



eNewsletter Sign Up:

email address

Subscribe

# 435

- Subscribe
- Past Issues
- Advertise
- Contact Us
- Newsstands



Keeping Kansas City in the Loop

**BEST OF KC**

**FOOD**

**STYLE**

**FEATURES**

**PARTY PIX**

**PEOPLE**

435 SOUTH MAGAZINE / OCTOBER 2012 / FIND YOUR FRIGHT

SHARE



EMAIL

PRINT

## Find Your Fright

WORDS: GIGI COWELL

Each year, the dark brick buildings of Kansas City's West Bottoms morph into a terror-filled playground, drawing thousands of thrill-seekers to some of the scariest haunted houses in the country. These landmark structures provide the backdrop for more than 200 zombies, ghouls and demons that terrorize with amazingly-detailed, cutting-edge horror designed to get the heck scared out of us.

The outrageous popularity of haunted houses is just begging us to consider the question: What motivates us to seek out an old-fashioned spine-chilling scare? Why do we crave the 'fight or flight' adrenaline rush we get when this blast of hormones hits our brain? Are we hard-wired to seek out the edge of fear — without the fear of going over it?

"Some phobias are innate and some are taught," says Amber Arnett-Bequeaith, 'KC's Queen of Scream' and vice president of Full Moon Productions. "These phobias cause automatic body reactions that pump adrenaline into the body and trigger a multitude of responses. Everyone scares differently, and that is part of the fun."

Arnett-Bequeaith, who sits at the helm of Kansas City's largest haunted houses, including The Beast, The Edge of

ADVERTISEMENT



SUBSCRIBE TO  
**435**  
TODAY  
FOR ONLY  
**\$12/YEAR!**

FEATURED ARTICLES

ARCHIVE >>

Hell, Macabre Cinema, and The Chambers of Edgar Allan Poe is also the National Spokesperson for the Haunt Industry, and a major contributor to the recent revitalization of the West Bottoms.

“Haunted houses provide a fun, unique family activity, and are a place where young people can go with friends and have a good time in a safe environment,” says Arnett-Bequeaith. “It’s a rite of passage for some, and a great way to create family memories.”

Each year her company is focused on one goal — to make sure that every visitor receives a unique and terrifying sensory experience.

### THE BEAST

One of the most elaborate haunted houses in the country, this monster consists of a 10,000-square-foot maze in the industry’s first open format — visitors try to get out ‘alive’ as they journey through medieval castles, foggy werewolf forests and a spooky southern mansion and swamp ... complete with a real alligator.

#### THE BEAST

1401 West 13th St.

Kansas City, Mo.

(816) 842-4289

INFO LINE: (816) 842-0320

Tickets: \$23-\$33

### THE EDGE OF HELL

Sample a taste of purgatory by entering the realm of all things demonic. In this turn-of-the-century brick warehouse, the phantasmal display of satanic scenery boasts a 300-pound live python, guaranteed to squeeze the beejeebees out of those who dare to venture into this kingdom of the undead.

#### THE EDGE OF HELL

1300 West 12th St.

Kansas City, Mo.

(816) 842-4279

INFO LINE: (816) 842-0320

Tickets: \$23-\$33

### THE MACABRE CINEMA

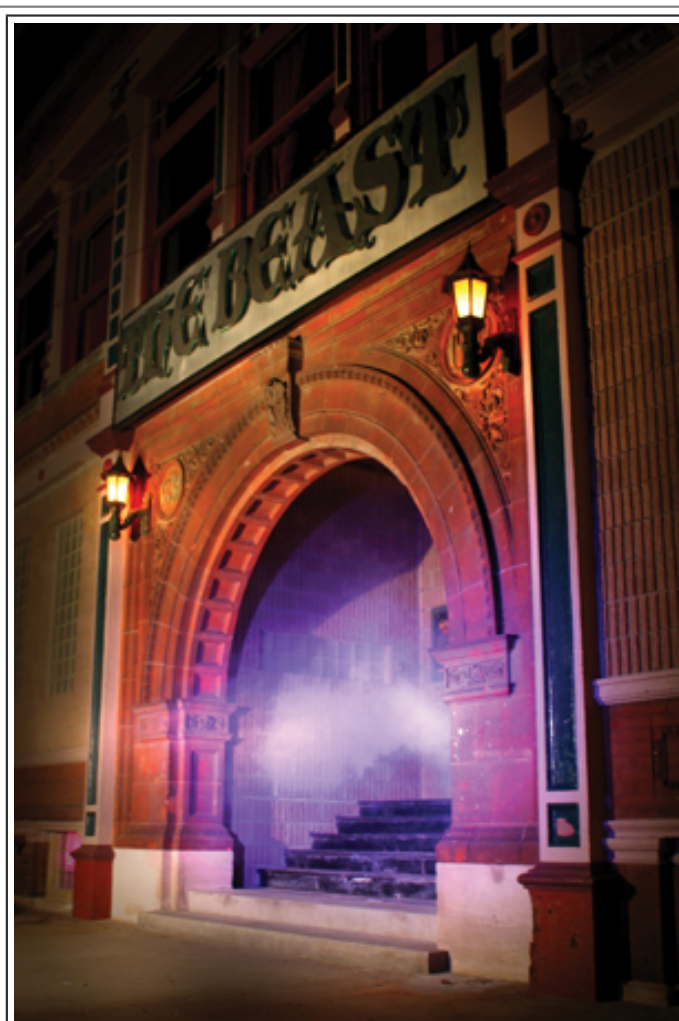
Satisfy your inner Vincent Price with a double-feature of scary flicks from the past and present in this haunted 1930s movie theatre. Witness more than 30 classic and contemporary horror movie scenes (think “The Exorcist” and “Texas Chainsaw Massacre”) brought to life throughout the four separate floors and the dungeon.

