



NEWS RELEASE:

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All Hallows Eve: Fall Celebration for All Ages at the Hermitage

Norfolk, VA- The [Hermitage Museum & Gardens](#) will hold its annual fall celebration, *All Hallows Eve*, on Sunday, October 25th from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. The museum asks for one non-perishable food item per person for admission to the event. All food donations received from admissions go toward [ForKids'](#) Thanksgiving food drive. Most activities are free of charge, with the exception of *Spooky House Tours* and *Ghost Pictures*. Costumes are encouraged and welcome, but not required.

For the first time, the Hermitage is partnering with another local non-profit, *ForKids*, during the event. *ForKids* is an organization that has led the fight to end homelessness for families and their children in Hampton Roads.

All Hallows Eve features favorite activities of years past, with the addition of a few new ones as well. Free outdoor activities include face painting by [Pic-N-Paint](#), balloon creations by local's favorite [Ryan 'The Balloon Guy'](#), mini pumpkin decorating, pumpkin bowling, spooky musical chairs, and a mummy wrap. The puppeteers of [Fuzz and Stuffing Puppets](#) will perform two shows at 1:30 and 3:00 p.m.

Also returning this year is nationally renowned Boston master sculptor [Sean Fitzpatrick](#), who will creatively carve several giant pumpkins throughout the day.

Inside the museum, *Spooky House Tours* featuring the *Emerging Artist Ensemble* from the [Virginia Stage Company](#) are offered with paid admission of \$5 for adults and \$3 for children over five. *Spooky House Tour* tickets sell out fast; it is recommended that guests purchase their tickets in advance. Guests will also have the chance to become a ghost by having their time elapsed photograph taken in the museum.

In addition to the *Spooky Tours*, the *Emerging Artist Ensemble* will put on a special production of *Hansel & Gretel's Grimm Tale* on the back lawn at 4:00 p.m.

At 6:00 p.m., fire side ghost stories will be narrated by April Uhrin of [Gypsy Moon Tellers](#). Lawn chairs and blankets are suggested for this outdoor activity that is best enjoyed over a cup of hot cider, provided by the museum.

This year, the event features its first ever costume contest. Guests are encouraged to wear their spookiest, most creative Halloween costume.

In addition to the day's activities, a very special guest, [Doctor Madblood](#), will be filming at *All Hallows Eve* for his Halloween Special, *Doctor Madblood's Haunted Halloween*, to air on WHRO-TV15 and HD15.1 October 31st at 10:00 p.m.

All Hallows Eve 2009 corporate sponsors are: AirTran, BB&T, Business Consortium for Arts Support, Cavanaugh Nelson PLC, Distinctive Event Rentals, Norfolk Arts Commission, Norfolk Residence Inn Marriott, and the Virginia Stage Company.

For more information on *All Hallows Eve* or *Spooky House Tour* tickets, contact Megan Frost, Membership and Development Manager, at (757) 423-2052 x205 or mf@thfm.org.

About the Hermitage

The Hermitage offers 45-minute guided tours, on the hour, of fifteen galleries filled with the Sloane family world-wide art collection, furniture, and history. The Visual Arts School houses classrooms, a complete ceramics studio, and darkroom photography facilities. Open daily 10-5, Sundays 1-5—closed Wednesdays. Free for Museum Members, children under 6, and Active Duty military. Admission: \$5 for Adults, \$2 for ages 6-18, and \$3 for students. For more information on the museum and membership offerings call 757-423-2052 or visit www.thfm.org.

About For Kids

ForKids was founded in 1988. ForKids mission is to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty for families and children. ForKids currently serves approximately 42 families with 80+ children each night in their residential programs, as well as 100+ families with 200+ children in their nonresidential programs. ForKids operates 2 emergency homeless shelters and several multi-family and single family homes. ForKids appreciates your help in raising the \$1.7 million dollars needed this year in community contributions to help fund our programs.

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