

# Ride a roller coaster or try a seance for Halloween

Halloween doesn't have to mean a heart-pumping, nail-biting terror trip through the nearest gory "haunted" attraction.

A mildly spooky, off-beat or downright funny event may be just the ticket for an entertaining Halloween experience. Here's an eclectic list of Halloween happenings:

## ON STAGE

*Tales from the Script* at Planet Ant Theatre is more likely to make you scream with laughter than shriek in terror. The original comedy written through improvisation, aims to help solve the question: Who are you, who are the people around you and are they involved with the battle to save the human race? Ant colony members Lauren Bickers, Shawn Handlin, Quintin Hicks, Michael Ishag, Mike McGottigan, Tara Nida and Denise Swindell improvised and then wrote the play. They'll perform the piece for three weeks beginning Thursday, Oct. 17. Show times are 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 8 and 10:30 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday at the theater, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Tickets are

\$15; \$10 for students with ID. Call (313) 365-4948, ext. 1

## SCARY FOR CHARITY

The Children's Leukemia Foundation sponsors its fourth annual Boo Ball Spooktacular from 6-10 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26, at the Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion on the Oakland University campus, Rochester. The fund-raiser — tickets are \$150 for adults and \$75 for children — generates money to help support Michigan families of adults and children with leukemia, lymphoma and related blood disorders. The party last year raised \$145,000. Hundreds of costumed partygoers will get a chance to make their own take-home music video, taste gourmet quesadillas, roasted fish, sliders and fries, chicken fingers and desserts. Non-stop pop from the band, NuRhythm keeps ghouls and goblins on the move. Children's activities run the gamut, from face painting and an arts and crafts room to a bucking Bungee Bull and a sticky Velcro wall. Other games include a gladiator joust, castle moonwalk, Ferris wheel and more. Ticket deadline is Oct. 25. (248) 353-8222

## A ZOO TRADITION

The tickets for the Detroit Zoo's annual Zoo Boo go fast, with the popular event selling out every year. The "friendly" and "merry-not-so-scary" event for children, age 2-7, includes costumed greeters handing out treats along a half-mile decorated trail. A mini musical shows every half hour, starting at 6:15 p.m. Zoo Boo runs 6-8:30 p.m. Oct. 18-20, 25-27 and 30-31. The zoo is located at Woodward and the I-696 expressway service drive in Royal Oak. Tickets are \$4 per person, ages 2 and older, available through Ticketmaster. (248) 645-6666.

## AT THE MALL

Livonia Mall will sponsor Frights & Delights for families on Saturday, Oct. 26. Here's what's in store: Free movie at 11 a.m. in the American Family Cinema; trick or treat throughout the mall from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. for children, age 11 and younger; Halloween crafts from 1-3 p.m.; a costume contest from 3-4 p.m.; and *The Wizard of Oz* from 4:30-5:30 p.m., \$3 per person. The mall is located at Seven

Mile and Middlebelt in Livonia.

## TAKE A DAY TRIP

You'd think the Millennium Force and Wicked Twister roller coasters are scary enough, but Cedar Point amusement park, in Sandusky, Ohio, heightens the fear factor during its HallowWeekends through October. Scary stuff includes: Roaming characters who jump out of the shadows in the park's Fright Zone; three haunted houses, including one that offers a "School of Mortuary Science" and a re-telling of *The Tell-Tale Heart*. Younger children can see Snoopy and The Great Pumpkin Patch, visit a fun house and watch a master magician. The park is open 6 p.m.-midnight on Fridays, noon to midnight on Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, week-ends this month. Admission ranges from \$12-\$24, depending on age and day. (419) 627-2223 or www.cedarpoint.com on the Internet.

