Each year, CAL Department of Theatre students dress up in their scariest outfits for the “Haunted Aud,” a haunted-house-inspired fall event for thrill-seekers in the MSU community.

Not only does this annual Halloween-time event provide a safe, fun activity for MSU and Lansing-area residents, it also raises funds to support professional development projects and trips by theatre students.

“The students running the Aud have a granting organization, and they divide some of what’s raised among the seniors to fund showcases or research trips to other cities where they may, one day, pursue their careers,” faculty advisor Rob Roznowski says. “Grads and undergrads can also receive monetary assistance for professional auditions, to join the actors’ union, or to pay for other professional development.”

The Haunted Aud is produced entirely by students, with the exception of some faculty who maintain the box office. The end result is that the students created a self-supporting annual event to help future students pursue their goals. In 2013, they raised $21,560!

**HOW THE AUD GOT ITS HAUNT ON**

In 2008, hoping to add a little horror and fun to the campus, a group of undergraduate students were first inspired by the auditorium’s longstanding reputation for being haunted and initiated the event. MSU theatre students have been the perfect fit for the haunted house ever since. Students are able to practice their performance skills in addition to creating a profitable event.

Above: Corie Randolph, BFA in Acting, 2011, and Nick Strong, Music Composition, 2012

“I think what makes me most proud about our students is their entrepreneurship. Oftentimes, faculty can usurp or mangle their ideas, but these students have been diligent and resourceful in creating something of their own that has become tradition.”

“Each group learns from the last, and each group has different strengths and themes that they want to explore,” Roznowski said.

Students also gain meaningful connections by working with others during the event. Sarah Matthews, a theatre senior who has been involved with the Haunted Aud since she was a freshman, was not alone in lending a helping hand to the younger members of the haunted house’s staff.

Says Matthews, “The producers of Haunted Aud are always juniors, so that we can take a mentoring position in our senior year and assist the next generation of producers.”

Roznowski has seen the event grow over the years from a modest haunted house to a highly anticipated event.

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“So, come October: Be prepared to be scared!”