

STUDENT LIFE

Eerie Horror Fest aims to frighten

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Board up your windows, stock up on silver bullets, and make sure you have garlic handy, because the 2007 Eerie Horror Fest is creeping close! The festival will bring enough horror related vendors, presenters, video games, movies and art from Oct. 10-14 to scare just about anyone.

This year marks the fourth time for the festival since its inception in Oct. of 2004. Each year, hundreds of films are submitted to the festival, and the best are presented. An awards ceremony is held at the end of the festival to honor the best entries. For the past four years, thousands of people have made their way to the Erie Playhouse and the Avalon Hotel to see all the films and vendors.

Kicking the event off on Wednesday, Oct. 10 will be a party and movie screening with actress Adrienne Barbeau, best known for her roles in *The Fog*, *Escape from New York*, and *Swamp Thing*. Thursday, Oct. 11, is the beginning of the film festival portion of Eerie Horror Fest, with film screenings from 1:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Erie Playhouse. The night will also feature special guest James Duvall of *Donnie Darko* along with a film screening. Punk rock band The Misfits will be performing an after hours party at the Cell Block.

On Friday Oct. 12, the festival will host the World Premiere of *The Beast In Me* and the Pennsylvania premiere of *Chasing Darkness*. At 9 p.m., special guest Dee Wallace Stone will be making an appearance at the festival, along with a screening of her classic film, *Cujo*. Films will be showing at the Erie Playhouse on Friday from 1:30 p.m. until 2:15 a.m.

Saturday Oct. 13 is the big day for the festival. Jason Mewes of *Clerks*, *Dogma*, and *Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back* fame be appearing at the festival, and there will also be a screening of his new film *Netherbeast Incorporated*. Saturday is also the night that the festival has its awards ceremonies, giving out such awards as "Best Feature" "Best Short" and "Best Student Film". Films will be

showing from noon until 2:30am.

Sunday Oct. 14 is the last day of Eerie Horror Fest, which will feature all of the Local and Student Films from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Among them, *Dead @ 17*, directed by Behrend professor Mark Steensland, who is also the Vice President of the festival. Sunday night also holds the Special Presentations, Encores, and Best of the Fest.

For many people, Eerie Horror Fest is their only chance to see many of the films that are playing there. There are no other local venues that will be screening most of the films at the festival, and it could be some time until they are distributed for sale. A film nominated for best feature at last year's festival called *Ghost Adventures* was recently picked up for airing by the Sci Fi Channel.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The 4th annual Horrorfest begins Oct. 10.

Between film screenings, attendees to the festival can make their way over to the Avalon Hotel to check out the vendors that will be attending the festival this year. Appearing will be Cinema Wasteland, GMD Films, Midnight Syndicate and many more. Also, many special guests will be there signing autographs. Jason Mewes and Dee Wallace Stone will be there each day of the event in addition to the days they are screening their movies. Some of the other big names that are appearing include Tom Savini (Grindhouse, Dawn of the Dead), Joe Pilato (Day of the Dead, Pulp Fiction), and Michael Berryman (The Hills Have Eyes 1 & 2, The Devil's Rejects) just to name a few.

One all day pass for the event is \$22 (\$11.50 on Sunday), which gets you admission to all film screenings and expo events. For individual film block screenings, it is \$4 for screenings before 6:00 p.m., and \$5 after. For an all access pass which grants you access to all film screenings and expo events every day of the festival, it is \$75, which also includes VIP seating and a free T shirt.

Horror fans are not going to want to miss Eerie Horror Fest. For film times, presenters, vendors and a detailed pricing list for Eerie Horror fest, check out www.eeriehorrorfilmfestival.com.

New literary genre attracts college males



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tucker Max is at the forefront of the new literary genre, fratire.

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"My name is Tucker Max, and I am an asshole" reads the opening line of the synopsis for *I Hope They Serve Beer in Hell*, Max's first book. It's stated plainly on the back of the paperback edition so that a possible reader can estimate what they may be getting themselves into if they purchase it. In all likelihood, however, they have no idea.

Max is one of the catalysts for an up and coming literary genre that has been dubbed "fratire". "Fratire" is a wordplay on the terms fraternity and satire, and it was given to this type of work because the labeled writers seemingly speak and behave like stereotypical "frat boys" in their comedic novels, essays, and stories. Max was unhappy about this labeling and verbalized his dissatisfaction when he was informed by the writer of a piece on him and his colleagues of the intended name he had selected. "Holy Jesus, that is awful," he said. "First off, I wasn't in a fraternity. Neither was Maddox. In fact, none of the writers you are profiling in your article was in a frat. Please, call it anything else." He then suggested a non-publishable term that rhymes with "chick lit."

The article went on to be published in *The New York Times* and Max's idea was not printed. The term "fratire" was solidified. The article contained information about Max himself: a writer named Maddox, who wrote *The Alphabet of Manliness*; and Frank Kelly Rich, the editor of *Modern Drunkard Magazine*.

