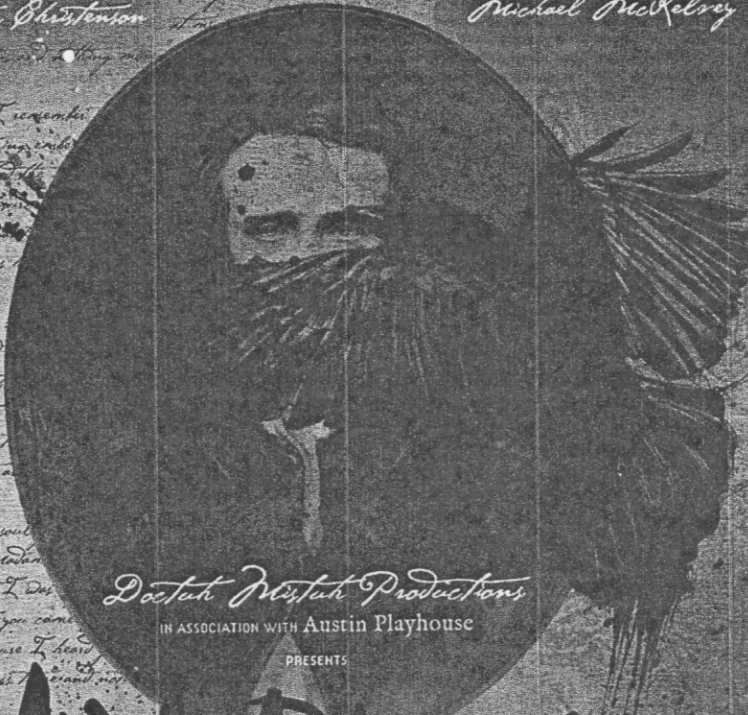


MUSIC, LYRICS AND BOOK BY

Jonathan Christenson

DIRECTED BY

Michael McKelvey



*...distinctly I remember
each separate of you, under
singly I shall
from my books
the rose and red
Nameless
...the silk on
...led me filled
...to that road to
...to some extent
...late winter
...it is a
...Presently my will
...and L. as Pindar
...but the part is I do
...and so... by you came
...I... use I heard
...I... and
...Deep in...
...thing...
...But the...
...and the...
...I why...
...I...
...Back in...
...I heard a...
...I...
...Let me...
...my heart...
...I...
...I...
...I...*

Doctah Mistah Productions

IN ASSOCIATION WITH Austin Playhouse

PRESENTS

NEVERMORE

THE IMAGINARY LIFE AND MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF

Edgar Allan Poe



AUSTIN PLAYHOUSE
ACC HIGHLAND
6001 AIRPORT BLVD., AUSTIN, TX 78752

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Nevermore, The Imaginary Life and Mysterious Death of Edgar Allan Poe

Book, Lyrics and Music by Jonathan Christenson

Created for Catalyst Theatre, Edmonton, Canada

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Cast

Edgar Allan Poe	Tyler Jones
Player One (Metzengerstein's Horse, The Imp, Rufus Griswold, others)	Stephen Mercantel
Player Two (David Poe, Jock Allan and others)	Matt Connely
Player Three (Henry Poe, Raven, Mr. Burton, Raven and others)	Joey Banks
Player Four (Rosalie Poe, Fanny Allan, Raven, Sissy Clemm, others)	Jessica Hughes
Player Five (Eliza Poe, Ms. Duval, Ann Carter Lee, Louise Gabriella, Muddy Clemm)	Suzanne Balling
Player Six (Elmira Royster, Ms. Duval and others)	Megan Rabuse

Production Staff

Stage & Music Director	Michael McKelvey
Costume Designer	Glenda Wolfe
Lighting Designer	Sam Chesney
Sound Designer	Joel Mercado-See
Set Designer	Teresa Carson with Mike Toner
Prop Designer	Teresa Carson
Choreography	Rocker Verastique
Additional Choreography	Michael McKelvey
Movement Consultant	Danny Herman
Production Stage Manager	Angelica Chesney
Sound Operator	Tyler Park
Master Carpenter	Mike Toner
Costume Supervisor	Jordan Visage
Dresser	Lowell Thomas Bundick
Assistant Stage Managers	Meredith Connely & Matthew Villareal
Assistant Music Director	Adam Roberts
Rehearsal Accompanists	Joshua Piper & Rob Greenfield
Publicity	Jess Hughes
Graphic Designer	Jennymarie Jemison

