

Published October 24th, 2012 The Haunting of Theatre Square By Sophie Braccini



Who knows what horrors await Kenzie and Charlie Karp within Theatre Square's haunted house? Photo Ohlen Alexander, spooky eyes Amanda Griggs Beware, Orinda! Ghastly beasts and ghoulish creatures are moving into their new home at Theatre Square tonight, and they are waiting for you and your little ones. Dinner at the Square, anyone?

Conceived by Michael Karp and Victor Ivry (Table 24, Barbacoa) and brought to you with plenty of help from the Orinda community and the support of Theatre Square owner GLL Real Estate Partners, Orinda's own haunted house is located on the ground floor at the northwest side of the Square.

The dark dwelling's design was informed by the experience of Orinda resident David Zimmerman, who used to build a haunted house at his home every year. Volunteers were also mobilized from different parts of the community. The construction crew included members of the Glorietta Dads' Club. Local artists such as Allison McCrady, Al Eames, Rob Becker, and Mer Hemming donated their time to decorate the interior.

Inside the house, volunteers from the Educational Foundation of Orinda and the Miramonte Drama Club, among others, will make the house come alive. "We will let in groups of kids of about the same age and will tailor the 'scariness' to the age group," says Karp.

The haunted house tour is free and fearless visitors who bring a can of food for the Contra Costa Food Bank will receive a 10 percent discount at participating Theatre Square business, according to Sophina Gallon of Theatre Square manager Cushman and Wakefield.

The Orinda Haunted House, recommended for kids ages 5-13, is open from 5 to 9 p.m. (10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday) October 24 to October 30. Haunted House at the Rheem

Seeking more screams? Don't miss the Dark Dreams Haunted House at the New Rheem Theatre from 7 to 11 p.m. October 26, 27, 28 and on Halloween, October 31. Tickets are \$9 at the door. This is a fundraiser for the California Independent Film Festival.

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back

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