

TDHT 666:
Introduction to *Le Théâtre du Grand-Guignol*
Fall 2021

A Night at the Grand-Guignol

Directed by Alex Savage

Translations by Richard J. Hand and Micheal Wilson

Additional Writing by Emmalias

Content Warning:

**Simulated violence, simulated gender-based violence,
simulated drug-use, intimate themes, and blood**

COURSE OVERVIEW:

Full program of two hours including an intermission of ten minutes.

UNIT 1: PROGRESS (1922)

By St. John Ervine

A scientist and his sister. He creates. She critiques. Progress will be made either way.

UNIT 2: THE LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS (*Gardiens de phare*, 1905)

By Paul Autier and Paul Cloquemin

A father. A son. A storm. Will they survive the harrowing night or find a fate worse than death?

MIDTERM: Ten minute Intermission

UNIT 3: THE LOVERS (*Les Amants*, 1901)

By Octave Mirbeau

Romance and love are in the air! A 'fresh' french comedy if there ever was one...

UNIT 4: THE FINAL KISS (*Le Baiser dans la nuit*, 1912)

By Maurice Level

From one show about lovers to another. Viewer discretion is strongly advised.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Le Théâtre de Grand Guignol was an individual theatre housed in the Pigalle district of Paris between 1887 and 1962; it delighted and terrified attendees with naturalistic horrors and farces at intervals throughout a night of one act plays. When the theatre's doors closed forever in '62, the majority of the plays (both original and adapted) fell into obscurity. Despite this, the shows still stand in contemporary contexts and a small group of passionate academics and theatre makers around the world are working to restore the theatre and bring these spectacular shows to audiences. (*Oftentimes, against the audience's will.*)

YOUR TA'S:

Haley Baugher (Woman) is excited to perform in her first production since the COVID-19 shutdown and in her debut performance at UCSD. She is a second-year transfer student majoring in psychology with a vigorous passion for theatre. Haley would like to dedicate this performance to her cousin, Dat Vinh Vu, who suddenly passed away in March. He aspired to be a doctor, however, he found passion as a barista and fell in love with coffee. Haley re-entered the theatre scene with the purpose of continuing Dat's dreams; never stop pursuing your aspirations.

Grace Carlson (Mrs. Meldon, Jeanne) is a second-year linguistics major. This is her first show at UCSD, but in past productions she has performed such roles as Creon in "Antigone" and Fortinbras in "Hamlet". Her greatest fear, beyond human spiders, is the inevitable darkness lurking within each of our souls and at the edges of every space.

Sharon Chen (Promo, Stagehand) is a fourth-year ERC student, pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Cognitive Science, and a minor in Film Studies. With her eyes set on working in the entertainment industry after graduation, Sharon is most interested in looking for experiences that enable and empower her to explore the junction where cutting-edge media technology impacts and fuels the breadth of human storytelling. Sharon's greatest fear is drinking a thing of boba where the tapioca balls actually turn out to be spider eggs.

Russel Chow (Lighting Design) is a UCSD student who forgot to submit a bio. His greatest fear is both dementia and Alzheimer's.

Daylon De Alva (Henry Corrie, Brehan, Henri) is a student at UCSD. He will be in Napoli next quarter. His greatest fear is writing a bio for a show, any show. Not this one though, just other ones. I- I mean... he swears.

Melissa Dewey (Hannah, Nurse) is a fourth-year theatre major and is excited to be part of her first lab production at UCSD. Her greatest fear is pickles on crispy chicken sandwiches and/while flying.

Parsa Farnad (Production Stage Manager) is a first-year pre-med theater major. He has been involved in past productions in various positions, from being a prop master for *Chicago* to performing as Polonius in *Hamlet*, but this is his first time ever stage managing! As a stage manager, his greatest fear is sending out the wrong call sheets. As a human, his greatest fear is being forgotten.

Stephen Loftesnes (MC) *Muahahahahaha... muahaHaha... Muhahahaha... MuHahaHaHAA... MUAHAHAHhahahaHAHAhahaha...* UCSD Credits: “As You Like It”, “Epicene; A Queer Extravaganza!”, and “Sotoba Komachi”. His greatest fear? None.

Emmalias (Contributing Playwright) is a playwright, adaptor, dramaturg, and all around theatrical mischief maker. Her work generally lives within the worlds of physical theatre and theatre of horror with primary focus on providing space for female and queer bodies. Her theatrical works have been workshopped and read at the University of North Carolina School for the Arts, The Idyllwild Arts Foundation, and The University of California, San Diego. Her worst fear used to be geese, but now it is self produced college theatre.

Advait Patodia (Yvon, Man, Doctor) is a first-year theatre major at ERC. He has been acting since the age of six. His experience extends to acting on stage, screen and even street! UCSD credits include: "IYA- The Ex'celen Remember", "Malware Defunct", "Living Memories", "FOMO", and "GirlBOSS". His greatest fear is the inevitable heat death of the universe... or maybe Alex.

Alex Savage (Director, Dramaturg) is a third-year theatre major. He has directed several shows at UCSD. Most recently “Move, Jump, Fly”, “I Hate White Rabbits”, and “Fear in Darkness”. Last summer Alex was accepted into UCSD’s TRELs program, where he researched the Grand-Guignol with global assistance from numerous academics and practitioners alike. His greatest fear is this show.

Carlos Silva (SFX) is a special-fx artist with over 10 years experience. He has brought his skills to the 2019 and 2021 productions of “Evil Dead: The Musical” at the Tenth Avenue Arts Center

and is the creator of the titular monster for the short film: “Mr Sweets”. Carlos’ greatest fear is floating in deep, dark waters of the sea.

Avery Simonian (Assistant Stage Manager) is a first year theatre major. Earlier this year, she was thrilled to be a part of the production team as the Production Assistant on Men on Boats. Theatre has been a part of her life since she was young and has been involved both on and off stage. Within theatre, Avery’s worst fear is showing up at the wrong call time, but outside of theatre, her worst fears are clowns and ostriches.

Timothy Mcaffé (Euphonium) and **Nicholas Palmieri (Piano)** are UCSD students who will be playing music in the tradition of the London Grand-Guignol throughout tonight’s performance. Feel free to applaud their wonderful artistry whenever applicable. Their greatest fears are sleepless nights before finals and being here before studying for them.

A NOTE TO THE AUDIENCE (STUDENTS):

Please: Laugh, Cry, Scream, Faint, or otherwise react to the theatre you are about to see. In the past, audiences could be heard shouting “Villain!” at the villains! To some, the success of the show was even determined by the number of people who fainted by the final curtain close! So please, if you would, react.

ATTENDANCE:

A video recording of this performance will be available in the next few days.

- It will be free.
- It is legal.
- Share it or clip it for your own use
- or use it to promote us on social media...?

If you want access to it, please email Jasavage@ucsd.edu

THANKS:

For their work behind the scenes, academically, and morally:

Amy and Justin Savage, Gabe Furchner, Todd Salovey, Richard J. Hand, Micheal Francis, Jeff Rockey, Meghan Ripchik, Rachel Halili, Claire Mcnerny, Angela Park, Lauren Agans-Dominguez, Tyler Rogers, and the wonderful fight choreographer: Andy Moss