

SCARY PLACES

Tragic Theaters



by Natalie Lunis

[Intentionally Left Blank]

SCARY PLACES

Tragic Theaters



by Natalie Lunis

Consultant: Paul F. Johnston, PhD
Washington, D.C.

BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

Credits

Cover and Title Page, © Katrina Brown/Shutterstock, © Alexandr Zadiraka/Shutterstock, and © Galushko Sergey/Shutterstock; 4–5, Kim Jones; 6L, © Bettmann/Corbis; 6R, © trekandshoot/Shutterstock; 7, © Mary Evans Picture Library/Alamy; 8B, © Eusebio Bilbao; 8TR, © Boston Herald-Traveler Photo Morgue, Boston Public Library; 9, © DIZ Muenchen GmbH, Sueddeutsche Zeitung Photo/Alamy; 10, © Photo by Ed Schipul; 11TR, © Hulton Archive via Getty Images; 11BL, © Bettmann/Corbis/AP Images; 12, © Richard Levine/Alamy; 13T, © www.doctormacro.com; 13B, © Picture History/Newscom; 14, © FCG/Shutterstock; 15T, © Album/Newscom; 15B, © AF archive/Alamy; 16, © Kevin Foy/Alamy; 17T, © Daily Mail/Rex/Alamy; 17B, © George Cruikshank; 18, © Ian Nichol; 19, © North Sydney Heritage Centre collection, Stanton Library; 20, © T. Charles Erickson; 21, © Bettmann/CORBIS; 22, © Photo by: M. Tungate – mtungate.com; 23T, © Chuck Pefley/Alamy; 23B, Courtesy of Albuquerque Journal; 24, © Dave Newman/Alamy; 25BR, © Pictorial Press Ltd/Alamy; 25BL, © Michael Ochs Archives/Corbis; 26, © Joel Maes; 27T, © Broadwater Productions Inc; 27B, © Montana Historical Society Research Center; 31, © iStockphoto/Thinkstock; 32, © iStockphoto/Thinkstock.

Publisher: Kenn Goin

Editorial Director: Adam Siegel

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Design: Dawn Beard Creative

Cover: Kim Jones

Photo Researcher: Picture Perfect Professionals, LLC

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Lunis, Natalie.

Tragic theaters / by Natalie Lunis ; consultant: Paul F. Johnston, PhD, Washington, D.C.

pages cm. — (Scary places)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-1-61772-885-3 (library binding)

ISBN-10: 1-61772-885-3 (library binding)

1. Haunted theaters—Juvenile literature. 2. Haunted places—Juvenile literature. 3. Ghosts—Juvenile literature. I. Johnston, Paul F. II. Title.

BF1477.5.L86 2014

133.1'22—dc23

2013013072

Copyright © 2014 Bearport Publishing Company, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part, stored in any retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission from the publisher.

For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 45 West 21st Street, Suite 3B, New York, New York 10010. Printed in the United States of America.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Contents

Tragic Theaters	4
Lincoln's Murder Lives On.....	6
A Curse Strikes Again	8
Playing the Palace	10
"Good Night, Olive!"	12
The Phantom of the Opera.....	14
The Man in Gray	16
The Strangler Jacket	18
On With the Show!	20
The Boy in the Balcony	22
Return to the Ryman	24
The Ghost in the Window.....	26
Tragic Theaters Around the World	28
Glossary.....	30
Bibliography	31
Read More	31
Learn More Online.....	31
Index	32
About the Author.....	32

Tragic Theaters

Theaters are fun places to visit—most of the time. These grand-looking buildings are usually filled with entertaining comedies, dramatic **tragedies**, and exciting musicals. Yet what happens when the most dramatic and exciting events aren't happening on the stage? Many theaters have been the scenes of shocking murders, deadly accidents, and unsolved mysteries. As a result, they are said to be the homes of ghosts and **spirits**.



Within the 11 tragic theaters in this book, you will discover the ghost of the man who shot President Abraham Lincoln, a dangerous costume that chokes anyone who tries to wear it, and an actor who wouldn't allow the fact that he was dead to keep him off the stage. As you'll see, theaters can be spooky places—but don't let stage fright keep you out!





Lincoln's Murder Lives On

Ford's Theatre, Washington, D.C.


