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# THRILLER THURSDAY

## Rhode Island PBS Stirs Up Supernatural Stories on September 4

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND (August 26, 2008) – Werewolves and vampires and ghosts – oh my! These supernatural subjects shape the substance of the specials scheduled for September 4<sup>th</sup> – Thriller Thursday – on Rhode Island PBS.

Keith Johnson, founder of New England Anomalies Research (NEAR) and producer/host of the local (Rhode Island) television paranormal talk show, "Ghosts R NEAR," will co-host with Rhode Island PBS talent Paul Zangari. Keith has had an interest in the paranormal since he was a teenager, when he experienced phenomena in his own home. He has worked with The Atlantic Paranormal Society (TAPS), and has been featured on the popular network television series, *Ghost Hunters*, as a consulting demonologist.

Also in-studio will be Harle Tinney, owner of Belcourt Castle in Newport, (featured in the 8 PM program), and Tom D'Agostino, author of [Haunted Rhode Island](#). Considering the theme of the evening, you never know who else might mysteriously appear.

At **8 PM**, Rhode Island PBS presents ***Ghost and Vampire Legends of Rhode Island***, a Telly Award winning, Emmy Award nominated documentary by Third Story Productions - Rhode Island filmmakers Scott and Maria Saracen. The film mixes interviews, location shots, archival illustrations and photos, and dramatic re-enactments to explore Rhode Island's scary side.

Harle Tinney, who owns Belcourt Castle with her husband Donald, describes how she saw a mysterious figure in her bedroom. The castle also supposedly is home to the ghost that hovers near the statue of a monk. Virginia Smith, a ghost historian and researcher,

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describes bloodcurdling noises coming from an empty suit of armor in the castle, noisiest during the month of March and in the presence of teenage girls.

In addition to Belcourt Castle, other mysteries include sightings of a ghost ship burning off Block Island, a shadowy figure moving along Benefit Street in Providence, and vampire cases in Exeter.

Several scholars of the supernatural are interviewed in the film, including folklorist Michael Bell, author of Food for the Dead, Christopher Rondina, author of Vampire Legends of Rhode Island and The Vampire Hunter's Guide to New England and Eleyne Austen Sharp, author of Haunted Newport.

At **9:30 PM, *Secret Life of Ghosts and Werewolves*** – a television compendium of the weird and creepy – goes in search of the facts and science behind tales of sorcery, mythical creatures, lunar madness, and things that go bump in the night.

Through countless horror movies, ghost tales, creepy books, and Halloween costumes, ghoulish creatures like werewolves, wizards, ghosts, and zombies have enthralled the public for centuries. But what are the stories behind these spooky creatures—are they just figments of imagination, or is there something real behind them?

Hosted by acclaimed actor Edward Fox, the program explores the legends of these terrors, and seeks scientific explanations behind the myths and legends that have arisen around seemingly supernatural activity, looking to determine whether they are true phenomena, or just images created by over-excited minds.

***The Secret Life of Ghosts and Werewolves*** begins in France, investigating the strange case of a 28-year-old murderer who claimed that, when stressed or under pressure, he felt himself turn into a wolf. The program then travels to Haiti, where a man who claims that he was raised from the dead—a true-life zombie.

Finally, the program travels back to Europe to seek proof on the existence of ghosts. Inside the creepy walls of Edinburgh Castle in Scotland, psychologist Richard Wiseman and a high-tech team stakes out prison walls and dungeons to seek out proof of supernatural activity.

As part of the Rhode Island PBS fundraising drive, several books by local authors will be made available throughout the evening: Haunted Rhode Island, by Tom D'Agostino; Haunted Newport, by Eleyne Austin Sharpe; Haunted Providence, by Rory Raven; Food for the Dead, by Dr. Michael Bell.

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In collaboration with the Providence Performing Arts Center, Rhode Island PBS will also offer tickets to the October 14<sup>th</sup> appearance of internationally acclaimed medium and clairvoyant Lisa Williams at PPAC.

Thriller Thursday, September 4, begins at 8 PM on Rhode Island PBS, WSBE channel 36, digital 36.1, RI cable 8, DirecTV 36, and Dish Network 7776.

*WSBE Rhode Island PBS is owned and operated by the Rhode Island Public Telecommunications Authority, a quasi-public agency of the State of Rhode Island. Rhode Island PBS is a viewer-supported member of the Public Broadcasting Service. Now celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, Rhode Island PBS uses the power of commercial-free media to educate, inform, engage, and inspire viewers of all ages. For more information about the programs and services at Rhode Island PBS, visit [www.RIpbs.org](http://www.RIpbs.org).*

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