



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National  
Historical Park

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## Independence National Historical Park Media Advisory

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For Immediate Release  
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### EDGAR ALLAN POE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OFFICIALLY RE- OPENS JAN 17 – SNEAK PREVIEW ON JAN 16

#### *Museum provides unique new exhibits on Poe's life and legacy*

The newly updated and refurbished Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site (EDAL) officially re-opens its doors to the public on Saturday, January 17. Since closing in December, 2008, the Poe House has undergone substantial renovation and the installation of new exhibits designed to teach visitors about the “Many Sides of Genius.” Members of the media are invited for a special sneak-preview on **Friday, January 16**.

**WHAT:** Sneak Preview of new Poe exhibits  
**WHEN:** Friday, **January 16, 2:00 pm until 5:00 pm**  
**WHERE:** Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site  
7<sup>th</sup> and Spring Garden Streets  
Philadelphia, PA

This is an invitation-only open house for members of the media. Preview tours will be provided and Poe staff will be available to discuss the new exhibits and answer questions. Camera crews are welcome. Please contact Jane Cowley at (215) 597-0060 to confirm participation.

Edgar Allan Poe thrived and achieved his greatest sustained success while living in Philadelphia: here Poe invented the detective story; served as a lightning rod as America's premier and sometimes brutal literary critic; edited the country's most successful magazine and wrote enduring, haunting and disturbing stories and poems.

January 19, 2009 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Edgar Allan Poe. Authorized by Congress to interpret Edgar Allan Poe's place in literary history, (EDAL) and the Friends of Poe will host a diverse calendar of speakers and performances throughout 2009. The Friends of Poe, under the umbrella of Friends of Independence (National Historical Park), will also host writing and art contests.

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The centerpiece to the celebration will be the installation and unveiling of new exhibits at the site to commemorate Poe's legacy. The Official Friends of Poe bicentennial birthday party will be held on Friday, January 16, from 5:30 to 8:00 pm at the German Society, 7th and Spring Garden Streets. New exhibits at the Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site will be unveiled on January 17, 2009, Poe's birthday weekend. Competitions for students from the Art Institute to create a new Poe poster and writing contests for Philadelphia High School students will be offered by the Friends of Poe.

Many other organizations throughout the city will commemorate Poe in diverse and creative ways throughout 2009. For full details of the events planned for Poe's Bicentennial, visit [www.nps.gov/inde](http://www.nps.gov/inde).

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