

The Summoning: A Theatrical Haunted House

By
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Based on:

The Summoning

- A 2016 Haunted Attraction -

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Cast of Characters

<u>Stu Pidass:</u>	Producer of this year's haunted house. Male, 20's-40's.
<u>Lidia Hermann:</u>	Co-producer, middle-aged mom type. Female, 40-50's.
<u>Achbaria Hermann:</u>	Stu's golddigging wife and production designer. Female, 20's-40's.
<u>The Witch:</u>	Our star actress, could be played by a male. Male/Female, 20's-50's.
<u>The Clown:</u>	A trespassing clown. Male/Female, any age.
<u>The Audience:</u>	A mixture of Male/Female, any age. For best results, randomly plant them within the real audience.
<u>The Rental Manager:</u>	Nondescript theater peon - Mae/Female, any age.

SCENE ONE:

"The Signs of Madness Set In."

Note from the Playwright: While not necessary, pre-planted audience members tend to work well in this play.

STU, LIDIA, and ACHKBARIA push their way onto the stage through a chattering crowd of audience members, from the back of the theater to the front. The audience members are held at the steps to the stage by Stu's arm.

LIDIA:

Please, everyone, just calm down, we're going to get this prep meeting underway here any second! Just calm down!

Stu clears his throat.

ACHKBARIA:

It has been brought to our attention that some of you have questions and issues with how this production is being handled, so we've called this meeting to handle this before our first open practice out on the grounds. As you know, we are only open two nights, so we don't have many chances to get this right!

LIDIA:

And try to keep it tame!

A member of the audience stands up.

MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE:

(Reading from a cellphone) DEAR MR. STARNES, CAN YOU PLEASE TRY TO HAVE A LITTLE MORE CONTROL OVER WHO YOU LET INTO THE GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS. THERE IS A NEW MEMBER, I WON'T NAME NAMES, A WOMAN, WHO HAS BEEN EMAILING THE MEN OF THE GROUP. SHE SENDS PICTURES OF HERSELF IN GROTESQUE POSITIONS ALONG WITH CLOSE UPS OF HER LADY GARDEN. SHE IS OFFERING THE LATEST IPHONE IN EXCHANGE FOR FAVORS IN THE BEDROOM.

I AM ESPECIALLY UPSET BECAUSE AS IT TURNS OUT ITS AN ANDROID, AND IT MUST HAVE A VIRUS OR SOMETHING, BECAUSE IT IS REALLY SLOW, AND EVEN WORSE, THE CAPS LOCK IS STUCK, AND ITS LOW ON PREPAID M-.

He slaps the cellphone against his hand.

I've run out of airtime minutes, I'll finish sending it to you by E-mail.

(CONTINUED)

STU:

Well, that was just absolutely helpful, thank you for that. Whoever is doing that, if you could just... Refrain from doing that again, ok? Looks like you don't have a reason to now, though, he has your phone.

A female member of the audience stands up.

WITCH:

You people are absolute fools...

STU:

Well there's no reason to start throwing insults out there, m'am.

Lidia looks at her clipboard, flipping through it.

LIDIA:

Does anyone know her? She isn't on the volunteer roster.

(MALE) MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE:

I know her.

STU:

Oh, great.

The Witch moves onto the stage, pushing Stu out of the way.

WITCH:

Non potes intelligere, quid me dicens... (Repeating)

STU:

Does anybody know what she's saying?

LIDIA:

I don't, at least. Anyone?

Everyone shakes their head no, staring at the Witch, now standing center stage.

A cheap clown peeks in from stage left and waves at the audience, holding a balloon.

STU:

Does anyone know who the clown is? What episode of the Twilight Zone is this? Order on the set!

Achkbaria scoots her chair into a better line of sight and sits, watching the action.

ACHKBARIA:

They aren't with me. It wasn't my idea to advertise the fact that we need actors on Craigslist.

STU:

I'll kill you.

MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE:

That's harassment, you can't do that.

STU:

I'll kill you too.

Stu picks up a fake knife from the pile of props and slings it at them.

STU:

Don't test me.

The cheap clown continues to wave.

STU:

I've lost any control at all, completely.

LIDIA:

But not of your eyes - you have that right.

The lights cut and everyone screams.

ACHKBARIA:

Scratch that.

SCENE TWO:"Fun Things Happen in the Dark."

STU:

(To the Witch, who is still chanting) SHUT UP!

WITCH:

(Changing to the second part of the incantation) Ego nec tu, nec quisquam ex illis qui adhuc non intelligere me.

ACHKBARIA:

That really worked.

The clanging of another thrown prop.

STU:

Everyone, stay where you are! We need to get the lights back on in here. I'm sure someone with facilities already knows about this. We just have to wait.

Stu turns on his cell phone flashlight and shines it out toward the crowd.

STU:

You all ok out there? I really don't need another lawsuit.

As he scans the crowd, turning toward the stage-end containing the clown, the clown appears directly next to him. Stu yells out and turns off his camera.

LIDIA:

The clown is loose!

The sound of a clown horn from one side of the audience. (Done by a planted audience member.)

ACHKBARIA:

It's over there!

MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE:

I think it just licked my ear!

STU:

Oh great, it isn't only a freaky, trespassing clown, but a (straining) FREAKY - trespassing clown. Come on, like I said, I REALLY, REALLY don't need a lawsuit!

The sound of a clown horn from the other side of the audience. (Done by a planted audience member.)

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