

Ode to The Haunted House, 1990 - by Tom Sawran

As a few of my colleagues from Foxboro can attest
When this guy stands to speak he can outtalk the rest.
So settle back in your places and grab a tall beer
For the Ode to Haunted House 1990 is here.

Last year this new guy stood before you still very green,
To expound upon all he had witnessed and seen.
It was all so strange, so different, so new.
Now, a year later, I have no better clue
As to how a project which includes so many tasks
Always seems to succeed with the donning of masks.

So listen my friends and you shall hear,
Of the adventures of Haunted House for another year.
This time would be easy with already a year behind us.
Of last year's problems you need not remind us.
When we had three weeks to go and no place to perform,
And Wrentham State offered a place to keep warm.

But this time we're a shoe-in, no problem at all,
Well, there's just one thing perhaps - NO CARDBOARD WALLS
It seems building maintenance needed to state its case
And make it more of a challenge for us to invade their place.
But we wanted to stay and continue new traditions,
So forced we were to meet a few conditions.

So bow now we must and conform to their wishes,
Fire marshalls, building inspectors and even a few real son-of-a-bitches.
Alright then guys we'll play the game,
Even if the requirements seem to be lame.
But build the place with all metal frames?
What are these guys, missing their brains?

Okay then, wood frame construction will be just fine,
But firecode sheetrock! Are they out of their minds?
Well then let's prefab the panels and set them in place.
God! This looks like a construction show race.

Secure them with strapping and to make sure none is loose,
Get that girl with the screw gun - the one they call Moose.

Get out the rollers and paint the walls black
All done! No not quite! Now do the backs.
And use the additive to make the paint fireproof.
Hell, I'm beginning to think this inspector's a real goof.
Double check everything. What did we miss?
Now that you mention it, has anyone seen Chris?
Yes, he's down in the break room drawing the emergency map,
And John's down there too, with a few babes on his lap.

And where are the room chairmen, we've only a few more nights?
They're all looking for Phil, and waiting for lights.

Now it's dress rehearsal night so everyone bring your kids.
The purpose is to entertain, practice, and teach.
The evening actually went very well
Until John stood up to make a speech.

It's time now people to put on the face paints
Let's get this show started before John finally faints.
The crowd is arriving with eager anticipation.
But hold onto your headphones, "We have a situation".

So the crowd must wait, and as it lingers,
While we wildly dash for ten pound extinguishers.
For the chief says without them we can not start.
When it comes to advance notice this guy is all heart.

Okay, we all have our parts ready to play.
Send down the victims - get this show underway.
And can you imagine - what a surprise
We even are staffed with four sets of guides.



Every three minutes have a group start the tour
When we get to the pop gun they'll be on the floor.
Take them over the bridge and if nobody falls,
Then 'hey'll just whack their heads on the crooked walls.

Who was that maze monster running down the hall?
When he hit that steam pipe he took a great fall.
Let's call him Lumpy, the name doesn't matter
But is that the same guy who was playing with Jacob's ladder?

Let's all stop by the chapel of the good Father Flynn
To see just whose soul the spirit is in.
And if he's not able to successfully exorcize
Then it's the crowd who's in for the surprise.

And follow me now to the Haunted House car barn
Why don't be afraid, Christine will do you no harm.
It's really quite safe, you don't need to jump back,
Unless, of course, she jumps off the track.

The video Duke of Nintendo was funny,
Or was the guy in the mask really the Easter bunny?

Now follow my voice - I won't leave you alone.
And hurry out into the diet workshop, but watch out for the bones.
And while Roberta appears to rest quietly in bed,
What she really wants is to give you her head.

Step into the Count's room and take care not to fall
If not into a grave, then over a broken down wall.
And pay your respects to the Doc but don't shed a tear
For in fact our friend Boris is still very near.

Now come see the witch and meet her friend hand.
Dining in her kitchen could be quite grand.
But while she was a real pleasure to meet,
I'm not sure her entrees are ready to eat.

Welcome to Blue Hills - your first room was a hit.
The experiments snap, crackle, and spark,
But was the room designed to be so well lit
Because Professor F.A.S. is really afraid of the dark?.

Travel back in time to 1692.
The preacher has an important question for you.
Shall we hang her? Don't be too quick to agree,
For that witch may put you next on that tree.

Down the hall to the Haunted House crypt
Where my friend the mummy stands.
She's made of four hundred yards of surgical gauze
And three hundred rubber bands.

Step up to the coffin at the end of the hall.
Come closer and look but don't push.
For the stiff in the box is not cold at all,
It's the widow who freezes her tusch.

Enter the courtyard, watch the moving ghosts and give thanks.
Thanks you weren't the one standing out in the cold - hand turning
the cranks.

For you've entered Old England - the castles stand on the moor
But you better be ready to run for the steps if you knock on Frankie's
door.

He would have chased the crowd across the yard
And all the way up to the street,
But he's fallen again and can't get up
Boy, it's tough to keep him on his feet.

Okay everybody you've all made it through
With over 7500 guests this year alone, I guess you can't call us new.
Maybe the only improvement that we need to make next year
Is to find a better place to stash the beer.

So as we sit back and take a well deserved rest
We know that once again we've bettered the best,
For once again we've all done what we could
And this year even most of the press was good.

And while running this project is like controlling an angry mob,
We obviously had the right guys for the job.

And while they may have once thought they'd not see the end,
Hats off to John and Chris - By George, you've done it again.

