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MUSEUM OF THE MACABRE AT THE SANTA CRUZ MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY EXPANDS TO MONTH-LONG EXHIBIT

NEW ORIGINAL EXHIBIT "MARITIME MYSTERIES AND MONSTERS" ON DISPLAY OCTOBER 4 - NOVEMBER 6 WITH NAUTICAL WORKSHOPS, HALLOWEEN PARTY, AND MORE

SANTA CRUZ, CA — OCTOBER 4, 2022 — The Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History is expanding their popular annual [Museum of the Macabre](#) Halloween event into a month-long exhibit diving into [Maritime Mysteries and Monsters](#) for visitors of all ages, October 4-November 6.

The exhibit explores the darker side of the ocean, from sea monsters both real and imagined, to otherworldly phenomena below the surface. Visitors will see an array of ocean-dwelling creatures, including unique specimens from the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories and the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History. The exhibit also includes the recently restored, and ever-popular, [tapertail ribbonfish](#) specimen from their own collection.

"The ribbonfish is a rare, deep sea specimen that was caught off the wharf and has long been a famous Santa Cruz 'oddy,'" says Collections Manager Kathleen Aston. "After six years in storage, we're excited to be able to bring it back from the depths for visitors to see." Local fisher Gus Canepa caught the unusual creature in 1938 and then brought it to the Museum of Natural History where it became a local celebrity. The original specimen ultimately went to be studied at the Smithsonian, who gifted the cast currently on display at the Museum.

Maritime Mysteries and Monsters also examines our complicated relationship with the marine landscape through a look at the past and the present, including a sound installation from the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI), which presents the impacts of sound pollution.

The Museum will celebrate the opening of the exhibit during October's First Friday event from 5-8 p.m., where local ocean experts will guide visitors through an exploration of the scary side of the sea with nautical activities. Accompanying programs throughout the month, including a knot tying workshop and lecture from MBARI, will dive even deeper into maritime themes. The month-long celebration will culminate with the annual Museum of the Macabre Halloween party, on October 29 for the 21 and over crowd.

Maritime Mysteries and Monsters is made possible due to the support of 90.3 KAZU, Westside Animal Hospital, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, Marine Science Institute, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, and Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History.

Learn more about the exhibit:

<https://www.santacruzmuseum.org/maritime-mysteries-and-monsters>

About The Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History

The Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History's mission is *connecting people with nature and science to inspire stewardship of the natural world*. The Museum was first established with the personal collection of local naturalist and lighthouse keeper Laura Hecox. Founded in 1904, becoming an independent nonprofit in 2009, it has a proud history as the first public museum in Santa Cruz. The Museum is located in Tyrrell Park, bordered by its Garden Learning Center featuring native plants and grasses, and a life-size gray whale model greeting the public. The historical collection, public programs, and location make this institution a cherished landmark located across from the entrance to Seabright State Beach. Learn more about the Museum at santacruzmuseum.org.

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