

2019-2020 Theatre Season
Heroes and Villains

Blinn College Division of Visual/Performing Arts and Kinesiology
Brenham Campus

The Addams Family



Resource Guide

This resource guide serves as an educational starting point to understanding and enjoying *The Addams Family*. With this in mind, please note that the interpretations of the theatrical work may differ from the original source content.

The Addams Family

A New Musical Comedy Based on the Characters Created by Charles Addams
Book by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice
Music and Lyrics by Andrew Lippa

Produced by Special Arrangement with
Theatrical Rights Worldwide, Inc.



Directed by

Brad Nies

Technical Theatre Direction by

Kevin Patrick

Costume, Makeup, Hair and Choreography by

Jennifer Patrick

Music Direction by

Jill Stewart

Synopsis

Much to the dismay of America's most villainous family, their daughter, Wednesday, now eighteen, has fallen in love with a nice young man from a respectable family. To make matters worse, she's invited him and his parents to their home for dinner. In one hilarious night, the Addams family must confront the one thing they have avoided for generations: Change!



Performances

October 17 & 18

7:00 p.m.

October 19 & 20

2:00 p.m.

Dr. W.W. O'Donnell Performing Arts Center Auditorium
Brenham, Texas

Tickets can be purchased in advance online at www.blinn.edu/BoxOffice,
by calling 979-830-4024,
Or by emailing BoxOffice@blinn.edu

Meet The Addams Family



Morticia Frump Addams
The real head of the household, Morticia possesses a fierce family loyalty. Smiles from her are rare, but she has a romantic side at times. She always wears the same thing: a form-fitting black gown that is tattered and cut to ribbons at the elbows and feet..

Gomez Florencia Addams
Husband of Morticia, Gomez is a crafty schemer, as well as a jolly fellow in his own way. Though he can at times be misguided, Morticia is always able to straighten him out. Optimistic and full of enthusiasm for his fiendish plans, he wears a striped double-breasted suit and smokes a cigar.





Wednesday Friday Addams

A child of woe, Wednesday has her mother's dark black hair and pale complexion. She is given to temper tantrums upon occasion, and she has six toes on one foot.

Pugsley Pubert Addams

A monster of a boy, Pugsley is a dedicated troublemaker. Most people keep their backs to the wall when he's around. He's short, pudgy, pop-eyed, and his voice is hoarse.



Lurch, The Butler

This towering mute has been working for the Addams since he died in 1964. He's not a very good butler, but a faithful one. He guards the children against good influences, and one of his eyes is opaque.





Grandmamma

This disrespectful old hag is thoroughly dishonest. She came to visit the Addams one day, and she has been there ever since. She makes cookies in the shapes of bats, skulls, and bones, and it is uncertain whether she is Gomez's or Morticia's mother.

Uncle Fester Addams

Incorrigible, Uncle Fester should be under lock and key. His complexion is dead-white, and his eyes have unhealthy dark circles around them. Bald and toothless, Fester wears a heavy black greatcoat with an enormous collar. He enjoys playing with dynamite, as well as electricity.



Cousin Itt and Thing

A hairball creature and a disembodied hand, Itt and Thing were two of Charles Addams' minor characters that became popular with the 1960s television show. Itt usually wore a bowler hat and dark sunglasses, while Thing was nothing more than a hand in a box.



Charles Addams

Known for his dark humor and macabre characters, cartoonist Charles Samuel Addams was born in Westfield, New Jersey on January 7, 1912. Encouraged by his father to draw, he created cartoons for his high school literary magazine, and he furthered his artistic studies at the Grand Central School of Art in New York City. He began drawing for *The New Yorker* in 1932, and in 1937 he drew the first in a series that became known as *The Addams Family*. Approached by David Levy, a producer for ABC, about making a television series based on his cartoons, Addams assisted by naming his characters and providing their various traits. Addams died of a heart attack in New York City on September 29, 1988.



The Script & Music

Marshall Brickman-An American screenwriter and director, Brickman was brought in to co-write the script for the musical version of *The Addams Family*. He is best known for his collaborations with Woody Allen, as well as a series of comic satires published in *The New Yorker*.

Rick Elice-A former stage actor and playwright, Elice worked with Brickman on the scripts for *Jersey Boys* in 2006 and *Turn of the Century* in 2008. He worked with Roger Rees on the popular thriller *Double Double*, and he singlehandedly wrote *Peter and the Starcatcher* in 2009.

Andrew Lippa-A resident artist at the Ars Nova Theatre in New York City, Lippa's credits include writing the music for *The Wild Party*, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Broadway Version), and *Big Fish*. As a singer, Lippa's vocal talents can be heard in the animated feature, *The Prince of Egypt*.

