“Everett the Ghost and Camille”

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“Everett the Ghost and Camille”
Supernatural Nonreligious Legend

Informant:
Camille Harmer graduated from Utah State University in 2017. Although she did not graduate with a theater degree, she has been involved in many theater productions at Utah State University as a stage manager. I know Camille from collaborating with her on these productions as an actor. Camille is originally from Idaho Falls, Idaho but currently lives in Logan, Utah where she is employed as a research assistant with Strata, a non-profit public policy research organization.

Context:
I have worked seven seasons for the Lyric Repertory Company, which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary this past summer of 2017. The building itself has been standing since 1912. Legend has it that back in the “old days,” when travelling Vaudeville troupes were popular, one particular company stopped in Logan to perform Shakespeare’s Hamlet at the Caine Lyric Theater. The two actors playing the gravediggers in the play got into a fight. The one killed the other and buried him beneath the theater. And that’s how we got the ghost Everett.

Camille wrote this account to me in response to a Facebook post I made on November 28, 2017 asking my friends and colleagues with whom I had worked at the Lyric Repertory to please share their encounters with the infamous theater’s ghost, Everett. Camille’s experience, of course, occurred at the Caine Lyric Theater at 28 W Center St, Logan, UT 84321.

Text:
Hey Katie! When I was working on Bus Stop in the lyric, we had a lot of problems with the lights during rehearsals. The house lights and lights backstage would frequently flicker on and off throughout rehearsal. We also had problems with the fire door stage right occasionally triggering and locking, making it impossible to get downstairs from stage right. But, true to what I understand to be Everett’s playful nature, they never impacted the actual run of a rehearsal. The lights always stayed on while actors were on stage, and only failed when we were taking a break or doing notes. I’m sure this was just a confirmation bias, but I started believing that on days I remembered to say hello to Everett when I unlocked the theater, the lights stayed on. By
the end of the show, when I had gotten used to saying hello every day, we had stopped having any problems with the wiring. Of course, someone looked at the lights and wiring a few times, and said it was just a short in the old wiring system, but I think we all believed it was Everett.

Texture:

I made this post at 12:40 PM on November 28, 2017. Camille was one of the first to respond at 12:54 PM on that same day. So she was clearly very willing and enthusiastic about sharing her experience with me. I know Camille to be a very objective and rational individual, and those characteristics in her are voiced in this response. Camille acknowledges that the fact that the problems may have been due to the theater’s faulty old wiring system. And yet at the same time, she leaves room for doubt. She seems open to the possibility that there could be a charming, meddlesome spirit lurking in the Caine Lyric Theater. But certainly, if anything, Camille did not and does not feel frightened or threatened by this benevolent spirit in anyway. Also, when I thanked her for sharing her experience via Facebook messenger, she responded by saying, “Definitely! It’s cool that you’re doing this!” So she definitely is enthusiastic about sharing the legend of Everett.

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