

MEDIA RELEASE



19 September 2019

For immediate release

[Escape from Haunted House](#)

Written by Brendon Bennetts and Kathleen Burns

Directed by Dan Bain

Dates: 2 – 12 October

Location: The Court Theatre's mainstage

Sponsored by: Mainland Foundation

By arrangement with: Playmarket

Short show description:

Help! Veronica the vampire is trapped in a haunted house and needs your assistance to escape! Frank, a friendly Frankenstein's monster, is eager to help but he has no brain and Veronica can't control him by herself... In this innovative, interactive kids show, the audience must help Veronica and Frank get away from Sally the Mad Scientist and *Escape from Haunted House*.

HALLOWEEN COMES EARLY TO THE COURT THEATRE

IN-BRIEF:

The Court Theatre's resident monsters are creeping out from their hiding places with the arrival of silly and spooky school holiday show, *Escape from Haunted House*!

In this innovative play for children, Canterbury's littlest audience members will be asked to help Veronica the Vampire and Frank the friendly Frankenstein's monster make their way out of Sally the Mad Scientist's spooky lair.

"This play is what happens if you mix the horror genre with something for kids," says director Dan Bain (*The Princess and the Frog (and the Robber!)*). "Which seems like an oxymoron, but just look at *Goosebumps*, *Hotel Transylvania* or *Scooby Doo* - these all use the tropes and motors of this genre, but play it for kids with tongue in cheek silliness, which is what we will be doing."

Escape from Haunted House is packed full of monsters and ghosts, but Bain promises that they're all very silly characters, who are sure to provide lots of laughter to Canterbury's little ones.

"If Christmas is allowed to start two months early, then Halloween is allowed to start in the early October school holidays! *Escape from Haunted House* is going to be a fun, silly spooky time."

Escape from Haunted House will be running at The Court Theatre from the 2 – 12 October 2019, with a relaxed performance on Saturday 12 October at 11am. Relaxed performances are special shows for those with sensory

Principal Sponsor



Core Funder



Season Sponsor



The Court Theatre

PO Box 268

Christchurch 8140

New Zealand

Email: admin@courtheatre.org.nz

www.courtheatre.org.nz

MEDIA RELEASE



needs. Lighting and sound are adjusted, capacity is reduced to allow for freer movement and there is a “chill-out” area in the foyer.

IN-DEPTH:

The Court Theatre’s resident monsters are creeping out from their hiding places with the arrival of silly and spooky school holiday show, *Escape from Haunted House*!

In this innovative play for children, Canterbury’s littlest audience members will be asked to help Veronica the Vampire and Frank the friendly Frankenstein’s monster make their way out of Sally the Mad Scientist’s spooky lair.

“This play is what happens if you mix the horror genre with something for kids,” says director Dan Bain (*The Princess and the Frog (and the Robber!)*). “Which seems like an oxymoron, but just look at *Goosebumps*, *Hotel Transylvania* or *Scooby Doo* - these all use the tropes and motors of this genre, but play it for kids with tongue in cheek silliness, which is what we will be doing.”

Escape from Haunted House is packed full of monsters and ghosts, but Bain promises that they’re all very silly characters, who are sure to provide lots of laughter to Canterbury’s little ones.

“I remember when I was a kid and my main memory of the theatre isn’t actually the content of the shows, but of laughing. I think if you can make a kid laugh, it’s an easy way to make them enjoy it. Kids are too honest an audience to sit through something that’s boring them.”

The show is not only directed by a Court Jester (Bain is the troupe’s Artistic Director) but is written and performed by fellow Jesters, including writers Brendon Bennetts and Kathleen Burns, with Millie Hanford, Robbie Hunt and Hillary Moulder playing the show’s friendly monsters. They’ll be asking the audience to help them as the show invites kids to interact with the characters with an innovative new theatrical twist...

“*Escape from Haunted House* uses a lot of audience interactive mechanics that I haven’t seen before,” explains Bain. “The audience effectively control one of the characters by playing ‘hot and cold’ with them by singing a song. There is nothing else on in Christchurch like this show. I’m sure there will be other theatre plays that are targeted at children these holidays, but none with a vampire and a Frankenstein’s monster escaping from a mad scientist’s lair!”

“If Christmas is allowed to start two months early, then Halloween is allowed to start in the early October school holidays! *Escape from Haunted House* is going to be a fun, silly spooky time.”

Escape from Haunted House will be running at The Court Theatre from the 2 – 12 October 2019, with a relaxed performance on Saturday 12 October at 11am. Relaxed performances are special shows for those with sensory needs. Lighting and sound are adjusted, capacity is reduced to allow for freer movement and there is a “chill-out” area in the foyer.

Principal Sponsor



Core Funder



Season Sponsor



The Court Theatre

PO Box 268

Christchurch 8140

New Zealand

Email: admin@courtheatre.org.nz

www.courtheatre.org.nz

MEDIA RELEASE



Cast



Veronica the Vampire
[Millie Hanford](#)



Frank the Monster
[Robbie Hunt](#)



Sally the Mad Scientist
[Hillary Moulder](#)

Creatives

Director	Dan Bain
Playwright	Brendon Bennetts
Playwright/Co-Set Designer	Kathleen Burns
Co-Set Designer	Julian Southgate
Set Consultant	Richard van den Berg
Costume Designer	Hayley Douglas
Lighting Designer	Giles Tanner
Sound Designer/Composer	Hamish Oliver
Properties Technician	Simone Wiseman
Stage Manager	Erica Browne

Ticket Prices

All tickets \$10

Show Times

- Monday – Friday 11am & 1pm
- Saturday 5 Oct 11am
- Saturday 12 Oct – relaxed performance 11am
- Saturday 12 Oct 1pm

Principal Sponsor



Core Funder



Season Sponsor



The Court Theatre

PO Box 268
Christchurch 8140
New Zealand
Email: admin@courtheatre.org.nz
www.courtheatre.org.nz

MEDIA RELEASE



Bookings: phone 03 963 0870 or visit www.courttheatre.org.nz

Images can be found at The Court Theatre's [Media Centre](#)

For more information or to arrange an interview please contact:

Mally Goldberg, Marketing Manager

The Court Theatre, 03 963 0884

mally.goldberg@courttheatre.org.nz

Principal Sponsor



Core Funder



Season Sponsor



The Court Theatre

PO Box 268

Christchurch 8140

New Zealand

Email: admin@courttheatre.org.nz

www.courttheatre.org.nz