**Escape Room Activity: "The Ghostlight Theater: Unlock the Final Act"**

**The Haunted Chronicles**

**Age Group: 9-13**

**Setup**

**Story Overview**

Players are cast as members of a crew investigating the ruins of *The Ghostlight Theater*. They find a glowing ghost light mysteriously lit on the stage. As they approach it, the theater comes alive, trapping them inside. To escape, they must solve puzzles to reveal the hidden script, rewrite the cursed ending, and extinguish the ghost light.

**Room Design**

1. **Setting**: A dimly lit theater stage with eerie props scattered about, including:
	* Old scripts
	* A broken chandelier
	* Costumes
	* A glowing ghost light in the center
	* Stage curtains partially drawn
2. **Key Areas**:
	* **The Stage**: The ghost light, locked in a glass case, is the final puzzle.
	* **The Dressing Room**: Contains costumes, makeup kits, and cryptic notes.
	* **The Audience Section**: Seats hold hidden clues and maps.
	* **The Backstage Storage**: Boxes of props and a locked trunk.

**Puzzles and Clues**

1. **Unlock the Script** (The Stage)
	* **Clue**: A prop ticket found in the audience has a code written in invisible ink.
	* **Puzzle**: Shine a UV flashlight (hidden backstage) on the ticket to reveal the code. Enter the code on a locked prop box on the stage to retrieve the "missing script pages."
2. **Costume Codes** (The Dressing Room)
	* **Clue**: Notes in the dressing room mention "costumes tell a story."
	* **Puzzle**: Match costumes to symbols on a nearby mirror. Arrange them in the correct order to reveal a key hidden in a mannequin's hand.
3. **Light the Way** (The Audience Section)
	* **Clue**: A cryptic map is taped under a seat.
	* **Puzzle**: Use the map to locate four specific seats. These seats each have a word under the cushion. Arrange the words to form a riddle that unlocks a storage cabinet backstage.
4. **Backstage Prop Trunk** (Backstage Storage)
	* **Clue**: Inside the storage cabinet is a lockbox with instructions: “The answer is in the lines.”
	* **Puzzle**: Players must find highlighted lines in the retrieved script pages. These lines, when combined, form a combination for the lockbox.
5. **Extinguish the Ghost Light** (The Stage)
	* **Clue**: Inside the prop trunk is a "script revision" and a theatrical dagger.
	* **Final Puzzle**: Players must insert the script revision into the ghost light's locked case. The theatrical dagger fits into a slot on the ghost light's base, extinguishing it and breaking the curse.

**Win Condition**

The group extinguishes the ghost light, rewriting the play’s tragic ending to free themselves. The theater crumbles, and the players escape with a final warning from the unseen audience: *“The story is never truly over.”*

**Optional Elements**

* **Sound Effects**: Echoing applause, faint whispers, creaking floorboards.
* **Timers**: A glowing clock above the stage counts down 60 minutes before "the final curtain."
* **Easter Eggs**: References to other *Haunted Chronicles* titles hidden in props.