



FRIDAY ■ SATURDAY ■ SUNDAY

3 Days

Take a walk on the Haunted Side

(ISTOCKPHOTO.COM)

+PLUS
A SMATTERING OF
OTHER EVENTS, GOSSIP
AND WALLET-FRIENDLY
SPECIALS TO CHECK
OUT THIS WEEKEND



'High School Musical 3'

The third time is still charming for this Disney franchise. Page 12.



'Speed-the-Plow'

Jeremy Piven is viciously hilarious in the revival of David Mamet's Hollywood satire. Page 24.



Halloween cocktails

Check out some sweet treats for thirsty grown-ups. Page 21.

BY SEANAN FORBES

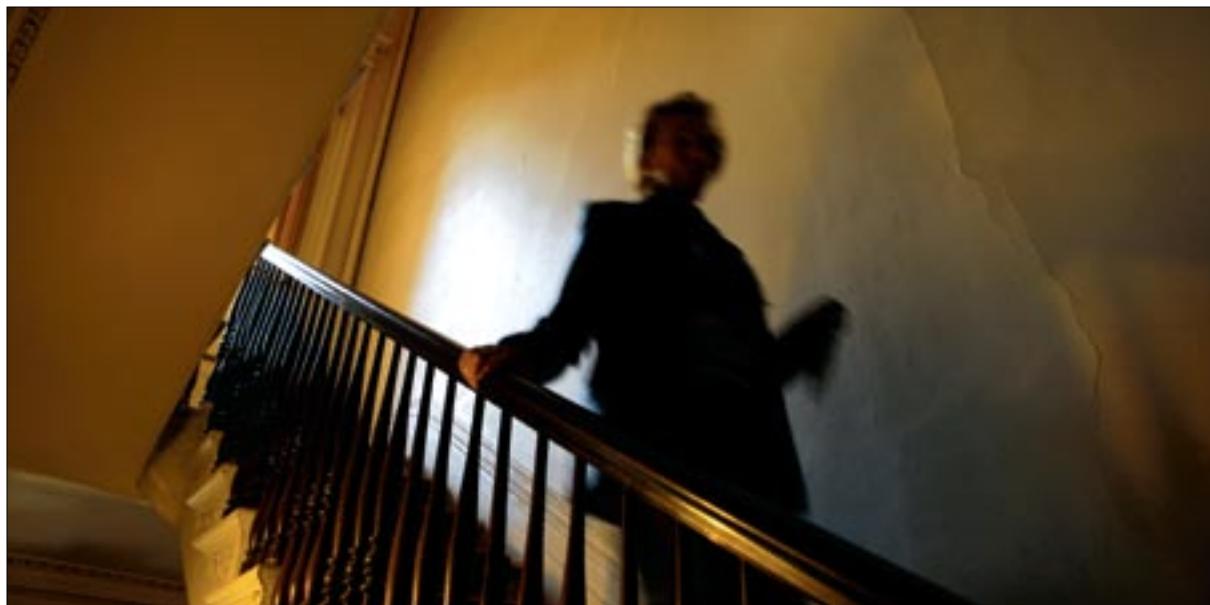
Special to amNewYork

New York City has a long history and countless stories — some of them featuring the uneasy dead. Believers say there are ghosts lurking in all corners of Manhattan. With Halloween just a week away, now's the perfect time for a ghost hunt. But you don't need to go alone. Here are some tours to lead you through the landscapes of the dead.

92nd Street Y Greenwich Village Ghost Tours

■ www.92y.org, 212-415-5500

The 92nd Street Y's ghost tour includes the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory, where 146 workers were killed in a 1911 fire; Washington Square Park, where criminals used to be hanged; a house haunted by the spirit of Mark Twain; an execution ground; and a former potter's field. They also have a Poe connection — the Northern Dispensary. On a plaque, the 1831 building bears its original mandate: "Heal the Sick." Local lore holds that ghosts linger here, perhaps seeking cures they did not find in life. Questions and photography are encouraged, so the two-hour tour can run long.



The Merchant House Museum serves up spooky history with its ghost tours.

