

PA Renaissance Faire offers evening of mystery and imagination at "Edgar Allen Poe Evermore"

**Ann Mease
Staff Reporter**

On the royal grounds of the Mount Hope Estate and Winery, a cast of professional actors entertain you with this year's production of "Edgar Allen Poe Evermore."

Imagine a moonlight evening, walking up the winding pathway as long shadows are cast upon the grounds by the towering pines, that encircle the Mount Hope Mansion.

As you step up to the giant oak door and knock, you are greeted by an expressionless servant of Edgar Allan Poe.

Passing through the portals that mark the entrance into the imposing sandstone mansion, you are escorted into the ballroom to meet Poe. The spectators watch and listen while he recites "The Raven," one of his most mysterious works.

"Once upon a midnight

dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary, offer many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore, while I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping, as of someone gently rapping, rapping at my chamber door." said Poe.

You are then greeted by the cast of literary friends who have come on retreat to the mansion, for the "Poe Evermore" evening of mystery and imagination.

Actors assume the identity of mid-19th Century notables, including: Mary Shelley; Washington Irving; Charlotte and Emily Bronte; Elizabeth Browning and Henry David Thoreau.

Visitors Travel through the gloomily-lit mansion rooms, where professional performers dressed in Gothic costumes bring to life Poe's vision of emotion, revolving around human terror, thus creating a

sense of fear within one's own mind.

In the "Theater Room" actor Joel Kabik, playing Poe, recites "The Pit and the Pendulum," a tale of a man's desperate attempt to survive the Spanish Inquisition.

Kabik's performance had the audience on the edge of their seats witnessing the living horror as this man tries to break free, as the pendulum swings nearer and his screams get louder, as a soul might imagine.

In the "Library" actress Vanessa Webb, portraying Charlotte Bronte reads Poe's spine tingling "The Tell Tale Heart" and portrays insanity at its best, making us wonder where the line between criminal and malice lies.

Other performances were: "The Cast of Amontillado," performed by Jennifer Palmer (Emily Bronte); "Frankenstein,"

performed by Kerri Slavin (Mary Shelley) and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," performed by Thomas Roy (Washington Irving).

The Poe festival is located in Lancaster County on the grounds of the Mount Hope Estate and Winery, where the 32 room Victorian Mount Hope Mansion is located.

Poe performances began Oct. 31 on Halloween evening and continued through till November 17th.

The next event scheduled is "A Charles Dickens Christmas Past" beginning the Friday following Thanksgiving and continuing until New Year's.

For information on performances and reservations call Mount Hope Box Office at (717) 665-7021, extension 231, weekdays between 9 a. m. and 4 p.m.



Edgar Allen Poe appears a reluctant host at Victorian Mount Hope Estate as the Master of the Macabre presides over the telling of his chilling short stories at the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire.

photo courtesy of the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire

Jason Timoll Band offers world reggae and soul music to local clubs

**Brian Hair
Contributor**

Two years ago, Jason Timoll was playing his music for friends in his Dickinson College dorm room. Today, he and the band that bears his name, are one of the hottest bands on the Harrisburg scene.

The Jason Timoll Band doesn't have one sound to cling to. Instead, they mix different styles into their music. "World reggae and soul music is the best I can describe it," Timoll said. "There's a lot we do that sounds like music of the 60s. Whether

it's Motown or Folk. It's my way of bringing them together which I hope will become a cornerstone of my music," Timoll said.

The Jason Timoll Band got together after a Senior Creative Director of MTV spotted Timoll performing at his Dickinson college graduation. She was also an alumna of Dickinson, and asked Timoll to submit a demo tape to her.

"I was hoping I'd get some recognition and a tour bus, but that didn't work out," he said jokingly. "Instead, in the process of making the demo, I met Bob

Welsh, who listened to the tape," Timoll said. "He heard really cool, new music and called me back and wanted to produce my music," he added. Most of the people who played on the demo tape evolved into the band. "Basically because we got along enough and decided to play together live."

Bob Welsh and Dale Epperson, co-owners of the Green Room music studio, are members of Timoll's band. Their studio, located in Harrisburg, has a lock on the new, young music in the area. "They are going to the

grass roots and finding the young talent in the area," Timoll said. The Badlees, who started in Harrisburg and went national, cut their CD at eh Green Room.

The other member of the band, William "Rej" Troup, played in another local band before joining forces with Epperson, Timoll and Welsh.

The Jason Timoll band currently has two demo tapes out, with CD in the works. They are also on two music compilation CDs. One is a CD for Delta Housing, which is an organization designed to help homeless women

with children. The other is a Green Room compilation with some big names including the Badlees, Jellybricks and Jeffrey Gaines.

When not performing, the members of the band enjoy artists ranging from Marvin Gaye and Bob Marley to contemporary performers like Peter Gabriel. "One of my favorites is Dar Williams, out of Boston. Her writing is refreshing. I want to write with her kind of freedom," Timoll said.

Timoll, originally from Owing Mills, Md, wanted to play

after he realized how much his music moved people. "My cousin Jamaica would look at me, starry eyed, and say, man you could sing for your supper," he said. Now people gather all around the Harrisburg area to hear his band's distinct sounds.

The band hopes they can make a career out of their music. Eventually, they would like to take their music on the road.

In the future, Timoll would like to open up a small record label and sign small artists. "I would love to turn

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failure to cooperate explains why these departments are having the most problems at this time, according to Strevler.

"This is absolutely not the case," Gilpin said. He maintains that the audits produced for secondary education and social studies majors had the most inconsistencies in his department because the audit has not picked up on all the unique requirements for these degrees.

"We have gone through and indicated every course, checked it over, and indeed worked directly with the [enrollment services] staff," stresses Gilpin. "I am not one to complain about a system without working with the staff." Gilpin said that despite these effort, the audits are still inaccurate this semester.

Strevler clarifies that the Fall 1996 audit program was modified to take into consideration all of the classes a student has completed since freshman year.

Previously, only courses taken at PSH were entered in to the computer with a record of freshman and sophomore classes maintained only in the student's paper file. Strevler believes that this modification caused most of the problems this semester.

According to Strevler, those students who took a leave of absence or, like Georgia Foltz, withdrew for a semester, were viewed by the computer as brand new students when they entered the Fall 1996 semester.

As a result, those classes taken previously and/or transferred from other colleges (including freshman and sophomore level courses) were not found by the computer and marked as missing. The degree audit then reflected deficiencies for as many as 98 credits.

"This is a problem that is easy to fix," says Strevler.

Although he admits that he and his staff should have been more aware of the potential dilemma. "We should have taken it one step further. We didn't realize the system would treat them as new students."

He invites those students with questions or concerns to come directly to his office for an explanation and/or modification of their record. In addition, brochures are available at enrollment services which explain the degree audit in detail.

Gilpin stated that, while the enrollment services staff are always helpful and tend to swiftly correct problems, he wishes they would communicate with advisors first before sending the audits to the students. This would lessen the frustration all around if the audits

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