

WALPURGISNACHT

Pitch



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VITAL INFO

TITLE: "WALPURGISNACHT" (AKA "HURRICANE GROVE")

GENRE: Satanic Thriller / Southern Gothic Horror

RATING: R (projected) for graphic violence and brief nudity.

PRODUCTION CO: Quixotic Arts www.QuixoticArts.com

PRODUCERS: Jeff Thelen, Joshua Berwald

WRITER/DIRECTOR: Jeff Thelen (Story by Jeff Thelen and David Kreitman)

LOGLINE: A young artist moves into a decaying plantation in the rural south to be an apprentice to a dying master painter; she soon suspects that the artist may be hundreds of years old and that his coterie of apprentices is a witches coven who are drugging her for some diabolical purpose.

For the full story synopsis, please visit www.QuixoticArts.com/Walpurgisnacht.html

MAJOR CHARACTERS

Ellie Burkhalter (22). A young artist who lives with her blind grandmother in Savannah. Ellie is naive and virginal, having devoted all her life to a single goal at the expense of everything else: to become a great painter. When her first showing at an art gallery flops, she burns all her paintings and is recruited to be an apprentice to a mysterious master painter, Balthazar Haagard.

Peter (30). Ellie's boyfriend. A well-to-do professional who doesn't understand Ellie's self-destructive artistic nature. Despite his desire to take care of her, Ellie resists anything deeper than friendship with Peter. Their relationship is thus entirely Platonic and when Ellie leaves town to join Balthazar, it goes smash.

Balthazar Haagard (45-65). A mysterious master artist who lives at Hurricane Grove, a remote plantation in the Low Country of South Carolina. Drug-addict, black magician, eccentric artist, a sick and dying man--Balthazar is a shadowy figure haunting the plantation at night like Nosferatu in his castle. Although he appears to Ellie as a middle-aged man with a powerful sexual presence, there are hints that Balthazar may be much much older--and that those diabolical ancient paintings hanging everywhere in the plantation may be his work.

Muriel (40). One of three women who live at the plantation with Balthazar as his "apprentices, models, and helpers." A cold and forbidding woman, she is the real authority at the plantation, controlling to some extent even Balthazar. A former Sister of Mercy, Muriel is later revealed to be the head of the witches coven and, like Balthazar, is much older than she appears.

Katie (18). One of the three women who live at Hurricane Grove, Katie is a student of Balthazar's--although she admits she hasn't

painted anything in years. Katie is a sweet, bubbly child-like teen who longs to find a new friend in Ellie. Katie is Ellie's confidant during her stay at Hurricane Grove, but it's also clear that Katie is a simple-minded teen, confused about why she is still at the plantation. She seems to exist in perpetual puberty.

Sasha (25). The last of the three women living at the plantation, Sasha is a dark, silent woman who is the household cook. She is devoted to her herb garden, and serves to Ellie strange homemade wines and herbal teas. She is skilled with a knife and a sprig of belladonna. A former artist's model, Sasha still poses for Balthazar as he strives to finish his latest masterpiece "Four Witches."

Jefferson Washington (70). "Handyman, caretaker, gravedigger." Jefferson is an old black man who lives in a shack out back of the plantation, where he was born. An outsider, he is not part of the "family." There is bad blood between Jefferson and Balthazar, and the women do not trust him. But he has always worked for the family, doing their dirty work when necessary; he is thus implicated in their crimes. Jefferson knows where all the bodies are buried, and when Ellie arrives, he gradually wakes up and resolves to end the diabolical cycle.

Hurricane Grove (200). The decaying plantation where the story takes place. As in many High Gothic stories, the location is as much a character as any person, evoking an eerie and sometimes surreal atmosphere. The plantation is known as Hurricane Grove because of the strange winds that continually pummel it, blasting the trees and banging on the windows. The house and its furnishings have not been updated for a hundred years. Its wiring is precarious. The place is crowded with disturbing paintings that hint at Balthazar's black magic and ancient history.