

# Halloween Haunts Make Treats of Tricks

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bunch.

**Address:** 10th and Pacific Streets in the abandoned Burlington Railroad Station.

**Hours:** 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays, 6 p.m. to midnight, Fridays and Saturdays through Oct. 31.

**Admission:** \$6.

**Information:** 677-8006.

**Sponsor:** The Reader to benefit the Omaha Literacy Council.

**MYSTERY MANOR:** Of the big houses reviewed, this was the only one in a genuine big, old, scary house, which certainly helps establish the haunted house mood. Thanks to creaky floors and thin, dark hallways, it is the most claustrophobic of the houses reviewed. It also has the biggest live snake, some of the stealthiest spooks and possibly the most nerve-wracking of all props, the three-story Slide of Doom. This house was the scariest for this reviewer, possibly because of bad childhood experiences with snake-infested abandoned houses.

**Address:** 716 N. 18th St.

**Hours:** 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays, 7 p.m. to midnight, Fridays and Saturdays through Halloween night.

**Admission:** \$6, discount coupons available at Mangelsen's and Arby's. \$4 tickets through the Prevent Blindness Nebraska office for Sunday through Thursday.

**Information:** 572-3520.

**Sponsors:** Arby's, David M. Mangelsen's, Z-92 and Pepsi. Benefits Prevent Blindness Nebraska.

**SCREAM IN THE DARK:** Probably the best for the family, and probably the closest thing to a nice evening out. The haunted house is a fairly traditional but effective haunt in an old barn at the Bellevue Berry Farm. The haunted forest is relatively low impact but lots of fun. Scream in the Dark is more of a fall campfire, hot cider kind of evening.

**Address:** Bellevue Berry Farm, 48th Street and Cornhusker Road.

**Hours:** 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays, 7 p.m. to midnight, Fridays and Saturdays through Oct. 31. Closed Mondays.

**Admission:** \$5 for the haunted house, \$4 for the haunted hayrack ride, \$8 for both.

**Information:** 331-5500.

**Sponsor:** Guidance Inc.

**TRICK OR TREAT ON 10TH STREET:** A safe and fun way for kids to trick-or-treat. Youngsters will enjoy Halloween crafts, games, a Fun House play area, storytelling, costumed characters, gymnastics exhibitions and other entertainment.

**Address:** Western Heritage Museum, 801 S. 10th St.

**Hours:** 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 27, 28 and 30; 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 29.

**Admission:** \$3 for children, \$2 for adults and \$1 for adults in costume.

**Information:** 444-5071.

**Sponsor:** Western Heritage Museum.

**NEVER-ENDING NIGHTMARE:** Rooms, mazes, spooks, monsters, special effects and music, including the Rotating Monster Room and the Pick-A-Coffin Surprise Room and haunted house greets such as Pinhead and the Disappearing Man.

**Address:** 15th and California Streets.

**Hours:** 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. weeknights, 7 p.m. to midnight, Fridays and Saturdays through Oct. 31.

**Admission:** \$5.

**Information:** 457-5657.

**Sponsor:** Habitat for Humanity Inc.

**HALLOWEEN WITH THE WILD THINGS:** Parents and children are likely to encounter spiders, bats, the Woods Witch and The Great Pumpkin at Fontenelle Forest Nature Center. A perfect evening on the boardwalk for young children.

**Address:** Fontenelle Forest Nature Center, 1111 Bellevue Blvd. North, Bellevue.

**Hours:** 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 26 through Oct. 28. Pre-registration is required.

**Admission:** \$4 for members, \$6 for nonmembers.

**Registration:** 453-5615.

**Sponsor:** Fontenelle Forest Association.

**THE CAPEHART CREEP SHOW HAUNTED HOUSE:** Features a chain saw madman, a werewolf, Freddie Krueger and the horrifying Man in the Floor.

**Address:** 2108 Vandenberg St. in the Capehart housing area at Offutt Air Force Base.

**Hours:** 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Oct. 26 through Oct. 30.

**Admission:** \$2.

**Information:** 294-5434.

**Sponsor:** The 55 Civil Engineer Squadron to benefit the Children's Ward at the Lincoln Burn Center.

**WABASH TRACE HAUNTED HAYRACK RIDES:** Ghosts, goblins, witches, mad coffin salesmen and the horrible 30-foot-tall Wabash Dragon will appear in the darkness along the Wabash Trace Nature Trail near Shenandoah, Iowa.

