



NEWS

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Can We Communicate with Spirits of the Dead?

*ECC professor explores the history and magic of the Spiritualist Movement in
"Phantasms III"*

Back by popular demand! Professor Jason Davidson will bring his "spirited" lecture about contacting the dearly departed to El Camino College for one last time!

In "Phantasms III: This Time, You Will Be Touched," Davidson will deliver an updated version of his popular lecture on communicating with spirits of the dead. The presentation is scheduled for 8 p.m. Oct. 15 in Marsee Auditorium.

The night will include special magician guests David & Leeman, recent finalists on NBC's "America's Got Talent." In addition, Davidson said that many audience members will feel physically "touched" by a ghostly entity at some point during the presentation.

"The lecture will cover background on the Spiritualist movement, popular in America during the 1800s, and how their methods impacted our popular culture today," said Davidson, an El Camino College communication studies professor whose Phantasms II lecture drew a crowd of about 1,300 people. "But this will be the last show in the series. If you missed Phantasms before, now is the time to catch the presentation before it is 'laid to rest'."

The Spiritualist movement reached its peak in popularity in the 1840s and into the early 20th century. Followers believed they could communicate with the spirits of the dead either by contacting them personally, or through a medium. The movement spread throughout the U.S. and Great Britain, with thousands of people attending meetings, séances, lectures, and conventions. Along with the meetings and séances in both private and public forums came many "contacts" and mediums who turned out to be no more than a hoax.

In addition to teaching, Davidson is also a self-described "magic enthusiast." He is a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, the Society of American Magicians, and the Academy of Magical Arts, headquartered at the Hollywood Magic Castle.

Tickets for Phantasms III are \$24 and may be purchased online at centerforthearts.org using the new online ticketing system, or by phone at 800-832-ARTS. The Ticket Office is open Monday through Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Campus Parking is \$3. The El Camino College Marsee Auditorium is located at 16007 Crenshaw Boulevard, Torrance.

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