



Talking to Spirits on the Day of the Dead

By Sophie Braccini

In Western Christian tradition, November 1st is All Saints Day, a time for families to get together and remember their departed loved ones. What better day for Sandra O'Hara, who The San Francisco Examiner calls "Ireland's most gifted and famous psychic medium," to propose a public gathering where she will converse with spirits. The venue will be Town Hall Theater in Lafayette (THT); the spectral communication will commence at 7:00 p.m.

"She is very well known in Ireland," says Carrie Kehoe, who is producing the presentation, "That's where I met her when we were living in Ireland." Kehoe was introduced to O'Hara by her husband, an Irishman, who had met her for a reading years before. When her mother died, Kehoe looked for a way to communicate with her. "My mother and I had always said that the first one who would pass would try to find ways to contact the other," remembers Kehoe, "When I arrived at Sandra's home, she came to the door, looked at me and said, 'there is a very powerful spirit here with her arm around your shoulders.'"

After returning to the U.S., the Lafayette resident started organizing events for the medium in the Bay Area. "Events are quite extraordinary," she says, "everybody benefits. The experience is transforming and healing."

O'Hara claims that she's seen spirits since the age of three. "My first memory is of an old lady in a rocking chair in my bedroom," she recounts, "when I was a child I would see spirits just like I see people, but my parents told me not to talk about it." O'Hara adds that by age 15 she decided to "shut the spirits up" so she would be like everyone else. But in her early 20's the spirits kept "knocking" in her head and she gave up. "For 22 years now people have come to me for communication with the after-life," she says.

This reporter had a reading done by O'Hara, still in Ireland, over Skype. The experience was, well, interesting...don't we all have unresolved issues with the departed?

For more information about the November 1st presentation at THT contact Carrie Kehoe at livingitwell@gmail.com, or go to www.thtc.org.

First Ever Outdoor Movie Night

The free inaugural walk in, as opposed to drive in, Outdoor Movie Event is scheduled for Saturday, October 30 at Lafayette Plaza Park. Bring a blanket and snacks and come dolled up for the costume contest or perhaps wear snugly footie-pajamas for the 7:00 screening of Pixar's *Monster's Inc.*

Who wouldn't like the family friendly, hilarious film set in the world of Monstropolis that features incredible computer animation and the vocal talent of John Goodman as the giant furry blue James "Sully" Sullivan and his assistant the jocular, one-eyed lime green Mike Wazowski with the voice of Billy Crystal. Great

for kid and adults.

Timed to coincide with Halloween, city staffers and the Chamber of Commerce hope they are on to something big. Depending on turnout for the Saturday night event, this could become a recurring summer series.

Judging by the success of the Farmers' Market, Associate Planner Lindy Chan and Assistant Planner Michael Cass brought up the idea and wanted to coordinate the timing with the always popular Rez Run scheduled for the very next day - Halloween. Given the direction: "make it happen" from management they arranged for a big screen that



will be attached to the large trellis on the Moraga Road-facing edge of the park and coordinated with the Chamber on event details.

A variety of prizes will be given out for unique costumes. Let your imagination be your guide. Unfortunately in case of rain, the event will be canceled.

Saturday, October 30, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lafayette Plaza.
C. Tyson

Additional Details

Directed By: David Silverman; Pete Docter
Original Release Date: 11/10/09
Written By: Andrew Stanton; Dan Gerson
Studio: Disney-Pixar
Approximate Run Time: 93 minutes
MPAA: G.

About This Film

MONSTERS, INC. shattered every DVD-era home entertainment sales record when 11 million DVD/VHS copies of the film were sold during its first week of release. Only THE LION KING, released in the "pre-DVD" era, sold more units when it debuted on VHS in 1995. Singer-songwriter Randy Newman had been nominated for an Academy Award® 16 times -- and never won -- before he finally won for the song "If I Didn't Have You."