(RJMICKELSON/AMNY)



The famously haunted White Horse Tavern (NEWSDAY)

Ghosts of New York

■ www.ghostsofny.com, drphil@newyorktalksandwalks.com (Private group tours can be arranged.)

Ghosts of New York offers five walking tours and

a family-friendly program of ghost stories. One of the most popular walks starts in front of St. Mark's Church in the Bowery (see inset). The winding Village streets lend themselves to ghostly tales, so the city becomes a player in the stories.

The guides of the tour take on period garb and names and begin the tour in a cemetery at nightfall.

The Merchant's House Museum

■ 29 E. Fourth St, 212-777-1089,



Vampire Tour leader Gordon Linzer (SENTA SUNDBERG)

merchantshouse.org

In addition to ghost tours of "Manhattan's most haunted house," the Merchant's House Museum offers lectures on ghost-hunting and ghost stories, and the reenactment of a 19th century funeral, complete with a march of the casket to the cemetery (black armbands are provided). Eva Ulz, the museum's education coordinator, describes the funeral as "eerie and spooky, with a fake corpse and a weeping widow."

Ulz regards the resident ghosts as colleagues. "They bring people to the house, and we tell their story. It's a symbiotic relationship. I

think that was their plan all along."

Vampire Tours

■ Reservations can be made at glinzner@hotmail.com or 917-379-8914.

If you fancy something more toothsome than spirits, consider an alternate reality tour: a New York inhabited by vampires. Dr. John Seward steps out of the pages of Bram Stoker's *Dracula* and leads a walking seminar on the vampire history of New York City. Those who think that the subway is a human-built commutation system are in for a darkly educational experience. Instead of asking for tour fees, the good doctor requests a donation of \$25 "to help cover resurrection costs."

Whichever tour you choose, one thing is certain: You'll never feel the same way about walking the streets at night.

The spectres lurking in the Village

Here's a look at some of what you'll see on the Ghosts of New York tour:

The resident ghost of St. Mark's Church on the Bowery is Peter Stuyvesant, the last Dutch governor of New Amsterdam. You can see his sealed vault in the cemetery, and touch the bell he (twice or more, legend tells) rang. It has a place in the cemetery. These days the bell is still, but Stuyvesant, people say, still stomps around.

Stuyvesant is not the only local ghost

to roam widely. There are many reports that Aaron Burr appears at One if by Land, Two if by Sea, Battery Park and Barrow Street.

Other ghosts found on this tour inhabit McSorley's Old Ale House — which include fallen WWI draftees, Harry Houdini, a cat and the McSorley children — the Astor Place Opera House, The Public Theatre and other scenes of murder, mischief, mayhem and the anything-but-quiet dead.

OTHER HALLOWEEN EVENTS

Special Events

THE 35TH ANNUAL VILLAGE HALLOWEEN PARADE: October 31, 7pm, FREE. The route starts at Spring Street and Sixth Avenue and continues uptown to 21st Street. It's a yearly don't-miss event. Costumes highly encouraged, fool. www.halloween-nyc.com

THE MISFITS, UNTIL DESTINY, MARTYRD, JOHNNY B.

MORBID: October 31. B.B. King Blues Club and Grill, 8pm, \$30, \$26 in advance. The classic horror-punk band that inspired dozens of artists including Rancid, Green Day and Metallica will put on a Halloween show tonight. Dressing up is encouraged. 237 W 42nd St, between Seventh and Eighth aves (1, 2, 3, 7, N, R, Q, W, S to 42nd St-Times Sq) 212-997-4144

Family

HALLOWEEN HOORAH! Sunday. New York Botanical Garden, 11am-5pm, \$20, seniors and students \$18, children 2-12 \$7, children un-

der 2 free. Pumpkin-decorating, goody bags, kids' parades and other fun family activities will be scattered throughout the Botanical Garden's 250 acres. Participants are encouraged to come in their Halloween costumes. Bronx River Parkway at Fordham Rd, Bronx, 718-817-8700

A HALLOWEEN HAPPENING AT TRINITY CHURCH:

