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# NEW YORK ALIVE

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*Queens Celebrates the World's Fairs*





# EXPRESSLY N.Y.

## Not for the Faint of Heart

There's scarcely a youngster alive who hasn't heard—and shuddered at—the tale of the hapless, gangly school teacher and his late-night ride of terror. This favorite among ghost stories tells how Ichabod Crane left the home of friends already nervous, for they had been telling ghost stories. How he urged his horse along the dark, country road, beneath a moonless sky. And how, as he rode, he listened with all of his senses. Then he heard them: hoofbeats! Drumming, pounding, thundering, they came closer and closer to him as his horse loped along in terror. He risked a look. It was him—the headless horseman of Sleepy Hollow!

Now you can relive every heart-thumping moment of the Washington Irving classic during “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow Weekend,” which is being staged by Historic Hudson Valley October 28 and 29 at Sunnyside, Irving's beloved home in Tarrytown and at nearby Philipsburg Manor. The Halloween celebration will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Halloween at Sunnyside recaptures the flavor of Irving's time and place, the countryside that Irving described as “a drowsy dreamy... land...properly known by the name of Tarry Town.”

On the porch of the author's fabled home a storyteller in 19th-century dress keeps children spellbound as he tells and acts several of Irving's favorite tales. Tour guides at the gabled, vine-covered house are dressed in period costume; and the cur-



JUILENE OSBORNE-MCKNIGHT



*A spooky time at Sunnyside.*

tained library and exquisite dining-room service transport viewers to a time when long conversation at the dinner table might indeed include ghostly tales of the Hudson River Valley.

In the theater, shadow puppet tales recapture with light and dark the story of Ichabod Crane and the terrifying headless horseman, while an animated version of the tale narrated by actress Glenn Close is shown in the lunchroom.

Visitors nibbling on ginger cookies or sipping cider can wander the grounds of Irving's beautiful estate on the Hudson.

October is a ideal time to visit the historic Hudson Valley properties to gain a sense of the time when this area was replete with myth and mystery. It's also a time of beauty, the river framed in glorious shades of red and gold. At Irving's pond, which he called his “little Mediterranean,” the still beauty of the water makes it impos-

sible to tell what is real, what reflected.

Following stops at Sunnyside and Philipsburg Manor, visitors can drive north on Route 9 for five minutes and come to the Old Dutch Church, built in 1697. The adjacent cemetery was used by Irving in *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. Here you will find the graves of Revolutionary War soldiers and early settlers marked by tilting headstones, some inscribed in Dutch. It's not hard, standing here, to imagine Ichabod Crane's terror as he took headlong flight from the galloping headless Hessian.

Admission to The Legend of Sleepy Hollow Weekend is \$5 for adults, \$4.50 for seniors, \$3 for youngsters. Children under 6 years of age are admitted free. For more information about the program, call (914) 631-8200.

—JUILENE OSBORNE MCKNIGHT