Many of the authors that have been lumped into this new genre are masters at pushing the envelope as far as it can possibly go, and Max may be the most adept at it. His books and website consist of short stories and essays (all of which he insists are true, and some of them have

even been proven through various photos and videos) that profile the events of his life, a life that is riddled with drunkenness, promiscuity, gut-wrenching wit and extreme obnoxiousness.

In essence, Max is what many men envision themselves as in their vision of utopia: he does not care at all about what others think of him, he has shunned what society feels is right, he's slept with an inordinate amount of women, he spends a great deal of his time drunk in bars and his job is to write about these experiences.

The rest of the writers in this new genre follow suit, writing about whatever they want in whichever way they feel like, without any kind of censorship, which is why these books and websites have become so popular. The type of things that they speak so openly about and the issues that they address are deemed inappropriate for even cable television, and they present their topics in a way that almost always forces a laugh from the reader.

This is extremely important in a society that has become dominated by the television, especially among the youth, teenagers and college students. These writers, however immoral or how far they fall from traditional literature, are getting children, especially males, to read more often.

These "fratirists" have—especially Max—been denounced by advocates of the traditional literary world as well as by people that just plain resent their behavior. There is even a blog website that's sole purpose is to make Max look bad, in a slightly more vulgar terminology. Whether he or any of his colleagues are morally repugnant or not can be argued extensively, but what cannot is that these men are having a substantial impact on the revival of a literary world that is slowly but surely declining into nothingness.

Max has a new book, titled *Assholes Finish First* coming out in mid-November.

Top 5 TV dads By Andy McLachlan

5. Homer Simpson
4. Danny Tanner
3. Philip Drummond
2. Jason Seaver
1. Philip Banks

Magical comedian entertains families on campus

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Light-hearted comedian Brian Kaufman stopped by Penn State Behrend's Bruno's café last weekend to entertain students and visiting family members of all ages with his unique mixture of stand up comedy and uncanny magical illusions. Being as modest as possible, Kaufman started the show with music, and introduced himself as, "the best [comedian] within your price range."

Then Kaufman ate a balloon and applauded himself, urging the audience to join along. Many times during his set, Kaufman would cue the audience when to clap for him and even laugh. "I eat a balloon and you people just stare," Kaufman mocked humorously.

With a range of bona fine magical acts to mock illusionist comedy, Kaufman presents a comedy act that is very original to say the very least. He emits a good personality on the stage, joking along with the audience as he goes. Kaufman is able to combine egotism with humility exceptionally well.

From eating balloons to picking cards, Kaufman's act sounds better suited to a cheap magician who performs in a never-ending cycle for children's birthday parties, and sadly, without the jokes, that's probably all Kaufman's set would end up being. The majority of the magical acts themselves were not overly original, many of them being rather simple card tricks. Many tricks were not overly amusing for college students, however many were very

entertaining to the little kids in the audience. A few of these meager tricks came and went with disappointment.

It would be unwise to get the impression that Kaufman was bad by any means he however shows a sense of inexperience. A few bits, which were very elaborate acts took place, one in particular in which Kaufman took a random audience member watch only to make it disappear and re-appear inside a sealed can of corn which in turn was locked inside a wooden box that had been out of sight the entire act. Then he reverted to an example of his mock illusion, where he listened to a tape player feeding him instructions on how to make a yellow bandana disappear. Turns out he accidentally got the word mixed up with banana instead. Don't worry, he made the banana disappear anyway.

Kaufman's show was clean, G-rated material for the most part. College students will probably not go for Kaufman's child-friendly flair. Kaufman is a comedian better suited for the whole family, since his comedy is rarely related to things a general college student is interested in. His show never stopped parents from getting into the fun, or finding it enjoyable, and it shouldn't really stop older kids either. Needless to say, Brian Kaufman is not only a promising young comedian; he is a very promising illusionist as well. An exclusive combination of comedy and magic was something very refreshing and a highly original take on stand-up comedy, however that's not too say that there aren't parts of the act that need polishing up.

Emerging Fratirists and their publications

Tucker Max: Writes short stories and essays concerning excessive drunkenness, women and extremely uncommon events that he experiences with his abnormal friends.
www.tuckermax.com

Drunkasaurusrex: Writes a blog that is composed mainly of rants on poular culture. He also records his visits to various colleges and experiences their parties.
www.drunkasaurusrex.com

Frank Kelly Rich: Not to be confused with the New York Times political opinion columnist, Rich is the Editor and most prolific writer for The Modern Drunkard Magazine. He writes mainly about, of course, getting drunk.
www.moderndrunkardmagazine.com

Maddox: A belligerent writer who became famous for his best-selling book, *The Alphabet of Manliness*. He also maintains a website full of random rants and stories.
www.thebestpageintheuniverse.com

The Phat Free: A group of writers that maintain a website of comedic essays, stories, cartoons and false advertisements.
www.thephatphree.com

Neil Strauss: A former reporter for the New York Times who is a self-proclaimed "Pick-Up Artist" has published a book on that subject titled *The Game*. He also runs a website that is designed to teach men how to pick up women.
www.stylelife.com