The grown-up kind of trick-or-treating

InterFEAR Arts Festival is kicking off another year of Halloween-themed events for kids—and for adults who think they’re still kids.

InterFEAR Arts Festival
26–27 October
TransAlta Arts Barns
www.interfear.ca/program

Brenda Knight
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Halloween has been a favourite evening for kids for generations, but it has always been somewhat of a mixed bag for adults—options have usually involved either handing out candy or finding a party where dressing up is merely an excuse to get trashed.

This InterFEAR Arts Festival, a relatively new event at the TransAlta Arts Barns in old Strathcona, offers the festival a wide variety of Halloween-based entertainment for people to enjoy. Although it features children’s programs during the day, adults are going to be the main focus.

“Adults need an outlet for their inner child during Halloween. They might do events with their children during the day, but at night, they want to do something that’s more adult orientated.”

BRENDA KNIGHT

“We’re really trying to give the public an outlet to the audience’s imagination. One of the things Greg MacArthur has done marvelously is lead [the audience] in directions they don’t expect.”

Knight, who helped create this year’s event, says that it’s an example of what the festival wants to achieve; patrons are encouraged to dress up as much as a good horror movie might—while at the same time forcing them to think a bit.

There’s something to be said for the live experience that offers more than sitting in your basement watching a scary movie. After all, one could argue that different types of plays are extensions of the scary stories that were told around the fire as children, where our rampant imaginations did the scaring for us.

“Get Away” is a good example of, where the festival wants to take patrons, as it’s designed to creep out audiences as much as a good horror movie might, while at the same time forcing them to think a bit.

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