

Ancestor Suite

Ancestor Suite is loosely based on Edgar Allen Poe's *The Fall of the House of Usher*. Eddie Poe has arrived at Usher House to visit his old schoolchum Roderick Usher and his twin sister Madeline. A ball has been organized in his honor. The dancers are the spectral ancestors of the Usher line, led by the founder of the Covenant that has given them immortality, Lord Primus Usher. Poe and Roderick watch. Madeline enters in her nightclothes. She is mad, but pure, like Ophelia; she has refused to sign the Covenant. The ancestors, apart from Primus, shrink back in terror. Madeline gives Poe a flower, and dances with Roderick (Madeline). The ancestors clap soundlessly. She then dances with Poe (Ewig Du), but begins hearing a wilder tune, and dances to it alone. She falls at a climax, and Primus indicates that she is dead.

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