

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
NEWS RELEASE

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**CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN IN MILLENNIUM PARK DURING
“SPOOKY STORIES HAUNT THE PARK”**

IMAGINATIVE TALES FOR ALL AGES AND FRIGHT LEVELS!

Friday, October 26 – Sunday, October 28

From Friday, October 26 – Sunday, October 28, Millennium Park will be home to the Halloween spirit during *Spooky Stories Haunt the Park*. This weekend of pre-Halloween festivities will feature some of the nation’s most talented storytellers spinning tales that will intrigue the imagination while inspiring fear, laughter and spine-tingling excitement.

Fright fans can enjoy stories in a huge heated tent transformed into a super spooky haunted Halloween paradise. This event will be a perfect way to experience the ancient art of storytelling through tales designed for every age group and fright level!

“When you think of Halloween, you think of Spooky Stories. Millennium Park is the perfect place to visit this Halloween weekend and enjoy some of the best Storytellers in the country. These artists come from a range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds and their stories reflect that diversity. We invite everyone to the Park to hear these Storytellers provide Halloween fun for little ones and send shivers up the spines of teens and adults,” said Millennium Park Executive Director Helen Doria.

Schedule of events:

WIGGLEWORMS®

Saturday, October 27: 10 – 11 am

Wiggleworms instructors from the Old Town School of Folk Music will kick off the weekend with family-friendly ghost stories and songs about tricky spirits and clever kids. *Recommended for preschoolers.*

TRICK OR TREAT TALES

Saturday, October 27: Noon – 1:30pm and 3 – 4:30pm

Sunday, October 28: Noon – 1:30pm; 3 – 4:30pm and 6 – 7:30pm

For those who enjoy stories that range from the not-so-scary to a little bit creepy, Chicago's best storytellers present **Trick-Or-Treat Tales**. Filled with humor plus some eerie shivers! *Recommended for children older than 6.*

EXTREME FRIGHT

Friday, October 26: 7 – 9pm

Saturday, October 27: 7 – 9pm

Mature audiences that want to sleep with the lights on can enjoy **Extreme Fright**. Truly terrifying tales filled with the smell of death, full moons, deserted graveyards, promises of eternity and a flesh-hungry monster! *Recommended for teens and adults only.*

About the Storytellers

Trick-or-Treat Tales

Jim May's ghostly stories for young children and families draw on over 30 years of experience as an elementary school teacher, storyteller and grandfather. His eerie and humorous tales are based on his understanding that kids love nothing better than to be just scared enough to scream and giggle.

As a deaf storyteller, **Peter Cook** signs and acts out his ghostly tales as a hearing friend speaks the story. Peter's mime and gestures will make his characters and creatures come alive before your eyes.

Anne Shimojima's stories are both scary and intriguing like *Jack and the Haunted Mansion*, when Jack must prove his bravery and conquer his fear by spending the night in a haunted house watching a headless skeleton search for his skull.

Audiences will love the fractured take on fairytales presented by **Susan O'Halloran** and **Arif Choudhury**. In *Ghostylocks* bears are replaced by ghosts who wonder, "Who's been flying on my broom?" Classic fairytale characters like witches, dragons and heroes all make appearances in their not-too-scary stories.

Lucinda Flodin will share Appalachian Celtic stories about the frightening power of everlasting love. Can love bring someone back from the grave? Classic tales so often told on moonless mountain nights are brought to life in the city.

Donna Washington has been sharing stories from around the world with audiences of all ages for over 14 years. Her amazing vocal pyrotechnics will physically transport you to a different place and time as she shares classic horror tales like *The Monkey's Heart* and *Boogin in the Gray Graveyard*.

Audiences will love **Linda Gorman's** terrible tales almost as much as her rousing renditions of disgusting songs such as "The Worms Crawl in and the Worms Crawl Out" and "Great Green Gobs of Greasy Grimy Gopher Guts."

Extreme Fright

Beth Horner will accompany her ghost stories with eerie sounds emulating from 2 traditional Appalachian instruments, the 36-stringed autoharp, and "the bones" a rhythm instrument constructed from hog ribs. These tools help the audience feel the full effects of her horrifying tales.

Janice Del Negro is a professor in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois. She will share tales full of scorned women, love gone wrong, passion, poison and supernatural shapeshifters.

Megan Wells will bring to life the most frightening chapter of Ray Bradbury's *Dandelion Wine*. Bradbury, master of the short story combines images of his hometown of Waukegan Illinois with the supernatural scenarios to create tales and will make you quake with fear.

Antonio Sacre will share frightening Mexican legends that have evolved from Aztec and Mayan influences. Levitating victims of sacrifice, apparitions of mummies and haunted ancient tombs are scattered through his stories. He will also share his rendition of the most famous of all Mexican ghost stories, *La Llorona*. A tale about a woman who wanders through the night crying for the children she has murdered.

Donna Washington's stories for teens and adults are dedicated anyone who has even woken up in the middle of the night, only to stay huddled under the covers waiting for the sun to rise.

For her more mature audiences **Susan O'Halloran** shares her rendition of Manly Wade's *Revenge of the Slave Ship*, where enslaved Africans come back from the dead to seek revenge on the slave trader responsible for their fate, dragging him over a cliff to his watery grave.

For more information about free programs in Millennium Park, please visit www.millenniumpark.org or call 312-742-1168.

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