Director's Musings on Edgar Allan Poe & *Nevermore*

Much of what you will see on stage tonight is factual with some dramatic license. You are at the theatre after all. To prevent this from being a five-hour long biography, Jonathan Christenson, the creator of *Nevermore*, has wisely touched on the key dramatic events in Poe's life so we can possibly see the influential moments that most likely inspired some of his greatest works. Christenson has also woven some of Poe's most iconic writings into the narrative through the Nightmare sequences and songs: Metzengerstein's Horse, The Pit and the Pendulum, The Tell Tale Heart, Israfel, A Dream within a Dream, and, of course, The Raven. If you get lost between reality and fiction, we encourage you to just sit back and enjoy the journey....Welcome to *Nevermore*!

Some notes on the life and career of Edgar Allan Poe

Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849) is considered by many to be one of the central figures of Romanticism in American literature. He is known primarily as a poet and one of the first practitioners of the short story. Praised by such writers as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (Sherlock Holmes), Jules Verne and H.G. Wells, Poe is also considered one of the forefathers of the detective story and the genre of science fiction. Although we most closely associate him with gothic themes, he also wrote satires, hoaxes and humorous tales. In addition, he was highly regarded for his literary criticism.

Born in Boston, Poe's professional career took him to New York, Philadelphia, Richmond and Baltimore. *Nevermore* mentions Edgar attending college (University of Virginia), which he attended for one year. Our show fails to mention that he also attended West Point to appease Jock Allan (and from which arranged his own court martial). While under the care of the Allans, he also attended boarding school in Scotland and England.

In *Nevermore*, we also mention the deaths to love ones in his life: His mother, Eliza, to tuberculosis when he was two years old; Fanny Allan, his beloved foster mother, at age 20; brother Henry Poe to tuberculosis when he was 22 years old; his cousin and wife, Virginia "Sissy" Clemm, to tuberculosis after 11 years of marriage. Details of his own death are greatly disputed and theories range from influenza to cholera to rabies.

Nevermore....Order of Events and Songs

Act I

Prologue (A steamer ship headed for New York)

"Alone"

From the Beginning

"All Our Days Our Trances"

"Now Doubt, Now Pain"

Birth of the Poe Children

Intro of David Poe

"The Family Poe" - The Poe Children

Death of Eliza

"Nightmare 1 - Buried Alive"

The Poe Children Split Up

Edgar's Life with the Allans

"Fanny Allan Loved the Theatre"

The Metzengerstein Room

"Take This Kiss"

"Nightmare 2. Part 1 - Metzengerstein's Horse"

"Nightmare 2. Part 2 - The Brass Armed Pendulum"

"Nightmare 3 - Jock Allan's Eye"

"Eldorado"

"A Born Poet" and the Misses Duvals

"Israfel"

"Discipline"

"Nightmare 4 - The Imp"

Fanny is Sent to the Asylum

Death of Fanny Allan

"A Dream within a Dream"

INTERMISSION

ACT II

Entr'Acte (Deck of the steamer)

Cemetery at St. John

"Life is but a Dream"

Introduction of Elmira

Story of Ann Carter Lee

"Edgar Met Elmira"

"Poetry shall fill my soul"

Edgar Leaves Elmira

College Life

"Tamerlane"/Letters of Edgar and Jock

Edgar Returns Home

Elmira marries Alexander Shelton

"Nightmare 5 - The Dead Bride"

Jock and Louise Gabriella

"A Humbler Heart, A Deeper Woe"

Louise & Jock vs Edgar

Edgar writes Henry

Intro of Muddy Clemm & Reuniting of the Poes

"Hush, Hush"

