



SENATOR JOHN HEINZ

**HISTORY CENTER**

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

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## **Walking Dead Meets Living Dead: History Center to Dig into Pittsburgh's Zombie History**

***–The Smithsonian's curator of sports and entertainment will explore Pittsburgh's zombie connections in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Romero's "Night of the Living Dead"–***

PITTSBURGH, Oct. 11, 2018 – In honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of George A. Romero's "Night of the Living Dead," the Senator John Heinz History Center will dig into Pittsburgh's spine-tingling zombie history at the **Walking Dead Meets Living Dead: Zombies in Pittsburgh** event on **Friday, Oct. 26 from 6-9 p.m.**

Filed about 30 miles north of Pittsburgh in Evans City, Romero's "Night of the Living Dead" premiered on Oct. 1, 1968 at the Fulton Theater in downtown Pittsburgh (today's Byham Theater). The cult classic spawned a revolution in the horror movie genre.

During this haunting program at the "Smithsonian's home in Pittsburgh," the Smithsonian's curator of sports and entertainment Eric Jentsch will explore the gory details of zombies in pop culture and the Smithsonian's efforts to collect zombie history, including the National Museum of American History's recent work with AMC's "The Walking Dead." Associates of the late Romero will share their experiences working with the "Godfather of Zombies" right here in Western Pa.

Ghoulish guests can also enjoy a complimentary zombie-themed cocktail from Wigle Whiskey, create a sinister zombie movie poster, and walk away with a zombie bite courtesy of the Douglas Education Center's Special Effects Makeup Program.

Admission includes full access to the History Center's six floors of award-winning exhibitions, including the Smithsonian's blockbuster ***Destination Moon: The Apollo 11 Mission*** exhibit and ***Pittsburgh: A Tradition of Innovation***, which features Romero's director chair and a director's slate from his 1991 film "The Dark Half."

Zombie garb and Halloween costumes are encouraged! A special prize will be awarded to the most creative costume of the night.

Tickets for Walking Dead Meets Living Dead: Zombies in Pittsburgh are \$14 per person and can be purchased online at [www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events](http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events) or at the door.

**The Senator John Heinz History Center**, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and the largest history museum in Pennsylvania, presents American history with a Western Pennsylvania connection. The Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum is a museum within a museum, comprehensively presenting the region's remarkable sports story through hundreds of artifacts and interactive experiences for visitors of all ages. The History Center and Sports Museum are located at 1212 Smallman Street in the city's Strip District, and are open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The History Center's museum system includes the Sports Museum; the

Fort Pitt Museum in historic Point State Park; and Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village, a National Historic Landmark located in Avella, Pa. in Washington County. More information is available at [www.heinzhistorycenter.org](http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org).



On Oct. 26 at 6 p.m., the Heinz History Center will explore Pittsburgh's zombie history with the Smithsonian's curator of sports and entertainment during the Walking Dead Meets Living Dead: Zombies in Pittsburgh event. (Pictured: George Romero's 1968 cult classic "Night of the Living Dead" was filmed in Western Pa.)



George Romero's director chair is on display in the History Center's ***Pittsburgh: A Tradition of Innovation*** exhibit.