

Halloween Party
Sat. Oct. 31 8 pm to 1 am

****Costume Contest at 10:30**
 Cash Prizes & Trophies
****Balloon Drop at Midnight**
 Prize Coupon in Every Balloon
****Drink Specials 8 pm to Midnight**

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FRIDAY Oct. 30th

Costume Contest
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Haunted houses becoming science in scares, safety

BY SARAH BAKER
 Senior staff writer

From the outside, it looks like just another dilapidated brick building gracing the streets of downtown Lincoln.

But from the inside, it's a carefully calculated fright machine just waiting for the next unsuspecting teenager to walk through its doors.

Once upon a time, haunted houses were most often amateurish, sheet-draped, black-lit productions; now they have become businesses that include carefully orchestrated and choreographed scenes, all of which guarantee to scare the pants off of anyone willing to pay seven bucks.

Tomb of Darkness, located at 16th and O streets, is one of the newest houses in Lincoln. And in keeping with the new standards in haunted houses,

Owner Jason Egan said he doesn't allow just anyone to scare the visitors in his house.

"The first thing I focus on is acting experience," Egan said. "I make (the applicants) do a skit and try to scare me. I make them show me, because the monsters are what make the house."

Although for most haunted houses there are general requirements, such as age specifications, houses also have detailed requirements that have the potential to make the visitor's experience even more horrific.

"If they are into makeup or have taken classes about special effects, it can really lead to a lot of neat stuff," Egan said.

Although actual acting experience is helpful, a simple love for all things scary also can be beneficial.

Tom Harvey, one of the monsters in Tomb of Darkness, doesn't have any acting experience, but he possesses a passion for costuming and makeup effects.

"I grew up with comic books and horror flicks, plus I am a big Kiss fan, so this is an extension of all that," Harvey said. "The realism is important to me, not just the fantasy."

Harvey, who portrays a horned-skeletal monster in the dungeon room and maze in Tomb of Darkness said although his headdress consists of a mask, he still wears makeup underneath.

"I want to look the same even when I take the mask off," he said. "It would be

more comfortable not to wear the makeup, but I want to play the part to its fullest."

STRANGE CHARACTERS aren't just inside the haunted house. Tomb of Darkness co-owner Jason Egan said this man hangs around outside the house occasionally, playing haunted house songs on a harmonica for customers. Egan said this was the first time the man displayed his dentures for the crowd.

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Sat. Oct. 31 8 p.m. - close

No cover with costume! \$2 without costume