Introduction of Rufus Griswold

Rosie rejoins her brothers

Death of Henry and Departure of Rosie

"Dance of Desperate Hope"

Edgar turns to the bottle/Final plea to Jock Allan

"Nightmare 6 - The Death of Jock Allan/The Tell Tale Heart)

Edgar meets Sissy

Marriage of Edgar & Sissy - "All of My Hours"

Sissy takes ill

"The Raven"

Rufus muddies Edgar's name

Sissy and the Valentine

"The Happiest Day"

Death of Sissy

Edgar and Elmira Reunite

"No More of this Madness"

Final Leg of the Journey (The deck of the steamer)

Revealing of the Players

"This Fever called Living"

"Childhood Dream Reprise"

Epilogue

"A Dream within a Dream/Edgar Allan Poe Reprise"

COMPANY BIOS

Suzanne Baling (Player 5) is excited to make her first appearance with Doctuh Mistuh Productions. Recent Austin credits include *Bull* (Street Corner Arts), *Closer* (7 Towers Theatre Company), *Rapture, Blister, Burn* (Southwest Theatre Productions), *Good Weather for Bundt Cakes* (Cinnamon Path Theater), *A Delicate Balance* (City Theatre Company), *Lady Windermere's Fan* (Austin Playhouse) and *Zeus in Therapy* (Tutto Theatre Company).

Joey Banks (Player 3) - Regional credits include *Silence the Musical, Reefer Madness, Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson* (Doctuh Mistuh Productions), *The Game's Afoot, Chess, A Room with a View* (Austin Playhouse), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Austin Shakespeare), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Zach Theatre), *HAIR!* (San Jose Rep), *The Madwoman of Chaillot* (California Theatre Center), *Girlfriend* (TheatreWorks), and the international tour of *Miss Nelson is Missing* (California Theatre Center). He is the recipient of the Austin Critics Table & B. Iden Payne Awards and holds an MFA in Acting from Illinois State University.

Lowell Thomas Bundick (Dresser) is so excited to join up with the Doctuh Mistuh team again! Credits include *Greater Tuna, Wait Until Dark, and 'Til Death Do Us Part* (stage manager, Wimberley Playhouse). He holds a Bachelor's in Theatre from Texas State. Lowell's recent credits include *Debbie Does Dallas* (dresser, DMP), *Disgraced* (runner, Austin Playhouse) and *Charlotte's Web* (stage manager, Magik Theatre). He wishes all of the cast and crew to break all of the legs. He also would like to say "muchos mahalo" to his family and friends showing their support by attending this beautiful production of *Nevermore*. Enjoy the show!

Teresa Carson (Co-Set Designer, Prop Designer) Current B. Iden Payne nominee for Best Costume Design for *Carnival* with Summer Stock Austin. She has design in many aspects for SSA for 8 seasons. Other credits include: Doctuh Mistuh Productions, Dripping Springs High School/Middle School, TexArts, Zilker Theatre Prod., and current Prop Master of St. Edwards University. She has a BFA from Baylor. BIG thank you to her husband who supports her while she creates!

Angelica Chesney (Production Stage Manager) has been a Production Stage Manager in Austin, Tx for 9 years. She is thrilled to be playing with her Doctuh Mistuh Productions family for their 9th production together. Previous DMP credits include *Debbie Does Dallas, Heathers, The Rocky Horror Show, Silence, Reefer Madness: The Musical, Bloody Andrew Jackson, and Evil Dead: The Musical*. Thank you Noah for staying up so Mama can put you to bed and Sam for continuing this adventure with me.

Samuel Chesney (Lighting Designer) is a Lighting Designer and Production Electrician active in Austin, Texas for over 10 years. Recent credits include *Debbie Does Dallas, Heathers, The Rocky Horror Show, Silence(x2), Reefer Madness the Musical and Evil Dead the Musical* (Doctuh Mistuh Productions), *Ordinary Days* and *John and Jen: A Musical* (Penfold Theatre Company). He is a proud member of I.A.T.S.E. Local 205.

