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HALLOWEEN HORRORS IN THE HAUNTED MANSION!

**THEATRE 40 AND NOM de GUERRE THEATRE GUILD
BRING CLASSIC TALES OF TERROR TO GREYSTONE MANOR**

"Something wicked this way comes"

To spice up your Halloween experience, **THEATRE 40** and **THE NOM de GUERRE THEATRE GUILD**, in association with The City of Beverly Hills, will present World Premiere adaptations of three classic horror stories for the first annual Wicked Literature Halloween Theatre Festival at Greystone Mansion. ***The Fall of the House of Usher (celebrating EDGAR ALLAN POE'S BI-CENTENNIAL)*** adapted by **PAUL MILLET** who will also direct; ***The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*** by Washington Irving, adapted by **JONATHAN JOSEPHSON**, directed by Paul Millet; and ***Pigeons From Hell***, adapted and directed by **JEFF G. RACK**. This unique theatrical event will play for **only five nights**, October 27th through the 31st (Halloween). Audiences will follow the actors, in real time, as they move through the house and even outside into the gardens. They will be participants with the characters in the stories not simply eavesdropping, but sharing their experiences of terror and mystery with them. There will be three separate groups that will experience all three stories during the course of the evening as the stories are being performed at the same time in different locations at the Mansion.

PAUL MILLET (Writer, Producer, Director) As the President and Artistic Director **The Nom de Guerre Theatre Guild**, Paul first conceived the idea for **Wicked Literature** in fall 2007. The idea involved the creation of an annual theatrical event centered on a theme or holiday. And despite the popularity of Halloween, there was very little in the way of Halloween-themed theatrical entertainment. By choosing classic horror stories as the source material, **Nom de Guerre** fully realizes its mission to create theatre based on classic literature with the production of **Wicked Literature**. As a director, Paul's credits include *Incorruptible* at **Theatre 40** in Beverly Hills; *The Curious Savage* and *The Prisoner of Second Avenue* at the **High Street Arts Center** in Moorpark CA, and the two original one-acts, *Alpha Best* and *Best Chance, Chance Best* for *Variations on a Theme: The Best* at the **Chance Theater** in Anaheim CA. After the **2009 Wicked Literature Halloween Theatre Festival** ends its run, Paul will direct the West Coast premiere of *Southern Comforts* at **Theatre 40** and a revival of *Driving Miss Daisy* at the **High Street Arts Center** in summer 2010. 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.

JONATHAN JOSEPHSON (Writer) is the recipient of A Highest Honors degree from UCSD. He is a finalist for the Heideman Award at Actor's Theatre of Louisville and was a finalist the Eugene O'Neill National Playwright's Conference. His *The Giant and the Pixie* was produced at The Chance Theater in Anaheim last November as was his bill of three short plays based on the works of Charles Dickens. A number of his short plays have had readings at Theatre Conferences, festivals and prestigious workshops: *The Significance of a Wedding Train* at the Great Plains theatre conference in Omaha, *After Hours in the Whale Room* at Dana Point Whale of a Tale Theatre Festival and published by Original Works Publishing, plus others. Josephson is also busy working on scripts for the theatre, film and television. He is presently a monthly columnist for the *Anaheim Hills News*.

JEFF G. RACK (Writer, Producer, Director) Jeff has worked in many different areas of the film and entertainment industry, but whether he's writing, designing, or directing, Jeff approaches all his work as a storyteller. Jeff is one of the Artistic Directors and producers of Wicked Literature, and has adapted and will direct Robert E. Howard's classic terror tale, ***Pigeons From Hell***. Jeff will also be directing the L.A. premiere of Jeffrey Hatcher's ***Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*** for **Theatre 40** in October, continuing his association with the Beverly Hills theater, having directed the west coast premiere of *PEN*, and *The Mystery Plays* there. He was thrilled to direct two of Rod Serling's original *Twilight Zone* episodes for Theatre West in Hollywood, which received high praise from Carol Serling. Jeff was also a finalist in The 2008 Rod Serling Short Feature Scriptwriting Competition with his entry, "No Totos." He is also one of the creators, head writer, and artistic director of the *Ghostwalk*, now in its fifteenth year, which combines history with live theatre, in the streets of Santa Paula, CA. 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*. As an Art Director for films and commercials, and as an EFX artist, Jeff's work can be seen in many films, including: *Armageddon*, *Con-Air*, *Flubber*, *Mighty Joe Young*, *Kundun*, and Tim Burton's *Planet of the Apes*. He was also involved in the production of many ride show attractions, including: Universal Studio's "Back to the Future" ride, Earthquake trains, "Miami Vice" show, and Disney's "Indiana Jones" stunt show in Florida.

THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHER by EDGAR ALLAN POE adapted by PAUL MILLET

There's something terribly wrong in the "House of Usher." Stricken by horrible physical ailments, twins Roderick and Madeline Usher are prisoners of not only their own home but also their dark family legacy. Desperate for a way out, Roderick summons his boyhood friend Nathaniel Dawson to help. But how? As he descends into the madness of the "House of Usher" Nathaniel comes to realize the true nature of the evil holding Roderick and Madeline captive. The terror builds into a stunning and horrifying climax that will change Nathaniel forever. *The Fall of the House of Usher*, considered a masterwork of gothic horror by Edgar Allan Poe, first appeared in print in 1839 in Burton's Gentleman's Magazine.

THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW by WASHINGTON IRVING adapted by JONATHAN JOSEPHSON

Luck has always been on the side of Mr. Ichabod Crane. He has a good job, an adoring beau, and enough meat pies to keep his belly nice and full. Ichabod's life is going perfectly to plan...until he finds himself in the village of Sleepy Hollow. Home to small-town gossip, embittered rivals, and one hell-bound Headless Horseman, our Ichabod will need all of the luck he can muster if he is going to survive the ride of his life. Inspired by the technique of story-theatre, this adaptation of one of the most famous American ghost stories gives a new theatrical life to the classic words of literary master Washington Irving.

PIGEONS FROM HELL by ROBERT E HOWARD adapted by JEFF G. RACK

Pigeons From Hell is a classic tale of terror, written By Robert E. Howard best known for creating Conan the Barbarian. It first appeared in the pulp magazine, *Weird Tales* in 1938, and was adapted into a classic 60's television episode of Boris Karloff's *Thriller*, which is revered and remembered by horror aficionados as one of the genres finest moments. This adaptation, by Jeff G. Rack, promises not to disappoint as it tells the story of two ill-fated young men who spend the night in what they believe is an abandoned mansion in the deep south of Louisiana. They quickly come to realize that they are not alone. Something unnatural and deadly is still residing in the house, and they could soon become victims of a centuries old curse.

Part classic storytelling, part haunted house, the **Wicked Literature Halloween Festival Event** will be a theatrical experience you will never forget. This is a limited engagement with very limited seating. **ONLY FIVE NIGHTS!** October 27th through Halloween, October 31st. Tickets are \$45.00 and must be secured with a credit card. Comfortable shoes are advisable. **Reservations at 818-242-7910.** For complete information go to **www.wickedlit.org**.

Be on the lookout for THEATRE 40'S critically-acclaimed show, **THE MANOR**, going into its eighth year - re-opening at Greystone Mansion on November 7th. Performances for **THE MANOR will be November 7, 8, 14, 15 and 21 (Saturdays and Sundays) at 1:00 PM.**