

CASCADES THEATRICAL COMPANY PRESENTS

The Haunting of Hill House

Written by
F. Andrew Leslie

from the Novel By
Shirley Jackson

Directed by
Donald Emmerich

Oct 17th – Nov 2

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Hill House is presented by arrangement with, and materials provided by Samuel French, Inc. 235 Park Avenue South, Fifth Floor, New York, NY 10003

ABOUT THE WRITERS

Written by F.Andrew Leslie from the Novel By Shirley Jackson

F. Andrew Leslie

Raised in Springfield, he served in the Navy in World War II, graduated from Colgate University in 1950, and later earned an M.A. from New York University in 1963. After moving to New York City, he worked as a representative for the National Concert & Artists Corp. – Sol Hurok Management, as an agent for the William Morris Agency, and as personal assistant to the actor-producer Maurice Evans, before joining the play-publishing and licensing company Dramatists Play Service in 1960, where he served as president, becoming a friend and mentor to many emerging playwrights as well as adapting numerous works for the stage himself.

Leslie adapted *The Haunting of Hill House* in 1998.

Shirley Jackson

Shirley Jackson was an American author (1916–1965) famous for horror and mystery novels like *The Haunting of Hill House* and the short story *The Lottery*. Born in California and raised there before moving East, she attended Syracuse University, met her husband Stanley Edgar Hyman, and later settled in Vermont, where she wrote her acclaimed works. Jackson's writing explored the dark side of everyday life and human nature, and her legacy continues to grow, with her work considered a significant contribution to American literature.

Jackson published the original novel version of *The Haunting of Hill House* in 1959.



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I'm thrilled to be a part of this production and back in the director's seat after a several-year directing hiatus and grateful to the Cascade Theatrical Company for this opportunity. I read somewhere that ghosts aren't frightening because they're real; they're frightening because you can't decide whether they're real. And so we enter into the world of *Hill House*, asking that very question.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, cinema was cloaked in shadow. Black-and-white thrillers filled theaters with flickering images of grand houses, whispering corridors, and restless spirits. Yet beyond the jump scares and shivers, those films captured something else—a postwar unease, a quiet terror of isolation, of not belonging, of being consumed by something larger and more mysterious than oneself.

It was in this atmosphere that Shirley Jackson wrote “The Haunting of Hill House” (1959), a novel that has haunted readers ever since. Our production leans into that era—the elegance and restraint of black-and-white cinema, the suspense of silence, the drama of shadow and light. Rather than modern spectacle, we aim for suggestion, for tension that builds in the spaces between words, in the pause before the door creaks open, in the way darkness seems to breathe.

At its heart, Hill House is not just a structure of brick and wood; it is a vessel for loneliness, longing, and fear. The characters who enter its doors bring their inner hauntings with them, and the house amplifies every secret, every ache. That is where true horror lies—not in what leaps out at us, but in what lingers quietly behind.

Tonight, as you enter Hill House with us, imagine the glow of a black-and-white film flickering in a darkened theater, the air thick with anticipation. Listen closely. Watch carefully. And let the shadows do the rest.

-Donald G. Emmerich, Director

PLAY SYNOPSIS

Cut off from the outside world by its remote location and shunned by all who know its forbidding and sinister reputation, Hill House has remained empty and silent except for the daily visits of its grumbling caretaker, Mrs. Dudley. It's isolation is broken by the arrival of Dr. Montague, an investigator of supernatural phenomena who has been granted a short lease by the present owner. His mission is to delve into the morbid history of the house and the occult forces that have made it uninhabitable for many years. He is joined by three others, all unacquainted, but all having their particular reasons for accepting Dr. Montague's invitation to share his Hill House sojourn. Their visit begins with jovial informality, but their sensibilities are soon jolted by strange and eerie occurrences. They are soon joined by Dr. Montague's wife and her friend who have come to Hill House for purposes of their own. They too are absorbed the by supernatural, but their approach is via direct communication with the departed spirits – a type of psychic research which, as subsequent events bear out, brings on a crisis in which the evil forces of Hill House are goaded to a new, and for one of those present, fatal fury.

