Screams echoed the halls as I tried navigating the twisted halls of Brookdale Community College’s Haunted Theatre. Strobe lights distorted everything, ruining any depth perception, cloaking the malevolent looking creatures that wandered the exhibit.

This years Haunted Theatre is a must see, featuring many different monsters and psychopaths of the night. The event has four different experienced makeup artist. Lead makeup artist Nicole Macdonald explains how the different gruesome monsters are created.

“We actually have a book called the morgue filled with various injuries that we can use to base our makeup off of.” Nicole explains.

Nicole has 11 years’ experience creating monsters, and has worked the Asbury Park Zombie Walk, as well as doing cosmetic injuries for emergency aid training. She also uses Anatomy books to ensure the different injuries appear authentic.

“It takes a lot of horror movies.” Nicole jokes when asked how she comes up with the performances and various attractions the theatre hosts. Her makeup assistant and creature concept creator Chris Pickens tells us how beginner actors may pass tryouts but still have much to learn while volunteering at the event.

“We guide actors, if not experienced. Scaring someone is a hard thing to come up with on your own.” Chris says.

Sitting down with two star actors of the Haunted Theatre, dearly departed husband and bride, Brandon Allen off and Bethany Miranda they tell us that although hard work, the screams of terrified patrons is well worth it.

“People are often targeted and coordinated against once they show use their scared.” Says Brandon while explaining just how in depth the attraction will go to get a fright from their customers.

Yet safety is a top priority of the haunted theatre. Nicole and Chris assure us that even though you may not see them, safety personnel is always on standby to ensure that everyone remains having good fun, and no one gets hurt.

“Where else can be safe and scare the stuff out of people.” Says Brandon. When asked to compare the Haunted Theatre to his other horror occupations, Brandon tells us that the Haunted Theatre is the safest most coordinated scare attractions he’s ever worked at. His other occupations include Casola Farms and Six Flag’s *Fright Fest*.

If any are interest in volunteering at the Haunted Theatre be warned. “Today we work from 4:30 to midnight setting up all cosmetics and attractions.” says Nicole. Volunteers vary from cosmetologists to creatures of the night, construction crew, concession stand, creature concept designer, and security.

“I was acting in the Haunted Theatre, and was so impressed with my makeup, I just had to learn how to do it.” Explains Chris when asked how he got into cosmetics. He and Nicole tell us how both their cosmetic experience is self-taught.

The Haunted Theatre was a terrifically horrific experience and I recommend all check it out before it vanishes till next October. Tickets start at 8$ per entry and 5$ for BCC students. A student ID is required for student discount. ShowTimes run from 7p.m. to 10:30p.m. “Or ‘till the last body is carried out.” For any other information on volunteering or vising the Haunted Theatre you can call Sherri Vanderspiegel, Director of Operations, at 732-224-2522. She organizes 8 shows year round. Based off various student projects and majors.