

The grown-up kind of trick-or-treating

InterFEAR Arts Festival is kicking off another year of Halloween-based fun for kids—and for adults who think they're still kids

InterFEAR Arts Festival

26-29 October
TransAlta Arts Barns
www.interfear.ca/program

MIKE SMITH
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Halloween has been a favourite evening for kids for generations, but it has always been somewhat of a mixed bag for adults—options have usually involved either handing out candy or finding a party where dressing up is merely an excuse to get trashed.

Enter InterFEAR Arts Festival, a relatively new event at the TransAlta Arts Barns in old Strathcona. A combination visual arts, music and theatre, the festival offers a wide variety of Halloween-based entertainment for people to enjoy. Although it features children's programs during the day, adults are going to be the main focus.

"Adults need an outlet for their inner child during Halloween," says producer Brenda Knight. "They might do events with their children during the day, but at night, they want to do something that's more adult orientated."

The headlining play for this year, and perhaps the most adult oriented, is the psychological thriller *Get Away* by Canadian playwright Greg MacArthur. *Get Away* is a good example of where the festival wants to take patrons, as it's designed to creep out audiences as much as a good horror movie might, while at the same time forcing them to think a bit.

There's something to be said for the

live experience that offers more than sitting in your basement watching a scary movie. After all, one could argue that these types of plays are extensions of the scary stories that were told around the fire as children, where our rampant imaginations did the scaring for us. Heather Inglis, director for *Get Away*, had this in mind when developing the play.

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BRENDA KNIGHT

"We're really trying to leave a lot up to the audience's imagination. One of the things Greg MacArthur has done masterfully is lead [the audience] in directions they don't expect."

Knight, who helped select this year's plays, also feels that it's an applicable Halloween show.

"It (deals) with fear on so many levels," she says. "It can seem so real."

For those still looking for a party to go to on the weekend, another big event for the festival is the all-ages



JESSE WHITEHEAD

CREATURES OF THE NIGHT Spiders and everything else that's gross and scary will make an appearance on Halloween.

licenced *Hip Hop Hallow E* party on Saturday, 28 October, featuring local hip-hopper Eshod Ibn Wyza.

"These guys have a really good social message that they're sending out, and I thought that was something the festival should support," Knight says.

Patrons are encouraged, but not

required, to wear costumes to the party, and festival organizers want everyone to maintain their comfort levels, although those venturing into the Arts Barn on the weekend should expect to see other patrons in their costumed finery.

In addition to the great music and

theatre, there are also several other events throughout the festival, including visual arts displays that will be taking over the Arts Barn for its duration. The festival will also be collecting donations for the Campus Food Bank, so make sure to give some non-perishables when you stop by to say "boo."

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