

Scariest Play -- Ever!

A Comedy by Craig Sodaro

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SYNOPSIS

Movie producer C.C. Bellows is looking for a new horror film and five directors are waiting to pitch their ideas. Of course, C.C. knows that audiences only really like what they've seen before, so each of the directors has tweaked a famous horror film for C.C.

"The Calamityville Horror" tells the story of a family who move into a house that's haunted—by circus animals. It seems the house has been built over a circus animal cemetery. A psychic is called in to help the animals on to their next world, but the cure, as the family finds out, is worse than the disease.

In "Saturday the 14th," a group of college kids drive up to spooky Crystal Lake Lodge in hopes of seeing the famous ghost, Jacob Voorbees, a hockey player who fell through thin ice. The two guys in the group want to be sure the girls see Jacob, so they bring along hockey uniforms. The trouble is, the real Jacob shows up.

In "The Extortionist," a mother faces the torment of her daughter possessed by the spirit of Medusa, the lady with the snakes instead of hair. A professor is called in to make Medusa vanish, but surprise! The wicked spirit is the professor's partner in a scam operation. When the mother's credit card is maxed out, Medusa gets really mad!

In "Paranormal Sensitivity," a young husband had bought what he thinks is a haunted house. He insists on filming every moment of his wife's bridal shower for her sister. He even makes sure to tell all the guests about the ghosts supposedly haunting the house. It's only when he manages to scare off the whole party that he really gets something exciting to film.

In the final pitch, "Nightmare on Oak Street," a sleepover turns into a terrifying exercise in trying to stay awake so the spirit of a crazed choirmaster doesn't capture the kids. What does he want the kids for? His choir, of course!

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Minimum cast required: 9 female, 5 male.

Maximum cast: 31 female, 14 male.

C.C. BELLOWS: a movie producer.

DEE DEE DUBARRY: his secretary.

“Calamityville Horror” (3 male, 7 female)

Portia Phibes: director.

Bernie: a father.

Bernice: his wife.

Bonnie: their oldest daughter.

Becky: their youngest.

Benny: their young son.

Ms. Bentley: a real estate agent.

Madame Marconi: a psychic.

Zombie Man

Zombie Woman

“Saturday the 14th” (4 male, 5 female)

Chucky McDuffy: director.

Mrs. Ominuss: owner of Crystal Lake Lodge.

Payton: a college student.

Camilla: her friend.

Maya: another.

Layla: another.

Blake: a guy friend.

Ethan: another guy friend.

Jacob: a ghostly hockey player.

“The Extortionist” (1 male, 5 female, 1 voice only)

Renee Reifenweiller: director.

Grace Goodfellow: a mother.

Angelina: her daughter.

Nevaeh: another daughter.

Sissy: friend of Nevaeh.

Professor Akenrotten.

Voice of Medusa.

Intermission

“Paranormal Sensitivity” (2 male, 8 female)

Samantha Snow: director.

Monty Meecham: a young man.

Marcia: his wife.

Sabrina: her friend.

Jennifer: another.

Allison: another.

Zoe: another.

Belinda: Marcia’s sister.

Jared: a friend of Monty.

Effie: an old washerwoman.

“Nightmare on Oak Street” (3 male, 5 female)

Sarina Frost: director.

Alexa: a high schooler.

Kylie: her friend.

Brooke: another.

Ian: Alexa’s younger brother.

Logan: his friend.

Ms. Whitman: Alexa and Ian’s mother.

Friederik Krugler: a ghostly choirmaster.

SETTING

A tall counter is up center. The counter should be long enough for three actors to hide behind and strong enough to hold various props during the play. Several boxes here and there can be used as chairs and so on. Since all the stories are based on horror films, the design should look as spooky as possible—grays and blacks with splashes of red here and there.

See end of script for notes on props, costumes, and SFX.

ACT I

Scene 1 – “Calamityville Horror”

(AT RISE: C.C.'s office, played before the curtain. C.C. storms on left followed by DEE DEE who has her notepad in hand and pencil in her ear.)

C.C.: It's like I've been saying, Ms. Dubarry, right? Right?

DEE DEE: Yes, Chief. You're right.

C.C.: Of course I'm right! I wouldn't be where I am today if I wasn't right, right?

DEE DEE: And where's that, Chief?

C.C.: Head of Cineplex Studios, Amalgamated, that's where. The movie-going public wants exactly what I give it, right?

DEE DEE: Right as rain, Chief.

C.C.: So we're gonna give 'em more of what they want.

DEE DEE: But...Chief, what does the public want?

C.C.: More of the same!

DEE DEE: The same what?

C.C.: Whatever they've seen before, right?

DEE DEE: But, Chief, won't they get bored seeing the same thing over again?

C.C.: You get bored eating hamburgers, Ms. Dubarry?

DEE DEE: Gosh, no, Chief.

C.C.: Movies are like hamburgers. The meat's all the same. The only thing that changes is the toppings. Sometimes you like mustard, catsup, and relish. Sometimes you want pepper jack cheese on top. Sometimes you want guacamole. Sometimes—

DEE DEE: Put the menu away, Chief. You're making me hungry and it's two hours 'til lunch.

C.C.: You get the picture, right?

DEE DEE: Right!

C.C.: That's why I'm planning on shooting a new horror picture! People love horror! Nobody can resist a train wreck. So I want something ghastly! Something terrifying! Something abominable.

DEE DEE: How do you spell abominable?

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C.C.: Who cares? As long as the picture puts fannies in the seats, you can spell it any way you like. Who's throwing the first pitch today?

DEE DEE: That would be Portia Phibes.

C.C.: Not a moment to waste! The cameras are loaded. We just need the story! Bring Ms. Phibes in, Ms. Dubarry.

DEE DEE: Right, Chief. *(DEE DEE exits left, returns a moment later with PORTIA, who is dressed in black and wears a black veil.)* Portia Phibes, C.C. Bellows.

(PORTIA sticks her hand out for him to kiss. He fist bumps her hand.)

C.C.: How's things, Portia?

PORTIA: Call me Ms. Phibes.

C.C.: Right! Right! Beat it, Ms. Dubarry.

DEE DEE: Gladly, Chief. *(DEE DEE exits left.)*

C.C.: All right, Ms. Phibes. Whatdaya call your picture?

PORTIA: *The Calamityville Horror.*

C.C.: Sounds just familiar enough. Throw your pitch and make it count.

PORTIA: Long Island, New York...present day...a house on a nameless street...shrouded by the skeletons of leafless trees.

C.C.: So far so good!

PORTIA: Late afternoon, a rainy fall day.

C.C.: Love it! Keep going!

PORTIA: The new owners tromp up the front steps, unaware of the terror that lies just beyond the front door!

(C.C. and PORTIA back left as the curtain opens. Several boxes sit here and there on stage. BERNIE, BERNICE, BONNIE, BECKY, and BENNY enter right, each carrying a suitcase or box. In Benny's box is a remote control car. They all look around the room as if seeing it for the first time.)

BERNIE: *(Cheerfully.)* Well, family, welcome to Calamityville! Your new home!

End of Freeview

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