

**PRESS RELEASE
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Edgar Allan Poe Remains Eerie After 200 Years

“Nevermore” has there been a writer better adept at harnessing the bizarre and the disturbing than Edgar Allan Poe. Born 200 years ago in 1809, Poe is recognized today as the father of the detective genre, the pioneer of science fiction and a master of the psychological horror story. His works continue to be mandatory reading for high school and college students.

Mount Hope Estate & Winery will celebrate the 200th anniversary of Edgar Allan Poe’s birth with the annual theatrical production, “Poe Evermore,” opening November 3 and running through November 15 within the Victorian halls of historic Mount Hope Mansion in northern Lancaster County.

Inside the Mansion, guests will step back in time to the fall of 1848. Edgar Allan Poe, who has begun to fall victim to his “inner demons” causing increasingly erratic behavior, is about to start a nationwide tour of poetry reading and lectures. In honor of the tour, Washington Irving, author of “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” and one of Poe’s mentors, will throw Poe a launch party. The guest list will include Poe’s sweetheart and bride-to-be, Elmira Royster, the beautiful author of “Frankenstein”, Mary Shelly, and American poet and educator, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. For the next two hours, these notable characters will bring to dramatic life the best works of America’s Master of the Macabre in the Mansion’s first floor rooms turned intimate theaters.

In the Ballroom, Irving and Longfellow will present “The Cask of Amontillado,” the tale of Montressor who has an old score to settle with Fortunato and a plan to enact revenge to satisfy the most tormented of retributions.

Can one woman be driven to madness by her own debauched behavior or is it possible that a demonic cat has driven her to her heinous act of murder and deceit? Find out in the Hallway Rooms where Shelly and Royster will share Poe’s powerful story of murder, madness and revenge from the grave, “The Black Cat.”

In the Chapel, Poe himself will recite some of his most famous poems depicting tragedy, love, madness and death before wrapping up with a dramatic presentation of “The Raven.”

Poe Evermore opens Tuesday, November 3 and runs through Sunday, November 15. Friday show times are 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday show times are 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Limited weekday shows are set for 7 p.m. A special midnight performance is available during the final weekend, Friday November 13 and Saturday November 14. Ticket prices are \$19.95 weekends and \$17.95 midweek.

Searching for a uniquely dark and eerie way to enjoy Poe Evermore? Join Edgar Allan Poe as he hosts an interactive dining experience and midnight performance of Poe Evermore. The evening will begin in the Swashbuckler Brewery & Restaurant with a four course gourmet meal featuring an appetizer of Mini Bleu

Cheese Scones, Harvest Salad, Stuffed Pork Loin entrée, and Double Layered Dark Chocolate Cake with Chambord Raspberry Filling and Chocolate Ganache for dessert. Guests will retire then to the Mansion for the evening's entertainment that is sure to send shivers down their spines. The Poe Evermore Midnight Dinner shows are scheduled for closing weekend, Friday, November 13, and Saturday, November 14. Dinner will be served at 10 p.m. and the show will begin at 12 a.m. Tickets for these special performance are \$59.95 and include the dinner and performance. A cash bar will be available.

The Swashbuckler Brewery & Restaurant's Dinner and a Show will offer an additional fine dining option before journeying into the mystery and macabre of Edgar Allan Poe. A gourmet buffet featuring classic, home-style dishes including fresh Lancaster County Carved Ham, Braised Beef Roulade and Chicken Kiev will be available November 3, 4, 5, 11 and 12 at 5 p.m. followed by a 7 p.m. performance of Poe Evermore. The cost is \$39.95 per person and includes the performance. A cash bar will be available.

The Swashbuckler Brewery & Restaurant will be open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 4:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. for a la carte dining. Call 717-665-7021, ext. 146 for reservations.

Seating for Poe Evermore performances, Midnight Dinner shows and Dinner and a Show performances is limited. Tickets can be purchased through the Virtual Box Office at PaRenFaire.com or by calling the Box Office at (717) 665-7021. Child ticket pricing is not available. All menus are subject to change.

Mount Hope Estate & Winery, home of the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire, is located on Route 72, ½ mile south of PA Turnpike exit 266, 15 miles north of Lancaster and 14 miles east of Hershey.

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