

***Wicked Lit* Halloween Theatre Festival of New Plays Returns To Los Angeles in October of 2010 at Altadena Mausoleum and Cemetery**

Follow-up production to the sold-out run at Greystone Mansion in 2009

World premiere plays include:

Edgar Allan Poe's *The Cask of Amontillado*, adapted by Paul Millet
H. P. Lovecraft's *The Unnamable*, adapted by Jeff G. Rack
Charles Dickens' *The Chimes*, adapted by Jonathan Josephson

LOS ANGELES, CA – Producers Jonathan Josephson, Jeff G. Rack, and Paul Millet have announced the plays, dates and location of the 2010 ***Wicked Literature: A Halloween Theatre Festival***. The annual event features world premiere stage adaptations of classic, Gothic literature performed in alternative venues. Last year's festival was a sold-out walking tour through Beverly Hills' haunted Greystone Mansion – this year's festival will take place from **October 21-31, 2010 (10 performances only)** at the Mountain View Mausoleum and Cemetery in Altadena, CA. The evening of short works will be comprised of Edgar Allan Poe's *The Cask of Amontillado*, adapted by Paul Millet; H. P. Lovecraft's *The Unnamable*, adapted by Jeff G. Rack; and Charles Dickens' *The Chimes*, adapted by Jonathan Josephson.

Said Millet, "We are thrilled for the opportunity to produce ***Wicked Lit*** at Mountain View Mausoleum this fall. With the immense success of the Greystone production last year, it's clear there is great interest in the alternative venue aspect of ***Wicked Lit***."

Millet is also the Artistic Director of Nom de Guerre Theatre Guild – an organization that produces ***Wicked Lit*** and is planning other special projects for future years. "The evolution of ***Wicked Lit*** from a simple idea in 2007 to a second full production in 2010 has been nothing short of remarkable."

Rack and Josephson are also co-producers of the festival as well as writers and directors. Said Josephson, "Even though this production is a bear to produce, there can be no better opportunity for all of us to showcase our passion for theatre, short stories, and alternative experiences all at the same time. Our challenge is to make sure that our final production embodies the absolute best of what each of those fields has to offer – it's not going to be easy, but it's an exciting task to undertake."

Said Rack "Last year's ***Wicked Lit*** production at Greystone Mansion is a hard act to follow, but I'm confident that our audience is going to be thrilled with what we have in store for them at the Mountain View Mausoleum and Cemetery. I can't think of a better location for an interactive Halloween show than this."

Patrons of ***Wicked Lit*** will see three short plays over the course of an evening (*Cask*, *Unnamable*, and *Chimes*). Each play will be performed on a different part of the Mountain View Mausoleum and Cemetery campus. Attendees will be lead to and from each play by a Storyguide.

The cast of ***Wicked Lit*** includes John T. Cogan, Eric Harris, Pamela Hill, William Joseph Hill, LizAnne Keigley, Shelby Kocce, Ilona Kulinska, Richard Large, Tanya Mironowski, Michael Perl, Katie Pelensky, Brian David Pope, Michael Prichard, Amy Rieckelman, and Ghislaine Sopher-Phillips. The design team includes Art Direction/EFX by Jeff G. Rack, Costume Designer Christine Cover Ferro, Lighting Designer Ellen Monocroussos, Sound Designer Doug Newell and Make-up Designer Julie Pound.

Wicked Lit also produces an annual, region-wide play reading series – details on those events will be announced soon.

For tickets and more information for ***Wicked Literature: A Halloween Theatre Festival*** at Mountain View Mausoleum and Cemetery, go to wickedlit.org or call 818-242-7910

THE PLAYS

Edgar Allan Poe's *The Cask of Amontillado*

Adapted by Paul Millet, Directed by Jonathan Josephson

Journey to the catacombs for a stirring retelling of Poe's classic tale of madness, unrequited love, and deception.

H. P. Lovecraft's *The Unnamable*

Adapted and Directed by Jeff G. Rack

Two men – one a dealer in ancient artifacts, the other a follower of the occult – enter a graveyard on an ominous evening. If all goes according to plan, only one will return home.

Charles Dickens' *The Chimes*

Adapted by Jonathan Josephson, Directed by Paul Millet

In the spirit of *A Christmas Carol* (but with the bite of a ghost story), *The Chimes* is a haunting tale of renewal, goblins, and the ties that bind.

PERFORMANCES AND TICKETS:

October 21-31, 2010, 10 performances only

Thursday-Sunday, all performances start promptly at 8:00 p.m.

Tickets for October 21-30 performances are \$45.

Tickets for the closing night performance and Halloween Party on October 31 are \$75.

For more information go to wickedlit.org or call 818-242-7910

SEATING IS LIMITED TO 70 PATRONS PER EVENING – THIS SHOW WILL SELL OUT!

