

PROGRAM GUIDE 2017



M I D - A T L A N T I C

NOSTALGIA

C O N V E N T I O N

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M I D - A T L A N T I C N O S T A L G I A C O N V E N T I O N

IMPORTANT!

None of us really grow up. All we ever do is learn how to behave in public. So here are a few reminders you need to know this weekend. Take 30 seconds and review our guidelines:

-- Lost and Found is located at the registration desk. Lost something? Ask at the registration desk. Found something? Take it to the registration desk.

-- Yes, you can eat and drink in the movie room and presentation room. Please do not leave trash and empty containers in the room. (We do not want to create obstacle courses for others.)

-- Please do not text or answer your phone in the movie room or during the slide show presentations.

-- If you have a smart phone you can text us anytime during the weekend (text, do not call) with a question and we will send you an answer. 443-286-6821

-- Sign up for our e-mail newsletter. You can do this on the bottom of any page of the convention web-site. It is free and we will not sell or give out your e-mail address. You can also sign up for the mailing list. There are two tables here at the convention where you can do that. If you moved to a new address, or changed your e-mail address within the past year, provide the updated one.



M I D - A T L A N T I C N O S T A L G I A C O N V E N T I O N

INTRODUCTION



This introduction will serve as the annual shareholder report to everyone who owns a financial stake in the Mid-Atlantic Nostalgia Convention ... and that starts with you. In fact, everyone who attends the convention this weekend has invested both time and money. Travel, gas, tolls, hotel, and admission are all expenses that have to be taken into consideration. Believe me, since Day One, my wife and I have always been aware that every single attendee has an investment in this venture. In past years, we have seen attendees fly in from Finland, Belgium, Canada, France, England, Australia, and other parts of the globe. It is for this reason that we want to make absolutely sure that the seminars, film screenings, vendors, and celebrities are worth the time and expense that you have invested. You have expectations and our goal is to consistently exceed them.

Obviously, putting on a convention of this magnitude costs money. The hotel charges us a fee for use of its facilities. Television commercials, promotional flyers, and program guides like the one you're holding in your hand right now all come with a price. Celebrity airfare and hotel accommodations have to be paid by the convention. Our only profit, besides the rental of vendor tables, comes from the sale of admission tickets. This is the reason that it's so important to us that you recommend the Nostalgia Con to family and friends. Last year's attendance broke new records and this year we expect the crowd to grow in size again.

Feel proud of what you've accomplished. We credit the success of MANC entirely to you, the attendee, who promoted the event for us throughout the past year. Be sure to enjoy your dividends throughout this weekend. You yourself paid for admission. Make the best of it and take time to enjoy a seminar or two... or three. (Remember, there is always a lot more to our show than celebrities and vendors.)

The Mid-Atlantic Nostalgia Convention is one of the largest gatherings on the East Coast where everyone shares a common interest—an annual family reunion where no one is blood-related. This is the weekend where we learn what's been happening in the hobby during the past year, examine vintage treasures on vendor tables, and continue to hang out with friends we see only once or twice a year. If you haven't done so, consider exchanging e-mail addresses, and accept friend requests on Facebook, as so many have already done. That will give you yet another reason to look forward to next year's event.

If you have any suggestions, never hesitate to e-mail us. Members of staff wear fluorescent green shirts and they are here to serve you, because it's YOUR show. On behalf of myself, my wife, and the entire convention staff, thank you very much for your support and attendance. Remember, our bottom line on this entire venture is for you to enjoy the show! Welcome.

— Michelle and Martin Grams

ERIK ESTRADA



Erik Estrada may be known for playing Officer Francis Llewelyn "Ponch" Poncherello on the television police drama *Chips*, which ran from 1977 to 1983, but he later became known for his work in Spanish-language telenovelas, his appearances in reality television shows and as a regular voice on the *Adult Swim* series *Sealab 2021*, as well as the movie *Cool Cat Saves The Kids*. Most people might not be aware of this fun fact: In 1979, Estrada was voted one of "The 10 Sexiest Bachelors in the World" by *People* magazine and was featured on the cover of the November issue.

LARRY WILCOX



Larry Wilcox beat 300 actors to win the co-star role on *Lassie* in 1970. He then went on to guest star in many popular TV shows from *M*A*S*H**, *Love Boat*, *Police Story*, *Room 222*, *The Partridge Family* and *Hawaii Five-0*. He was subsequently picked to co-star in *Chips* with Erik Estrada which he did for five years and the show was syndicated in 100 foreign countries. Science-fiction fans who enjoyed *The Ray Bradbury Theatre* on HBO and USA for five years (1985-1992) will be pleased to know that Wilcox was responsible for the development of that series, for which he served as an executive producer.

AILEEN QUINN



While in New York City, she auditioned and landed the role of the "swing orphan" (understudy to all of the orphans except Molly and Annie) in the Broadway production of *Annie*. After almost a year of a grueling audition process, and up against over 8,000 other competitors, Quinn received the title role in the 1982 film version, directed by John Huston. She earned two Golden Globe nominations and win for "Best Actress" from the Youth in Film Awards. Ever wondered what would become of Little Orphan Annie when she grew up and moved out of the mansion owned by Daddy Warbucks? She formed her own Rockabilly, Swing, Blues band known as "Aileen Quinn and The Leapin' Lizards."

SHIRLEY JONES

In her six decades of show business, Shirley Jones starred as wholesome characters in a number of well-known musical films, including *Oklahoma!* (1955), *Carousel* (1956) and *The Music Man* (1962). She won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for playing a vengeful prostitute in *Elmer Gantry* (1960). She played the lead role of Shirley Partridge, the widowed mother of five children, in the television series *The Partridge Family* (1970–74), which co-starred her real-life stepson David Cassidy.



PAUL PETERSEN

He began his show business career at the age of ten as a Mouseketeer on *The Mickey Mouse Club*. Playing opposite numerous Hollywood leads, including Sophia Loren and Cary Grant in *Houseboat* (1958), was nothing compared to the stardom he achieved playing teenager Jeff Stone on *The Donna Reed Show*. Throughout eight seasons and decades of reruns in syndication, *The Donna Reed Show* became part of American pop culture. Disney fans know Peterson for his role of Tony Biddle in the 1967 musical film *The Happiest Millionaire*.



CINDY WILLIAMS

In 1975, Cindy Williams was cast as a fun-loving brewery worker, Shirley Feeney, in an episode of *Happy Days*, alongside Penny Marshall, who played her best friend and roommate Laverne De Fazio. The girls were introduced as female companions of Fonzie, and their appearance proved so popular that Garry Marshall, producer of *Happy Days* and Penny Marshall's brother, commissioned a spin-off for the characters. Williams continued her role on the very successful *Laverne & Shirley* from 1976 until 1982. Her credits also include such cult classics as *American Graffiti* (1973) and *The Conversation* (1974). Interesting trivia: Cindy Williams auditioned for the role of Princess Leia and lost out to Carrie Fisher.



PATRICK DUFFY



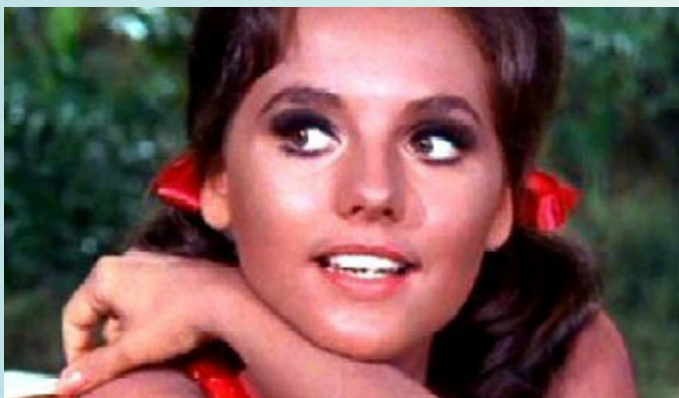
In 1976, Patrick Duffy landed the role of Mark Harris in the short-lived television series, *The Man From Atlantis*. Considered by fanboys as a superior series that should have continued beyond four movies and 13 television episodes, the series' cancellation provided Duffy with the chance to play Bobby Ewing, opposite Barbara Bel Geddes and Larry Hagman, on the soap opera *Dallas*. The program became a runaway hit and despite its success, Duffy opted to leave the series in 1985 with his character being killed off. He also appeared in several episodes of the spin-off series, *Knots Landing*, between 1979–82, and *Step by Step* (1991–1998). The actor recently truned author with his first of three *Man from Atlantis* novels, providing an origin story for Mark Harris that was never dramatized on the TV program.

BELINDA MONTGOMERY



You can always find Belinda Montgomery guesting somewhere on television, especially as a vulnerable innocent in crime outings such as *Mannix*, *Cannon* and *Barnaby Jones*. She was the recurring love interest of Sonny Crockett on *Miami Vice*, Doogie Howser's mother on *Doogie Howser, M.D.* and as the scientist who rescues and protects superhuman Patrick Duffy in *The Man From Atlantis*. Her recent visit before the camera was in the movie *Tron: Legacy* (2010).

DAWN WELLS



Ask anyone who they liked better, Ginger or Mary Ann, and Dawn Wells always wins the prize. She was everyone's sweetheart who dominated the screen on *Gilligan's Island*. After all, Mary Ann would show up to distribute warm chocolate chip cookies to the castaways – allowing for suspension of disbelief when it comes to questioning where one gets chocolate chips on a deserted island. In 2005, *TV Guide* ranked Wells among the “50 Sexiest Stars of All Time” list. In May 2016, she was named Marketing Ambassador to the MeTV Network.

MARYAM D'ABO

Maryam d'abo starred as Bond girl Kara Milvoy in *The Living Daylights* (1987), the sweet and vulnerable Czechoslovakian cellist and sniper who falls for Timothy Dalton's James Bond. As a tie-in with the film, she also appeared in a Bond-themed *Playboy* cover and multi-page pictorial in the September 1987 issue, but later said in an interview with *People* magazine: "I wouldn't do those pictures now... I've learned a lot since then." Science-fiction fans know her well as Ta'Ra, an alien medical officer in the science-fiction TV miniseries *Something Is Out There* (1988).



OLIVIA D'ABO

Olivia d'abo is probably most widely known for her role as the "favorite older sister" Karen Arnold in the Emmy Award winning TV show *The Wonder Years*. Fans of the 1984 Arnold Schwarzenegger classic, *Conan the Destroyer*, know her well as Princess Jehnna. Real life cousin to Bond girl Maryam, who is also coming to the show this weekend, Olivia's notable recurring TV credits include *Law and Order: Criminal Intent* as the infamous and villainous 'Nicole Wallace,' who returns in flashbacks to torture Goren in his therapy sessions. In the animation world she voices Jedi Luminara Unduli in the animated series, *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*.



MAX VESTERHALT

Her exquisite good looks led her into a life of modeling and acting. Famous for a widespread poster promoting Greek tourism, she was hired by Cubby Broccoli for the James Bond film, *For Your Eyes Only*. This will be Vesterhalt's first United States autograph signing for James Bond fans!



