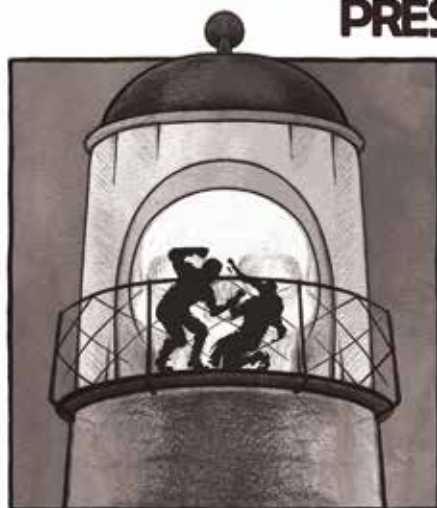


A NIGHT AT THE  
**GRAND GUIGNOL 2022**  
PRESENTS



**THE LIGHTHOUSE  
KEEPERS**

BY PAUL AUTIER & PAUL CLOQUEMIN  
Translated by Justin A. Blum



**THE KISS OF BLOOD**

BY JEAN ARAGNY & FRANCIS NEILSON  
Translated by Justin A. Blum



**THE MASQUE OF  
THE RED DEATH**

BY EDGAR ALLEN POE  
Adapted by Mia van Leeuwen

**ENTER...  
IF YOU  
DARE!**

University of  
Lethbridge



Faculty of Fine Arts

# A Night at the Grand Guignol

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Faculty Initiator: Mia van Leeuwen  
Script Translator & Adapter: Justin A. Blum  
Scenic Designer: Julia Wasilewski  
Lighting Designer: Lee Burckes  
Sound Designers: Kae Carter  
Hannah Stobbe  
Projection Designers: Lee Burckes & Drama 3821  
Projection Design Class  
Directors: Mia van Leeuwen  
Jay Whitehead &  
Justin A. Blum  
Assistant Production Designer: Mahsa Zaredehabadi  
Costume Designers: Jaime Johnson  
Julia Wasilewski  
Carla Traughber Simon  
Poster Design: Sarah Hilliard  
Stage Manager: Teasha Doerksen

## General Note:

Welcome everyone to *A Night at the Grand Guignol*! This production has been in the works for the past 2.5 years, months before the global Covid-19 pandemic rocked our worlds and changed the course of theatre since. This ambitious return-to-live-theatre project, evolved into a showcase of three different plays and styles, the creation of an Emcee character to weave the night together, and a home for two MFA design thesis projects. Unfortunately, due to a work stoppage in February 2022, our creation period was cut off right in the middle of things! Upon a return to the term, our re-assembled team decided to continue with the production, but within a condensed rehearsal period. Alas, *A Night at the Grand Guignol* did not have the hours preferred to marinate in its bloody juices, but we are excited none the less to share with audiences where we arrived at in the process. Enjoy, but proceed with caution! **Warning: This production contains ghosts, gore, botox, a staged reading, and other assorted terrors; viewer discretion is advised!**

~ Mia van Leeuwen

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## Cast

Master of Ceremonies: Quinn Larder  
Direction: Mia van Leeuwen &  
Jay Whitehead  
Text: Justin A. Blum, Quinn Larder &  
Mia van Leeuwen  
Costume: Jaime Johnson

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# The Light House Keepers

By Paul Autier & Paul Cloquemin

Translated by Justin A. Blum

Director: Jay Whitehead  
Costume Designer: Julia Wasilewski  
Fight Coordinator: Carter Debusschere  
Stage Manager: Serena Lemire  
Vocal Coach: Doug MacArthur

## Cast

Jacques Bréhan: Jaret Pack  
Yvon Bréhan: Mason Arsenault

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## Director's Note

When my colleague and friend, Mia, first approached me about her diabolical design to embark on a journey into the Grand Guignol I jumped at the opportunity to be involved. The storied history of this oft overlooked theatre genre has long fascinated me; like a sinister siren, it called to me from the dusty pages of rarely visited library shelves, where as a theatre student drawn to all things odd, I spent many hours poring over the scant collection of books which spoke on the subject. So it is with ghoulish glee that I make my offering to this evening of theatrical horrors; and to this petrifying potluck, I have opted to bring a Grand Guignol staple to the table: *The Lighthouse Keepers*. I was drawn to the play's familiar and familial relationship between its two characters, to its slow, moody burn, its themes of isolation and desolation and its ultimate sprint to its final "breathtaking" moments. In our version of the Lighthouse Keepers, our actors play brothers opposed to the play's original father/son relationship, but despite this change, the play is no less haunting. Special thanks must be offered to David Gabert and Meg O'Brien for their contributions to this piece prior to the work stoppage. Now lean forward...because you won't want to miss a moment of *The Lighthouse Keepers*.

