

Leopold Benedict

AdgX
EUROPE

A PALE-GOLD RAVEN



based on the works of Edgar Allan Poe

GASTSPIEL IN ENGLISCHER SPRACHE

Audimax der Universität Trier

Universitätsring 15, 54296 Trier

11. Dezember 2025, 19:00 Uhr

Eintritt: 24,00 € (Studenten/Schüler 13,00 €)

Karten: Anglistisches Seminar gfangl@uni-trier.de 0651/2012300

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THE AMERICAN DRAMA GROUP EUROPE PRESENTS

Short Stories by Edgar Allan Poe

Adapted and directed by Leopold Benedict

Producer: Grantly Marshall

This thrilling detective play, inspired by Edgar Allan Poe - the master of the macabre and the pioneer of detective fiction tells the story of his life through the stories he created. Devised by the ensemble in September 2025, it weaves horror, intrigue, and psychological tension into a case steeped in Poe's haunting themes. As the story unravels, enigmatic clues and shadowy figures from his iconic tales blur the line between reality and the supernatural, drawing the audience into a world of eerie suspense." Included in this drama are **THE BLACK CAT**, **THE PIT AND THE PENDULUM**, **THE TELLTALE HEART**, **THE MURDERS IN THE RUE MORGUE**, **THE RAVEN**, **MS FOUND IN A BOTTLE**, **THE UNPARALLEDED ADVENTURE OF ONE HANS PFALL**, **THE CASK OF MONTILLADO**, and **LIGEIA**. Through the use of lighting, music and technical effects, the stories are presented in a very understandable, thrilling and dramatic fashion.

The narrator of **THE BLACK CAT** is a drunken animal lover who begins mistreating his wife and his black cat Pluto. After he nearly trips on the cat, he attempts to kill it. When his wife intervenes, he kills her instead and calmly conceals her in a wall. In the end the black cat reveals the narrator's crime to the police.

THE TELL-TALE HEART (1843) by Edgar Allan Poe is a classically unsettling story. It is narrated by a madman who decides to kill the old man he lives with because he can't stand the gaze of the man's strange eye. He admits to the murder after he is convinced that he constantly hears the beatings of the man's heart.

THE PIT AND THE PENDULUM tells the story of a man condemned to death in the Spanish Inquisition. He is tied on his back in the bottom of a pit and watches a pendulum swinging back and forth above his head. With each swing of the pendulum, it comes a bit closer to his body. Attached to the bottom of the pendulum is a sharp knife, which will slowly cut into his flesh as soon as it reaches his body. It takes days for the pendulum to reach his body, during which time he suffers great mental anguish. Just before it reaches his body, he is freed from his torture.

THE RAVEN is Poe's classic poem about the loss of love and its control over the poet.

THE MURDERS IN THE RUE MORGUE is the story of C. Auguste Dupin, who is able to solve a double murder in Paris which the police are unable to do. It turns out the murderer was not a person but an orangutan. Created much earlier than Sherlock Holmes, we could call Poe the father of detective stories.

MS IN A BOTTLE is about a ghost ship full of scientists that sails forever on the ocean waters.

THE UNPARALLEDED ADVENTURE OF ONE HANS PFALL, who kills the people who owe him money then sets off for a flight to the moon in a balloon. He lives there for 5 years with its strange people, then sends one of them back to earth to request a pardon for his crimes in exchange for his knowledge of the moon. Poe was also a writer of science fiction.

In **LIGEIA** Poe describes his marriage to a very beautiful, intelligent woman who dies at an early age. He marries again but is convinced that Ligeia has come to life again in this woman's soul.

In **THE CASK OF MONTILLADO**, an enemy in love with wine is vengefully buried alive in a wine cellar.