

SYNOPSIS OF **The House on Poe Street**

(A full length comic drama in one act; nine scenes; 95 minutes)

TIME: the present and recent past

PLACE:

New York City: the meeting room of The Jupiter Investment Club, the parlor of a town home on Edgar Allan Poe Street, and a dark corner of William Wilson's Tavern.

CHARACTERS:

MENDEL STEINGOLD, a real estate lawyer, age 30

SAMARIA SILVERMAN, Mendel's girlfriend, a teacher age 27

LAWRENCE SILVERMAN, Samaria's brother, a graduate student, age 24

ASTIN RUTHERFORD, Lawrence's friend, a graduate student, age 24

ARGONNE SEABORG, a polymathic prodigy, raised in London, age 23

FLUORINE SEABORG, her equally endowed twin sister, raised in London, age 23

LITHIA NICKELS, a middle-aged psychic medium

SYNOPSIS: Mendel Steingold, a prosperous real estate lawyer, is addressing his investment club, explaining his decision to resign. Eight months ago, he was escorting the British twins, Argonne and Fluorine Seaborg, to their new home on Edgar Allan Poe Street. The sisters inherited the house from their estranged American mother, a molecular endocrinologist who employed the process of gene editing to bestow unique gifts on her daughters, making them preternaturally proficient in the arts, sciences, and possessors of eidetic memories. The sisters are enamored of their new home, and since it's reputed to be where Poe composed "The Raven" they decide to turn the house into a museum. They soon discover the house to be haunted by a spirit believed to be Poe's wife, Virginia, who plays the harp and fills empty cups with a liquid that appears to contain a new element the sisters name Virginium. Mendel's fiancée, Samaria, becomes enamored of the twins while Mendel becomes increasingly hostile, and the house begins to seem menacing and oppressive. Eventually, Mendel's quarrels with Samaria cause them to separate, while experiments with the Virginium lead to tragic consequences, forcing the twins to abandon their home. They leave the deed to Mendel who is eager to exorcise its demons, then sell to whomever dares to dwell in the house on Poe Street.

THEMES: *The House on Poe Street* attempts to reflect Poe's macabre spirit while exploring issues of gender parity, the presumptions of wealth, and the power of poetry to conjure visions of a spectral afterlife.