- Jay Whitehead

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# The Kiss of Blood

By Jean Aragny & Francis Neilson

Translated by Justin A. Blum

Director: Justin A. Blum  
Properties, Costumes, & Special Effects  
Design: Carla Traugher Simon  
Stage Manager: Nicole Oscar  
Lip-sync Choreography: Mia van Leeuwen

## Cast

Professor Leduc: Will Thomson  
Dr. Jeanne Volguine: Alex Dodd  
Assistant: Harley Czech  
Nurse: Jacqueline Paule  
Joubert: Grayden McKay  
Hélène: Avery Raine  
Maria: Danielle Bernardin  
The Spectre Sisters: Tina Martens  
Daylin Chase

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## Director's Note

I first made the acquaintance of the Grand Guignol when I was a graduate student writing about the representation of violence in late 19th-century popular theatre. In that context I translated short sections of plays from the theatre's repertoire, so it was with great interest that I learned that Mia van Leeuwen was proposing to stage a selection of Grand Guignol shows as part of the Drama Department season, and with great joy that I undertook to create the new translations of "*Gardiens de phare*" and "*Le Baiser du sang*" that you'll see this evening. Translating historical plays for a modern audience is always difficult, especially when, as in this case, the theatrical and literary aesthetics they are based in are very distant from those we usually encounter on our contemporary stage. There's no single recipe to follow in answering this challenge, and many ways to get the balance of flavours wrong while trying to do so; my hope is that you'll be left with a hint of the rhetorical and theatrical excess that define this unique tradition, with a pleasant note of old books on dusty shelves that stops short of the overwhelming taste of a museum piece.

You'll notice that in "*Kiss of Blood*" our performers are working from their scripts, a condition necessitated by the loss of rehearsal time to job action and Covid measures. We've altered and amended the text to fit this reality, but also worked hard to maintain moments of intense theatricality. I thank my cast and design collaborators for their hard work, adaptability, and good will throughout this process.

~Justin A. Blum

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# The Masque of the Red Death

By Edgar Allan Poe

Devised by Mia van Leeuwen & the Cast

Director: Mia van Leeuwen  
Assistant Devisor: Mataya Mikuliak  
Costume & Mask Designer: Jaime Johnson  
Music Director/Pianist: Bente Hansen  
Stage Manager: Teasha Doerksen  
O Death Text: Annie Martin

## Cast

Prospero: Andrew Burnison  
Piano & Keyboards: Bente Hansen  
Masquerade Guests: Mason Arsenault  
Danielle Bernadin  
Daylin Chase  
Harley Czech  
Alex Dodd  
Tina Martens  
Grayden McKay  
Mataya Mikuliak  
Jacqueline Paule  
Avery Raine  
Will Thomson

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## Director's Note

I chose to work with Grand Guignol muse Edgar Allan Poe and his short story *The Masque of the Red Death*, a cautionary tale that features a fictitious plague, months before our real global pandemic hit. Admittedly, I had some reservations about going ahead with this retelling, but instead saw this as a moment to look death in its face -- through art. I proposed Grand Guignol for the Main Stage season in the first place because of its 6-decade long dance with death through multiple plays, styles of telling, and innovation of special effects. As my own research explores contemporary approaches to *memento mori* -- artistic practices that remind us that death is coming for everyone -- I view the work of the Grand Guignol as an important and fascinating chapter in theatre history, one that captured a time when confronting the *horrorality* of it all appeared to be a productive part of society. Fast forward to 2022, as we move through this next stage of the pandemic, I suspect that many audiences and artists will crave lighter, easier, less terror-filled and more feel-good amusements. Regardless, death and the darker sides of life won't be going away anytime soon, and art is a bridge to confront and express *all* aspects of existing in this remarkable world.

