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New Film Installation Reveals Softer Side of Edgar Allen Poe

Governor Henry Lippitt House Museum Hosts “The Women Who Loved Poe” Starting October 17

September 03, 2013 (Providence, RI) – “The Women Who Loved Poe,” a new film installation, reveals one of America’s most misunderstood and enigmatic writers, Edgar Allen Poe’s interior life, including his search for love and meaning, as told by the women he loved. The historic Governor Henry Lippitt House Museum in Providence, located only blocks from where Poe once walked the streets, will host the new immersive exhibit **October 17, 19 and 21 – 24.**

Imagine, you’ve just taken your place in a darkened room at a table where a most unusual séance is about to begin. This immersive installation, which combines fictional narrative with fact-based documentary, draws the viewer into the interior life of the artist by allowing them to sit face-to-face with the five women who were most prominent in Poe’s life. Using video-projected commentary, inspired by historical documents, letters, poems and writings, these women reveal intimate, and at times emotional, memories and insights on how the esteemed author lived, loved and struggled. In addition, they share with the viewer the part they played in shaping and propelling Poe through the joys and pitfalls of the human experience.

“In order to understand Edgar Allan Poe on a more personal level, to see him as more than just a master of the macabre, we have to examine his relationships with the women in his life, as they played a crucial role in the longevity and trajectory of his emotional health and artistic endeavors,” says Sandra Luzzi-Sneesby, creator of “The Women Who Loved Poe.” From being orphaned at age two to his emotional disorientation at the end of his life, this tale of an artist acquainted with death, beauty, horror and love unfolds through this unique experience.

The historic Governor Henry Lippitt House Museum in Providence, former home of the wealthy industrialist, will host the new immersive exhibit **October 17, 19 and 21 - 24.** Artist Luzzi-Sneesby and renowned Poe expert Chris Semtner will host a **Gallery Talk on Saturday, October 19 from 1 – 2 p.m.** The exhibit and gallery talk are free and open to the public (advance registration is required for Gallery Talk, 401-453-0688).

Exhibit Times:

- Thursday, Oct 17, 6 – 8 p.m., Opening Reception
- Saturday, Oct 19, 2 – 4 p.m., Gallery Talk with Artist and Poe Expert, 1 – 2 p.m.
- Monday, Oct 21 through Thursday, Oct 24, 12 – 1 p.m. and 4 – 6 p.m.

“Edgar Allan Poe’s genius and the tragic course of his life cannot be fully appreciated without the testimony of these five central figures. Through their discourse, visitors to this installation will gain special insight, not only into Poe’s work, but into his humanity and his heart,” says Luzzi-Sneesby.

About Sandra Luzzi-Sneesby

Sandra Luzzi-Sneesby is a media artist whose work includes film, video and interactive. She is a M.F.A. candidate and holds an M.A. in Media Art from Emerson College, Boston, and is an Assistant Professor at the Community College of Rhode Island.

About the Governor Henry Lippitt House Museum

All exhibit times and events are free and open to the public with the exception of the Gallery Talk, which is free but due to limited seating, *advance registration is required.* Guests are asked to register by calling 401-453-0688 or online at www.LippittHouse.org. The Governor Henry Lippitt House Museum is a property of Preserve Rhode Island, a state-wide historic preservation advocacy organization dedicated to protecting Rhode Island’s historic structures and unique places for present and future generations.