



Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District
www.portchesterschools.org

Port Chester Public Schools

113 Bowman Avenue
Port Chester, New York 10573
914.934.7900

Caryn Furst, Public Information
203.531.6376

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PORT CHESTER DRAMA CLUB GOES 'BLACK BOX' WITH POE Shows are November 17-19 Tickets on Sale Now for Limited Seating

An Evening With Edgar Allan Poe will be staged on Thursday, November 17th at 4:30 pm., Friday and Saturday, November 18th & 19th at 7:30 pm by members of the Port Chester High School Drama Club.

This unique production will be presented 'black box' style, with the audience intimately seated amongst the playing space on the Port Chester High School stage.

Tickets are currently on sale and can be purchased by emailing pchsdc@gmail.com, calling 914-934-7953, or at the door. Seating is extremely limited at 75 seats per show, so reservations are highly recommended. Ticket are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students and seniors.

An Evening With Edgar Allan Poe, adapted by Robert Mason, based on the stories by Poe, is a departure from the comedies and celebrated musicals that the Drama Club has performed in the past. Five separate casts, made up of 24 high school actors, present a range of Poe's works including *The Cask of Amontillado*, *The Purloined Letter*, *The Fall of the House of Usher*, *The Oblong Box*, and *The Tell-Tale Heart*.

"We have an award-winning program that has recently grown in interest and in funding. It was appropriate to challenge our young actors and offer them a new type of theater. Bringing the audience within feet of their action presents challenges, as well as growth opportunities they wouldn't encounter in traditional theater," said Amy Simmons, fall Drama Club Advisor.

"The overall enthusiasm was evident from the onset, with over 35 students auditioning. Our cast of 22, and crew of 14 shows vitality and interest from a group of veterans and new club members alike," she added.

"It's interesting to see a cast perform a new and unique style of theater. I was excited, as well as nervous when I heard that my parents and audience would be just a few feet in front of me. I have some intense moments in *Tell-Tale Heart* that leave me very vulnerable. That's a massive challenge that I haven't encountered in the other roles I've played," said PCHS senior Elizabeth Montemurro,

The **production team** comprises Stephanie Darrow (Port Chester High School English teacher), Taryn Herbert (professional writer, producer and director), Devon James (New York City director and costumer), Diana Maldonado (2016 graduate of the Drama Club), Patrick O'Connor (lighting and technical specialist), and Simmons. Referring to themselves as the 'production team' and not naming specific roles of producer, director etc. is a strategy that has allowed them to gain the unique, collaborative perspective needed to embark on such a new endeavor.

Cast (in alphabetical order): Lin Blumberg, Gabriel Bodas, Catalina Canessa, Samantha Cottes, May Cruz, Juvilyoun Foronda, Kaytee Garcia, Megan Gleason, Ryan Heffernan, Grace Herbert, Savannah Langenbach, Elizabeth Montemurro, Lauren Pellegrini, Olivia Perrone, Robert Perrone, Michael Quintana, Isabella Rios, Camila Sanchez, Grace Simmons, Moira Sullivan, Eli Taylor-Lemire

Crew: (in alphabetical order): Sheilly Aquilar, Angel Gutierrez, Juan Fernandez, Jonathan Hidalgo, Ari Johnson-Goodman, Ryan Rivera, Jorge Lopez, Ja'liza Michaux, Dan Morales, Chance Payero, Jared Pena, Jonathan Rosado, Lyndsay Rosenfeld, Sakina Zehra

Student Assistant Producers: Grace Herbert, Elizabeth Montemurro

Stage Manager: Xiomara Delahoz

**PCHS Drama Club Cast and Crew of November Production of
*An Evening with Edgar Allan Poe***