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~ Mia van Leeuwen

# Production Crew

Production Manager	Charlie Wilson-Borella
Stage Coordinator	D.A. Smurlick
Head Scenic/Props Carpenter	Arlene Curran
Scenic/Props Shop Assistants	Richard Bates
	Caiden Cline
	Emily Laidlaw
	Xavier Michaud
	Wayne Morris
	Baz Skinner
Student Paint Lead (set and properties)	Ranelle Huwald
Student Properties Coordinator	Madalyn Zerbin
Special F/X Operator & Technician	Bridgitte Hoger
Stage Carpenter	Colton Vanhorren
Costume Shop Head	Teresa Heyburn
Costume Shop Assistants	Lynn Hopkins
	Amanda Epp &
	Kiera Gemsa
	Mike Takats
	Xavier Michaud
	Toby Brook
	Cass Gayowski
	Maddie McKee
	Carson Rafuse
	Kelly Roberts
	Casper McCallum
	Brie Wilkinson
	Cassidy Braun
	Caiden Cline
	Jordan Flexbaug
	Kiera Gemsa
	Cole Howg
	Serena Lemire
	Mataya Mikuliak
	Quinn Larder
	Madison Fernell
	Taylor Fornwald
	Daylin Chase
	Thommy Kelly
	Autumn Adrian
	Lilliana Gaggero
	Maria Fanning
	Cole Fetting
	Mirielle Nieuwenhuis

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# Special thanks to....

Calgary Opera (for the lending of equipment)  
Lauren Moore, for many rehearsal hours, as the project developed  
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David Burton  
Erik Hohmann

Projection Image Attribution:  
*Christ's Descent into Hell* by A Follower of Hieronymus Bosch  
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KTKato  
David Zydd

Links for David Zydd images:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCodfA2tlzDDk6qYsvAqWTww/videos>

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## Territorial Acknowledgement...

Okí, and welcome to the University of Lethbridge. Our University's Blackfoot name is Iniskim, meaning Sacred Buffalo Stone. The University is located in traditional Blackfoot Confederacy territory. We honour the Blackfoot people and their traditional ways of knowing in caring for this land, as well as all Aboriginal peoples who have helped shape and continue to strengthen our University community.

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## Department of Drama Faculty

Justin A. Blum, PhD

Lee Burckes, BA, MFA

Jim Dobbin (Calgary Campus), BA, BEd, MFA

Nicola Elson, BFA, MFA

Gail Hanrahan, BA, MFA

Gabrielle Houle (Adjunct Faculty), PhD

Doug MacArthur (Associate Dean) BA, MFA

Deric Olsen (Chair of the Drama Department), MFA

Jorge Sandoval (Adjunct Faculty), BFA, MFA

Shelley Scott, BA, MA, PhD

Dave Smith, BFA, MFA

Aaron Taylor, BA, MA, PhD

Mia van Leeuwen, BA, MFA

Julia Wasilewski, BA, BFA, MFA

Jay Whitehead, BFA, MFA

Charlie Wilson-Borella, BFA, MFA

### Professors Emeriti

Ron Chambers

Lisa Doolittle

Richard Epp

Brian Parkinson

Leslie Robison-Greene

Ches Skinner

Sara Stanley

### University Theatre Staff:

Kelly Roberts, BFA

D.A. Smurlick

Mike Takats

Xavier Michaud

Colton Vanhooren

### Carpentry and Props:

Arlene Curran, Journeyman Carpenter

Jennifer Hare (on leave) BA Honors

Richard Bates

Wayne Morris

Emily Laidlaw

Baz Skinner

### Costume:

Teresa Heyburn, BFA

Lynn Hopkins, BFA

Amanda Epp, BFA

### FFA Dean's Office:

Operations Manager:

Amanda Berg, BA, BMgt

Manager of FA Facilities:

Niall Donaghy, MFA

Admin Assistant & Promo Design:

Sarah Hilliard, BA

Admin Support:

Shawn Coburn, BSW

### Box Office & Front of House:

Indira Brouwer

Laura Ferguson

Cole Fetting

Lauren Moore

Avery Raine

Oliver Petti

Jazden Smith