



## The Austin Club



## Ghost Stories

We all know there's no such thing as ghosts, right? Tell that to some of the members and club's staff; especially when they close up at night.

A building 120 years old is bound to have some unexplained creaks and groans.

After all, thousands of members, guests and employees have passed through these doors since The Austin Club moved here in 1980. And many thousands before that, since the Millett Opera House was built in 1878. Lily Langtry, William Jennings Bryan, Edwin Booth, John Phillip Sousa are just some who entertained turn-of-the-century Texans. More contemporary stars have included Heather Locklear, Peter Strauss, and Farrah Fawcett.

But we digress. This Halloween story is about The Third Floor Ghost, affectionately dubbed "Priscilla."

No documentation has been found, but legend has it that she was a heartbroken actress (some say opera singer) who threw herself to her death from the rafters of the opera house over a hundred years ago.

Several employees and members have seen, or felt, her. As the staff closes up at night, Priscilla rides the elevators. No one else is in the building. Mischievous, she likes to pull all of the curtains out of the tie-backs. One longtime employee reports that when exiting the elevator to the third floor, a powerful force flipped the plate he was carrying onto the carpet. The room was ice-cold, and something or someone pushed past him and spun him around.

What does the ghost look like? The few who have seen her describe a flowing cream colored or black gown, accented by a huge gold medallion around her neck. A distraught senator once ran downstairs after hosting a fundraiser on the third floor. "I saw her! I saw the ghost!" he swore. He had not been drinking.

Are ghosts part of the rich heritage of The Austin Club and Millett Opera House, or is this all just coincidence?