**Address:** Just north of the cemetery on Argus Road in Shenandoah.

**Hours:** 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Oct. 28, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Oct. 29.

**Admission:** \$3 for adults, \$2 for children younger than 12.

**Information:** (712) 246-2591.

**Sponsor:** Proceeds will go to developing the Wabash Trace Nature Trail.

**RIDE OF TERROR:** A haunted hayrack ride through a forest infested with flying goblins, eerie witches and the playfully insane Dr. Sicko.

**Address:** 2601 Sattillo Road, Lincoln.

**Hours:** Beginning at sunset Oct. 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, 29 and 30.

**Admission:** \$3.50. Children ages 4 and younger, free.

**Information:** (402) 489-2973.

**Sponsor:** Proceeds benefit the Sertoma Club of Lincoln.

**DUNGEON OF FEAR:** Hayrack rides and dozens of haunts in the spooky halls of the 100-year-old Grist Mill McCready Theatre in Macedonia, Iowa. The theater, according to one organizer, "has a real live ghost, too."

**Address:** Grist Mill McCready Theatre on main street.

**Hours:** 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Oct. 20, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Oct. 21 and Oct. 28, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Oct. 29.

**Admission:** \$4, adults; \$3, children younger than 18. 50-cent hayrack rides. Oct. 29, group rate of \$2 per person for youth clubs of 10 or more.

**Information:** (712) 486-2511.

**Sponsor:** The Botna Valley Optimists.

**FEAR ASYLUM HAUNTED HOUSE:**

**Address:** Jaycees Building, 10951 N. 142 St., Waverly, Neb.

**Hours:** 7:30 p.m. to midnight Oct. 20, 21, 27, 28 and 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Oct. 26, 29, 30 and 31.

**Admission:** \$4, adults; \$3, children. Group rates available.

**Information:** (402) 477-9248.

**Sponsor:** Waverly Jaycees.

**THE BEST LITTLE SPOOK HOUSE IN TREYNOR:** Fashioned after the home behind the Bates Motel in the movie "Psycho," this 100-year-old abandoned house on the edge of Treynor, Iowa, includes the Maze of Terror, Dracula's Room and the horrifying Room That Moves.

**Address:** West edge of Treynor on Highway 92. Take Interstate Highway 29 to Exit 47, then drive east 11 miles on Highway 92.

**Hours:** 8 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays beginning Oct. 20.

**Admission:** \$4, \$3 for children younger than 18.

**Information:** (712) 487-3038. (It's a local call from Omaha.)

**Sponsor:** Treynor Fire and Rescue Department.

## Adrenaline Makes Fear Fun

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blood. If you see something covered in fresh blood, you know it was killed recently. We might associate red with danger because red signals that the killer still is near, she said.

Some spiders and snakes are poisonous, so their shape signals danger. Any dead animal or human should concern the living. How did they die? Could I be next?

We get another rush when the threat is gone, she said. We have fought off the beast, we have controlled our environment.

"I think we enjoy proving to ourselves that we are brave," she said.

Once you understand the foundations of fear, it's easier to exploit people's fears.

That's what haunted house do. That's what Geoffrey Hartig and Sean Doolittle do for a living.

Good timing, creating foreboding scenes and exploiting universal fears are the keys to quality scares, said Hartig, who is producer, director and writer of the coming low-budget sci-fi horror flick, "Conversation with an Alien."

In his latest film, the Omaha movie-maker uses an "absolutely mammoth" hypodermic needle that, in one scene, jets out toward the audience like a 1950s

3-D movie effect.

"When I was a kid, I always had to get shots for my hay fever," he said. "I just work with what I know scares me."

He made the alien a slimy gray reptile with bug eyes. "The question is: How do you translate quickly that this thing is nasty? We just went the cheap way by making it like things people already fear."

There are two types of scares, said Doolittle, a Lincoln fiction writer who recently had a story published in "The Year's Best Horror Stories" from Waldheim Books. There's the short scare — the "boo" from around a corner, he said. And there's the "long scare," which is that long-lasting tension one feels in a dark abandoned house on a stormy night.

"You either jump out and scare them or you lead them somewhere where they don't want to go," Doolittle said.

Not everything about Halloween and haunted houses is based in fear, Ms. Hope said. In fact, people probably enjoy Halloween most simply because it's a festive time of year.

"There's lots of positive associations with this time of year when you're a child," Ms. Hope said. "There's the candy, there's the fun with friends and family. Behind all the scary stuff, it's just another holiday."