

Amazing Halloween pumpkins!



In a mood of fog and musical background, thousands of pumpkins surround us. Some are classically decorated, others are real paintings.

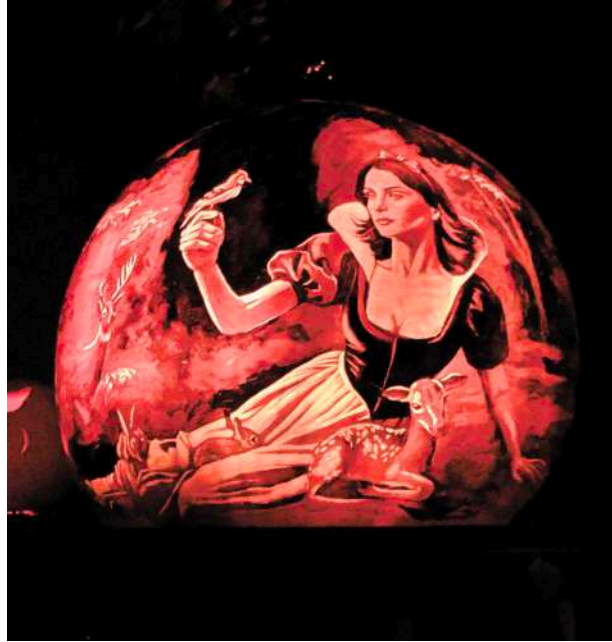
LISE GIGUÈRE

Saturday, October 26, 2019 01:00

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PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island | When I was offered to visit the carved pumpkins of the Jack-O-Lantern-Spectacular, at the Roger Williams Park Zoo, never, but then there never, I could not have imagined what was waiting for me!

In the dark, warmly dressed and camera in hand, I am integrated into the long line of visitors, some of whom have been waiting for a long time. I learn then that some nights, it takes at least two hours to reach the wetland trail where the pumpkins are exposed.



Snow White.

During the wait, I am documenting myself a little. I learn that 115 000 to 140 000 people go each year to admire the 5000 pumpkins sculpted by professionals. In fact, they must do the double work and carve 10,000, because the pumpkin is degraded over the days. Finally, I discover that this show is an important fundraiser for the Roger Williams Park Zoo. The proceeds are used to support animal welfare, environmental education and conservation efforts both locally and around the world.



The children happily meet the Snow Queen.

Pure wonder

This reading time allowed me to reach the path and observe my first pumpkins. There, I remain speechless!



The little Mermaid.

Before my eyes, they are not mere pumpkins that appear, but real paintings on which I discover animals, heroes of American history, or characters of fairy tales, legends, films of Stephen King, from Harry Potter, etc. Placed along the trail, these artworks are illuminated from within by LED lights, creating a magical universe filled with musical effects, music and a mysterious atmosphere.



The Joker.

Some pumpkins are so beautiful that we say that the design had to be done by laser or stencil, but no. All pumpkins are hand-crafted and sculpted by artists at Passion for Pumpkins, a multimedia company in Oxford, Mass., which produces shows across the country.



Hagrid, the nice giant of Harry Potter.

If you are one of those who have kept their heart of child, who carve pumpkins and supply candies to welcome little monsters, you must absolutely take the direction of Providence in Rhode Island to attend this incredible and festive exposure.

TO KNOW

- This year, Jack-O-lantern-Spectacular will take place until November 3rd.
- The zoo is closed at night, it is better to enjoy the day to discover the hundreds of animals that live there, visit the natural history museum and the adjacent large indoor botanical garden and especially be on hand to be among the first in the Wetlands Trail line.
- If possible, go there during the week when the crowd is smaller.
- During the wait, vendors offer food and souvenirs. Tip: try the pumpkin beer in a cup dipped in cinnamon.
- Strollers and wheelchairs are accepted on the course.
- Info: rwpzoo.org and visitrhodeisland.com