GARY CONWAY



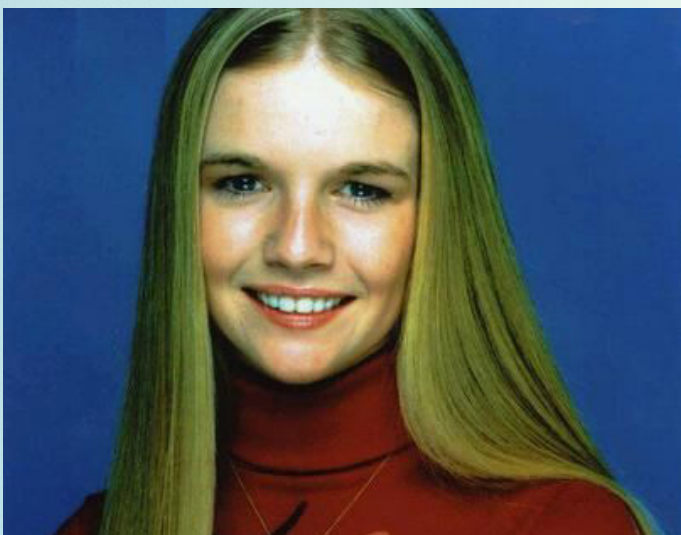
Anyone who watched television in the 1960s watched Gary Conway on a weekly basis. Among his credits include is a co-starring role with Gene Barry in the detective series, *Burke's Law*, from 1963-1965. Conway and Barry remained close friends until Barry's death in late 2009. From 1968 to 1970, he starred as Captain Steve Burton in the Irwin Allen sci-fi series *Land of the Giants*. Fans of science fiction classics know Gary as the monster in *I Was a Teenage Frankenstein* (1957). He then reprised the role for *How to Make a Monster* (1958).

TOMMY COOK



Spry, curly-haired, dark-complexioned child actor Tommy Cook's most famous roles happened during his nascent career in serial adventures. He came on the feature film scene auspiciously in the role of young Indian boy Little Beaver alongside western good guy 'Don 'Red' Barry in *The Adventure of Red Ryder* (1940), and followed that portraying Kimbu, the young jungle boy, alongside Frances Gifford's heroine Nyoka in *Jungle Girl* (1941). Tommy was a guest a couple years ago at the show and enjoyed his time so much he asked to come back.

GERI REISCHL



Geri Reischl is an American actress and singer, known for her work as a child actress in the 1970s, most notably as Jan Brady on the variety show *The Brady Bunch Hour*. Reischl began her career at the Melodyland Theatre in Anaheim, California, where she was discovered by a talent agent. She was immediately cast in a long series of commercials, including an extended contract with Mattel toys. This led to featured roles in the films *The Brotherhood of Satan* (1971) and *I Dismember Mama* (1972).

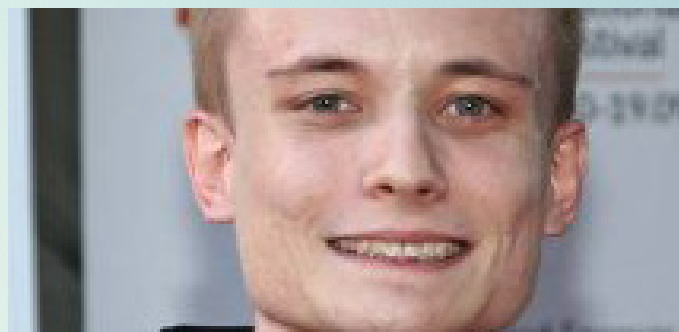
LARRY STORCH

Fans of classic TV loved his manic-looking comedic personality on episodic TV, including *The Phil Silvers Show* and *Car 54, Where Are You?* But Larry's biggest claim to fame would come via his role as Forrest Tucker's loyal but not particularly bright sidekick Cpl. Randolph Agarn in the western comedy *F Troop*. While continuing a film career working alongside Tony Curtis, James Garner and Eve Arden, Larry found a lucrative outlet in animation, giving vocal life to four decades' worth of cartoons, including the series *Tennessee Tuxedo and His Tales*, *The Pink Panther Show*, *Underdog*, and *Scooby Doo, Where Are You?* Larry was also the voice of The Joker on those classic 1960s Batman cartoons!



JEREMY AMBLER

Fans of *The Walking Dead* (presently the highest-rated cable television series although HBO's *Game of Thrones* is quickly catching up) will love chatting with Jeremy Ambler and find out what it takes to be a Walker on the program. Jeremy has an impressive list of credits to his name from *The Dukes of Hazzard* (2005) and *The Three Stooges* (2012). He frequently attends fan gatherings and performs zombie crawls in shopping malls during the Halloween holiday.



TAMMY LOCKE

At six years old, Tammy Locke played the lead of Amy Monroe on the short-lived and ever-popular television series, *The Monroes*. She was the youngest of a group of siblings who had to care for themselves in northwestern Wyoming in the Wild West. Recently released on DVD, *The Monroes* has found a new generation of faithful followers. *The Monroes* won a Western Heritage Award and the trophy is in the National Cowboy Hall of Fame. She was a Detroit Devil number 22 professional Roller Derby Queen and had her own radio show, and toured with the California Express. She appeared in *Once a Thief* with Ann-Margret and her final film appearance as a child actor was in *Hang 'Em High* which starred Clint Eastwood.



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Morgan Brittany
Dallas, Rawhide



Jim Chandler
Sinking Sand



Don Collier
High Chaparral



Geoffrey Deuel
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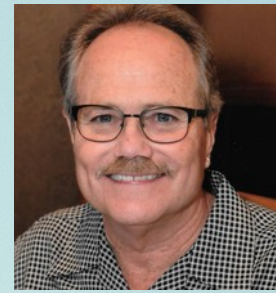
Kathy Garver
The Big Valley, Family Affair



Jenn Gotzon
God's Country, Doonby



BarBara Luna
Fire Creek, The Big Valley



Jon Provost
Lassie



Rudy Ramos
High Chaparral



Dodie Rogers
Daughter of Roy & Dale Evans Rogers



Chief Steve Silverheels
Son of Jay Silverheels



Cindy Smith
Singer/Song Writer

Special Appearance by Ronnie & Eleise Felker as Barney and Thelma Lou from Mayberry.

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RENFREW OF THE MOUNTED

BY MARTIN GRAMS, JR.

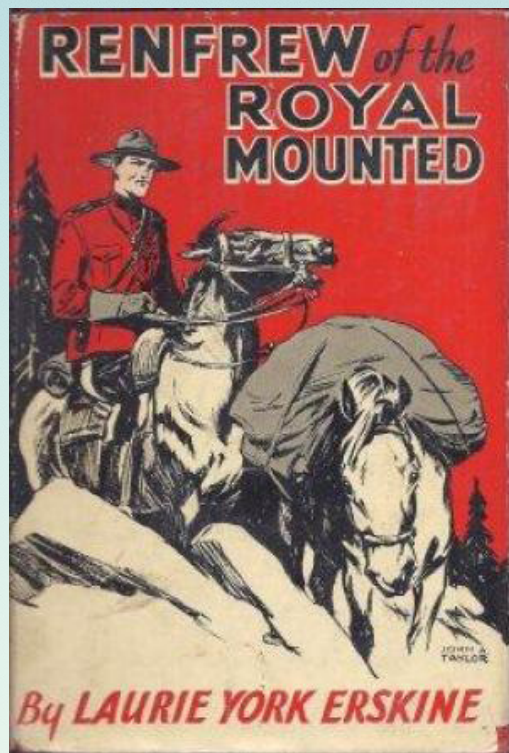
Almost everyone reading this article knows of *Sergeant Preston of the Yukon* who, along with wonder dog King, went up against claim jumpers, illegal fur trappers, diamond thieves and murderers in the snowy wilderness of the Yukon. Fewer know of *Renfrew of the Mounted*, the first of Canadian Mountie pop culture and who set the standard for all others to follow. Renfrew was the brain child of Laurie York Erskine, a former combat flyer during World War I, with fascination of legend and lore of Canadian Mounties that inspired him to write a number of fantastic adventures. After spending a few months above the U.S.-Canadian border to ride alongside the Mounties, he gathered material for the short stories he wrote and submitted to *American Boy* magazine.

It should be noted that Erskine, a journalist for the *Battle Creek Enquirer*, supplemented his income by hammering away at the typewriter a large number of stories for pulp magazines, including combat stories of daring air hawks during the war. He wrote a number of adventure stories featuring an assortment of recurring heroes, including other Canadian Mounties, but none were more successful than Douglas Renfrew of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police. By Erskine's own admittance, Renfrew was based on the heroic exploits of Inspector Alfred Herbert Joy of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, a pale reflection of whose gallant personality and indomitable spirit was presented within the Renfrew stories.

In 1922, Appleton-Century began publishing a series of full-length hardcover novels, the first titled *Renfrew of the Mounted*. Erskine simply took the short stories published prior in *American Boy* and tweaked the opening and closing of various chapters to provide the illusion of continuity between the pages. The first novel consisted of Renfrew merely taking a number of young boys on a camping trip, recollecting stories along the way of other Canadian Mounties and their adventures.

Slightly misleading if the reader was to assume Renfrew would have been the hero throughout, based on the title of the novel. Beginning with the second novel, Renfrew was the heroic figurehead, exchanging fisticuffs with criminals. Using up the remaining Renfrew stories, Erskine recycled his flying aces pulp stories for the tenth and final novel, *Renfrew Rides the Sky*, published in 1928. For the final novel, the names of figureheads were merely changed to the name of Renfrew, providing background on the Canadian Mountie's contributions to the war before his days

as a lawman. The novels come recommended – the prose is magnificent and the stories aspire intelligence; they are not dumbed down for children.



In January/February 1936, the advertising agency of Batten, Barton, Durstine & Osborn struck upon the idea of adapting the Renfrew character for radio. Erskine received a royalty for use of the character and Erskine himself provided four, five and six-page plot synopsis for the radio scribe who adapted the prose into script form. Actor House Jameson, playing supporting roles on the New York stage, added income to his pocket by accepting the title role. *Renfrew of the Mounted* lasted two years as a 15-minute, five-a-week serial, with commercial copy promoting the wholesome benefits of Wonder Bread, made with bleached white flour, fortified with 12 vitamins and minerals. (Today we know that white flour is transformed into fat, just like sugar, and is the last thing you want to feed your children.)

Towards the end of the run, Erskine expressed disappointment in the direction the radio plots were going. Possibly inspired by *Jack Armstrong, the All-American Boy*, Renfrew's wilderness adventures along Canadian pine had ventured to "The Sunken City of the Arctic," and the Canadian Mountie was combatting a mad scientist and lizard men. The script writer moved on to other radio projects



while Erskine himself took over the assignment of writing the radio scripts. He quickly wrote a conclusion to the serial and took Renfrew back to the Canadian wilderness. The new story arc would be short-lived as Erskine concluded *Renfrew of the Mounted* at the end of the 13-week contractual cycle.

The program returned a year later as a half-hour weekly adventure series, lasting a full year (1939-40). No longer in serial format, the program offered such classics as "The Rainbow River Gang," and "Danger on the Trail Behind." In August of 1941, Erskine narrated a daily 15-minute series, *Passport to Adventure*, featuring historical dramas and wilderness adventure, incorporating a Renfrew story every two or three weeks among the mix.