SETTING

Early 1960's

The place is Hill House, a brooding, isolated and innately forbidding mansion located deep in the back country of an eastern state.

RUNTIME

Approximately 2 hours,
including one intermission

THE CAST

Theodora.....Carly Stobbe
Dr. Montague.....Steve Herron
Mrs. Montague.....Leah Chole
Mrs. Dudley.....Mary Kilpatrick
Arthur.....Kasey Cochran
Eleanor.....Beth Hamilton
Luke.....Andrew Mayhill

PRODUCTION TEAM

Executive Director.....Christine Mehner
Director.....Donald Emmerich
Assist. Director.....Frankie Palmer
Stage Manager.....Rachael Bentz
Production Manager.....Lindsay Russell
Music Score.....Christian Moder
Costumer.....Brenda Weller
Technical Director/Set/Light Design.....Kyle Pollitt
Light/Sound Operator.....Jonathan Tracy
Painter.....Caden Timmeran
Executive Assistant.....Anita Fowler
Marketing Manager.....Amanda James
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**Warning: please note, if you are sensitive to
flashing lights, there is a strobe effect in this play.**

**Special thank you to all our volunteers who
help make our shows happen!**

MEET THE CAST



CARLY STOBBE AS THEODORA

I want to thank my family for always supporting me. They will always be my favorite scene partners. This play has been a joy to work on with everyone!



STEVE HERRON AS DR. MONTAGUE

Steve is delighted to appear on CTC's stage once again, for the first time this season! Past CTC productions in which he has appeared include *The Prom* (Barry Glickman), *Go Back For Murder* (Philip Blake), and *Fiddler On The Roof* (Lazar Wolf). Other recent Central Oregon performances include *Joseph & the Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Potiphar), *Rock of Ages* (Hertz Klinemann), *The Foreigner* (Owen Musser), *Cabaret* (Herr Schultz), *Death of a Salesman* (Stanley), and *O* (Jackson/Sgt Sponsüller). Besides being active in community theater, Steve also enjoys playing live music and spending time with family (especially his grandkids!). He thanks the director, the crew, and his castmates for such a hauntingly fun production!



LEAH CHOLE AS MRS. MONTAGUE

Leah was the kid on the playground doing tarot readings at recess, devouring books about psychic powers, and studying every last detail of her Gemini nature. On stage, she's had a blast channeling her "many sides" into roles like Sally, Mrs. Dodds, and Auntie Em in *The Lightning Thief*; a Unicorn and Elder Susan in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*; and Missy in *Winter Wonderettes*. Off stage, Leah teaches high school Language Arts, where she delights in unleashing the haunting joys (and terrors) of literature on unsuspecting teenagers. Tonight's performance is inspired by her younger self—and by her great aunt "Gazzy," who introduced her to the wonders of the Super Nintendo and the family ghost, Mayra.

MEET THE CAST



MARY KILPATRICK AS MRS. DUDLEY

I met Donald, our director, shooting a commercial for a new electric wheelchair. *The Haunting of Hill House* was coming up and it needed a creepy, scary house maid. So here I am again. What a joy to be working with this great cast and crew.

Sit back.... or forth and be afraid.

“It’s what I agreed to do.”



KASEY COCHRAN AS ARTHUR

Kasey started performing at a young age singing, dancing and acting in dramatic and musical theater. He attended Young Musicians and Artists Theatrical Camp for 5 years at Willamette University. Previous shows include *Our town*, *The Mikado*, *Hello Dolly*, *Westside Story*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*. Kasey took a very long break from performing to focus on career as a barber stylist here in Bend. He joined the Central Oregon Master Singers Choir in 2023 and is excited to sing with them in this coming season. He is looking forward to being onstage again and doing more local community theater. Kasey would like to thank his family for their love and support!



