

## Haunted Place #2: The Alley of Death - Location of the Iroquois Theater Fire



In December of 1803, a fire broke out in a crowded theater. It was a children's production - Mr. Bluebeard. Though the theater was brand-new and the builders proclaimed it "fire proof", sadly, it was not. The curtain that separated the stage from the audience was made primarily of wood pulp and asbestos, two materials that are of no use when it comes to being flame retardant. In addition, much of the theater was constructed of wood, so the fire ripped through the building like a matchbox.

So, why did over 600 people die? Because there weren't proper exits.

The emergency exits were locked which meant that only one main door could be used to escape the suffocating flames. When that door was opened, it created a fireball that incinerated everyone nearby. The fire escapes were not complete either, which gave those who managed to make it onto them only two choices: wait for the fire to reach them, or jump to the alley below.

The alley of Death is *THAT* alley. Many who visit it feel a sense of foreboding surrounding them and several have reported hearing voices, seeing apparitions and having strange lights appear in photos they've taken there.

Check out the following website for more details on the Iroquois Theater Fire:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/politics/chi-chicagodays-iroquoisfire-story-story.html>

Below is an *AMAZING* documentary on the Iroquois Theater fire, produced by a 12 year old! Check it out!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKOKWenU8nA>

