

What's Happenin': October 29 - November 4

Written by Mike Schulz

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ACTING SMART

Helpful Tips on Appearing More Intelligent Than You Actually Are



In celebration of the Mexican cultural tradition of "Day of the Dead," wherein families and friends pay homage to loved ones who've passed, the **Figge Art Museum** will host the

Dia de los Muertos Festival on Sunday, November 2

. Held in conjunction with the Figge's current

Day of the Dead: Or, El Dia de los Muertos

exhibit (running through November 16), the family-oriented event - taking place from 4 to 7 p.m. - will feature traditional Mexican food in the museum lobby, activities including the creation of

papel picado

children's art and yummy "sugar skulls," craft-making in the studios, and a theatrical presentation on the Figge plaza.

But it's silly to attend a celebration without knowing just what it is you're celebrating, so here are five things you should know to avoid looking like you're just there for the sugar skulls.

1) Know why El Dia de los Muertos is observed at this time of year: The celebration takes place in tandem with the Catholic holy days of All Saints' Day (November 1) and All Souls' Day (November 2).

2) Know some common Dia de los Muertos traditions: building private altars to the deceased, walking in parades, attending church services, writing poems and epitaphs, and leaving gifts at loved ones' grave sites.

3) Know the origins of El Dia de los Muertos: Scholars believe the celebration began between 2,500 and 3,000 years ago as an Aztec festival dedicated to the "Lady of the Dead"; known as Mictecacihuatl.

4) Know how to pronounce "Mictecacihuatl": It's meek-tay-cah-SEE-wah-tl.

5) Know how to use "Mictecacihuatl" in a sentence: During Sunday's event, approach a Figge docent and say, "It's so much fun that Mictecacihuatl herself would plotz!" Then suggest that as a slogan for next year's festival.

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For more on the Dia de los Muertos Festival, visit FiggeArtMuseum.org.

Fright Night and Boneyard Boogie

The District of Rock Island

Thursday, October 30 and Friday, October 31

