



MEDIA RELEASE

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BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM PRESENTS *THE BIG READ 2010*

Celebrating the Writing & Legacy of Edgar Allan Poe - Many Free Library Events & Activities

Great Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe is the featured title of this year's "Big Read" presented by the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library System and funded through a competitive grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and Arts Midwest.

Designed to encourage more literary reading in American life, the "Big Read" runs September 23 – November 13, 2010. Among the more than 180 free activities which encourage the reading, discussion and celebration of Poe's work across the 37-site local Library System will be panel discussions, themed book talks, special film showings, story telling, games and science workshops, a special presentation by "Zombie" author Max Brooks (son of director Mel Brooks), a Poe-inspired photography contest and "POE-etry Jam Coffee House" Night, Haunted WNY discussions, and "The Big Bleed," a themed blood drive with local partner UNYTS.

The "Big Read" features age-appropriate books for adults and teens, young readers and toddlers including: *Great Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe* by Edgar Allan Poe (ages teens +); *Bunniclea Meets Edgar Allan Crow* by James Howe (ages 6 – 10), and *The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything* by Linda Williams (ages 3 – 5). All of the books and many more related to the Poe theme are available in the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library branches.

Edgar Allan Poe invented the detective story, perfected the horror tale, and first articulated the theory of the modern short story as well as the idea of pure poetry. *Great Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe* is a collection of the Gothic master's classic works in prose and verse.

Some of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library Poe-themed programs include:

Thursday, October 7, 6:30-7:30 p.m. "The Impact of Poe on Popular Culture". Panel Discussion, with Author Mary Akers, Author/professor emeritus Joan Albarella, Professor Don Pollock, Professor Bruce Jackson. Gary Earl Ross, moderator. Downtown Central Library.

Tuesday, October 12, 6:30-7:30 p.m. "Darkness Peering: The Gothic Story Before and After Poe". Panel Discussion, with Professors David Castillo and Kenneth Dauber, and author Gregory Lamberson. Karpeles Manuscript Museum (North Street site, 885-4139).

Saturday, October 23, “Buffalo Comics Fest” and author Max Brooks: Brooks, the popular author of *Zombie Survival Guide* and *World War Z* will highlight a day-long hands-on experience featuring graphic novel and comics writers and illustrators workshops, “Zombie” theatrical make-up demonstrations, “Star Wars” characters and demos, and other ghoulish activities. Downtown Central Library, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Various Dates: **“Fringe Science” program** . Dr. Brahm H. Segal, MD will speak on “Science and Pseudoscience in Medicine” and will cover psychic healing, faith healing, and organic / natural cures versus science.

What went bump in the night? **PRONE (Paranormal Researchers of Niagara and Erie)** ghosthunters will discuss their findings from local investigations of unexplained phenomena, including results from several area libraries.

The “Big Read” was initiated in Buffalo and Erie County in 2006 through a collaboration between Just Buffalo Literary Center and the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library. Buffalo was selected as one of the first ten pilot cities in the U.S. promoting the community reading of *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. Since then, our community has enjoyed literary classics such as *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston (2007), *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee and *The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett (both in 2008) and the 2009 pick, *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Readers locally have taken the opportunity to be entertained, inspired, and challenged by the great books being discovered, or rediscovered as old favorites, and shared as a community through each year’s wide array of Programming for every age. This year’s “Big Read” celebration featuring Edgar Allan Poe promises to be the best year yet!

For a full schedule of “Big Read” events, and to learn more about Edgar Allan Poe, his work and his legacy, visit your local Buffalo and Erie County Public Library or visit www.buffalolib.org.

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