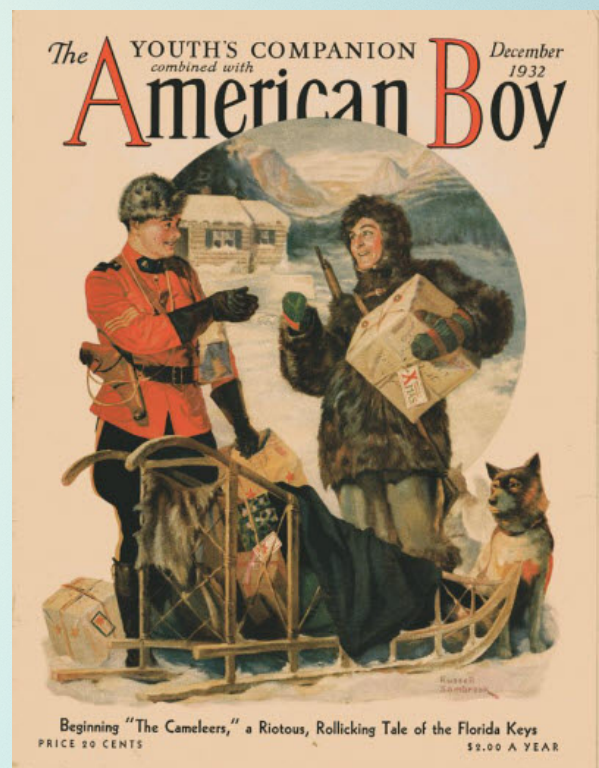


As a result of the radio program, *Renfrew of the Mounted* became an officially-licensed property with a series of eight feature-length motion-pictures produced by Criterion Pictures and Monogram Studios, beginning in 1938. (Oddly, the producers felt it necessary to have Renfrew singing a couple songs in each movies, ala screen cowboys or *Rose Marie*.) By then it seemed every ambitious producer in Hollywood wanted their own Canadian Mountie series – even Russell Hayden, Dick Foran and Charles Starrett got into the act. By 1941, however, cow-

boy westerns were in demand and Canadian Mountie stories had become passé.

During World War II, Erskine became a flight instructor, stationed in Hawaii. He eventually became a major in the 38th Anti-Aircraft Brigade from 1944 to 1945, and after being awarded the Bronze Star was discharged in 1946. When he returned to the United States, he found it extremely difficult to sell *Renfrew of the Mounted* to radio. It seems a Canadian Mountie by the name of Sgt. Frank Preston had become syndicated across the nation and there was only room for one Mountie. Erskine spent a devil of a time trying to revive his property, even with recorded auditions and a 1956 television pilot starring Arthur Franz in the lead. An attempt to revive the program in the 1980s with a made-for-TV movie, *Renfrew: The Next Generation*, never met fruition.

The story of *Renfrew of the Mounted* has since fallen into obscurity, except for the eight low-budget motion-pictures, which have since fallen into the public domain and been released on DVD through multiple venues and channels. A number of archives have recently turned up and more than 700 radio scripts, two dozen recordings, and hundreds of archival documents and photographs have been digitized in the hopes that a licensed book chronicling the history of Renfrew is published next year. Father Time may not have been kind to a long-running and popular children's program but the fictional hero who inspired a generation will soon receive his due.



SEMINARS

THURSDAY

9:00 am, THE HISTORY OF THE FOX FILM CORPORATION

Jump-starting the convention is one of the highlights of the weekend, a history of the Fox Film Corporation, through slide show presentation by author and historian Merrill T. McCord. Merrill spent decades combing archives across the country, screening every surviving film produced but the studio, and unearthed factoids that most film historians knew nothing about. His book, *William Fox and the Fox Film Corporation: A Biography and a Chronicle* (2016), will be available for sale after the slide show.

10:00 a.m., WHEN WE'RE SINGIN'— The Partridge Family and Their Music

A photo presentation, talk, and Q&A will be given, showcasing each of the 10 Partridge Family albums that were released over a four-year period between 1970-1974 and revealing behind the scenes information on the making of each album, the cast and the singers and musicians who worked night and day producing this music. Never-before-seen photographs by David Cassidy's personal photographer, Henry Diltz, will also be presented.

11:00 a.m., INTERVIEW WITH CELEBRITY CHILD ACTORS

A full hour of Q&A with our celebrity guests. The theme of this hour is child stars. Join Paul Petersen (*The Donna Reed Show*), Geri Reischl (*The Brady Bunch Hour*), Aileen Quinn (*Annie*) and Tammy Locke (*The Monroes*) as they answer questions about their careers.



12:00 noon, HANNA-BARBERA: The Architects of Saturday Morning

Before the rise of basic cable, Saturday mornings for many children in America were spent watching cartoons on one of three available television channels. From 1958 through the 1980s, a majority of those cartoons bore the imprint of Hanna-Barbera. Creating scores of popular series such as *The Yogi Bear Show*, *The Flintstones*, *The Jetsons*, *Jonny Quest*, and *Scooby-Doo*, Hanna-Barbera was an animation powerhouse and its bountiful creativity is beloved to this day. Presentation by Jesse Kowalski, Curator of Exhibitions, Norman Rockwell Museum.

3:30 pm, THE GOTHAM RADIO PLAYERS

The Gotham Radio Players specialize in performing reenactments of "lost" radio scripts from the Golden Age



of Radio, programs for which no recording exists. Among the shows the group recreated were episodes from the detective adventures of *The Adventures of Sam Spade*, *Nick Carter*, *Master Detective*, *The Green Lama* and *The Amazing Mr. Malone*. This year the troupe performs a "lost" episode from *Tales of the Texas Rangers* titled "Strange Confession," from January 28, 1951.

4:15 pm, INTERVIEW WITH TELEVISION STARS

Television legends and icons will be the theme for a full hour as Dawn Wells (*Gilligan's Island*), Cindy Williams (*Laverne & Shirley*), Jeremy Ambler (*The Walking Dead*) and Gary Conway (*Land of the Giants*) answer questions from the audience about their screen careers.

5:30 pm, INTERVIEW WITH SHIRLEY JONES

A full hour with screen legend Shirley Jones. With six decades in show business you can imagine the stories she has to share. Hosted by Tom Doty, who will also field questions from the audience.

7:00 pm, THE HISTORY OF THE SHADOW

Originally a mysterious radio narrator who hosted a program designed to promote magazine sales for Street and Smith Publications, *The Shadow* was developed into a distinctive literary character, later to become a pop culture icon, by writer Walter B. Gibson in 1931. A brief rundown of the character from radio, pulps, motion-pictures and comics, author Ed Hulse will provide a fascinating look back at a pulp hero who continues to inspire and entertain.

8:00 pm, THE HISTORY OF "THE BODY SNATCHER"

Hosted by film historian Gregory William Mank. In 1945, RKO released a horror classic from Val Lewton, the final film to feature both Bela Lugosi and Boris Karloff. A ruthless doctor and his young prize student find themselves continually harassed by their murderous supplier of illegal cadavers. If you look carefully you will notice the exteriors of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (1939) used in this movie. Cool trivia? Wait until you hear Greg Mank's talk about the production history of this classic.

9:00 pm, SPECIAL SCREENING OF THE BODY SNATCHER (1945)

FRIDAY



9:00 am, THE MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E.

Bill Parisho will provide a slide show presentation about the history of the television program. The two top agents of the United Network Command for Law and Enforcement fight the enemies of peace, particularly the forces of THRUSH. This presentation will also include a brief tribute to the late Robert Vaughn.

10:00 am, INTERVIEW WITH BOND GIRLS

A Bond Girl is defined as a female character who appeared in a James Bond novel, film or video game. Actresses who played love interests and/or female sidekicks or an enemy of James Bond in a motion-picture have become a member of an elite group known as "Bond Girls." Actresses Maryam D'abo (*THE LIVING DAYLIGHTS*), Max Vesterhalt (*FOR YOUR EYES ONLY*) and Olivia d'abo (*CONAN THE DESTROYER*) will discuss their film careers. Hosted by Tom Doty.

11:00 am, JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT WAS SAFE...

Author and film critic Michael A. Smith will give us a fascinating behind-the-scenes look at the making of two great horror movies, *JAWS* and *JAWS 2*. Watch any of these films today and you discover how they stand up to the test of time... and can still frighten a youngster who is reluctant to go into the water.

12:00 noon, COMING OF AGE: Rockwell's Children Grow Up

Perhaps no one defined childhood in the early 20th Century better than Norman Rockwell. Many of his early covers feature lighthearted scenes of youngsters playing, causing mischief, or being involved in humorous situations. Rockwell was branded as an illustrator of children during his early career and illustrated scores of paintings and drawings for children's magazines like *Youth's Companion*, *Everyland*, *American Boy*, *St. Nicholas*, and others, and briefly filled the role of Art Director of *Boys' Life* magazine, helping to shape the direction of the periodical in its early years. Hosted by Jesse Kowalski, Curator of Exhibitions, Norman Rockwell Museum.

1:00 p.m., OLD-TIME RADIO TRY-OUTS

Try your hand at playing a role on stage with script, sound effects and microphones. Open to anyone who attends the

tryouts at 12:30 p.m. Win the role and you get to perform on stage!

3:30 p.m., OLD-TIME RADIO RE-ENACTMENT

A half-hour drama of *Renfrew of the Mounted*, as originally broadcast 1939-40. The adventures of the fictional Royal Northwest Canadian Mountie have recently become the subject of rekindled interest to nostalgia buffs (see the article in this year's program guide) so we felt it necessary to take a moment and revisit one of his thrilling adventures.

4:15 pm, CHARITY AUCTION FOR THE ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL

Donations from attendees will be on display throughout Thursday and Friday. All items will be accepted and every dollar raised during the auction will help benefit children with treatable cancer. Bring your checkbook because your payment, should you bid on items yourself, is tax deductible! (Due to an overwhelming number of donations, items may be auctioned off in lots.)

5:30 pm, INTERVIEW WITH THE MAN FROM ATLANTIS

Television legends and icons will be the theme for a full hour as Patrick Duffy (*Dallas* and *The Man From Atlantis*), and Belinda Montgomery (*The Man From Atlantis* and *Doogie Howser, M.D.*) answer questions from the audience about their screen careers. Moderated by author Mel Simons.

6:30 pm, CHIPS Cast Reunion

Weekend celebrities Erik Estrada and Larry Wilcox will discuss their screen careers, what it took to portray California Highway Patrol police officers, and the stories that have come from their participation. Behind-The-Scenes stories will be told and questions will also be fielded from the audience. Hosted by Tom Doty.

7:30 pm, THE LIFE AND CAREER OF ROD SERLING

The man who brought you *The Twilight Zone* was also responsible for a weekly TV series, *The Loner*, along with *Night Gallery* and many other wickedly good fun. Historian Mike Pipher of The Bundy Museum will be offering us a unique take on Rod Serling, presenting rare film footage that has never been seen for decades.

SEMINARS

FRIDAY (CONTINUED)

9:00 pm, SPECIAL SCREENING: THE LIVING DAYLIGHTS

With celebrity guest Maryam d'Abo in attendance it seems only fitting that we screen the James Bond classic, *The Living Daylights*, on the big screen. James Bond is living on the edge to stop an evil arms dealer from starting another world war. Bond crosses all seven continents in order to stop the evil Whitaker and General Koskov.



SATURDAY

9:00 am, JFK, LBJ AND NASA IN THE 1960s

Hosted by author David Krell, this presentation will highlight the Mercury and Gemini missions under the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, the impact of America's space program on popular culture (e.g. *I Dream of Jeannie*, 2001) and the depiction of the 1960s space industry in literature and film (e.g., *The Right Stuff*, *From the Earth to the Moon*).

