Bats
- Q. Fear of Phobias
- R. Fear of Hospitals
- S. Fear of Fog
- T. Fear of Puppets

FOR MORE PHOBIAS
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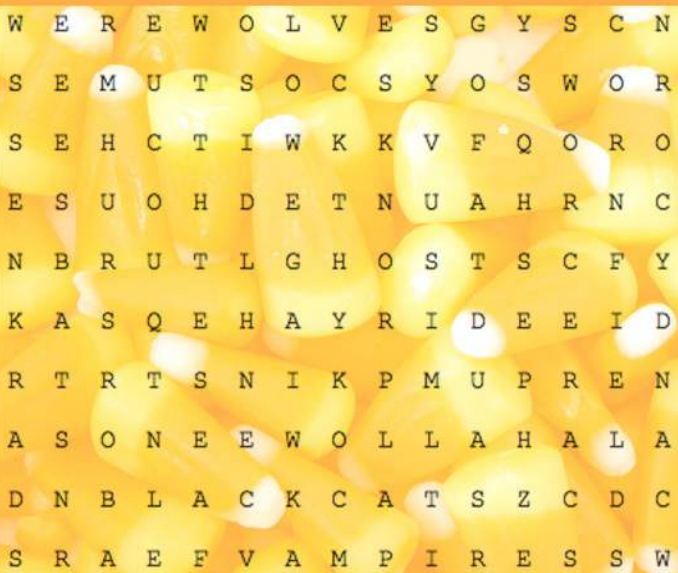
Art:
"Talking With the Dead"
By Kate Wheeler
(Howell, MI, USA)



Halloween Crossword

Find These Words:

- Bats
- Cornfield
- Fear
- Halloween
- Pumpkins
- Vampires
- Black Cats
- Costumes
- Fog
- Haunted House
- Scarecrows
- Werewolves
- Candycorn
- Darkness
- Ghosts
- Hayride
- Skeleton
- Withces



Answer Key For Phobia Game: (1, J)(2, L)(3, G)(4, C)(5, E)(6, P)(7, N)(8, M)(9, I)(10, O)(11, H)(12, R)(13, Q)(14, S)(15, T)(16, F)(17, D)(18, K)(19, A)(20, B)

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f

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f

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f

THE WITCHES BALL
 IN HISTORIC MILL RACE VILLAGE
 MOUNT HOLLY, NEW JERSEY

Submit to the Winter 2015 Issue

We will be exploring
the theme of...

angels

Have you ever had an experience where you felt extremely close to spirit? Maybe you had a near death experience, or you felt like some unknown force had pushed you in a certain direction that ultimately worked in your favor? Angels are supernatural beings that have graced the pages of ancient mythologies, for centuries. Some believe that we have spirit guides who follow us through life, watching and listening closely incase we ever need them through those hard times in life. "Abra-zine!" would love to hear about your experiences with Angels, Spirit Guides, or The Spirit World!

We are looking for submissions in the form of stories, articles, interviews, videos/vlogs, poetry, prose, lyrics, music, artwork, arts n' crafts projects, how to guides, photography, recipes, meditations, affirmations, travel pieces, giveaways, etc.! These are just some things to jog your imagination! If you have an idea that can pertain to our theme that is not on this list, please send it to us!

**Before Submitting Please Read Our
[Full Submission Guidelines HERE](#)**



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