## SCIENCE AND SPOOKS

What's Halloween without a few bats? Visit the Bat Zone at Cranbrook Institute of Science in Bloomfield Hills and see a fruit bat with a 4-foot wingspan or look a sloth in the eyes. The Bat Zone is open weekends noon-5 p.m. Science and Halloween collide at the institute from 6-9 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26. The event includes stage shows, treats and a scary



Witches involve audience members at an entertainment show in Cedar Point at Sandusky, Ohio.

planetarium show. Visitors may wear costumes. The cost is \$6 for members and \$8 for non-members. Registration deadline is Oct. 18. (248) 645-3210.

## PUMPKIN FACTORY

Think pumpkins, pumpkins

and more pumpkins at this Belleville farm. Visitors can take a haunted hayride or walk through a haunted house. Or nibble homemade doughnuts, pumpkin pie and drink apple cider. Open 9:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 9:30 a.m.-midnight Friday and Saturday.



There are many photo opportunities for fall pictures. How about these apples in a rustic setting at the old cider mill? Monte Nagler took this in Arlington, Ohio.

## Use slide film on cloudy days to capture best fall colors in photos

In past columns, I've written about capturing the abundance of fall colors on film. Today, I'd like to give you more tips on fall photography as the air chills, the leaves begin to change and colors creep gently southward.

Here's a fall color checklist: Best film to use: I prefer slide film. If you've never

used it before, now's the time to start. Slides have a greater contrast range than color negative films and will produce more vivid, saturated colors. For black and white lovers, fall

## Focus On Photography

Monte Nagler

colors provide an excellent opportunity to obtain full tonal range prints. No matter what your choice of film, use ones with low ASA numbers.

You'll get finer grain and your enlargements will be sharp and crisp.

Best days to shoot: Contrary to what you may think, cloudy days are best. Contrast and glare are reduced and colors will appear more vibrant. And don't pass up rainy or foggy days. Moistened autumn leaves after a rain or foggy morning provide good possibilities for your camera. Dark clouds formed by a receding storm also are an excellent backdrop for a stand of brilliant trees. If nature doesn't cooperate, use a spray bottle of water to dampen a grouping of leaves.

Use good composition: Place your main subject, off center for a more dynamic appearance in your shot. "Frame" your pictures with overhanging branches and place foreground subjects in the viewfinder. Use roads, fences and streams to your advantage as "lead-in" lines. Use a small aperture: The smaller the aperture, the greater the depth-of-field meaning everything will

appear sharp and in focus in your finished print.

For those of you with "program" cameras, use an aperture priority mode with the smallest aperture on your lens. For manual camera users, simply select an aperture/shutter speed combination to maximize depth-of-field.

Which lens to use: Remember that wide-angle lenses will give a greater expanse to your shot while a telephoto will "move you in close" to isolate a particular tree or capture a splash of color in a cluster of fallen leaves.

A macro lens or close-up filter will enable you to highlight the texture and details of an individual leaf.

Look for other opportunities: Cider mills, football games, Halloween festivities and patches of pumpkins all offer other exciting fall picture possibilities. Keep your eyes open for these and more.

Monte Nagler is a fine arts photographer based in Farmington Hills. He can be reached at (734) 953-2047.

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Saturday, November 9 2:00 & 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday, November 10 1:00 p.m.

For tickets:

TicketMaster: 248-433-1515 Box Office: Event Info 313-471-6611

TicketMaster.com Nutcracker.com

TicketMaster Outlets: Fox Theatre Box Office, HockeysTown Authentics (Troy),

Joe Louis Box Office, Harmony House, Marshall Fields

Children's Dance Coordinators: Christine Sickle, Sickle's Dance Gallery and Dori Matkowski, Dance Dynamics



## NOVI EXPO CENTER

Friday, October 11, 12-9pm  
Saturday, October 12, 9am-9pm  
Sunday, October 13, 9am-6pm

It's the time of the year to be thinking about your home. And here is where you'll find practically everything for the home, both inside and out.

ADMISSION:  
Adults: \$4, Seniors: \$3  
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- And much, much more.



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