Matt Connelly (Player 2) is thrilled to be part of the cast of *Nevermore*. You may have seen Matt in past Doctuh Mistuh productions as Miggs in *Silence*, Jake in *Evil Dead: The Musical*, JD's Dad in *Heathers*, and Mr. Hardwick in *Debbie Does Dallas*. Along with his roles for DMP, some of Matt's past favorite roles include Lenny in *Of Mice and Men*, Roy in *Lone Star*, and Roger De Bris in *The Producers*. Matt is also active in the local film scene and can be seen in a number of film and television projects. He would like to thank the incredibly talented cast and crew of *Nevermore* and his friends and family.

Meredith Connelly (Assistant Stage Manager) is enjoying her first experience with Doctuh Mistuh Productions, having watched her husband, Matt, perform in many past DM shows. Meredith has directed, designed, and stage managed for various theatre companies around the country; her most recent show was Zilker Theatre's production of *Shrek*. Among Meredith's favorite productions are *Same Time Next Year* (Director - Georgetown Palace Theatre), *The Buddy Holly Story* (Stage Manager - Georgetown Palace Theatre), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Director - City Park Players), and *Oklahoma* (Stage Manager - Black Hills Playhouse).

Jess Hughes (Player 4) is a company member at Austin Playhouse and Hyde Park Theatre. Austin credits include *Time Stands Still* and *Noises Off* (Austin Playhouse); *The Realistic Joneses*, *The Christians* (Austin Critics Table Award), *The Quarry*, and *The Night Alive* (HPT); *The Comedy of Errors* (Penfold); and *Macbeth* (Austin Shakespeare).

Tyler Jones (Edgar Allan Poe) is pleased to return to Doctuh Mistuh after having appeared in *Silence*. Other Austin credits include: At ZACH; *Mary Poppins*, *One Man, Two Guvnors*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Ragtime*, *Xanadu*. Hyde Park Theater: *Lonesome West*. Zilker Hillside Theater: *Hairspray*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Music Man*, *Beauty and the Beast*. Thanks to everyone involved for a creepy good time!

Michael McKelvey (Stage & Music Director) is very excited to bring NEVERMORE to his beloved Austin. Recent stage directing credits include *Big River*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Summer Lyric Theatre); *Guys & Dolls*, *Chicago*, *Legally Blonde* (Summer Stock Austin); *Honk*, *Jungalbook*, *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* (Pittsburgh Playhouse); *Strange Case of Jekyll & Hyde* (Prime Stage-Pittsburgh); *The Last Five Years*, *Ordinary Days*, *A Minister's Wife* (Penfold Theatre); *Annie*, *Footloose* (Zilker Theatre); *Chicago*, *Chess* (Austin Playhouse); and *SILENCE!*, *Debbie Does Dallas*, *Heathers* and *The Rocky Horror Show* (DMP). He also has music directed over 80 productions. Besides serving as the Producing Artistic Director of Doctuh Mistuh, he is the Artistic Director of Summer Lyric Theatre in New Orleans, where he also is part of the Musical Theatre faculty at Tulane University, and Co-Founder of Summer Stock Austin. He has been awarded multiple Austin Critics Table and B. Iden Payne Awards, and is very proud that DMP's productions of *Silence!* and *Heathers* have been the recipient of Outstanding Musical from the B. Iden Payne Awards the last two years. He would like to thank the theatre goers of Austin and the DMP family for their support of this company of misfits.

Joel Mercado-See (Sound Designer) has a background performing in live music, theatre, and TV/Film. His album *Hitchhiker's Paradise* was named in the Houston Chronicle's Top 10 Albums of 2006. He has designed for Austin Playhouse, ZACH Theatre, SummerStock Austin, Austin Theatre Project, Austin Shakespeare, Penfold Theatre Company, and Tapestry Dance. Joel currently teaches Audio and Sound Design for Theatre at Austin Community College and recently received an Austin Critic's Table Award nomination for sound design on *The Mountaintop*.

Stephen Mercantel (Player 1) is a company member of Austin Playhouse Theatre and a graduate from St. Edwards University. He was last seen on the Playhouse stage in *Satchel Paige* and *the Kansas City Swing* as Frankie and in *The Philadelphia Story* as George Kittredge. His on stage Doctuh Mistuh credits include the Narrator in *The Rocky Horror Show* and an Ensemble member in *Reefer Madness*.

