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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spellbound returns to Huntsville Botanical Garden with an expanded adults-only nighttime experience

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (October 8, 2026) – When night falls, Huntsville Botanical Garden will awaken with mysterious sights, atmospheric sound and unexpected encounters as Spellbound returns October 21-25 and 28-31. Spellbound is supported by the Alabama State Council on the Arts.

Created exclusively for guests ages 21 and older, Spellbound transforms familiar Garden landscapes through dramatic lighting, seasonal décor, special effects, live performers and immersive themed environments. Guests are invited to follow the story of the Phantom, a spectral presence watching over the Garden. This year's experience expands into more of the Garden, giving guests even more to discover as they wander after dark.

Unlike a traditional haunted house, Spellbound is not built around jump scares. Instead, the experience invites guests to slow down and explore a mysterious, visually engaging side of the Halloween season at their own pace. Along the way, visitors may encounter live performers, theatrical scenes, atmospheric sound and unexpected moments woven throughout the Garden.

"Spellbound gives adults a completely different way to experience the Garden," said VP of Communication and Guest Experience Laura McPhail. "It combines the wonder of the Garden after dark with theatrical elements, imaginative environments and opportunities to gather with friends. It is mysterious and a little eerie, but the focus is on discovery, atmosphere and creating a memorable night out."

Highlights of the 2026 experience include:

- An expanded route through more of the Garden
- Dramatic lighting, atmospheric sound and special effects
- Live performers throughout select areas
- Themed environments and seasonal photo opportunities
- Cozy gathering spaces with firepits
- Seasonal cocktails, beer, wine and concessions available for purchase

Spellbound is self-guided, allowing guests to move through the experience at their own pace, revisit favorite areas and spend time around the firepits with seasonal food and drinks. Guests should allow at least 60 minutes for the experience, although they are welcome to remain until closing.

Spellbound takes place October 21-25 and October 28-31. Hours are 7-10 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, and 7-11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Last entry is one hour before closing.

Advance tickets are $12 for Garden members and $17 for non-members. Day-of tickets are $15 for members and $25 for non-members, subject to availability. A valid government-issued photo ID is required for entry, and all guests must be age 21 or older.

Costumes are welcome, although full-face masks, realistic weapons or props, and costumes that interfere with the experience or other guests are not permitted. Spellbound takes place outdoors and will operate rain or shine unless severe weather creates unsafe conditions. Most of the experience follows paved, wheelchair-accessible Garden pathways, with alternate accessible routes provided where needed.

Spellbound is part of FestiFall, Huntsville Botanical Garden's annual celebration of autumn featuring seasonal displays, traditions and special events throughout September and October. FestiFall is proudly sponsored by First Horizon Bank with additional support from Window World.

For tickets and additional information, visit **hsvbg.org/calendar**.

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About the Huntsville Botanical Garden

Huntsville Botanical Garden is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that exists to connect

people to plants to support a healthier quality of life for the region. Open year-round, the Garden contains diverse ecosystems to explore within its 118 acres. From grassy meadows to woodland paths, aquatic habitats to stunning floral collections, the Garden invites guests of all ages to discover the beauty and wonder of the natural environment. For more information, visit hsvbg.org.