



CASE: The Princess Theater

LOCATION: Australia

We've received several calls about a stranger prowling in the Princess Theater in Melbourne. It is supposedly haunted by a ghost named Frederici. According to legend, Frederick Baker, or "Frederici", was an Italian singer who died on stage in 1888. He was finishing a performance when a trapdoor dropped beneath his feet and he fell beneath the stage, dying from a heart attack. For many years, the Princess Theater saved an open seat for Frederici at every opening-night performance.

WITNESS: Patricia Ashwood, season ticket holder:

I was attending the opera on a very quiet evening. The theater was only half-filled, and there was no one sitting on either side of me as the show opened. However, throughout the performance, I would catch a man sitting next to me out of the corner of my eye. Like I said, no one was sitting in the seats next to me, so I found this very odd. When I turned around to look at him, I saw that the seat next to me was empty! I'd go back to watching the performance but after a while, I'd spy him again, just within my peripheral vision. Each time I turned to look, however, there was no one there.

WITNESS: Jessica Cassidy, actress:

My friend was coming to pick me up, and as a surprise, he came in to watch me finish rehearsing. I was so wrapped up in my practice that didn't see him come in, but I just as I was finishing the scene I heard a huge crash. A piece of wood had fallen from the ceiling, landing right behind him. There was my friend, sitting in right in Frederici's seat, his face frozen in shock. I just laughed and told him to switch seats. On the way home I told him the story of Frederici, and he said, "Well, find someone else to give you a ride next time!"

How was Patricia's experience different from Jessica's? Write your thoughts in the space below.

.....

.....

.....

Now, write three questions you have for Patricia and three questions you have for Jessica.

PATRICIA:

JESSICA:

