

A spooky start for Salem

By Mark Shanahan & Meredith Goldstein

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The Salem Theatre Company has announced dates for its first play of the 2011-2012 season, "The Woman in Black."

We expect that there will be a lot of extra excitement about this production - maybe even from teens - because "Harry Potter" star Daniel Radcliffe will star in a film adaptation of the play with Ciarán Hinds next year. (Hinds played Dumbledore's brother in the last installment of "Potter.")

Salem Theatre Company executive director Gary LaPearl told us that he didn't know about the movie when he first chose the production but agreed that it's a nice coincidence for the local cast.

"It might be fun for some people to compare the two," he said via e-mail.

In Salem's production, which runs Sept. 29 to Oct. 15, the leads will be played by Allen Vietzke of Salem and David Allen George of South Hamilton. "The Woman in Black" is a spooky play based on a spookier novel by Susan Hill.