10:00 am, RADIO AND THE GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK

Radio historian and *Nostalgia Digest* publisher Steve Darnall looks at the role radio played in promoting the songs — and songwriters — whose work shaped The Great American Songbook, with samples of rare radio performances by George Gershwin, Cole Porter and others.

11:00 am, SUSPENSE: BEHIND THE SCENES OF RADIO'S GREAT ANTHOLOGY SERIES

Dr. Joe Webb presents a new perspective about radio's popular mystery, *Suspense*. Broadcast for 20 years over CBS



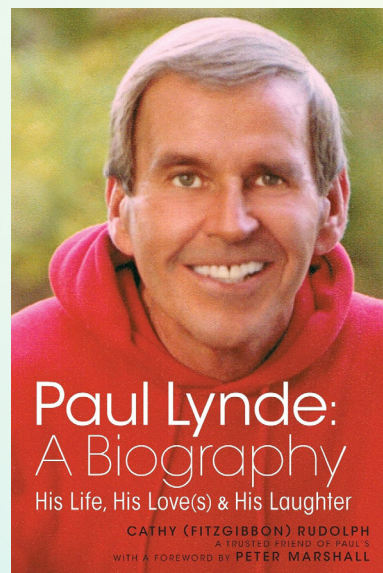
television and radio, the series was beset with problems and many behind-the-scenes stories will be revealed. Joe will discuss what made *Suspense* so successful, the business decisions that shaped the various directions the series went (from fictional literature to musical offerings to true-crime to science-fiction), and the distinctly different eras of the program under the production of many figureheads.

12 noon, METRO WASHINGTON OTR CLUB PRESENTATION

The Metropolitan Washington Old-Time Radio Club collects, preserves and performs shows from the Golden Age of Broadcasting. Even if you are not a member of the radio club you are free to sit in. Get a free issue of their latest newsletter just for attending and take advantage of the opportunity to sign up and become a member. The group will be dramatizing the 1938 version of *Lights Out's* "Chicken Heart." Lots of fun!

1:30 pm, THE LIFE AND CAREER OF PAUL LYNDE

Author Cathy Rudolph, a friend of actor Paul Lynde, will talk about his 30-year career. Best remembered as Uncle Arthur on *Bewitched*, the center square on *Hollywood Squares*, the father in *Bye Bye Birdie*, and his guest appearances on just about every show in the 70's: *I Dream of Jeannie*, *The Munsters*, *That Girl*, *Flying Nun*, just to name a few. Cathy Rudolph will also be signing her book, *Paul Lynde, A Biography: His Life, His Love(s) & His Laughter*, before and after the presentation.





THE TOP 100 CLASSIC RADIO SHOWS by Carl Amari and Martin Grams Jr.

A compendium of the top radio shows from the golden age of Hollywood. This book is chock-full of fascinating facts and behind-the-scenes information about the best shows from every era including the 1930s, '40s, and '50s. Photos never-before-published and trivia gleaned from archives across the country. A glossy full-color hardcover coffee table book organized into six categories, where you'll learn tantalizing tidbits about the shows and talent who made them famous. Includes comedies, westerns, dramas, variety shows, mysteries and suspense, sci-fi and superheroes. Settle into your easy chair and get ready to revisit the golden oldies, including **The Roy Rogers Show**, **The War of the Worlds**, **The Bob Hope Show**, **The Shadow**, and much more. Includes three audio CDs featuring one radio show from each genre, plus many more shows available to download.

Available from Amazon.com on November 1, 2017

RAVENCON 13

WILLIAMSBURG, VA • APRIL 20–22, 2018

Author Guest of Honor:

Chuck Wendig

Music Guests of Honor:

The Vailix

Gaming Guest of Honor:

Eric Wile

RavenCon is a Science Fiction & Fantasy Convention that features over twelve continuous tracks of programming (over 300 hours!). More than 100 writers, fans, artists, scientists, musicians, gamers, filmmakers, and costumers will be available for discussions, panels, readings, and signings. There's also anime, concerts, parties, workshops, children's programming, vendors, and our famous Gaming Room that never closes. We guarantee, there's always something fun to do at RavenCon! *More information online at ravencon.com.*



Held at the DoubleTree Williamsburg—50 Kingsmill Road, 757-259-5697

THE CON OF OPPORTUNITY!

SATURDAY EVENING BUFFET DINNER BANQUET



SERVING 7:00 P.M.

A complete sell-out for the past two years, the buffet dinner includes live stage performances and awards! With this year's convention coming to a close, it's a great way to go out in style. Even if you have been to the dinner many years prior, the tickets are still limited in number and still sold on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Equal parts culinary magic, attentive service and artful presentation, the Hunt Valley Marriott makes history and memories for everyone who attends the banquet. The ingredients include an old-time radio re-creation on stage (direction handled by Don and Mary Ramlow), a stage performance by a magician or celebrity impersonator, and an awards ceremony. Everyone



who has attended the banquet has been surprised and delighted and has returned year after year.

In the past, entertainment has included Abbott and Costello impersonators (their timing was perfect for "Who's On First?"), stage magicians, comedians and escape artists (mimicking Houdini's straight-jacket routine). Re-creations of "lost" old-time radio broadcasts have included *The Green Hornet*, *Escape*, *The Shadow*, *The Adventures of Sam Spade* and *The Lone Ranger*.

Musical entertainment will be supplied by the talented Mike Davanzo with his rockin' guitar.

The major concern every year is seating. This year we have a sign-up form at the registration desk. Every table is numbered, every seat accounted for. Simply write your name down and remember what table number you will be at.

CHARITY AUCTION ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL

Among the highlights of this year's event is the charity auction to raise money for children with treatable cancer. The St. Jude Children's Research Hospital has been responsible for making someone's life a little happier and the auction is a superb way for attendees to express their generosity. In past years, Hollywood legends such as Fess Parker, Casey Kasem, Elizabeth Taylor, June Foray, Alan Young and many others have all contributed autographed items for this annual event, and attendees have a chance to bid on them.

St. Jude is the only pediatric cancer research center where families never pay for treatment not covered by insurance. No child is ever denied treatment because of the family's inability to pay. Obviously, no charity can operate without overhead (electric bills, etc.), but St. Jude is proud to admit that 89.9 percent of the money donated goes straight to the children. With most charities, you cannot be sure how much of your donation is really being put to use. With the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, you can be assured that your money is helping a child in need.



If you brought something to donate, you can put it on the tables in the hallway upstairs throughout Friday. If there is a special note or message you want people to know about the item, include that with the item. Every little bit helps and together we can break last year's record and help a child in need.

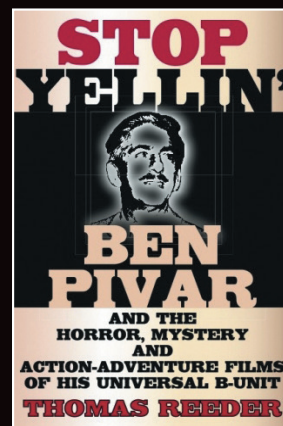
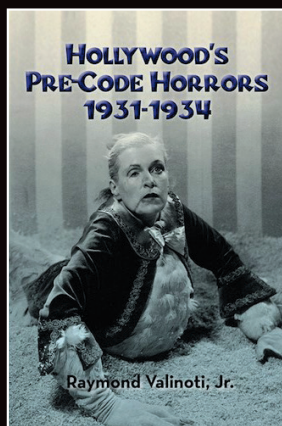


**Secrets revealed.
Stories told.**

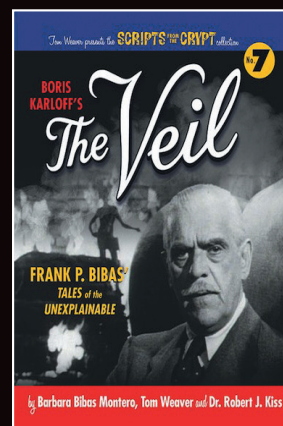
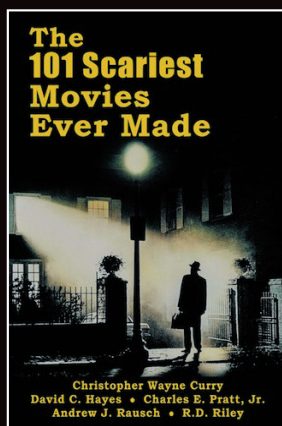
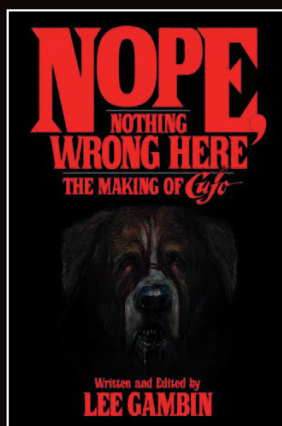
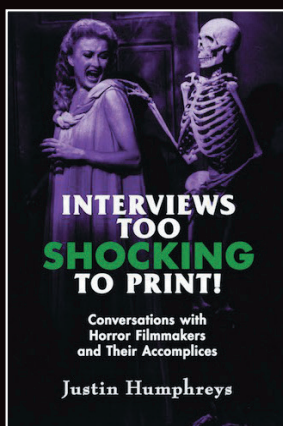
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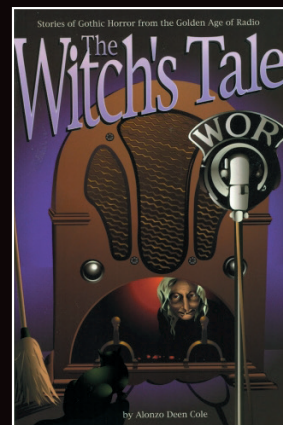
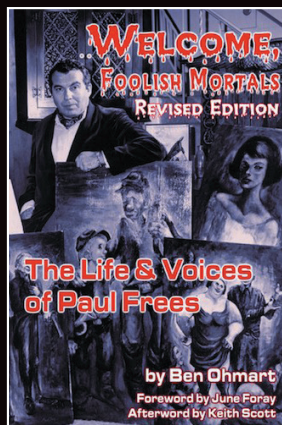
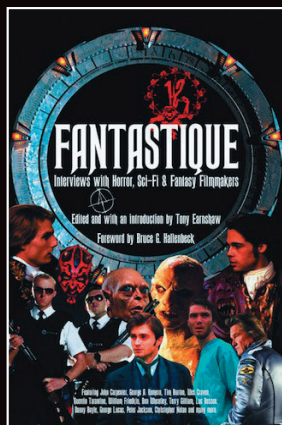
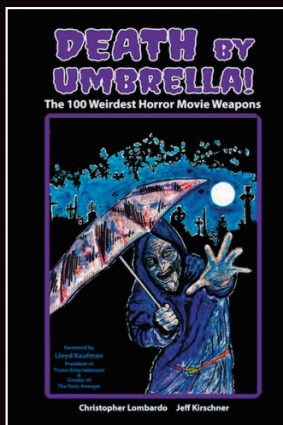
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MOVIE ROOM SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY

6:00 pm, MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE (1966)

Telecast on October 1, 1966. "Operation Rogosh" may have been the third episode of the series, which ran a total of seven seasons, but this is one of the best of the series. **Martin Landau** was originally scheduled to attend this year's convention but passed away earlier this year. In recognition of his career we will be screening a number of his television performances through the weekend.

