Entertaining Ghosts: Gettysburg Ghost Tours and the Performance of Belief

Abstract
Gettysburg is the site of the largest battle and death toll during the entire American Civil War. Ghost tours are a tourism business and performance genre that arose out of the notion that the spirits of these dead soldiers have lingered on since the battle. Some tourists join a ghost tour in hopes of encountering a ghost, but almost all tourists expect to be entertained. My project is to define the ghost tour as a distinct genre and examine each of the elements that comprise a ghost tour performance. I argue that the most effective ghost tour is the tour that is best able to render ghosts as a potential truth and perform potential truth as a form of entertainment. How do ghost tour guides render ghosts’ presence a genuine possibility for their tour groups? How might we understand performance and entertainment as a means to activate sincere belief?

URI
http://hdl.handle.net/1903/8217

Collections
Theatre, Dance & Performance Studies Theses and Dissertations
UMD Theses and Dissertations

“America’s Number One Ghost Tour Company,” Ghost City Tours offers tours of some of the most haunted spots—in some of the most haunted cities—in the U.S. Choose your location: either Savannah, New Orleans, San Antonio or Chattanooga, and your specific tour type—cemeteries, haunted buildings, pub crawls, and more. Other ghosts on the tour include a child poltergeist who haunts the site of former waterslide park, and rocker Phillip Bury of Buck Naked and the Bare Bottom Boys, who haunts Golden Gate Park where he was killed while walking his dog. 11. Historic Jefferson Texas Ghost Walk Jefferson, Texas. Photo: Historic Jefferson Texas Ghost Walk. Typically replies instantly. Contact Ghosts of Gettysburg Candlelight Walking Tours on Messenger. www.ghostsofgettysburg.com. Tour guide · Landmark & historical place · Arts and entertainment. Price range ££. People. The release date for "Ghosts of Gettysburg 8" is in sight: July 1! We tallied your votes for the cover color and the winner was PURPLE! Now we need your help choosing the final cover. Gettysburg ghost sighting has been reported for decades. As one of our nation's bloodiest battles, the site has plenty of supernatural activity. Gettysburg, a town in Pennsylvania, is one of the most haunted areas in the United States. During its three days of intense battle ending on July 3, 1863, more than 7,800 brave Union and Confederate soldiers lost their lives and tens of thousands more were wounded and crippled. It’s no wonder that hundreds upon hundreds of ghostly encounters have been reported at this National Military Park.