#### THE MACABRE CINEMA

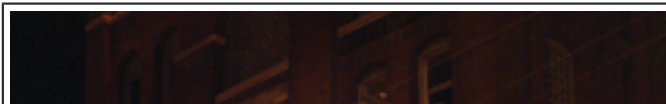
1222 West 12th Street

Kansas City, Mo.

(816) 842-4280



The Beast



## Where Milestones Begin

A by-the-numbers comparison of private and public schools in the metro area.

WORDS: ALLYSON WILSON, CELIA CULLOM AND FARZIN VOUSOUGHIAN



## Top Five

The top five Kansas City events in May you should check out.

WORDS: KATY BALDWIN

INFO LINE: (816) 842-0320

Tickets: \$23-\$33

### KC GHOSTS AND GANGSTERS TOUR

If your taste for ghosts runs a little closer to manifestations from the past, catch a ride on the Ghoul Bus to historic Kansas City landmarks made famous for their ghostly sightings and previous hotspots for members of organized crime. You can also rent the Ghoul Bus and host your own 'paranormal' activity.

#### KC GHOSTS AND GANGSTERS TOUR

Departs from *The Beast*

1401 West 13th Street

Kansas City, Mo.

(816) 842-4289

INFO LINE: (816) 842-0320

Tickets: \$30

### CHAMBERS OF EDGAR ALLEN POE

Even though you snored your way through English Lit, you can still make the grade and experience being buried alive as in Poe's classic "The Cask of Amontillado." The incessant beating of the "Tell-Tale Heart," mirrored mazes and other maddening effects will have you screaming "Nevermore" as you live the nightmarish writings by the master of Gothic fiction.

#### CHAMBERS OF EDGAR ALLEN POE

1100 Santa Fe

Kansas City, Mo.

(816) 842-4280

INFO LINE: (816) 842-0320

Tickets: \$23-\$33

### WORLDS OF FUN

The fun continues past summer's end with more than 500 ghosts and zombies waiting to go bump in the night at the park's Halloween Haunt, which includes the Howl-O-Scream Kid Zone and Zombie High. Take a roller-coaster ride in the dark, and be prepared to have a ghoulishly good time.

#### WORLDS OF FUN

4545 NE Worlds of Fun Dr.

Kansas City, Mo.

(816) 454-4545

[worldsoffun.com](http://worldsoffun.com)

Weekend Nights Sept. 15-Oct. 27

Tickets: \$31.99 - \$36.99 or FREE with 2103 Season Pass

### INDEPENDENCE SQUARE



The Edge of Hell



Independence Square Friday Night Ghost Tour

History buffs can treat themselves to spooky tales of real-life hauntings and a trip around historic Independence Square during the Friday Night Ghost Tour. This spine-chilling adventure to the past begins at the 1859 Jackson County Jail, which once housed members of the Jesse James Gang. Electromagnetic detectors scope out any ghostly activity while guests are “jailed” in the dark.

**INDEPENDENCE SQUARE**

16200 E. U.S. Highway 24

Independence, Mo.

(816) 451-0065

*theindependencesquare.com for reservations (required)*

*Maximum 15 in each tour group*

*Tickets: \$18 for adults, \$12 for ages 7-11 (not recommended for children under 7)*

---

*This article appears in the [October 2012 issue of 435 South Magazine](#)*

*Did you like what you read here? [Subscribe to 435 South Magazine »](#)*

---

Add your comment:

Log In

Create an account, or please log in if you have an account.

Email address (not displayed publicly)

Password

[Forgot your password?](#)

2000

Characters remaining

Please enter the letters from the image below :



[Audio version \(mp3\)](#)

Post

---

[Best Of KC](#) | [Food](#) | [Style](#) | [Features](#) | [Party Pix](#) | [People](#)

[Subscribe](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [About Us](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Archive](#) | [My Account](#)

Copyright 2013 Godengo. All rights reserved.

powered by RIVISTA