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Continued from November 2009 CTI Newsletter

The Gravesend Inn

I had a lot of fun attending the New York City College of Technology's [Gravesend Inn](#) installation this year at the Voorhees Theatre on Jay Street in Brooklyn. Each Halloween, the students put on what might be described as a cross between a haunted house and a Disney theme park. To get an idea of that it's like, [click here](#) for a short video from NY1 Television.

The Entertainment Technology program at City Tech is one of the few in the world that trains students for jobs in the real world of theme parks, themed entertainment, theatre, concerts, cruise ships, special events, and other highly technical areas of the entertainment world. Students are trained in all the typical areas of entertainment technology such as scenery, props, lighting, sound, and video projection, and they also tie these areas together by studying show control.



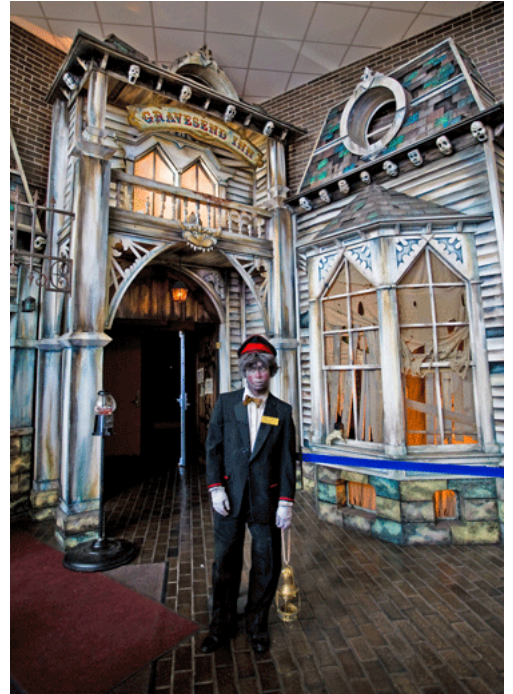
The Gravesend Inn show utilizes all areas of the students' and faculties' expertise in ways that you would expect: scary scenery and props, moody lighting, and eerie music and projection. All of these areas are well done, and looked completely professional to me, like you would expect to see at a major theme park.. In fact, the entire exhibit had a Disney "Haunted Hotel" look and feel to me.



The installation is tied together by show control, and the audience is the operator. Without an audience member, the show doesn't run at all. Audience members are admitted a few at a time and they immediately begin to trigger sensors that start lights, sound and video running. As visitors wend their way through the "Inn", they encounter a variety of scenes. If you are a technology geek, you'll spend most of your time trying to figure out where the sensors are, and where the light and sound is coming from. Lighting positions are tucked in everywhere, such as above air conditioning ducts and on pipes lagged to the walls.



Wiring, both AC and data, is everywhere. My thought as I wandered through the show was that it must be a blast to install and run.



The Gravesend Inn



An animatronic pirate move and talks



This scary scene uses lighting and sound effectively

Oh yeah, there are lots of people screaming all the time since this is sort of a haunted house. The shocks are not bloody or brutal, but they are surprising. And like Disney, The Gravesend Inn team heightens the suspense with a wait in line where you hear screaming from inside. There are even signs on the walls like at Disney World that say "From this point you are 15 minutes away from the entrance."



And at the end, there is a surprising technical twist. I won't tell you what it is but when you see the show, you will surely hang around for a while when you exit the Gravesend Inn. The surprise is one of the coolest technical parts of the show, and you'll enjoy it. Unfortunately, you'll have to wait until next Halloween to see the show since it is now closed, but it does run each year and you should make it a point to see it next year. You'll enjoy it. City Tech is just over the Brooklyn Bridge and easily reachable by public transportation and there was ample on street parking on the Saturday evening that I attended.

Here are the cast and crew who made the show happen this year. Congratulations!

Theatreworks Production Staff:

Artistic Director/ Set Design	Charles Scott	Paint Scenery Crew	Anikka Carter Courtley Dennis Iba Fitzgerald Rudy Guerrero Ife Ramsey Cynthia Staton Ertugert Shametaj
Production Design/ Story Writer	Norma Lee Chartoff		
ENT Production Manager	Sue Brandt		
Show Control Designer	John Huntington		
Composer	David Smith		
Sound Design	Bruce Ellman		
Lighting Designer	John Robinson	Props Master	Myles Rayfield
ENT Technical Director	John McCullough	Props Crew	Fernando Jeewan Ertugert Shametaj
Live Video Supervisor	Damon Baker		
Video Documentary Supervisor	Adrianne Wortzel	Master Electrician	Travis Braithwaite
Cast Director	Darlene McCullough	Head Rigger	Angelo Newsome
		Lighting/Rigging Crew	Eric Rodrigues Chris Prokopowicz Marc Beron Robert Braithwaite Joel Cathey
CLT Supervisors	Chuck Eberle Rennie Brooks James Hergen Chantal Lutin John Perilla		
		Show Control Master	Lillian Jimenez
Production Manager	Yoshihito Takahashi	Audio Master	Matthew Klein
Technical Director	Matthew Barbara	Asst. Audio Master	Feng-Yu Liao
		Asst. Audio Master	Gregory Romono
		Sound Crew	James Palermo Christopher Ozone Karla Ramirez Arthur Dieudonne
Costume Coordinator	Cassendara Lallor		
Make-up Designer	Lorenzo Valor	Costume/Wardrobe	Arthur Dieudonne Joelee Cummings Danielle Ng
Operation Manager	Michael Gaafar		
Asst. Operation Mgr.	Wayne McIntosh		
Asst. Operation Mgr.	Kyle Tyson	Video Master	Jason Hurdle
House Manager/Publicity	Toija Riggins Darryl Daye	Asst. Video Master	Felix Fernandez
		Video Crew	Victor Laroche Isiah Herbert Danielle Ng
Special Effects Mgr.	Andrew Puccio		
Asst. ATD/Effects	David Rios	Video Doc. Master	Rosalio Inojosa
Asst. ATD/Effects	Yvonne Akinrosoye	Asst. VD Master	Toija Riggins
		Video Doc. Crew	Roderic Alphonso Eric Velez Joelee Cummings
Master Carpenter	Matt Canada		



A very disconcerting upside down room



A cast member who enjoyed scaring the crowd