Tyler Parks (Sound Operator) is an Austinite through and through. After temporarily leaving Texas to attend the Conservatory of Recording Arts and Sciences in Arizona, she is back! Over the summer she worked with Zilker's *Shrek the Musical* as part of the sound crew. She is excited to be working as an audio engineer on an amazing show that just so happens to be about her favorite author and poet.

Megan Rabuse (Player 6) is proud to perform in her first Doctuh Mistuh production, *Nevermore*. Recent credits include *Salome* with Gale Theatre Company and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Sh*t-faced Shakespeare. Later this season, she'll be playing Hero in *Much Ado About Nothing* with Sh*t-faced Shakespeare. More information at www.meganrabuse.com.

Mike Toner (Co-Set Designer, Master Carpenter) has designed sets for the Austin Playhouse productions of *Silent Sky*, *A Little Night Music*, *the Explorers Club*, *Satchel Paige*, *Disgraced*, *The Philadelphia Story*, *The Norwegians*, *I'm Not Rappaport*, *The Mountaintop*, *Time Stands Still*, *The Foreigner*, *Roaring*, *Born Yesterday*, *Proof*, and *A Christmas Carol*. Mike has also served as lead carpenter on over 20 Austin Playhouse productions.

Matthew Villarreal (Run Crew) is ecstatic to be a part of his second show with Doctuh Mistuh Productions, after *Debbie Does Dallas: The Musical*. Past credits include *All My Sons* (ACC Drama Department), *Guys & Dolls*, *Steadfast Tin Soldier* (Summer Stock Austin), and *The Little Mermaid* (AISD District Wide).

Jordan Michelle Visage (Wardrobe Supervisor) is a graduate of Texas State University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Design and Technology. Some of her most recent credits are Music Theatre Wichita's 2016 Summer Season including *Nice Work if You Can Get It* and *Mamma Mia!*, and Doctuh Mistuh's remount of *Silence! The musical*.

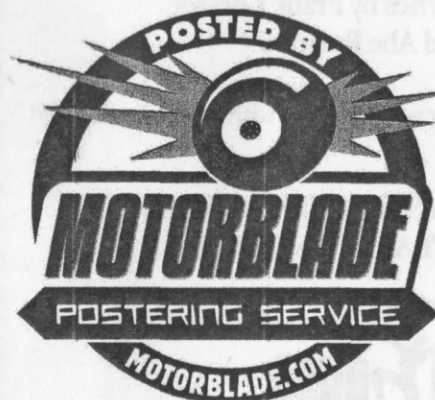
Glenda Wolfe (Costume Designer) This is Glenda's 9th production with her Doctuh Mistuh family having previously remounted costumes for *Silence! The Musical*. She also designed *Debbie Does Dallas*, *Heathers: The Musical* (BIP Nom), *The Rocky Horror Show* (B. Iden Payne for Costume Design), *Silence! The Musical*, *Reefer Madness*, *Bloody, Bloody, Andrew Jackson* (B. Iden Payne Award), and makeup design for *Evil Dead: The Musical*. She currently teaches in the Theatre Department at Texas State University.

Austin Playhouse Staff

Producing Artistic Director	Don Toner
Artistic Director	Lara Toner Haddock
Development Director	Claire Grasso
Box Office Manager	Cyndi Williams
Business Manager	Molly Karrasch
Company Manager	Kathleen Toner
Publicity	Jess Hughes
Theatre for Youth Coordinator	Marie Fahlgren

Special Thanks: Austin Playhouse, Servant Church, Zachary Scott Performing Arts School, Aztec Promotions, Sandra Madrigal, Texas State University Department of Theatre, Music Lab, Don Day, Ryan Crowder, Motorblade, Ben Wolfe, Holt Carson, Michael Lee and John Aielli of KUT, Lisa Seheps of KOOP, artist Michael Deas, KXAN, TWC, Austin Community College, and Aaron Johnson.

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