

Trina Beck brings 'Addams' matriarch to life

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In Rivertown Theaters' production of *The Addams Family*, clockwise from top right, Newcomb-Tulane College's Trina Beck (Morticia), Christian Collins (Pugsley), Madison Kerth (Wednesday) and Johnny Lee Missakian (Gomez) are a frightfully fun foursome. (Photo by John Barrois)

If the character Morticia Addams had been provided the chance to choose an actor to continue her legacy in Rivertown Theaters' production of [The Addams Family](#), she may have gone with Newcomb-Tulane College's talented [Trina Beck](#).

While Beck's extensive theatrical background prepares her well for the production, the eerie and satirical nature of *The Addams Family* coincides directly with her love

for all things spooky. Having played other sepulchral archetypes from real-life actress Eleonora Duse to *King Lear*'s Regan, and with a history of Tim Burton-inspired Halloween costumes such as Sally from *The Nightmare Before Christmas* and Lydia Deetz from *Beetlejuice*, Beck says, "I almost feel like I'm typecast a little bit."

Director [Gary Rucker](#) says, "I knew I couldn't do this show without certain people, and Trina is just one of them. It was a no-brainer." Rucker, a senior professor of practice in the Tulane Department of Theatre and Dance, teaches Fundamentals of Acting.

Not only does Beck's quirky personality make her perfect for this role, her love for the theater is an asset of its own. Between her duties as [assistant dean for programs](#) and her responsibilities as a parent, Beck finds tranquility within the theater.

"When I'm onstage, it's the only time when I'm not thinking about anything else. Interacting with the audience and feeding off their energy is really a sense of peace for me."

With its amazing cast, an extensive background set and intense costume designs, this musical adaptation of *The Addams Family* promises to capture the essence of cartoonist Charles Addams' original kooky characters, while also incorporating references to the well-loved TV and movie adaptations.

The Addams Family opens Friday (Nov. 6) and runs through Nov. 22 at The [Rivertown Theaters for the Performing Arts](#) at 325 Minor St. in Kenner, Louisiana.

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