October 31. Trinity Church, 4pm-10pm, FREE. From 4pm-6pm enjoy games, crafts, face-painting, a photo booth and stories from some of the churchyard's most famous inhabitants. Live music, spooky screenings and more. Costumes encouraged. 89 Broadway at Wall St, 212-602-0800

13TH ANNUAL SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION:

October 31. American Museum of Natural History, 4pm-7pm, \$9, members \$8. Curious George, Clifford the Big Red Dog, and Bunnica are among some of the kid-friendly characters greeting kids at the museum doors. Halls will be open after hours for trick-or-treating, arts and crafts and performances



Revelers at last year's Village Halloween Parade. (GETTY)

by a puppet troupe. There will also be stiltwalkers and a clown. 79th St and Central Park W, 212-769-5200

TOURS

FLUSHING CEMETERY TOUR:

Sunday. Flushing Cemetery, 1pm, Queens Historical Society members \$10, nonmembers \$15. Queens Historical Society President James Driscoll will lead the group in ex-

ploring the history of the cemetery, those buried there and the horticultural history. 163-06 46th Ave at Pigeon Meadow Rd, Flushing 718-939-0647

PARTIES

32ND ANNUAL VILLAGE HALLOWEEN COSTUME BALL:

Friday, October 31. Theater for the New City and the block of E. 10th St

between First and Second avenues, outdoor entertainment 3pm-7pm, doors open 7:30pm, \$20. Outside before the ball, bluegrass and jazz bands, fire eaters, jugglers and stilt dancers will be among the performers entertaining those on the street. Inside, there will be big band dance orchestras, American and international food vendors and two continuously-running cabarets. Costume or formal attire required. 155 First Ave at 10th St and block of E. 10th St between First and Second avenues 212-254-1109

SCARE TO CARE—GOTO'S 8TH ANNUAL HALLOWEEN BASH:

October 31. Broad Street Ballroom, 9pm-1am, \$71-\$120. Help out underprivileged kids in New York City by attending this Halloween extravaganza featuring a DJ, all-you-can-drink cocktails and a dance floor. All ticket proceeds go toward helping middle school students attend music and art camp for three consecutive summers. 41 Broad St (J, M, Z to Broad St; 2, 3, 4, 5 to Wall St; R, W to Rector St)

(AMANDA MAGUS)

MORE GHOSTS

Do you want to take in some spirits on your own?

■ **Ghostbusters'** "Spook Central" is at 55 Central Park West. Be warned: You're expecting something taller. The filmmakers used a model of the building and made it look substantially taller than it is.

■ Rumor has it that **Edgar Allan Poe** wrote "The Cask of Amontillado" while living at 47 Bond Street. Between Bowery and Lafayette, the building now houses Il Buco, an Italian restaurant. If you want to eat in Poe's place, then you can make a reservation at 212-533-1932. Don't be surprised if your sealed bottle of wine turns out to be empty. Poe has a habit of draining the contents of unopened bottles.

■ A more obstreperous ghost is **Aaron Burr**, who resides in One if By Land, Two if By Sea. The restaurant was once Burr's carriage house. Burr is known to whip chairs out from under patrons. His daughter, **Theodosia** (who disappeared off the coast of North Carolina), "borrows" earrings. 17 Barrow Street, 212-255-8649

■ New York's a theater town, and there are theater ghosts to go with the shows. **Olive Thomas**, a Ziegfeld Follies chorus girl, appears on stage, wearing full Follies regalia and holding the bottle that contained the pills she used to end her life. To date, Olive has appeared only to people working in the theater, but you never know.

■ The Belasco Theatre is haunted by a woman in blue, the late girlfriend of the equally late **David Belasco**. Belasco had an apartment above the stage, but his girlfriend roams every level of the theater and the alley leading backstage.

■ If you need a glass of spirits to end your ghost-chasing, then go to the White Horse Tavern. Just don't sit at **Dylan Thomas'** corner table. He still rotates it, as he did when he was alive — and don't try to outdrink the poet. He collapsed and died in the tavern after downing 18 shots of whisky. 567 Hudson Street at West 11th Street.