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Dearly Departed Tours Triples Down with Three Ghastly New Tours of Hollywood

Join us for a sneak peek Saturday, Sept. 29!

LOS ANGELES (Sept. 14, 2018) – Just in time for Halloween, **Dearly Departed Tours** – THE authority on the dark side of Hollywood – is proud to announce the launch of three spectacular and shocking new tours.

Joining the current roster of ghastly offerings this fall will be the **Horrific Homicide True Crime Tour** led by Dearly Departed founder and "curator of the macabre" Scott Michaels and two new walking tours with Hollywood historian Brian Donnelly: **Behind the Boulevard** and **Hollywood's History and Haunts**.

Exploring the real and true stories of some of the most gruesome deaths in Los Angeles history, the Horrific Homicide True Crime Tour is definitely not for the squeamish. (In fact, it's Dearly Departed's grisliest tour yet.) Including tales of serial killers, arson, vampires, murder, chainsaws, and a plane crash, the tour explores how non-famous Angelenos can sometimes make notorious exits. In a state-of-the-art, multimedia enhanced passenger van, guests will depart on a nighttime ride to see the gruesome departure locations of these local unfortunate souls, learning about the Silent Movie Theater murder, The Palomar apartments arson deaths, the Pink Elephant Liquor dismemberment, and so much more.

For <u>Behind the Boulevard</u>, Donnelly will take guests on a ninety-minute walking tour one block *behind* iconic Hollywood Boulevard, revealing an untapped neighborhood rich with history both fatal and fun. Featuring sites including Carol Burnett's childhood home, the site where L. Frank Baum wrote *The Wizard of Oz*, the park where Janis Joplin scored her last deadly dose, and the death locations of Dee Dee Ramone and Bobby Fuller, this one-of-a-kind tour underscores the local adage that "nothing good happens on Yucca" or anywhere nearby.

And lastly, on the <u>Hollywood's History and Haunts</u> tour – Dearly Departed's first family-friendly tour – Donnelly will explore the scary sights, spooky sounds, and stinky smells that define the tantalizing tarnished star that is Tinseltown. The ninety-minute walking tour will cover one mile of bars, alleys, storefronts, theaters, and hotels, recounting over 100 tragedy and crime-filled years of Hollywood. Each guest on this intimate tour will have a personal headset to make sure not one word of weirdness is missed.

Starting in October, the Horrific Homicide True Crime tour will be available on Saturday nights; Behind the Boulevard will run Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays; and Hollywood's History and Haunts will operate on Fridays and Saturdays. Tours are available year-round and can be booked at dearlydepartedtours.com.

To celebrate the launch of the new tours, Dearly Departed is hosting a very special invitation-only preview party at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 29. During the evening, invited guests will have the opportunity to tour Dearly Departed's Tragic Artifact Museum (including the actual Jayne Mansfield Death Car!) and enjoy refreshments and libations as secrets from the dark side of Hollywood (and the new tours!) are revealed. Please RSVP to katie@katiedunham.net by Thursday, Sept. 27.

Also this fall, Dearly Departed will offer the very special one-time-only <u>James Dean's Last Drive</u>, a trek to the location of the 24-year old's infamous Cholame, Calif. crash, on the 63rd anniversary of his death on Sunday, Sept. 30; as well as their annual <u>Horror Film Location Tour</u> on Saturdays and Sundays in October.

Dearly Departed Tours has been named "Best in L.A." by both LA Weekly and Los Angeles Magazine, listed in *1,000 Places to See Before You Die*, and consistently earns high customer ratings on TripAdvisor and Yelp. All tours leave from <u>Dearly Departed Tours and Artifact Museum at 5901 Santa Monica Boulevard</u>, along the legendary Route 66 and just across the street from Hollywood Forever Cemetery. The Artifact Museum – showcasing Michaels' one-of-a-kind collection of celebrity death memorabilia – is open to the public seven days a week and since famous people die every day, new artifacts are added regularly.

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