

Press Release

Casting the Runes *Occult Investigation in the World of M.R. James*

The Design Mechanism & Quills Media Team Up

*Casting the Runes brings classic supernatural stories to roleplaying games:
RPG recreates the ghostly Edwardian world of M.R. James*

Toronto and London, July 26th, 2019.

The Design Mechanism Inc., publishers of acclaimed roleplaying game *Mythras*, and *Quills Media Ltd.* are delighted to announce that The Design Mechanism will be acting as publisher for *Casting the Runes: Occult Investigation in the World of M.R. James*, a roleplaying game written and developed by Quills Media, based on the classic tales of the supernatural by British scholar and author, *M.R. James*.

Using the *GUMSHOE* investigative roleplaying system developed by Robin D. Laws and Kenneth Hite, and published by *Pelgrane Press*, players in *Casting the Runes* take on the roles of investigators at the turn of the 20th century, researching antiquarian mysteries and occult practices, and unearthing (as M.R. James himself describes it): “malevolence and terror, the glare of evil faces, ‘the stony grin of unearthly malice,’ pursuing forms in darkness, and ‘long-drawn, distant screams’.”

Paul StJohn Mackintosh, the game’s author, said: “M.R. James wrote some of the most powerful, enduring, horror stories in the English language. These tales have been crying out for a game to embody them and recreate the kind of horror that M.R. James excelled at; the chill, atmospheric, measured, often quiet escalation towards something genuinely horrifying.”

“As huge fans of M.R. James’s work, the opportunity to publish a game based on these outstanding tales was one we couldn’t resist,” said *Lawrence Whitaker*, Director of The Design Mechanism. “Paul and the Quills Media team have done a wonderful job of representing James’s stories, both in terms of interpretation and presentation. We are thrilled to be able to help bring *Casting the Runes* to publication.”

A *Kickstarter* campaign to launch *Casting the Runes* will be forthcoming, and will focus on funding artwork and print options for the rulebook. “All the work, including the layout, is complete,” Whitaker said. “But we want to run a crowdfunding campaign to source the kind of art that truly conveys the unique atmosphere of M.R. James’s stories, and produce a print version that will look quite at home on the bookshelves of antiquarians, James aficionados, and discerning gamers alike.”

Updates on the progress of *Casting the Runes: Occult Investigation in the World of M.R. James* will be made via The Design Mechanism’s website, forums, newsletter, and facebook page.

For enquiries about this and other projects, please contact Lawrence Whitaker at designmechanism@gmail.com.

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