BETH HAMILTON AS ELEANOR

Beth participated in the performing arts from middle school through college, and had taken a 6 year hiatus from the theatre. This being her first show back, she is beyond thankful and honored to be trusted with the part of Eleanor. She extends her thanks to her incredibly supportive family and friends, as well as the wildly talented cast, crew, and direction team of *Hill House*, with special recognition to her biggest fan: her Mom, Lisa. “I love you a thousand m&m’s.”



ANDREW MAYHILL AS LUKE

Andrew is excited to return to CTC after performing in *Under the Stars: A Cabaret*. He has also performed with an improv comedy troupe, sung with jazz and ensemble choirs, and worked as a sound designer on *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*.

MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM



DONALD EMMERICH - DIRECTOR

I am thrilled to be a part of this project after taking a long hiatus from directing theatre. In the past I have been fortunate to direct theatre in Los Angeles, NYC and San Francisco. Some of my favorite shows have been an original production of *A Christmas Carol*, *Brand the Musical*, *The Children's Hour*, *Red Scare on Sunset*, *Measure for Measure* and *Romeo and Juliet*. I hold a BFA from NYU in theatre.



RACHEL BENTZ - STAGE MANAGER / PROPS

Rachel is making her debut as Stage Manager at CTC. Prior to 2020, Rachael volunteered for film projects in the Portland area and was a singer in a folk-rock duo. Most recently she appeared as Officer Pudney in *Rumors*, played Cha-Cha Digregorio/Ensemble in *Grease*, played Joey Primo/Ensemble in *Rock of Ages*, and volunteered as a stagehand at CTC for *Grand Horizons*. She is excited to explore stage management for the first time and support artists from behind the scenes. Enjoy the show!



BRENDA WELLER - COSTUMES

It has been a great honor to do the costuming for *The Haunting of Hill House*. Working with such a fantastic director and talented cast has been a pleasure. My past costuming experience included assisting with costumes for *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. I have been sewing for 40+ years, so taking my personal skills and applying them to costuming has been a fun and rewarding experience.

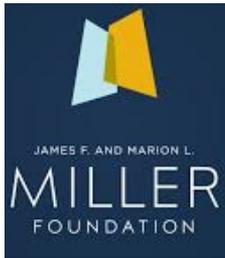
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Founded in 1978, Cascades Theatrical Company is the oldest performing arts theatre in Central Oregon. CTC laid the foundation for the theatre groups performing today and it is the only volunteer-based community theatre. We connect community by creating equal opportunity for all who want to participate in the education, collaboration, performance, and production of the Performing Arts. We are a theater for all. Cascades Theatrical Company is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We are a membership organization, where most of our productions, on and offstage, are created by volunteers.

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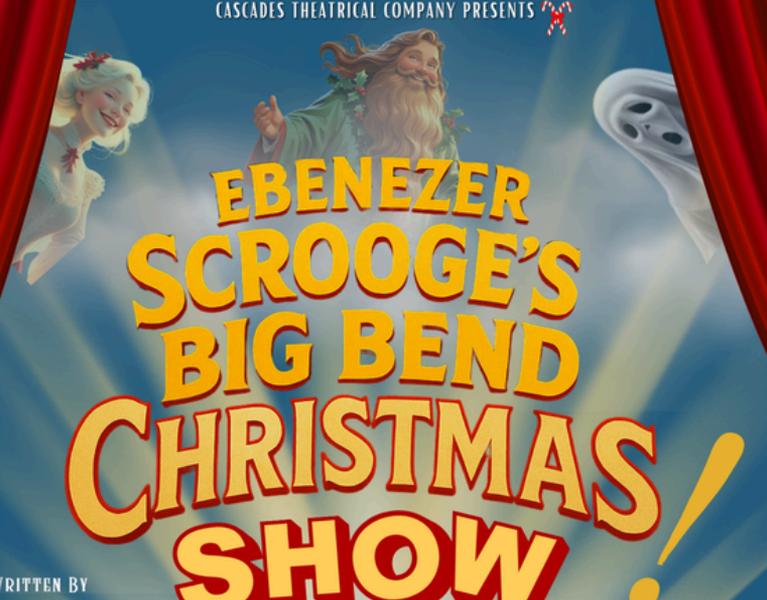
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