7:00 p.m., WORLD WAR II CARTOONS

From *Private Snafu* to *Tokyo Jokio* (1943), from *Did You Buy That Bond Today?* (1945) and animated war propaganda from Germany, a full hour of rare World War II cartoons. Many of these cartoons have never had a public screening in decades, all restored from archival elements. Historically important for many reasons, we will be screening the cartoons uncut and unedited.

8:00 p.m., THE MISSING GUEST (1938)

The holy grail of Universal old dark house films. One of the guests at an old mansion disappears from his room. The other guests search the house for him, but he appears to have vanished into thin air. Stars **Paul Kelly**, **Constance Moore** and **William Lundigan**. This film was a remake of *Secrets of the Blue Room* (1933) and later remade again in 1944 as *Murder in the Blue Room*.

9:30 p.m., THE DANCE OF DEATH (1960)

A rarely-seen adventure of **Simon Templar**, alias "The Saint." **Felix Marten** plays the lead. Filmed in Italy in 1960, the film was dubbed in English before theatrical release in the United States in 1962.

11:00 p.m., DELUGE (1933)

This rarely-seen pre-code apocalyptic science-fiction film dramatizes the struggle for survival when a series of earthquakes destroy the Pacific coast of the United States, causing a massive tsunami, which heads toward New York City. Released in 1933 through RKO, this movie featured top-notch special effects that were later "borrowed" for a number of Republic cliffhanger serials.



THURSDAY



9:00 a.m., VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA (1964)

Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea premiered on September 14, 1964. On the anniversary of the premiere broadcast we will be screening the unaired TV pilot, in color, which is a variation of what fans have seen for decades -- including reruns. This version was not included in the DVD box sets!



10:00 a.m., LAND OF THE GIANTS (1968)

In this episode, "The Crash," the premiere episode of the series, a sub-orbital aircraft named the *Spindrift* flying from New York is pulled into a space warp which transports its crew and passengers into another dimension. The ship eventually lands on a planet where everything is 12 times larger than normal. Stars weekend guest **GARY CONWAY**.

11:00 a.m., THE MONROES (1966)

With weekend guest **TAMMY LOCKE** at this year's show, we felt it fitting to offer you a chance to watch an episode of *The Monroes*. The series dramatized the adventures of five orphaned children trying to get by on the frontier. Adding to the fun is guest star **Robert Fuller**, who was a guest at last year's convention.

12:00 noon, TOO MUCH JOHNSON (1938)

Filmed in the spring/summer of 1938, this was **Orson Welles'** first movie. The footage was presumed destroyed in a fire in Welles' home in 1971 but was recently discovered in Italy and restored to the full 66 minutes. An elaborate 1890s farce of mistaken identity, **Joseph Cotten** plays the lead in what is an homage to the days of silent slapstick.

1:30 p.m., LAWMAN (1962)

Stars weekend guest **DAWN WELLS**. *Lawman* is the story of Marshal **Dan Troop** of Laramie, Wyoming and his deputy **Johnny McKay**, an orphan Troop took under

MOVIE ROOM SCHEDULE

THURSDAY (CONTINUED)

his wing. In the second season Lily Merrill opens The Birdcage Saloon where she sings and entertains and has a close, unspoken relationship with Troop.

2:00 p.m., ABBOTT & COSTELLO MEET CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON

Do you remember when Abbott and Costello met the Creature from the Black Lagoon? Yes, it really did happen, not on the big screen but on live television. On the evening of Sunday, February 21, 1954 Abbott and Costello hosted NBC's *Colgate Comedy Hour*. In a live comedy sketch, devised to promote Universal's newest monster, America witnessed the memorable meeting of Abbott and Costello and the Creature from the Black Lagoon. Ben Chapman plays "The Creature" and Glenn Strange as "The Frankenstein Monster."

3:00 p.m., CASINO ROYALE (1954)

Before Sean Connery there was Barry Nelson, the first official 007 on celluloid. On the evening of October 21, 1954, the hour-long TV series *Climax!* presented an adaptation of the Ian Fleming novel of the same name. The villain here, Le Chiffre, is played by horror icon Peter Lorre. Actress Linda Christian plays Valerie Mathis, the first Bond girl. For fans of the 007 franchise, this is a must-see.

4:00 p.m., THE MYSTERIOUS AIRMAN (1928)

The opening chapters in this exciting cliffhanger serial, considered "lost" until earlier this year when the 35mm nitrate print was found and digitally restored. Courtesy of The Sprocket Vault, the serial was released commercially on DVD. The story deals with an inventor who adds new innovations to an air company's planes, prompting the owners of a rival company to set out to steal them.

5:00 p.m., HERE COME THE NELSONS (1952)

In order to convince a television network that the popular radio sitcom known as *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet* would succeed as a weekly television series, Ozzie Nelson financed the filming of three half-hour episodes and had them cut down into a feature-length motion-picture for theatrical distribution. ABC was convinced to broadcast the TV series based on the strength of this movie.

6:30 p.m., THE LIFE OF RILEY (1948)

A factory worker's family is thrown into an uproar when



his teenage daughter starts to date his boss' son. William Bendix reprises his radio role of Chester A. Riley for this big-screen theatrical movie, co-written by Groucho Marx. John Brown reprises his role of Digger O'Dell, "the friendly undertaker."

8:00 p.m., THE MAN FROM ATLANTIS (1977)

This is the first of four made-for-TV movies starring weekend guest **PATRICK DUFFY** in the title role, before the weekly television series premiered. A water-breathing human, the sole survivor of an underwater civilization called Atlantis, emerges from the ocean and has to learn to deal with the air-breathers on the surface. A female oceanographer, Dr. Merrill, played by weekend guest **BELINDA MONTGOMERY**, assists the man she calls "Mark," in adapting to our world.

9:45 p.m., THE WHISTLER (1944)

Stars Richard Dix and Gloria Stuart (Old Rose in "Titanic"). A man, despondent over the death of his wife, wants to commit suicide but can't bring himself to do it. He hires a man to hire a professional killer to do the job. However, he soon finds out that his wife isn't really dead - but the man he paid to hire the hitman is, and he has no idea who the man hired or how to get him to call off the hit.

11:00 p.m., WAY OUT! "Side Show" (1961)

Hosted by Roald Dahl, this short-lived television series aired right before *THE TWILIGHT ZONE* in 1961, a span of fourteen half-hour episodes. Considered by many as a fine tribute to the bizarre and eerie, this episode is one of the best of the series. "Side Show" concerns henpecked Harold Potter who finds himself smitten with Cassandra, the Electric Woman, who performs at the side show.

11:30 p.m., WAY OUT! "False Face" (1961)

A stage actor playing Quasimodo in a performance of 'The Hunchback of Notre Dame' pays an alcoholic homeless man with a severely deformed face to model for him. After a successful opening night, the actor discovers that he is unable to remove his make-up. For those who choose to stay up late and catch these two Way Out episodes, we assure you that you will be well-rewarded.

FRIDAY

9:00 a.m., WILLIE WHOPPER CARTOONS

Willie Whopper, “the little boy with a big imagination,” was a successful series of cartoons from 1933 to 1934, which have fallen into latter-day obscurity partly due to their lack of reruns on television, and the series’ short duration of 13 cartoons. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Thunderbean Animation, nine of these animated cartoons will be screened, digitally restored and remastered from archival 35mm masters, including the only cartoon created and never released theatrically (“The Air Race”), and the only two Willie Whopper cartoons made in 2-color Cinecolor.

10:00 a.m., CHECKMATE (1962)

Stars Sebastian Cabot, Anthony George and Doug McClure. In this episode, telecast January 3, 1962, Jack Bowen (guest star **Jack Benny** is basically playing himself) is Grand Marshal of the Pioneer Bowl. After he finds a time bomb in his briefcase, he calls Checkmate, Inc., a high-priced detective agency in San Francisco, to help him.

11:00 p.m., BURKE’S LAW (1964)

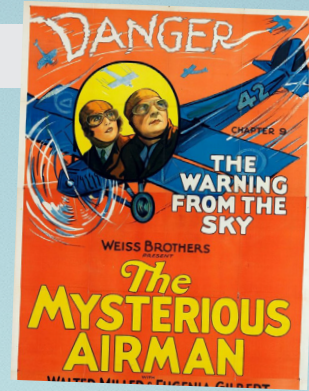
The unpleasant Benjamin Glory, one half of the ownership of the Glory Lee fashion house, is found dead in an elevator after it crashes. But he was dead before he ever entered it, killed by “a sharp and blunt instrument.” Co-stars Gene Barry and weekend guest **GARY CONWAY**, and guest appearances from Nina Foch, Buster Keaton and weekend guest **DAWN WELLS**.

12:00 noon, THE OUTER LIMITS (1963)

One of the most popular episodes from the first season, and a superb performance from **Martin Landau**. Earth awaits a terrible fate in the far future, so a 20th Century astronaut and a typically hideously malformed future Earthling go back in time hoping to change history for the better. They target a beautiful young woman just before she gives birth to the scientist who would create the bio-warfare agent which ravages future Earth and all mankind.

1:00 p.m., THE RETURN OF THE SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN AND THE BIONIC WOMAN (1987)

Steve Austin is approached by his former boss, Oscar Goldman to help him track down a group of criminals that he once took down. Two years ago we featured **Lee Majors**, **Lindsay Wagner** and **Richard Anderson** at the convention for a Bionic Reunion so it seems fitting we have another reunion -- this time with the 1987 made-for-TV movie. Also in the cast is **Martin Landau**.



3:00 p.m., YOU BET YOUR LIFE: UNAired PILOT (1949)

On December 5, 1949, a kinescope was made simultaneously while Groucho was recording his radio quiz show. This was for the purpose of transposing the series to television. This is the original, 60-minute unedited version of that pilot, complete with all the mistakes, outtakes, pickups and commercials before any cutting and trimming took place.

4:00 p.m., THE DONNA REED SHOW (1959)

The Stones consist of loving homemaker Donna, her pediatrician husband Alex, and their children Mary and Jeff. Many situations arise like when they found a baby on their doorstep or take in a rebellious youth or when Donna tries to patch up marital spats among friends. Stars weekend guest **PAUL PETERSEN** in the episode “Jeff’s Double Life.”

4:30 p.m., F-TROOP (1966)

Stars weekend guests **LARRY STORCH** and **PAUL PETERSEN**. This episode, aired during the latter part of the first season, was titled “Johnny Eagle Eye” and Paul Petersen plays the title role. O’Rourke and Agarn get Wild Eagle’s nephew entered into the Army sharp shooting contest.

5:00 p.m., JOE PALOOKA: HUMPHREY TAKES A CHANCE (1950)

Joe Palooka is the heavy weight boxing champ and is willing to defend the title against all comers. Of course, there are some shady characters who would rather just buy the title, but since Joe and his manager Knobby Walsh aren’t selling they come up with a scheme to take a cut of Joe’s profits by tying up all the venues and rival fighters in exclusive contracts.

6:20 p.m., JOE PALOOKA FILM SHORTS (1936)

Following the Joe Palooka movie are two classic comedy film shorts with Robert Norton playing the role of Joe Palooka, and Shemp Howard as his friend Knobby. “The Choke’s On You” (1936) and “Here’s Howe” (1936). Note the time is 6:20, not 6:30 p.m.