More Halloween Events



Photo Doug Kohen

Haunted House at the New Rheem Theater

350 Park Street, Moraga
October 28th thru the 31st
7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., and open til midnight on Halloween

Not for the weak at heart. Don't miss the claustrophobia chamber and other nightmare rooms. Appropriate for ages 10 years and older, cost is \$8.

Friday Night of Fright

New Rheem Theater, 350 Park Street, Moraga
October 29th at 10:00 p.m.

Come out to see the classic fright flick, *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*. Hosted by Vanessa the Queen of Scream, moviegoers will have the chance to show off their horror flick knowledge and win cool prizes.

Witches & Goblins. Trick or Treat

at Rheem Valley Center on Friday, October 29, 3- 5pm.

Free Halloween Skate and Scoot

Friday October 29th from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Lafayette Roller Hockey Rink at the Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette. All ages are invited - bring your skates, scooters and skateboards. Participants are encouraged to wear costumes.

Sleepy Hollow Halloween Fall Carnival

20 Washington Lane, Orinda
October 30th, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Fabulous food, awesome games, cool rides and fun. Don't miss the Magical Harry Potter Haunted House!

Alice in Wonderland on Halloween

12 Lynnwood Place, Moraga
October 31st from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Make this a place to stop on the trick-or-treat trail. A cast of twelve including Alice, the white rabbit, The Mad Hatter, and the rest of the crew from Wonderland will perform a skit throughout evening. Enjoy a good laugh along with a sweet treat.

'Tis the Season for Halloween

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Orinda youth have two favorites - one on each side of town. South of the freeway, they gravitate toward Ivy Drive, on the north side appropriately named Sleepy Hollow goes nuts - smoke machines, Halloween karaoke, where you may need to sing for your treat and homes are completely decked out.

Along with a ridiculous amount of sugar, the seventh annual Haunted House presented by the Lafayette Youth Commission at the Community Center adds to the excitement. Teen organizers divided the event into two sections - the first for kids seven and under that is "not so scary" - later in the evening it's officially "very scary" for bigger kids. Dates for this fundraiser are prior to publication. Jonathan Katayanagi, a kid at heart and Recreation Program Coordinator, was up to his elbows working on it. He said, "Halloween is all about letting your freak flag fly - it's a chance for teens to express themselves creatively. This is a great community thing - even in tough times."

In Moraga, The New Rheem Theatre will also have a haunted house featuring a claustrophobia chamber advertised as not for the weak at heart. Appropriate for children age ten and older, it will be open after 7:00 p.m. all Halloween weekend.

Burton Valley Elementary school will be filled with little monsters on Friday, October 29. The school hosts arguably the largest costume parade in the area, teachers dress up and parent volunteers come to help out at classroom parties with Halloween themed crafts and games.

"The kids love it - they definitely look forward to it" said Assistant Principal Chris Reddam, "it's a spooky good time." He described it as a huge tradition where everyone dresses up. Teachers have come in years past in group themed costumes like a deck of cards and pirates. One teacher came as a dining room table. He recalls one student came as an iPod last year. Un-spoiler alert - Reddam will not be attending this year as Abe Lincoln.

This season, look for school parades across Lamorinda, Halloween events, tons of candy, and parents with flashlights shepherding their little ones up and down the streets of our semi-rural spirit-filled community. Keep an eye out - this year you may even bump into Buster Posey or Lady Ga Ga going door to door searching for Snickers bars.

Calling All Ghosts, Witches & Goblins

Trick or Treat • Friday, October 29th
3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Free! Halloween Goodies While Supplies Last.

Free! Trick or Treat Bags While Supplies Last.

Rheem Valley Shopping Center
...a Moraga tradition

T.J. Maxx Rheem Blvd. at Moraga Rd. CVS

Visit our website for more event information www.rheemvalley.net

Costumed children must be accompanied by an adult. See stores for details. While supplies last.

EST. 2005

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