



Interactive fairgrounds terror gives audience gas

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

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The Hillsboro Argus

The Argus

Hillsboro's Bag and Baggage Productions brings a new kind of terror to the Washington County Fair Complex this Halloween season, with Fields of Fear, an original interactive performance with the premise of a meteorite landing on Earth and releasing a deadly gas.

Groups of 25 will pay a \$12 "medical processing fee" online or at the gate, and will be led through the fairgrounds "militarized zone" to be loaded on an aircraft headed for a safe place in Nevada.

Director Scott Palmer said Bag and Baggage was tired of the typical haunted house experience.

Instead of costumed teenagers jumping out from behind objects and screaming, Bag and Baggage saw the fairgrounds as the perfect venue to both terrify and involve the public with an original piece. The outbuildings and perimeter of the fairgrounds are already very scary places to be at night, he said.

Many members of the audience and the players begin to change during the 30-minute performance, becoming part of "the infected."

"They're not zombies," Palmer said. "I would call them 'incredibly aggressive flesh-eating monstrosities.'

"We don't do anything normal," Palmer continues. "We're a professional theater group and we prefer to do things a little differently."

Performances are from 8 p.m. to midnight Wednesday, Oct. 21 through Sunday Oct. 25 and Wednesday Oct. 28 through Halloween night, Saturday, Oct. 31.

All audiences are required to walk for the entire length of the performance, which involves strobe effects, loud noises, and terrifying situations. Please be prepared to wait in line for processing. Groups of will depart approximately every 5 minutes. The performance is not suitable for children under 12.

For more, follow the links from www.fairplex.com or call 503-516-4840.

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