



Friday February 13th 2009

£1.00 on the door

From 8pm 'til 12pm - **Pit and Pendulum**, 17 Victoria St, Nottingham, NG1 2EW
(part of Nottingham City Council's **Light Night** programme of events)

Press Release

*Inspired by the entertainment provided by Victorian carnivals and sideshows, **Danse Macabre** organised **The Pit of Curiosities** in the suitably atmospheric Pit and Pendulum pub in Nottingham. Five sideshow booths were created in the cellar and in each one was housed a curiosity which the public queued to see:*

The Feejee Mermaid

Visitors were encouraged to seek the wise words of this fabled beast. Mat Douglas portrayed the legendary mythical creature of Barnum's day, aided and abetted by his octopus-limbed keeper Natasha Puszczynska (aka Emerald Ace).

The Tattooed Lady

This was a modern twist on the old sideshow favourite, with the caged and tattooed Zoë Dorman providing slow-moving physical dance and theatrical performance.

The Oracle

This proved to be the most popular booth, with long queues throughout the night seeking spiritual advice. Actress Hannah Stone providing an eccentric performance on a one-to-one basis with the help of her keeper Dal Whittaker Robinson.

The Conjoined Twin

This booth had the feel of a Victorian medical experiment with Dave Lankester performing as both twins looked after by his 'sister' Hannah Morgan. The prosthetic twin appeared courtesy of Jane Hyman his creator.

The Living Dead Doll

Guests were invited to take tea with this fragile beauty, under the watchful eye of her severe nanny. Laura Woods portrayed the doll with Carol Savage as her austere keeper, 'Nanny'. Jayne Hyman provided the special effects make-up. This booth also included artwork by Charlie Adamson, Victoria Thorpe.

*This was the first major event hosted by **Danse Macabre** and proved to be a night of surreal and intriguing entertainment. There was also live stage performances including gothic fusion tribal belly-dance by Beatrice Flowers, burlesque by Emerald Ace with compère and mentalist Gary Dickinson presiding over them. Over 850 guests passed through the doors during the night creating a lively, if at sometimes crowded, atmosphere. This event attracted a wide cross-section of people which ranged from Friday night regulars, students, creative people to Light Night attendees.*

*Jody Capuano (Black No. 1 Alternative Arts Agency) had the concept for the event and along with Charlotte Thomson (**Danse Macabre** founder) and Carol Savage organised the performances in coordination with Matt Vickerstaff and Paul Bowring (the other **Danse Macabre** founders). Jayne Hyman provided her special effects expertise and created the Twin prosthetic and Living Dead Doll effect. Charlotte Thomson and Mat Douglas created the Feejee Mermaid. **Eternal Spirits** kindly provided their beautiful corsets to help create the decadent feel.*

With thanks to:

Our Sponsors:

Steve at The Pit and Pendulum

Saul at Trent House Studios Photography

Susi Henson at Eternal Spirits Bridal and Corsetry Emporium.

Our collaborators:

Jody Capuano, Carol Savage, Jane Hyman, Michael Cowell

*All the actors and performers who collaborated with us on **The Pit of Curiosities**:*

Zoe Dorman, Mat Douglas, Natasha Puszczynska, Dave, Hannah Jane Morgan, Laura Wood, Hannah Stone, Dal Whittaker Robinson

Our Usher/ettes:

Loran Paxton, Aneliese Jones, Ryan Cross, Rob Watts

Our Film Maker:

Mike Ross

And last but not least:

All the barstaff at the Pit and Pendulum!

Contact Details:

www.dansemacabre-art.co.uk/pitofcuriosities.html

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Charlotte Thomson – Art and Artist/Performance Director 07825 090 304

Matthew Vickerstaff – Art and Promotions/Press Director

Paul Bowring – Art and Web/Administrative Director

Jody Capuano – Performance Director

Pit of Curiosities is sponsored by:





*Additional Information about **Danse Macabre***

***Danse Macabre** is a Nottingham-based arts group set up by Matthew Vickerstaff, Charlotte Thomson and Paul Bowring for the purpose of hosting and organising imaginative arts events as well as creating inspired opportunities for networking and collaboration between fellow creative practitioners, businesses and organisations.*

*To date, **Danse Macabre** has held 2 successful annual art exhibitions in Nottingham, both at the **View From the Top** gallery.*

***Danse Macabre** is currently working on its third annual exhibition due to take place in Nottingham this autumn and is also looking at events and exhibitions further afield.*

*For further information about **Danse Macabre**, the artists involved in the last 2 exhibitions and for photos of the private views visit the website:*

www.dansemacabre-art.co.uk

*To be kept up-to-date with future **Danse Macabre** events:*

Join our mailing list at: info@dansmeacabre-art.co.uk

Join our Facebook group: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=47997056620