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Drama students venture into the macabre

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APPLE VALLEY • A group of drama students have reached into the dark world of Edgar Allan Poe and have brought to life three classic stories of mystery and death during a two-day Poe-a-thon, which began Monday night.

The **Academy of Academic Excellence's drama department, led by teacher Dana Klopping**, is performing three macabre tales from the popular 19th century American author during the dessert theater.

Told in the first person, "The Cask of Amatillado" tells the story of a man who exacts his revenge on Fortunato; an inebriated man dressed in carnival clothes who has insulted the narrator's family.

In "The Tell-Tale Heart," a tormented caretaker decides to kill and hide the body of an old man, only to find that the heartbeat of the deceased has added to the caretaker's torment.

And an unnamed narrator visits an old friend and his sister in The House of Usher, a creepy old mansion that is eventually destroyed after the siblings meet their horrifying demise.

Tickets are \$5 and \$7.50, and desserts can be purchased for \$1.50. The school is at 17500 Mana Road, just west of Apple Valley Road. For more information, call (760) 946-5414.

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