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All Hallows Eve offers spooky, new scares at annual Halloween event

Naperville, IL — Get ready for a terrifyingly good time at Naper Settlement's All Hallow Eve, as it transforms the museum's 12-acre campus and 13 historic buildings into the ultimate haunted village. This year's event will showcase a variety of bone-chilling performances and new additions, including a Dark Arts Gallery and an all-new haunted house based off Lindsay Currie's book "The Peculiar Incident on Shady Street." All Hallows Eve will take place from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 20 and 21 at 523 S. Webster St., Naperville. Tickets are \$20 per person and are available online at www.napersettlement.org or at the door.

"Every year there is something new, scary and marvelous at All Hallows Eve!" said Special Events and Large Scale Rentals Coordinator, Adison Glick. "This year, I am excited to see the aerialist performances in-between the fire-spinner sets, the new "Peculiar Incident on Shady Street" haunted house and the brand-new Fort "Pain" Dark Art Gallery."

After a morning walk through a notorious Chicago landmark, Graceland Cemetery, author Lindsay Currie felt inspired to write her latest middle grade mystery, "The Peculiar Incident on Shady Street," which is being transformed into All Hallows Eve newest haunted house. In the book, a girl unravels a centuries-old mystery after moving from sunny Florida to rainy, cold Chicago and unexplainable things begin happening in her new house. Partnering with the Kaneland Arts Initiative, Currie says she's excited to see her book come to life.

"Everybody has experienced a fear in their house, whether it's something they've heard or seen, and we are all a little scared at the concept of ghosts," said Currie. "I've seen what the Kaneland Arts Initiative have designed so far and I've read the script, and I can honestly say it is spooktastic."

Currie will have a booth set up with Barnes & Noble at All Hallows Eve to meet guests, and sell and sign books. "The Peculiar Incident on Shady Street" will be available for purchase beginning Oct. 10.

Taking place in between fire-spinners performances will be death-defying acts by two aerialists from The Actors Gymnasium, a school that offers education, productions and event entertainment. The aerialists will be dressed up in their spookiest costumes to show visitors awe-inspiring feats of strength and grace. Lucy Carapetyan, The Actor Gymnasium's Special Events Manager, says visitors will have lots of fun watching them perform, and may want to be prepared for some scary surprises.

“Watching aerialists spin and flip and bend in the air is an incredible reminder of the capacity of the human body,” said Carapetyan. “I think watching circus performers can inspire people to try something they might be scared of, or never dream they could physically do.”

This year will also include the area’s first pumpkin carving competition, the Naperville Jaycees’ Hack the Jack. Area residents may carve pumpkins before the event and submit them for judging by locals visiting Naper Settlement during normal business hours and during All Hallows Eve from Oct. 20-22. There is a \$15 entry fee, and pumpkins must be brought to the parking lot behind the Martin Mitchell Mansion on Oct. 19 from 4:30 to 9 p.m. for entry.

New attractions will include a new spin on an All Hallows Eve favorite, a Harry Potter performance titled Escape from Gringotts presented by the Magical Starlight Theatre, the Fort “Pain” Dark Art Gallery, Naperville Jaycee’s Hack the Jack: Pumpkin Carving Competition, aerialist performances, and “The Peculiar Incident on Shady Street” haunted house. Returning favorites include Dave DiNaso’s Traveling World of Reptiles, Magician Steve Chezaday, Human Curiosities with Tom Hill, the Ohio Burn Unit fire spinners, Frankenstein’s Laboratory presented by Center Stage Players, Journey through the Underworld and the Mummy’s Tomb along with the Fortune Teller Village presented by Aurora Catholic Drama, H.H. Holmes’ Murder Castle, Zombie Maze, Torture Dungeon, Death Tour, Dracula’s Lair, Sweeney Todd, Victorian Insane Asylum, Salem Witch Trials and Lizzie Borden. Food will also be provided by John’s Rib House, Chick-Fil-A, Olde Tyme Kettle Korn and Dinky Donuts.

Please note, access to the Martin Mitchell Mansion will be limited. All Hallows Eve is not recommended for children 8 years old and younger or for those who are easily scared. Costumes are not permitted. Non-costumed volunteers are also needed for this event. For more information, call (630) 420-6010 or visit www.napersettlement.org/volunteer.

Thank you to our sponsors: Woody Buick / GMC, Alfresco Photo Booth, Chick-fil-A, Naperville Development Partnership, Naperville Magazine, Positively Naperville, Springhill Suites and Wight & Co.

About Naper Settlement and the Naperville Heritage Society

Naper Settlement is a nationally accredited, award-winning outdoor museum set on 12 magnificent acres in the heart of Naperville, where history comes to play and community comes to connect. The Naperville Heritage Society is the administrator of Naper Settlement. With a commitment to the community and a focus to the future, the mission of the Naperville Heritage Society is to collect, document, preserve and support the history of Naperville, Illinois, past and present. For more information, visit napersettlement.org or call (630) 420-6010.