

2017-2018 Theatre Season

Lights Out: A Season of Dark Tales

Blinn College Division of Visual/Performing Arts and Kinesiology
Brenham Campus

ZOMBIE PROM

By John Dempsey & Dana P. Rowe



RESOURCE GUILD

This resource guide serves as an educational starting point to understanding and enjoying John Dempsey's and Dana P. Rowe's *Zombie Prom*. With this in mind, please note that the interpretations of the theatrical work may differ from the original source content.

PERFORMANCES

October 12-14 7 p.m.

October 15 2 p.m.

Middle/Junior High School Preview Performances:

October 12 & 13 1 p.m.

Dr. W.W. O'Donnell Performing Arts Center Auditorium

Brenham, Texas



Tickets can be purchased in advance
online at www.blinn.edu/BoxOffice,
by calling 979-830-4024,
or by emailing BoxOffice@blinn.edu

Directed by Brad Nies

Technical Theatre Direction by Kevin Patrick

Costume, Makeup, Hair Design, and Choreography by Jennifer Patrick

Produced by Special Arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

SYNOPSIS

Set in the atomic 1950s, pretty senior Toffee has fallen for the class bad boy, Jonny. But outside pressure has forced her to end the romance, and Jonny charges off on his motorcycle and into a nuclear waste dump. He returns from the grave glowing and determined to take Toffee to the prom. No one at the school can understand their love, but history comes to the rescue while a tuneful selection of original music keeps the action rockin' and rollin'.



DEMPSEY AND ROWE

Dempsey and Rowe is the theatrical composition team of John Dempsey (Playwright & Lyricist) and Dana P. Rowe (Composer). Both from Ohio, these artists have collaborated on such shows as *The Reluctant Dragon* (1991), *Zombie Prom* (1996), *The Fix* (1997), *The Witches of Eastwick* (2000), and *Brother Russia* (2012). Dempsey and Rowe were nominated for the Olivier Award for *The Fix* and *The Witches of Eastwick*, both of which premiered in London.





ADAPTATIONS OF ZOMBIE PROM



Zombie Prom premiered at The Red Barn Theatre in Key West, Florida in February of 1993. It was later produced at The New River Theatre in Fort Lauderdale, Florida in August of 1993. It was workshopped at the Laurence A. Wein Center in New York City in February and March of 1995 before opening Off-Broadway at the Variety Arts Theatre on April 9, 1996.

Zombie Prom was made into a short film in 2006 and shown nationwide at several film festivals. It received 4-star reviews and was awarded *Best Short Film* at the Palm Beach International Film Festival in Palm Beach, Florida.



Zombie Prom had its United Kingdom debut at the Landor Theatre; a pub theatre in South London. It opened on October 20, 2009 and ran until the end of the following November.

THEMES IN ZOMBIE PROM



LOVE: After a chance meeting, Jonny and Toffee fall instantly in love. However, after Jonny's tragic accident, Toffee must decide if she loves Jonny enough to spend the rest of her life with him as a zombie.



PREJUDICE: The Enrico Fermi High School principal Delilah Strict doesn't want Jonny Warner, dead or alive, to remain a student in her school. We later find out that Miss Strict has reasons for her prejudice.



COMING OF AGE: The students at Enrico Fermi High School begin as well-mannered kids who follow Miss Strict's harsh rules. As the story unfolds, however, they soon realize that they are adults and must make their own choices in life.



AMERICANISM: All of the characters have different ideas regarding Americanism. The students see it as allegiance to the ideals of America, while Miss Strict uses it as a tool to segregate. Reporter Eddie Flagante sees it as a way to achieve fame and fortune.





REFERENCES IN ZOMBIE PROM



ENRICO FERMI: An Italian physicist and the creator of the world's first nuclear reactor. He has been called "The Architect of the Atomic Bomb."

FRANCIS GARY POWERS: An American pilot who worked for the CIA and flew spy planes over the USSR during the Cold War.

MR. PRICE: A reference to actor Vincent Price who was known for playing villainous characters in horror films of the 1950's.

REBEL WITHOUT AN H: What Jake calls Jonny, and a reference to the 1955 classic film *Rebel Without a Cause*.

DUCK AND COVER: A method of protection against the effects of a nuclear explosion described in an educational film shown in schools during the 1950's.

LAZARUS: A figure in the Gospel of John, which describes him being raised from the dead by Jesus.

TALES OF TERROR: A reference to a series of horror comic books that appeared on newsstands in 1952.

HOUSE OF HORRORS: A reference to a 1946 American horror film that was re-released in 1952.

GEIGER SCALE: An instrument used for measuring radiation in the nuclear industry.

HAUTE CUISINE: A type of "high level" cooking found in gourmet restaurants and luxury hotels.

CARBON 14: A method of determining the age of something by using the properties of radiation.

GHOST IN THE GRAVEYARD: A outdoor game played with three or more and traditionally played at night in the dark.

VICE-PRESIDENT NIXON: A reference to Richard M. Nixon who was Vice-President of the United States from 1953 to 1961. He later became President in 1969, but resigned in 1974 before being impeached.

J. EDGAR HOOVER: The first director of the FBI who was rumored after his death to be a cross-dresser.

A stylized, abstract illustration in the background of the page. It features several figures in formal attire, such as gowns and tuxedos, rendered in a minimalist, line-art style with some areas filled with solid colors like purple and yellow. The figures are scattered across the page, some appearing to be dancing or standing in a social setting.

REFERENCES IN ZOMBIE PROM

JOAN CRAWFORD: An American early 20th century actress who made news in 1955 when she married the Chairman of the Pepsi-Cola company. In 1978, her daughter published a book containing allegations that Crawford abused her emotionally and physically.

