

# DARKNESS RISES

Pay some attention to the wizards behind the curtain at Fort George Brewery's Festival of Dark Arts

By **DON FRADES**  
FOR COAST WEEKEND

**B**ehind closed doors at the Lovell Showroom, the scene is almost set for a post-apocalyptic Emerald City, the outcome of a yearlong creative process carried out by Andee Gowing and Gad Perez.

The fanciful, imaginative installation involving a stage, backdrops and props is always a much-anticipated part of Fort George Brewery's Festival of Dark Arts, a stout-lovers' showcase billed as "a magical menagerie of dark art and macabre entertainment."

As of this writing, tickets for the Festival, taking place Feb. 17, have, unfortunately, sold out.

But! At noon the following day, Sunday, Feb. 18, the Fort George campus will reopen to the public for The Aftermath, with new stout releases in the pub and pizzeria. Meanwhile, the tap trailer will be filling growlers from the surviving Festival kegs, according to press materials. No tickets or reservations are required for The Aftermath, which features a number of new beers, as well as music by The Builders and the Butchers at 8 p.m. (no cover).

Part of Fort George's celebration of Stout Month, the festival weekend is nominally about beer — more than 60 on tap — but the thematic intertwining of dark beer and dark arts has strengthened over the years, combining music, art and craftsmanship.



COURTESY GAD PEREZ  
Bewitching installation  
artists Gad Perez, left,  
and Andee Gowing at the  
2015 Festival of Dark Arts