

HALLOWEEN '96 MARKET STREET HOUSE



By Snarly D, photos by LSD Blurry

It had been stormy the previous week, but you could feel it in the air—the vibes were WAY different from last year. Good things were afoot. Sweet, gooey good things. Good things with a capital CH. The rain had fallen, the clouds had gathered, the wind had blown. But when all was said and done, Halloween morning arrived with a beautifully quiet bang of blue skies and still air. Not a shirt was stirring, not even a blouse...

Anticipation was the thickest cloud on the horizon, and it was time for the Market Street House to don its sugar coat.

Leslie and I had decided that this was the year to pull the CANDY theme out from under the cobwebs, where it had been aging like a fine bottle of wine for

several years. The last and best GREAT THEME. Hershey, bar the door. Don't ask me why, I guess we just nougat this was the year. Better (choc)late than never was our thinking. Ideas were bounced around, agreed upon, tossed out and started on. What began early in September on paper became a full on sugar blitz by Halloween, and with the help of some friends, was up and spinning by just before sundown—that magic crack of orange time between light and dark. The window of the Market Street Halloween Art Installation is very brief and very intense. It generally starts about 5:30, just as it's turning dark, and rolls along like an out-of-control train until the kids are gone at about 8:30-9:00. Those two or three hours are always worth the weeks of preparation and this year was no exception.

I must say, I was blown away by the sheer numbers of costumed kids that

came trick or treating this year. It was really quite a sight about 7:00 o'clock or so. Tons of kids, and everybody having a great time. Some of them even seemed to like the toothbrushes we were handing out as treats. (We handed out candy, too!)

The night before, a large contingent of carvers produced the best family of Jack-O-Lanterns the House had seen in years. This was the first year, however, that they were displayed to full advantage. To have them all grouped together was a very cool and impressive sight, and should become an Installation tradition.

We had always maintained that "CANDY" was going to be the last big Halloween theme, and I believe it was. From now on, a more cerebral and unassociated color/sound collage will be more in order. Of course, the Cob/Betsy/De Los Muertos porch theme will always continue to evolve in great ways.

The unsung hero of the Market Street Halloween Art Installation has always been and continues to be Leslie, who is responsible for many of the ideas and much of the work that goes into them year after year. Not to mention her always excellent photography. She casts a very bright orange light indeed.

Well, it was a good one this year. The soundtrack was a cacophony of every Candy/Sugar/Honey song we could find in a month and a half, and the Zoetrope movie really did look like a flying candy cane. As Joey said, "I'm starting to feel very small!" That's how big the candy was, folks!

A small footnote! The morning after, the candy bars made the best roadblock Market Street has seen in years. We stretched them across the road, and traffic DID stop! Then we stomped them all. Even then they were cool...Just a bunch of discarded candy wrappers being hauled to recycling...

Special thanks to J&J Central, J&J South, Greg, Charlie, and of course, THE PUMPKIN POSSE.



The Candy Colored Clown would have been proud! Many a wide eye and big smile were in attendance at this year's installation.



All through the night Cob reminisced about Betsy and their long trip west.

A serious pumpkin family reunion. It seemed like everyone was there!



Here are just a few of the hundreds of costumed kids that came by Market Street House this year. We were especially impressed when the Beatles and their manager paid a visit.

