

Ghoulish good times abound this Halloween

From frightening to goofy, there are lots of events celebrating the spooky season

BY PETER BIRNIE, VANCOUVER SUN OCTOBER 15, 2011

From freak-out frightening to good, goofy fun for the kids, Halloween events offer everyone a chance to explore their inner ghoul. Here are some of the most popular pastimes leading up to All Hallows Eve:

FRIGHT NIGHTS AT PLAYLAND

When: nightly from 6 p.m., to Oct. 31

Where: Playland at the PNE

Tickets: Sunday to Thursday \$25 if purchased online, \$28 at the gate. Friday and Saturday \$30 online, \$33 at the gate. Go to frightnights.ca.

From the moment you step onto the PNE grounds, be prepared for a non-stop barrage of attacks from crowds of zombies and other freaks - these people really get into the act! Don't bother trying to hide, because any carnival attraction you enter is likely to be a haunted house: Car-n-Evil is a 3-D haunted house of clowns, Haunted Mansion is high-class horror, Darkness is inhabited by tortured souls trapped in a pit of despair and Hollywood Asylum is crazier than Charlie Sheen and Roseanne Barr put together.

For the price of admission you can also jump aboard 17 rides. There are additional charges for the Hellevator, Drop Zone and Revelation, but ATMOSFEAR is free, and unlit, and may or may not contain vampires!

Not recommended for 12-andunder or over 65, pregnant women, people with sensitivity to strobe lights or those with high blood pressure or heart conditions. No guest costumes allowed.

POTTERS HOUSE OF HORRORS

When: nightly from 7 p.m., to Oct. 31

Where: Potters Nursery, 12530 72nd Ave., Surrey (a block west of Kwantlen University)

Tickets: Tonight to Thursday and Oct. 23-27, \$15 (12-andunder \$10); Oct. 21, 22 and 28-31, \$17 (12-and-under \$12). Family hour (6 p.m. to 7 p.m.): \$10. Go to pottershouseofhorrors.com.

Cam Martin and his Ghoul Crew have cleared all the plants from the Potters Nursery greenhouses, and once again the scariest path in Surrey leads you through one freak show after another. This is the best Halloween event south of the Fraser and everyone knows it, so don't wait until the last witching hour to take in a labyrinth of looniness that this year includes new attractions Camp Dread, Seven Gates to Hell and Med-Evil Times.

From 6 p.m. until the ghouls appear at 7 p.m., a static display with no live actors and lower volume caters to the kiddies.

STANLEY PARK HALLOWEEN GHOST TRAIN

When: nightly from 6 p.m., to Oct. 31

Where: at the miniature railway, next to the bus loop off Pipeline Road.

Tickets: Adult \$9.82 (plus HST), children and youth, two to 18, and over 65, \$6.25 (plus HST).

When: nightly 6: 30 p.m. to 10 p.m., to Oct. 31

Where: Bear Creek Park, 13750 88th Ave. (at King George Highway) in Surrey.

Tickets: \$8.50 (\$7 for 12-and-under), call 604-501-1232 or buy on-site.

Be warned that Chainsaw Charlie is back and ready to terrify you.

For younger kids, the train runs 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with little of the scary stuff haunting the night train.

MONSTER FACTORY

When: Saturday, Oct. 29, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Where: 1701 Powell

Tickets: Makeup and prosthetic packages are \$80 in advance, mix and match packages start at \$60. Add \$20 or more if you just show up on the day. Call 778-968-4776 to book an appointment or go to themonsterfactory.ca.

Here's your chance to get the best possible makeup to uglify yourself beautifully. Vampires, zombies, pirates, witches/warlocks, devils, trolls: The list of possibilities is endless. Inquire about custom makeup and prosthetics for your original Halloween costume; fake blood is included in every package, but is optional if you want to keep your costume clean.

HALLOWEEN COSTUME BALL

When: Saturday, Oct. 29, 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

Where: Science World

Tickets: from \$45, plus service charges. Go to clubzone.com/twisted or call 1-866-824-8212.

There's room for a thousand costumed souls at the big ball on False Creek for the fifth edition of this popular event. Two rooms of music on two floors, eight DJs and performers (promising a "hellraising" sound and light system) and fully stocked bars should make this the go-to event for adults. It's a costume ball, of course, so get creative!

HAUNTED HOUSE AT TRETHERWEY HOUSE

When: Monday, Oct. 31, 3-5 p.m. for younger kids (12-and-under must be accompanied by an adult) and 6-8 p.m. for older kids and adults.

Where: 2313 Ware St., Abbotsford

Tickets: \$3 at the door.

Hanging around Abbotsford on All Hallow's Eve? For one night only, everyone's invited to the beautiful heritage home built for timber baron J.O. Trethewey to have their socks scared off.

STEVESTON SCARECROW CRAWL

HARAJUKU HALLOWEEN

When: Saturday, Oct. 29, 9 p.m.-3 a.m.

Where: 928 Main

Tickets: \$28.51, go to clubzone.com.

Electric Owl Social Club is turning Japanese with an evening devoted to the costume phenomenon that occurs every Sunday around Harajuku Station in Tokyo. Come dressed in your crazy Harajuku fashion and join DJ's Flipout, SKLA, Jesse James, and Love & Elektrik for a costume party unlike anything else in Vancouver.

All guests must be 19 with a valid photo ID to enter. All costumes are welcome, but Harajuku fashion is strongly preferred.

Sun Theatre Critic

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