

'CASTLE BLOODMOOR' DELIGHTS WITH FRIGHTS



Internet Photo

Hillary Ferguson
The Clackamas Print

At last, it's everyone's favorite time of year—Halloween. And what could possibly bring out the spirit of the season more poignantly than fearing for your life? Invoking these feelings has been the quest of Ralph and Ruth Cellarius and Robert Campbell in their haunt, the House of Midnight.

But this haunt did not start out as a professional business. Ralph Cellarius began over twenty years ago in his own home. Every Halloween he would make brave trick-or-treaters trek through his house of horror if they were to receive any candy. In the last years as an amateur, upwards of about 500 people would face their fears in his garage of fright. So, two years ago Ralph decided to go pro, now bringing his passion to the masses.

Everyone's been to the lackadaisical sort of haunted house where crusty foam characters slowly attack you from their clanking metal tracks. Rarely is there a haunt which is actually freakin' scary. The House of Midnight, however, is inhabited by ghouls and goblins that are very much alive (...or are they?) and hidden in every cranny.

But The House of Midnight is not just one haunt, it's two. I toured The Exaquaria first off, and was immediately overcome with the Halloween spirit. The Exaquaria is more of your average type of haunt, with a myriad of otherworldly beings. The sets and costumes are far above par; the cheesy-to-frightening ratio is clearly in their favor. The haunt began by completely disorientating its victims, sending me through a spinning tunnel of light (I wasn't drunk, but

might as well have been.) It's only scarier from there. Some sections were completely dark, other sections played on the fears of arachnophobes. It seemingly took forever to escape The Exaquaria, but finally I was thrown back into the lobby area, not quite sure if I felt like daring The Castle Bloodmoor.

The Castle Bloodmoor was shorter than The Exaquaria, but the theme easily made it my favorite. Victims enter through an elaborate stone gate framed by eerily glowing torches. In fact, the whole haunt was enclosed by huge stone walls, giving the feeling of a medieval pagan ceremony. Monk-like ghouls rushed past me in the narrow hallways, screeching and hissing, "You shouldn't be here!" Perhaps the most frightening element was the stilt beasts. I'm not so tall, so these wolfs towered about six feet above my head.

This is when I screamed the loudest. (Yeah, laugh it up, guys.)

Now, I know what you're thinking—I've given away the whole haunt. But you're wrong, because there's all this and much, much more. Every aspect of the haunt was top notch—no stone was left unpossessed, no corner left unattended. I give the House of Midnight two thumbs up for an uber-frightening night on the town, and a great way to get into the mood for another Halloween.

The House of Midnight is located off I-5 at the Family Fun Center and Bullwinkle's Restaurant. Tickets are \$8 per person, per haunt or two for \$14. It runs from October 13 through 31, so there is plenty of time, if you dare. Group rates are available, so bring your friends. Log on to www.houseofmidnight.com for more information on this year's attractions.

Your Horoscope for Today

With Dr. James Tombe, Master of the Stars

(Mar 21 – Apr 19) Your love will improve after you purchase red van and large quantities of tape.

(Apr 20 – May 20) All signs to yes.

(May 21 – Jun 21) You will receive international fame and for as well as realize all of your dreams—no, wait. That's me, not

(Jun 22 – Jul 22) I bet I can have your birthday within a month. You were psychic!

(Jul 23 – Aug 22) Your evil twin caused confusion by shaving off your goatee.

(Aug 23 – Sep 22) The stars had your dream of being a rap star instead ordained that you get seasonal work wrapping at department stores.

(Sep 23 – Oct 23) Your whole life will start to flash before your

eyes, but your short attention span will make you lose interest somewhere after grade school.

Scorpio (Oct 24 – Nov 21) Your optimistic and concise style of prose will give you the edge when applying for that job at the fortune cookie factory.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21) Your meeting with a man from Nantucket will leave you with feelings of inadequacy for the rest of your life.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19) You will meet someone very general in description today. That is, unless you don't.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 18) You will write several books before realizing that you are illiterate.

Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20) You will channel the spirit of an ancient ancestor, but no one will understand your insatiable desire for bananas or the need to pick lice off of your mate.

Finally, we see modern King Lear



Look Forward To:

Costumes: The modern feel of the costumes brings King Lear into the present time and allows the viewer to connect.

Acting: The lead roll of King Lear is played brilliantly by Thom Christopher. Watch as he portrays the gradual destruction of his psyche.

Direction: Though the play is modernized, Chris Coleman's direction lost none of the tragic quality.

Play Info:

The show runs from now until Oct. 31.

Ticket prices begin at \$45.

The play has a run time of 3 hours.

Newmark Theater, 1111 SW Broadway, Portland 503-798-0132

Comics



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