MOVIE ROOM SCHEDULE

FRIDAY (CONTINUED)

7:00 p.m., THE MAN FROM ATLANTIS (1977)

Special encore presentation so if you missed watching this yesterday, you can watch it tonight.

9:00 p.m., I WAS A TEENAGE FRANKENSTEIN (1957)

Starring weekend guest **GARY CONWAY**. Professor Frankenstein, a university lecturer with an alligator pit under his house, steals body parts of dead athletes from the wreckage of a crashed airplane. He builds a hunky male monster with a hideously disfigured face, which goes on a killing spree.

10:30 p.m., HOW TO MAKE A MONSTER (1958)

The sequel to *I Was a Teenage Werewolf* and *I Was a Teenage Frankenstein*, this movie features weekend guest **GARY CONWAY** reprising his role from the prior film as the monster. Using a combination of hypnosis and a newly developed chemical formula, make-up artists Pete Dumond is able to use mind control to compel the young actors playing the teenage Frankenstein and werewolf to exact vengeance for him.

SATURDAY

9:00 a.m., AN HOUR OF HANNA-BARBERA

For those of you who love old cartoons, you are in for a treat: an hour of vintage cartoons that have never been seen in decades. Many of these have never aired on television in more than 20 years! **SNAGGLEPUSS**, **SQUID-DLY DIDDLY**, **ATOM ANT**, **SECRET SQUIRREL**, **DINO BOY IN THE LOST VALLEY** and many others!

10:00 a.m., BONANZA (1962)

Stars Robert Vaughn and weekend guest **DAWN WELLS** in the episode, "The Way Station." Wells plays a beautiful granddaughter who yearns to escape from the limitations of her life with her beloved but overprotective grandfather at the remote way station. Luke, a gambler on the run from a posse for murder, seeks shelter from the storm. Adam Cartwright has to deal with multiple complications.



11:00 a.m., THE MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E. (1966)

Televised on April 1, 1966. The villainous Count Zark, a T.H.R.U.S.H. agent, operates out of Transylvania and has developed a worldwide menace involving blood-sucking bats. Secret agent Napoleon Solo is checking out a young woman who seems capable of reading the minds of others, which Ilya Kuryakin finds himself a prisoner of the Count. Guest star **Martin Landau** plays the role of the Hungarian count, perfecting his role of Bela Lugosi many years before *Ed Wood*.

12:00 noon, CHIPS '99

Larry Wilcox returns as straight-arrow officer Jon Baker and Erik Estrada reprises his role as free-spirited Frank "Ponch" Poncherello in this 15-year reunion that adds a '90s sensibility to the can't-miss elements that made the 1977-83 *CHiPs* TV series a fan-pleasing success.

1:30 p.m., CHIPS (1979)

Starring weekend guests **ERIK ESTRADA** and **LARRY WILCOX**. In this two-part episode, "Roller Disco," Poncherello is head of the CHP entertainment committee for the annual Skate with the Stars charity. Thieves on roller skates create problems for Ponch and Jon! Weekend guest **LARRY STORCH** plays the role of Franco in both episodes. Also watch out for Ed McMahon.



LATE NIGHT HORROR MOVIES

Wednesday Evening Starting 12:00 Midnight

A Page of Madness (1926)
The Rawhide Terror (1937)
The Haunted Mansion (1949)
The Anatomist (1962)
Frankenstein, the Vampire and Company (1962)
The Monster's Castle (1958)

Thursday Evening Starting 12:00 Midnight

The Hindu version of *King Kong* (1963)
Phantasmagoria (1963)
Orgies of Dr. Orloff (1967)
Even the Wind is Afraid (1968)
Belladonna of Sadness (1973)

Friday Evening Starting 12:00 Midnight

Assault! Jack the Ripper (1975)
House of Shadows
Shadow of Illusion (1975)
Black Jack (1977)
Suffer, Little Children (1983)
Ghost Festival (1985)



IMAGINING LON CHANEY: THE MAN BEHIND THE 1000 MASKS

BY MARK REDFIELD

I've been an actor all my life. When one is young, it's amazing what one doesn't know, and armed with this powerful ignorance, one plunges into deep water in life and art thinking oneself invincible and immortal. In life and in art, one hopes for improvement, knowledge and eventually some wisdom. I've been a fan of the great actor Lon Chaney since childhood, when I saw *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (1923) on a PBS station in Wisconsin. Abe Chaney is the reason that I'm an actor, and I love complete transformation of face, body and voice in the roles I play. I was captivated by Chaney since childhood. I wanted to know who this man was. Coincidentally, I had my first acting classes that year, while in the third grade, and also made my first 8mm film. I found my first Chaney biography a few years later, maybe 1976, in a Coles Bookstore. I read it cover to cover, over and over, and was left hungry on the subject until Chaney biographer and friend Michael F. Blake started writing about his life and work. And by that time I had met Chaney's great-grandson Ron Chaney, and had gotten to know him a little, when the idea of my novel *The Chaney Murder Case* first came to me, all-of-a-piece.

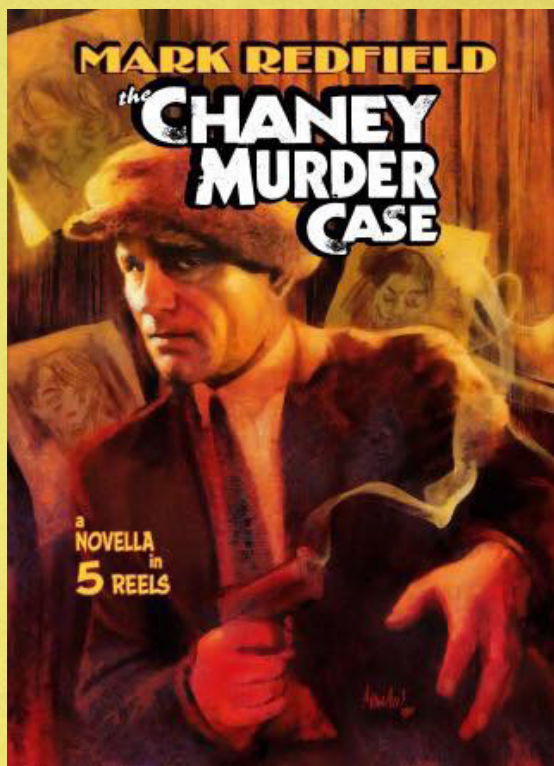


It wasn't my intention to write a novel, or, as it is in actual fact, a novella. As Lon Chaney was an artistic hero my entire acting life, I was forever intrigued by his work. I learned things by watching his performances, and sought out clearer prints and sharper video transfers so that I could see the minutest flicker of his eyes and change of his expressive expressions. I wanted to know what Chaney knew about acting. His methods and thoughts on how he created characters, and not just make-up. Make-up was external and secondary, or so I thought, once upon a time...



One day I took out a fresh notebook and started to imagine myself as "Lon Chaney", and what I would do to create a character. It took the turn and became something like Stanislavski's "An Actor Prepares", but instead of the master Tortsov, I had Chaney teach me acting. It turned into an incredible exercise where I forced myself to confront everything I thought I knew about acting. I believe the exercise made me a better actor, too. Eventually, I re-read all of these notes that filled this notebook, and then it came to me much like an idea comes to one in a cartoon -- the metaphorical lightbulb went on: I could bring this "Chaney" I had imagined to life if I put him into a situation where he, an average struggling actor, one with all of life's tremendous responsibilities burdening his shoulders, was forced to "play detective". The magic phrase "what if...?" opened many doors. I then looked to see what period of Chaney's life would suit the fictional tale I was about to tell.

What if...Chaney was a struggling, work-a-day actor, with heavy responsibilities like a wife and child? That would put my story around 1918. The First World War. The period of time he quit Universal Pictures, before stardom came. What if...Lon befriended a young extra on the set of a film he was working on, and the young fellow was killed mysteriously? A compassionate Chaney would thrust himself into the role of "detective" to try and find out what happened to this unfortunate young friend. And so my invented, imagined Chaney began to weave and interact with dilemmas I would create for him and historical things from his life and the worlds of Los Angeles and San Francisco that research was intriguing me with. One thing



that would keep propelling my conjured Chaney was his compulsion to create, to understand people, and to know the truth of things, and of himself. Lon Chaney began to come to life to me in this wholly fictional adventure I had dreamt, with eyes wide open, all the while teaching me how to be a better actor!

The drama and the conflicts in creating the story of the novel came naturally. Chaney was a man of solitude. He held his privacy dear and shunned publicity. The 36-year-old Chaney was married for a second time by 1918, and supporting a son Creighton, away at boarding school. He was not making the money he needed at Universal, and quit the studio, freelancing elsewhere. His early career, before the better money of the movies, was in the theater, where he learned his trade and his craft. In the theatre he wore many hats: he acted, directed, stage-managed and choreographed dances. He would use all of these talents and abilities in the fledgling film industry as well. He was compelled to be an actor, and to be the best he could be. He had a talent for make-up, and enjoyed the final process of transformation. And he embraced it for financial reasons to: the more characters or “types” he could play, the more he would be employed, and he needed to provide and put food on the table and pay the bills.

I chose the period of Chaney’s life that pre-dated stardom, the few years before the 1923 *Hunchback of Notre Dame* would seal his star in the firmament. I chose a period of great uncertainty and professional fear, the autumn of 1918, just prior to the “eleventh hour or the eleventh day or the eleventh month” –the end of World War 1 – to cast



my favorite silent screen actor into an adventure that could reveal the man I began to feel was under the “1000 faces”.

I realized in my dreaming/imaging, researching and writing phases of my novella *The Chaney Murder Case*, that I was an actor much like Chaney. You see, what I discovered was that Chaney was the kind of actor that was *freed* by a “mask”, not encumbered or inhibited. The mask revealed more than it concealed. And between pictures? The man who took great solace in hunting and fishing near a cabin he had built in the mountains, far removed from Hollywood, sometimes alone and sometimes with his son, was the real Lon Chaney. He was, in the end, a regular guy, but blessed with a talent and the bones to work hard to perfect his art. “Lon Chaney”, the name on the marquee, was the mask. And the masks that “Lon Chaney! Man of a Thousand Faces!” wore revealed not only the man inside, but the humanity in us all.

And what better way for me to dramatize this man I had discovered, than by casting him in the role of detective, where his compulsions, obsessions, fears, knowledge, and caring of those in circumstances more unfortunate than himself, could be dramatized.