People expect to see a tragedy acted out on the stage of a theater. About 150 years ago, however, people in a theater in Washington, D.C., witnessed something truly terrible take place in the area where the audience sat. In fact, the event turned out to be one of the greatest tragedies in American history.

Ford's Theatre



On the night of April 14, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln was watching a play in Ford's Theatre. His wife, Mary, sat next to him. Around 10:15 p.m., a shot rang out. A man named John Wilkes Booth had just fired a gun at the president. A famous actor and a Southerner, Booth was acting in revenge. He blamed Lincoln for the defeat of the South in the **Civil War**.

Lincoln died the next morning, and Ford's Theatre remained closed for more than a hundred years. Since its reopening in 1968, some people have claimed to see a ghostly version of Lincoln's **assassination** acted out. Audience members say they have heard footsteps rushing to the area where Lincoln sat—followed by a gunshot and screams. Mary has been seen pointing at the stage, which Booth crossed as he made his escape. She cries out, "He has killed the president!" Onstage, Booth has sometimes been seen running away. At other times, actors have felt an icy chill—a sign that Booth's spirit may still lurk among the theater's shadows.



Today, part of Ford's Theatre is a museum. People who visit can see objects having to do with Lincoln's presidency and his assassination. Among them are the clothes Lincoln wore the night he was shot and the gun that John Wilkes Booth used.



An illustration of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln at Ford's Theatre

Index

- Albuquerque, New Mexico** 22–23, 28
Ashland, Oregon 20–21, 28
- Booth, John Wilkes** 7
Borsalino, Louis 11
Boston Red Sox 8–9
- Civil War** 7
- Darnall, Bobby** 23
Drury Lane Theatre 16–17, 29
Duke of York's Theatre 18–19, 29
- Ford's Theatre** 6–7, 28
Frazee, Harry 8–9
- Garland, Judy** 11
Grandstreet Theatre 26–27, 28
Grimaldi, Joseph 17
- Harris, Emmylou** 25
Helena, Montana 26–27, 28
Hird, Thora 19
Hodgin, Clara Bicknell 26–27
Houdini, Harry 11
- KiMo Theatre** 22–23, 28
- Laughton, Charles** 21
Leroux, Gaston 15
Lincoln, Abraham 7, 28
London, England 16–17, 18–19, 29
Longacre Theatre 8–9, 28
- Nashville, Tennessee** 24–25, 28
New Amsterdam Theatre 12–13, 28
New York, New York 8–9, 10–11, 12–13, 28
New York Yankees 9
- Oregon Shakespeare Festival** 20–21, 28
- Palace Theatre** 10–11, 28
Paris, France 14–15, 29
Paris Opera 14–15, 29
Phantom of the Opera, The 14–15
- Ruth, Babe** 9
Ryman Auditorium 24–25, 28
Ryman, Thomas 24–25
- Shakespeare, William** 21
- Thomas, Olive** 13
- Washington, D.C.** 6–7, 28
Williams, Hank 25

About the Author

Natalie Lunis has written many nonfiction books for children. She lives in New York's lower Hudson River Valley—the home of the Headless Horseman.



[Intentionally Left Blank]



SCARY PLACES

Tragic Theaters

Theaters are fun places to visit—most of the time. These grand-looking buildings are usually filled with entertaining comedies, dramatic tragedies, and exciting musicals. Yet what happens when the most dramatic and exciting events aren't happening on the stage? Many theaters have been the scenes of shocking murders, deadly accidents, and unsolved mysteries. Within the 11 tragic theaters in this book, you will discover the ghost of the man who shot President Abraham Lincoln, a dangerous costume that chokes anyone who tries to wear it, and an actor who wouldn't allow the fact that he was dead to keep him from the theater.

Abandoned Amusement Parks

Abandoned Insane Asylums

Creepy Castles

Creepy Stations

Cursed Grounds

Dark Labyrinths

Dark Mansions

Ghost Towns

Haunted Caves

Haunted Hotels

Haunted Houses

Lost Cities

**Monstrous Morgues
of the Past**

Mummy Lairs

Shuttered Horror Hospitals

Spooky Cemeteries

Spooky Schools

Tragic Theaters

Wretched Ruins

BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

www.bearportpublishing.com

ISBN-13: 978-1-61772-885-3

9 0000



9 781617 728853