IT'S ALIVE: A reference to the famous line from the 1931 horror movie *Frankenstein*.

CIVIL RIGHTS: The rights of every American citizen to political and social freedom and equality.

PARTY LINE: A local loop telephone circuit popular in the 1940's and 50's that was shared by multiple telephone service subscribers.

STUDEBAKER: And American automobile manufacturer that ceased operation in 1967.

HABEAS CORPUS: A writ requiring a person under arrest to be brought before a judge or into court.

HAIR LACQUER: Another name for hairspray.

JACK BENNY: An American comedian and actor whose radio show aired on NBC from 1932 to 1948.

USO: An acronym for the United Service Organization; an organization that has provided entertainment to service members since 1941.

BURMA SHAVE: An American brand of shaving cream that was famous for posting humorous poems on highway road signs from the 1920's until the 1950's.

HOME FOR UNWED

MOTHERS: A maternity home that provided care to pregnant women who lacked a stable home environment. During the 1930's and 40's, parents who were embarrassed by their daughters' promiscuities could send them to these homes to have babies that would eventually be put up for adoption.

TYPES OF ZOMBIES

With the popularity of zombies today, it's not a bad idea to know what kind of zombies are out there ... just in case you run into one!



THE ROMERO: A slow-moving, cannibalistic zombie named for George A. Romero, director of *Night of the Living Dead*. This type of zombie's primary goal is to eat human flesh. Movie Example: *Dawn of the Dead*.



THE CARRIER: Could be a fast or slow moving, dead or living zombie that carries some type of disease. It can be cannibalistic or just plain vengeful. Movie Example: *Resident Evil*.



THE HOST: This type of zombie is used for the reproduction and transportation of a parasite. Cannibalism is not its goal, as it's being controlled by another creature. Movie Example: *Night of the Creeps*.



THE DAMNED: Slow-moving, smelly, rotting, and hungry, this type of zombie is used to avenge an angry voodoo priest or vengeful witch. It is the easiest type of zombie to kill. Movie Example: *City of the Living Dead*.



THE POSSESSED: This corpse is possessed by a demon or a vengeful spirit. As such, it may have strange powers and unusual motivations. Movie Example: *The Evil Dead*.



THE INVADER: This type of zombie is brought back to life by space aliens. They care nothing for human flesh and are typically performed by bad actors. Movie Example: *Plan 9 From Outer Space*.



HORROR MOVIES CENTERED AROUND

PROM NIGHT

Some horror movies take place on or around the night of senior prom. Here's a list of films that made audiences afraid to take part in that one special night of the year!



CARRIE (1976)

A shy and friendless teenager unleashes her telekinetic powers after being humiliated by her classmates at the senior prom.

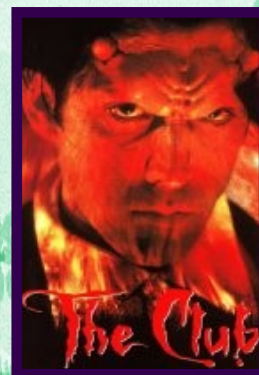


DANCE OF THE DEAD (2008)

The dead rise to devour the living on the night of a nerd's senior prom.

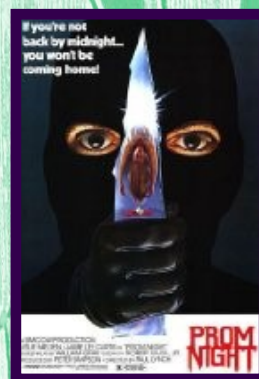
THE CLUB (1994)

Time stops at midnight for five students and one murderous counselor who are attending the senior prom.



PROM NIGHT (1980)

A masked killer stalks four teenagers responsible for the death of a little girl at their senior prom.



HEY, TEACHERS!

This theatre is a proud member of the Theatre Collective of the Brazos Valley.

This organization has been kind enough to develop the following rules of theatre etiquette. Please review these rules with your students to assure that all audience members enjoy the show!

- 1. Be on time by being in your seat 10 minutes before the performance is scheduled to begin. Live theatre begins at the published performance time with a darkened theatre and actors frequently in the aisles ready for entrances. Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the theatre and in locations chosen by the theatre.**
- 2. Remain seated until intermission and until curtain calls are completed to allow performers free access to the exits. If an emergency requires leaving your seat, please remain outside the theatre until allowed to return by the theatre's volunteer staff.**
- 3. Finish and/or discard all food and drinks before entering the theatre. Community theatres in the Brazos Valley use volunteers to clean debris from the theatre and restrooms. Please be respectful of these volunteers by disposing of your own trash.**
- 4. Silence or turn off all electronic devices, including cell phones, beepers, and watch alarms. You are encouraged to share your theatre experience via social media, but you must refrain from sharing or texting during the performance. The glow from all media is easily discernable in the dark theatre and is distracting to your neighbors and the actors.**
- 5. Video and flash photography of live performances is not allowed. Community theatres in the Brazos Valley do not purchase the rights to tape live performances. Actors will generally be available for photographs after the show.**
- 6. Tickets and programs will be provided for all students who need to receive credit for attending theatre performances. The Theatre Collective of the Brazos Valley provides a stamp for proof of attendance after every performance.**
- 7. To allow all patrons easy access to theatre seating, saving more than one seat for a latecomer or volunteer is not allowed.**
- 8. Please refrain from talking during the performance.**
- 9. Your courtesy is much appreciated as it allows for the ultimate experience of theatre productions for all our patrons.**

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