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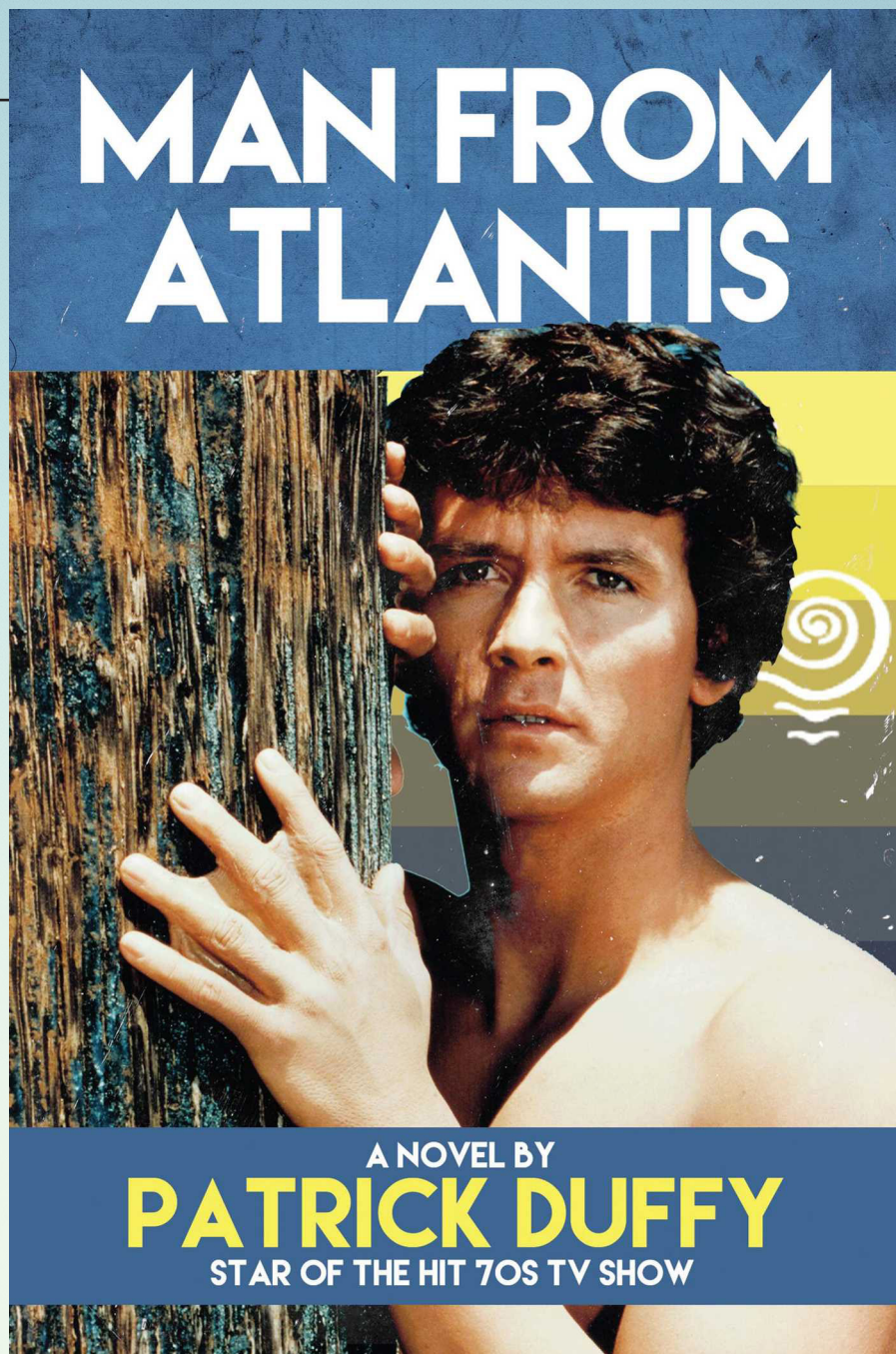
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BOB CRANE: AN UNSUNG HERO

BY CAROL M. FORD

AUTHOR, *BOB CRANE: THE DEFINITIVE BIOGRAPHY*
CO-OWNER/CO-PRODUCER, *THE BOB CRANE SHOW: RELOADED* (PODCAST)

“What ever made you want to research Bob Crane and write his biography?”

I am asked this question often, and usually, with raised eyebrows or a knowing chuckle. My initial response is that I loved *Hogan's Heroes*, which has been my favorite show ever since I was a kid. I also wanted to learn more about its star. But it goes way beyond that. Despite what I had read and seen in the media, I knew there had to be more to Bob Crane than Colonel Hogan, his murder, and the scandal that followed.

My research colleagues and co-authors Dee Young and Linda Groundwater agreed, and together, we set out to learn Bob's true story. And we did, over the course of twelve years and two hundred people who were close to Bob and knew him better than most. When you put everything together in the proper context, the real Bob Crane emerges as someone vastly different than the two-dimensional version presented by the media since his death.

So when I'm asked the question, “Why Bob Crane?” I say, “Because everybody deserves to have his or her *whole* story told and is more than just a headline. This includes Bob Crane. Nobody is perfect. Bob was simply a human being, no different than any of us.”

I've compiled a list of important facts about Bob that you probably didn't know. After reading through this list, I encourage you to check out *Bob Crane: The Definitive Biography* (published in 2015), *The Bob Crane Show: Reloaded* (our podcast, which is hosted by Bob Crane's cousin's son, Eric Senich), and stop by and talk with me in the vendor hall. We will change the way you think about Bob Crane, and I think you will be happily surprised!

Twenty Things You Didn't Know About Bob Crane

1. Bob Crane was born in Waterbury, Connecticut, on July 13, 1928. He grew up in Stamford, Connecticut, and graduated from Stamford High School in 1946. He was one of the most popular kids in school.



2. Bob was inspired to play drums by watching Gene Krupa at the 1939 World's Fair. From that time on, he was never without his drumsticks. He played drums throughout his life.

3. Bob's older brother Alfred served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Al was badly injured during the war but survived. Al's wartime experiences had a dramatic and lasting impact on Bob.

4. Following high school graduation, Bob served in the U.S. National Guard in Stamford, Connecticut, and worked in a jewelry store, before landing his first radio job at WLEA in Hornell, New York, in early 1950. In 1951, he returned to Connecticut, working at WBIS in Bristol, and then WLIZ and WICC in Bridgeport.

5. Bob played with many name bands on the East Coast while working in radio. He was eventually able to sit in and play with his idols, including The Stan Kenton Orchestra, the New Tommy Dorsey Band, and the Harry James Orchestra. He performed a drum battle with Gene Krupa over KNX-CBS Radio. He was a good friend of Buddy Rich, and he would occasionally perform with Rich in various venues, such as at Disneyland.

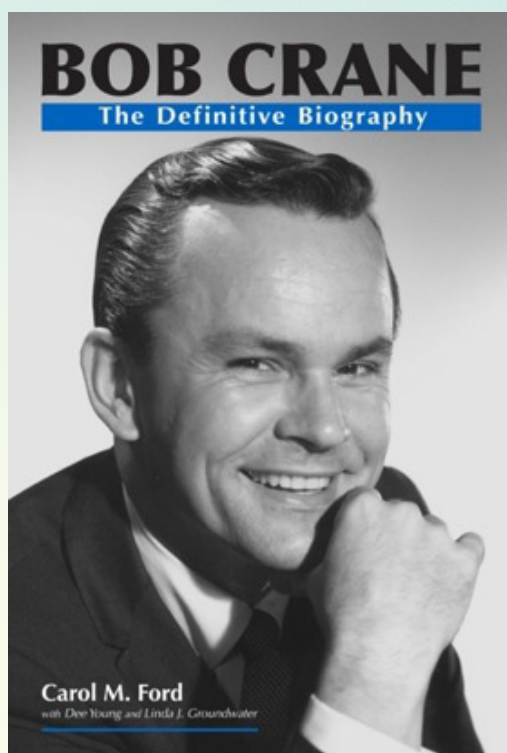
6. Bob spent fifteen consecutive years in radio, from 1950-1965, transforming the industry, and was considered a radio genius by his broadcasting colleagues. His radio show was so successful that by the time he was working at KNX in Hollywood, there was a premium for advertisers to buy time during his program, and they had to buy other time slots in addition to Bob's. In addition to doing things in radio that had rarely, if ever, been done before, Bob was also a gifted voice impersonator. KNX dubbed him radio's Man of a Thousand Voices.

7. Bob interviewed thousands of celebrities on his KNX radio show, including Marilyn Monroe, Jack Lemmon,

Ronald Reagan, Jonathan Winters, Dick Clark, Jayne Mansfield, Ron Howard, Jerry Lewis, Richard Dawson, Carl Reiner, Dick Van Dyke, Mary Tyler Moore, and more. Because he wanted to act, he turned down countless offers to transition his radio show to television, including to take over as host for *The Tonight Show*. It then went to Johnny Carson.

8. In 1964, Bob took an acting course taught by Stella Adler. He also took acting advice from Donna Reed during at least the first season of *Hogan's Heroes*.

9. Bob left *The Donna Reed Show* because he was bored with the premise. He remained friends with Donna Reed and her producer/husband Tony Owen following his departure from her series.



10. Bob was a great supporter of U.S. veterans and active duty service personnel. Before accepting the role of Colonel Hogan on *Hogan's Heroes*, Bob insisted that a trailer of the series be shown to veterans and former POWs. He wanted to be sure they approved of the premise before signing because he didn't want to offend them. They loved *Hogan's Heroes*, claiming without humor, they never would have made it through the war. Bob was sold, and the rest was history.

11. Before agreeing to star on *Hogan's Heroes*, Bob was inundated with offers for the lead in many other series, including *Please Don't Eat the Daisies* and *My Mother the Car*.



12. Bob got his acting start in 1959 in a community theatre production of *Tunnel of Love*. He performed in theatre throughout his entire life, even during the height of his career on *Hogan's Heroes*. He received rave critical reviews for nearly every one of his theatre productions.

13. After being cast as the lead in *The Wicked Dreams of Paula Schultz*, Bob urged director George Marshall to hire as many cast members from *Hogan's Heroes* as he could so they would have work during their hiatus. Those who accepted roles in the film included Werner Klemperer, John Banner, and Leon Askin.

14. Bob wrote an ending to *Hogan's Heroes*, entitled '*Hogan's Heroes*' Revue, which was a variety act to have been performed in Las Vegas. Robert Clary and Werner Klemperer were signed on to star with him in the live show, as well as John Thompson, Bob's close friend and a magician who today is the magic consultant to Penn & Teller and Criss Angel, among others. '*Hogan's Heroes*' Revue was never produced because Bob did not agree with what he considered a dishonest business contract with the casino.

15. During the 1970s, Bob turned down many offers to star in television shows and emcee game shows and talk shows. Instead, he accepted the leading role in *Second Start*, which was retitled *The Bob Crane Show*. He also co-wrote *Mobile Two*, the pilot movie for the series *Mobile One*, starring Jackie Cooper.

16. When Bob breaks down in tears on his episode of *The Love Boat*, he is *acting*. It was not an indication of his state of mind at the time. In between takes, he was friendly, affable, and got along well with the cast. This performance shows how Bob was evolving as an actor, not as someone who couldn't hold it together at work. He was planning on

BOB CRANE: AN UNSUNG HERO (CONTINUED)



taking on more serious roles such as his character on *The Love Boat*, but he didn't have the chance because he was murdered.

17. Bob Crane did not exhibit any inappropriate behavior on *Celebrity Cooks*. That he did is completely false, a story fabricated for ratings and profit. *Celebrity Cooks* has officially gone on record to dispute any claims that Bob behaved inappropriately in the episode. They state Bob was one of their best guests, and the way his episode is depicted in *Auto Focus* is totally incorrect and never happened.

18. Bob was a selfless philanthropist who gave generously of his time and money to many different charities, and he receives very little recognition for it. These included: U.S. Armed Forces Radio Network, United Cerebral Palsy, the Arthritis Foundation, and Operation Entertainment, to name a few. He also met regularly with U.S. veterans groups and entertained at military bases across the country.

