

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Caetani Conjures Spirits for Victorian-era Halloween Event

The Caetani Centre invites you to experience a ghostly tour and a reenactment of a Victorian-era séance in its historic 130-year-old mansion in Vernon, BC.

VERNON, BC— Before trick-or-treating and pumpkin carving became popular traditions, people from the Victorian era hosted extravagant parties to celebrate All Hallows' Eve.

During these gatherings in the late-1800s-to-early 1900s, uncarved pumpkins served as invitations, while guests donned eerie, sometimes macabre, costumes to play games and share ghost stories. Many parties featured some form of divination, such as séances or fortune-telling, where a medium would attempt to communicate with the deceased. The Ouija board, invented in the late 1800s, was often used as a tool for this purpose.

The Caetani Centre is bringing this enchanting era back to life with its new adult-only Halloween event.

[Conjure the Spirits - A Victorian Halloween](#), taking place on October 25 and 26, will feature a guided tour of the mansion, a reception with refreshments, and a reenactment of a Victorian-era séance where members of the Caetani family—and a few friendly spirits—may be conjured. All in good fun, of course.

“There may be some audience interaction for those who wish to participate, and we will ensure that all unwelcome spirits are warded off. For example, we’ll provide bottles of protection salt, traditionally used in the Victorian era to avert unwanted visitors,” says Amelia Sirianni, known for her work with Ghost Tours of Vernon and a participant in the Caetani Centre’s Halloween event for the past two years.

Joining Sirianni will be actors Harrison Coe and Tiernen O’Keefe, who have portrayed members of the Caetani family in the Centre’s past Haunted Halloween tours.

“This year’s tours will be more intimate, with our hosts moving in and out of character to share tales of the mansion’s haunted history,” says Laisha Rosnau, Executive Director of the Caetani Centre. “We wanted to create something unique that honours the time when this historic house was built.”

Attendees are encouraged to don their finest Victorian-era costumes and come ready for an evening of fun—and perhaps a few supernatural surprises. An open mind and a willingness to embrace the paranormal are highly recommended!

Tickets for this limited-capacity event will be available each evening.

To encourage community spirit, the Caetani Centre will also welcome trick-or-treaters of all ages on October 31 from 5 to 8 p.m. A small donation will allow visitors to experience the mansion’s historic charm.

“Our benefactor, Sveva Caetani, was a huge fan of Halloween. She and her family companion, Miss Jüül, would greet neighborhood children who lined up for the best candy in town, often handing out imported European treats and giant chocolate bars in beautifully designed loot bags,” adds Rosnau.

Tickets for **Conjure the Spirits - A Victorian Halloween** can be purchased at the TicketSeller box office: ticketseller.ca/tickets/event/conjure-the-spirits-a-victorian-halloween or by calling 250-549-7469.

About the Caetani Centre:

The Caetani Centre is a vibrant arts and culture facility housed in a designated heritage home, featuring a gallery, exhibition space, and artist studios on a beautiful 1.3-acre property in the heart of Vernon, BC. Recognized as one of the North Okanagan's premier arts venues, the Centre welcomes visitors and artists from around the world, offering a diverse array of regional, national, and international cultural programming, events, and festivals.

Rooted in the compelling legacy of resilience and strength of Sveva Caetani, the Centre seeks to harness the power of art and storytelling to inspire creativity, build community, and enrich lives. Sveva's life, marked by both grandeur and hardship, reflects a journey from isolation in her family home in Vernon to active participation in the local arts community, which embraced her upon her return to society.

When Sveva entrusted her home to the Greater Vernon community in 1994, she envisioned it as a cultural hub for artistic expression and exploration. Thanks to community support, this vision has come to fruition. The Caetani Centre continues to connect past and present, fostering creativity and community. For more information about Sveva Caetani and the Caetani Centre, visit www.caetani.org.

Images Attached:

1. Poster of *Conjuring the Spirits*
2. Actors Amelia Sirianni, Harrison Coe, and Tiernen O'Keefe portray members of the Caetani family.
3. Harrison Coe as Leone Caetani.

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