Adaptations of The Addams Family

Television

The Addams Family (ABC-TV) 1964-1966

Scooby Doo Meets the Addams Family (CBS-TV) 1972

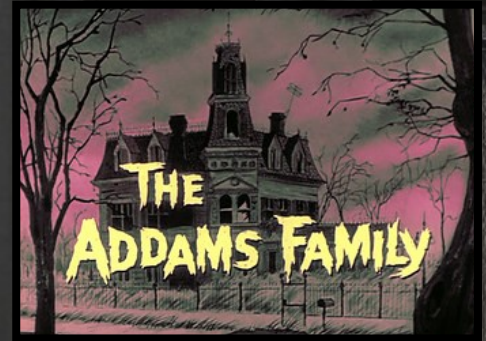
The Addams Family Fun-House (ABC-TV) 1973

The Addams Family Animated Series (NBC-TV) 1973

Halloween with the Addams Family (NBC-TV) 1977

The Addams Family: The Animated Series (ABC-TV) 1992-1993

The New Addams Family (Fox Family Channel) 1998-1999



Movies

The Addams Family (Orion Pictures) 1991

Addams Family Values (Orion Pictures) 1993

Addams Family Reunion (Warner Bros.) 1998

The Addams Family (MGM) 2019

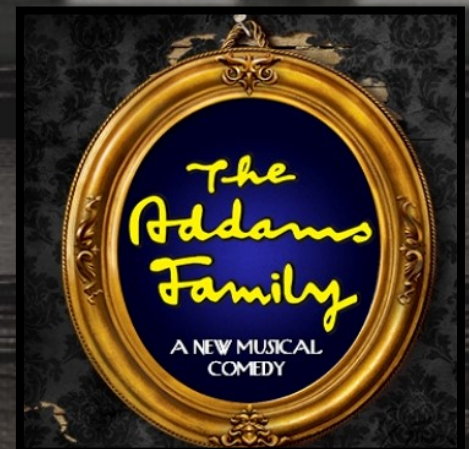
Books/Scripts

The Addams Family by Jack Sharkey (Pyramid Books) 1965

The Addams Family Strikes Back by W.F. Miksch (Pyramid Books) 1965

The Addams Family: An Eviltion by H.K. Misericchi (Pomegranate Press) 2010

The Addams Family: A Musical Comedy by Marshall Brickman, Rick Elice, and Andrew Lippa (Theatrical Rights Worldwide) 2010



10 Creepy, Kooky, Mysterious and Spooky Facts About



The Addams Family

*For the 1960s TV show, Charles Addams named all of the characters except Wednesday. Wednesday was named by a toy company creating dolls for the launch of the television series.

*Performing artist Cher wanted to play the part of Morticia for *The Addams Family* (1991) and *Addams Family Values* (1993), but producers wanted Anjelica Huston to play the part instead.

*The musical version of *The Addams Family* only won one major award during its run on Broadway; the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Set Design.

*David Levy, the executive producer for the 1960s TV show, sued Paramount after *The Addams Family* was released in 1991. Levy claimed that too many of his ideas from the TV show were used in the film. Paramount and Levy settled out of court.

*The character of Morticia Addams was inspired by Charles Addams' wife, Tee Mathews Addams.

*While playing Morticia in *The Addams Family* (1991) and *Addams Family Values* (1993), Anjelica Huston had to wear gauze eye lifts, neck tucks, fake fingernails, and a metal corset that wouldn't allow her to lie down.

*Before going to Broadway, changes were made to the script of the musical version after the tryouts in Chicago. Four musical numbers were replaced, and five songs were rewritten. The script was also heavily edited.

*Actress and singer Bette Midler voiced the role of Grandmamma in the 2019 film version of *The Addams Family*.

*Margaret Hamilton, who played the Wicked Witch of the West in *The Wizard of Oz* (1939), guest starred as Morticia's mother on three episodes of the 1960s TV show.

*Nine percent of Americans surveyed by the PenFed Credit Union in 1991 said that they considered the Addams Mansion their dream home.

Hey, Teachers!

This theatre is a proud member of the Theatre Collective of the Brazos Valley. This organization has been kind enough to develop the following rules of theatre etiquette. Please review these rules with your students to assure that all audience members enjoy the performance!

1. Be on time by being in your seat 10 minutes before the performance is scheduled to begin. Live theatre begins at the published performance time with a darkened theatre and actors frequently in the aisles ready for entrances. Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the theatre and in locations chosen by the theatre.
2. Remain seated until intermission and until curtain calls are completed to allow performers free access to the exits. If an emergency requires leaving your seat, please remain outside the theatre until allowed to return by the theatre's volunteer staff.
3. Finish and/or discard all food and drinks before entering the theatre. Community theatres in the Brazos Valley use volunteers to clean debris from the theatre and restrooms. Please be respectful of these volunteers by disposing of your own trash.
4. Silence or turn off all electronic devices, including cell phones, beepers, and watch alarms. You are encouraged to share your theatre experience via social media, but you must refrain from sharing or texting during the performance. The glow from all media is easily discernable in the dark theatre and is distracting to your neighbors and the actors.
5. Video and flash photography of live performances is not allowed. Community theatres in the Brazos Valley do not purchase the rights to tape live performances. Actors will generally be available for photographs after the show.
6. Tickets and programs will be provided for all students who need to receive credit for attending theatre performances. The Theatre Collective of the Brazos Valley provides a stamp for proof of attendance after every performance.
7. To allow all patrons easy access to theatre seating, saving more than one seat for a latecomer or volunteer is not allowed.
8. Please refrain from talking during the performance.
9. Your courtesy is much appreciated as it allows for the ultimate experience of theatre productions for all our patrons.

Sources

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Internet Source, www.uk.movies.yahoo.com, "The Crazy Story Behind the Third Addams Family Film That Went Straight to VHS" by Ben Falk.

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