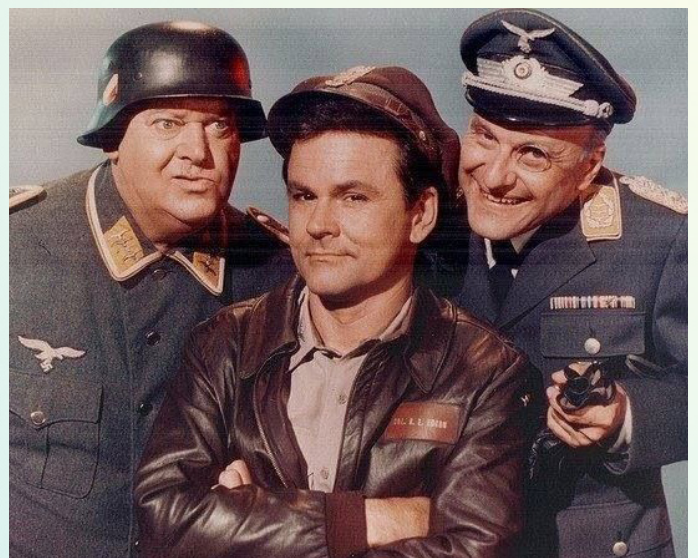
19. At the time of his murder on June 29, 1978, Bob had a new television series in the works and was focused on bettering his life and overcoming his addiction.

20. Bob loved and adored his family and friends, and especially his children. His legacy lives on through all of

them. In 2013, his grandson, Max William Crane, made his acting debut in *Fast & Furious 6* as little baby Jack.

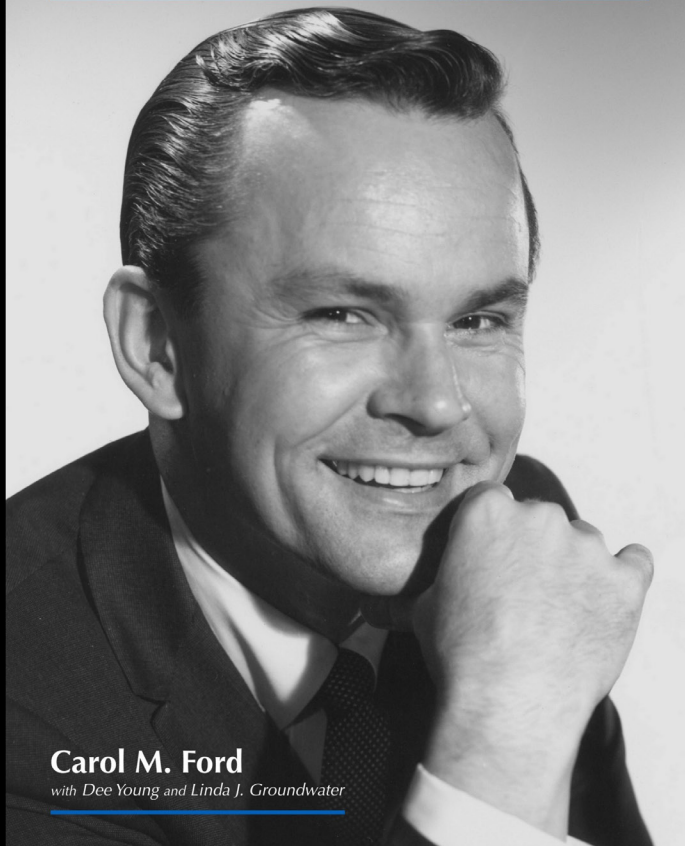
© Carol M. Ford

Learn more about *Bob Crane: The Definitive Biography*, *The Bob Crane Show: Reloaded*, and our efforts for Bob Crane's recognition in the National Radio Hall of Fame at vote4bobcrane.org



BOB CRANE

His Definitive Biography



Carol M. Ford

with Dee Young and Linda J. Groundwater

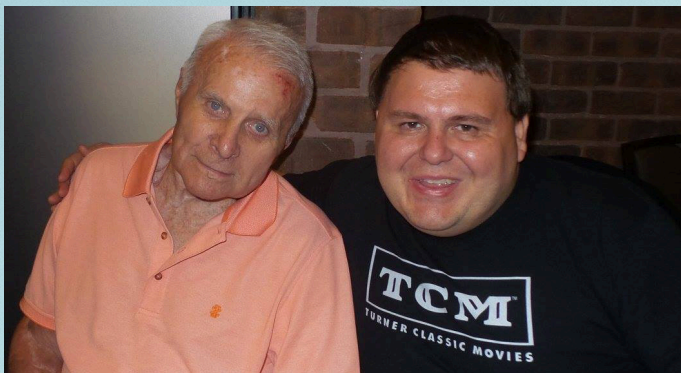


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IN MEMORIAM

MARTIN AARON TOTTEN



Martin Aaron Totten with Robert Conrad at last year's convention

Earlier this year we lost Martin Aaron Totten, a resident of Baltimore, who spent much of his free time traveling to conventions along the East Coast, collecting autographs and posing for photographs. At times Martin impressed celebrity guests with factoids about their careers that the celebrities themselves confessed they forgot. Always soft-spoken and willing to help assist any fan who needed someone to save a spot in line, he was a man who carried his heart on his sleeve. We know he found peace and is resting alongside the biggest celebrity of them all... God.

MARTIN LANDAU



On July 15, an actor, cartoonist and close friend of James Dean passed away. Martin Landau is one of the few who could brag that he worked for Alfred Hitchcock, Rod Serling and Tim Burton. Over the past decade Landau took time to meet and greet his fans, answer questions and tell behind-the-scenes stories about such classics as *North by Northwest* (1959), *Mission: Impossible*, *Cleopatra* (1963) and *Space: 1999*. In 1994 he won accolades from a number of movie critics for his portrayal of Bela Lugosi in *Ed Wood*, for which he won the Oscar, a Screen Actors Guild, a Golden Globe and a Saturn Award. Several months ago Mr. Landau agreed to attend the convention and his untimely passing was a surprise to everyone. No one can disagree that the talented Landau, a cool guy to talk to in person, was blessed with the opportunity to entertain millions. Mr. Landau will be missed.

BILL MCKENZIE



William Earl McKenzie of Hagerstown, Maryland, passed away on July 20 due to a massive heart attack. A regular fixture at a number of East Coast film festivals, selling TV Guides, books, magazines and vintage toys, he shared his special brand of humor and wisdom. He will be missed by his many dealer friends and customers alike. The owner of B&B Comics, Bill maintained a stand at Beaver Creek Antiques for 35 plus years. He enjoyed so many of these fan gatherings, including cowboy film festivals. Bill was in his early seventies but you could tell he was a teenager at heart. He will be missed.

ERROL HAGEN

When we proposed the grand opening of the Mid-Atlantic Nostalgia Convention thirteen years ago, Errol Hagen was one of the first to sign up. A vendor specializing in rare hard-to-find movies on VHS and DVD, Errol became a staple at the convention since Year One. Every year Errol drove down from Philadelphia and impressed attendees with his knowledge of old movies. Had a question about Carole Landis or Lloyd Nolan? Errol knew the answer. He was unable to attend last year's convention because he was in the hospital fighting cancer and he lost that battle Sunday morning following last year's event. The convention will not be the same without Errol, but we know he will be here in spirit.



JOE ZIEGLER



Anyone who attended the Nostalgia Con in the past years remember Abbott and Costello recreating their classic routines, including "Who's On First?" It is with sadness that we report that Joe Ziegler, the Costello half of the duo, passed away. Along with Bill Riley, the spirit of "Bud and Lou" lived on for two decades at the Reading WWII Show, Monster Bash and many other events. They were one of the best to impersonate the comedians. Perhaps no greater compliment is bestowed on Joe Ziegler than to reprint a compliment we received from a fan following one of their performances: "If Lou Costello was alive today he would be appreciative knowing his act carried on with perfection and love. Laughter is the best medicine. God bless him."

RICHARD ANDERSON



"Gentlemen, we can rebuild him," was the catchphrase spoken by Richard Anderson each week during the opening credits for *The Six Million Man*. "We have the technology. We have the capability to make the world's first bionic man. Steve Austin will be that man, better than he was before. Better. Stronger. Faster." Best known for his portrayal O.S.I. chief Oscar Goldman on *The Six Million Dollar Man* and its spin-off, *The Bionic Woman*, Anderson passed away a couple weeks ago at the age of 91. A few years ago he took time to meet and greet his fans, along with Lee Majors and Lindsay Wagner, for a Bionic reunion here at the Nostalgia Con. Taking time to answer questions from the fans, he provided many with lasting memories.

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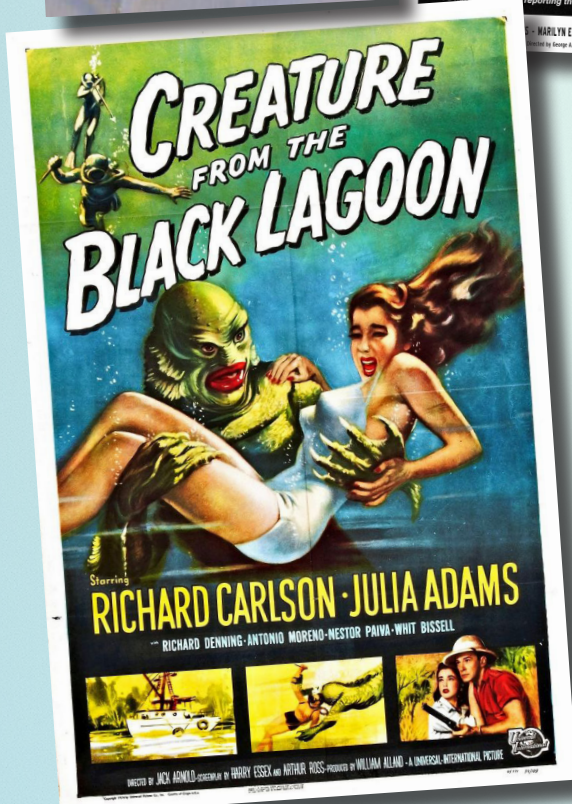
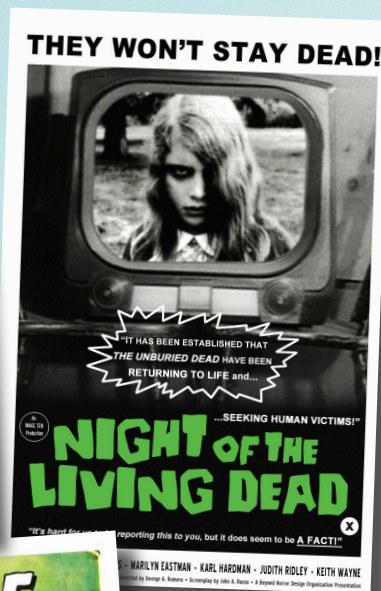
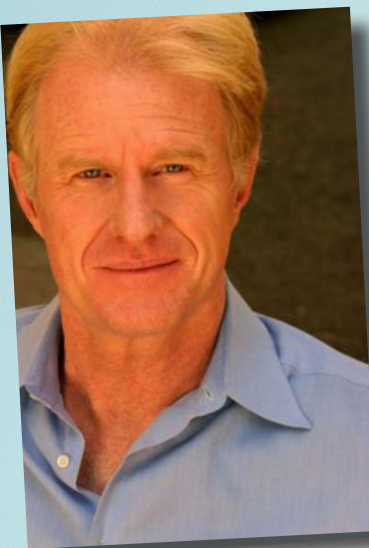
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