Location: Mountain View Mausoleum & Cemetery

2300 N. Marengo Ave. Altadena CA 91001 Altadena, California 91001

Enter the parking lot on Marengo in between Woodbury and Garfield

AMPLE FREE PARKING

Please look at a map before driving to Mausoleum

DO NOT ENTER FROM FAIR OAKS

YOU MAY GET LOST – PLEASE PLAN AHEAD

PLEASE NOTE:

THIS IS A WALKING PRODUCTION THAT TAKES PLACE AT NIGHT – please wear comfortable shoes.
THIS PRODUCTION IS MEANT TO BE SCARY!

ABOUT WICKED LIT

The scope of Wicked Literature: A Halloween Theatre Festival is to create and produce new stage plays based on classic gothic literature. Since 2008, Wicked Lit has presented over 40 readings of new plays at theatres, libraries, schools, and festivals all over Southern California and has proudly worked with communities throughout Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura counties. In addition to the annual Halloween reading series which began in 2008, Wicked Lit launched its inaugural theatre festival production in 2009 at the haunted Greystone Mansion in Beverly Hills. Wicked Lit: A Halloween Theatre Festival is thrilled to announce this exciting new play series in 2010.

ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM:

JONATHAN JOSEPHSON :: Playwright/Producer/Director

Jonathan's original plays have been read and produced at The Actor's Theater of Louisville, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Remmy Bumpo Theatre Company (Chicago), Lightsout Theatre Company (Chicago), The Chance Theater (Anaheim), Pasadena Playhouse Balcony Theatre/Carrie Hamilton Theatre, The Syzygy Theatre Group, The Great Plains Theatre Conference (Omaha), N4th Art Center (Albuquerque), The Dana Point Theatre Company, and The Westchester Playhouse. His plays have been named as Finalists for the Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference and twice for the National 10-minute Play Contest's Heideman Award at ATL. Past Wicked Lit plays include Washington Irving's *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and Mark Twains' *A Ghost Story*. In addition to playwriting, Jonathan has also directed at The Chance Theater and is the Founding Producer of Our New Play Spectacular at the University of California, San Diego which is slated for its 8th annual incarnation in 2011.

PAUL MILLET :: Playwright/Producer/Director

As a director, Paul's credits include *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and *The Fall of the House of Usher* (also playwright) for the 2009 production of *Wicked Lit* at Greystone Mansion; *Incorruptible* and *Southern Comforts* at Theatre 40 in Beverly Hills; *Driving Miss Daisy*, *The Curious Savage* and *The Prisoner of Second Avenue* at the High Street Arts Center in Moorpark, and the two original one-acts, *Alpha Best* and *Best Chance*, *Chance Best* for *Variations on a Theme* at The Chance Theater in Anaheim. Recently Paul directed the original play *A Song for Me* for the New Voices Playwrights Theatre in Santa Ana. As a former member of the Eclectic Company Theatre (ECT) in North Hollywood, Paul directed the critically acclaimed productions of *Don't Dress for Dinner*, *Spike Heels*, *A Weekend Near Madison*, the world premieres of *Exmagare* and *The Unsinkable Bismark*, as well as the late night serial *Ambition*. He also directed a production of Vaclav Havel's *The Memorandum* at Vox Humana in Century City CA, which earned him notice from both the Czech General Consulate to the United States, and the Czech Ambassador to the United Nations. The world premiere of his play *The Bang & The Clatter* was produced at ECT in Spring 2003. Other notable Los Angeles credits include *Landscape of the Body*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, the world premiere of *Delia's Song* as producer, and the late night variety show *The Tony Morlando Show*, as writer, producer and stage manager.

JEFF G. RACK :: Playwright/Producer/Director

Last year, Jeff adapted and directed Robert E. Howard's classic terror tale, *Pigeons From Hell*, at the Greystone Mansion. Last October, he also directed the L.A. premiere of Jeffrey Hatcher's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* for Theater 40, continuing his association with the Beverly Hills theater, having directed the west coast premiere of *PEN*, and *The Mystery Plays* there. He is also their resident designer. He was thrilled to direct two of Rod Serling's original *Twilight Zone* episodes for Theatre West in Hollywood to rave reviews from critics and audiences, including high praise from Carol Serling. Jeff was also a finalist in The 2008 Rod Serling Short Feature Scriptwriting Competition with his entry, "No Totos." Jeff recently traveled to Italy to do research for a screenplay he just completed for Prince Lorenzo De' Medici, and has written two other feature screenplays. He has written adaptations of classic literature for books on tape, including *Jules Verne's 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*. He is also one of the creators, head writer, and artistic director of the *Ghostwalk*, a hugely popular annual Halloween event, now in it's sixteenth year, that combines history with live theater, in the streets of Santa Paula, CA. While living in Ventura, Jeff adapted and directed an eye-popping production of *Alice in Wonderland* for the stage. He also wrote, produced and directed two Live 40's era Radio Show Recreations with the Grand Guignol Players. *Tales to Tremble By* based on the works of Edgar Allan Poe, and *The Shadow*. Probably best known to Los Angeles theater patrons for his award-winning set designs, Jeff has designed and built over 150 productions from Santa Barbara to Edinburgh, Scotland, and recently received an L.A. Weekly Award for his work on Frank Zappa's *Joe's Garage*.