

Tentative Schedule: SerlingFest 2018 Binghamton, NY

Thursday, July 5, The Bundy Museum of History and Art (Annex):

6:00pm In the Zone: Binghamton's Influence on The Twilight Zone

Mike Pipher, historian and archivist of the Rod Serling archive at the Bundy Museum, hosts a screening of two Twilight Zone episodes with special ties to Binghamton: "The After Hours" and "Mirror Image." Mike will also screen a rare film produced to promote Serling's post-Twilight Zone western, *The Loner*. No other archive in the country holds this particular film.

Immediately afterward, join us all for an impromptu get-together at the DoubleTree hotel.

Friday, July 6, The DoubleTree Hotel, Grand Riverside Room

10:00am Welcome from the RSMF

The Rod Serling Memorial Foundation welcomes you to SerlingFest 2018!

Learn more about the Binghamton organization that carries the torch for our favorite writer. President Andy Polak along with board members Tony Albarella, Amy Boyle Johnston, and Nick Parisi will fill you in on the Foundation's activities and future plans to preserve and promote Rod Serling's legacy.

10:30am Presentation: "Rod and WWII"

Too short to be a paratrooper, Rod persevered and became one anyway. Mike Pipher, historian and archivist of the Rod Serling archive at the Bundy Museum, hosts this multimedia presentation of Rod's military service. A bonus: listening to one of Rod's earliest radio broadcasts, written while he was a student at Antioch College.

11:00am Screening: Twilight Zone, "The Purple Testament"

Noon–1:30pm Break for Lunch

Take this opportunity to visit a local spot for lunch or to experience any of the First Friday Art Walk events happening in downtown Binghamton.

You would be justified to consider Binghamton a version of the *Twilight Zone*—especially the downtown with its [magnificent period architecture](#) that must have influenced young "Roddy" Serling as he grew up during the Depression.

Binghamton is a recognizable American city, more industrial than exotic, and clearly the nostalgic hometown of “Walking Distance.”

Ride the carousel and stroll around the bandstand at Recreation Park; you’ll find this incarnation of your favorite old TV show both sentimental and surreal. Renovations to the Recreation Park carousel in recent years include some fantastic *Twilight Zone* artwork. If there were but one *must-visit* site in Binghamton, this is it. Filmmaker Jonathan Napolitano’s documentary “The Carousel” about the renovation features artist Cortlandt Hull’s painted vignettes of *Twilight Zone* episodes.

1:30pm Anne Serling Reading

Rod’s daughter “Nan” searched for her father on the television, but found him in her heart. Anne Serling reads from her memoir, *As I Knew Him: My Dad, Rod Serling*.

2:00pm Book Signing

Our authors will be accessible throughout Serling Fest, but this is your opportunity to say hello to all of them in the same place at the same time. Attending will be Anne Serling, author of *As I Knew Him: My Dad, Rod Serling*; Martin Grams, Jr., author of *Twilight Zone: Unlocking the Door to a Television Classic*; Steven Jay Rubin, author of *The Twilight Zone Encyclopedia*; Amy Boyle Johnston, author of *Unknown Serling*, and Nick Parisi, author of the soon-to-be-published *Rod Serling: His Life, Work, and Imagination*.

3:00pm Screening: The Twilight Zone

In recognition of the 35th anniversary of the release of *Twilight Zone: The Movie*, enjoy screenings of the three episodes remade for the film: “Kick the Can,” “It’s a Good Life,” and “Nightmare at 20,000 Feet.”

4:15pm Presentation: “The Time Element @ 60”

“The Time Element,” has been commonly referred to as the *Twilight Zone*’s true pilot. RSMF Board members (and authors) Amy Boyle Johnston and Nick Parisi discuss the evolution of Serling’s time travel fantasy: from its 1951 live performance on *The Storm* to its production on Serling’s radio series *It Happens to You*, to the *Desilu* production starring William Bendix and Martin Balsam—which turns 60 in November.

4:30pm Performance: “The Time Element RADIO play”

Performed live for the first time anywhere—at least since 1954!—a dramatic reading of the radio version of Rod Serling’s “The Time Element.” It’s a classic Serling dilemma: You’re in Pearl Harbor and you know that the Japanese sneak attack is tomorrow—but no one will believe you.

5:15pm Presentation: “Moralists in Disguise: Rod Serling and Mark Twain”

Author Mark Dawidziak discusses the many thematic and moralistic ties between these two legendary writers, who also share close ties to the upstate New York area.

6:00pm – 7:30pm Break for Dinner

7:30pm The Rod Serling Trivia Challenge

Get ready to test your knowledge of Rod Serling and *The Twilight Zone* in this truly epic, marathon trivia event. First, join a team to take a crack at Trivia from the *Twilight Zone*, with questions prepared by Mike Pipher, curator of the Rod Serling archive at the Bundy Museum. The two teams to win this “first round” will move on to compete in Rod Serling Jeopardy!, prepared and hosted by Nick Parisi. You’ll need to know more than *The Twilight Zone* to survive this one! And finally, the members of the winning Jeopardy team will then have a chance to “Stump the Experts” – namely, Steven Jay Rubin and Martin Grams, Jr.

Saturday, July 7, The Broome County Forum Theatre

The Broome County Forum Theatre opens at 9 a.m. Come early and take some pictures of Serling’s star from the Binghamton Walk of Fame, Serling’s bronze sculpture, and a wall of photographs in Rod Serling’s honor.

10:00am – Noon WSKG Rod Serling Film Festival Awards

The Rod Serling Memorial Foundation is proud to host the 2018 presentation of the Rod Serling Film awards, given to Binghamton student filmmakers, grades K-12, by WSKG-TV. [Read more about it here.](#)

Noon – 1:30pm Lunch Break

1:30pm Presentation: Steve Rubin on Writing *The Twilight Zone Encyclopedia*

The Twilight Zone Encyclopedia is motion picture writer/producer Steven Jay Rubin's ninth book and second encyclopedia. Using stills and clips, Rubin charts the history of the show, Rod Serling's early inspirations, the importance of *The Time Element*, key episodes, and the series' amazing staying power, which, over the years, has inspired the oft-quoted line: The Sun Never Sets on *The Twilight Zone*.

2:30pm Presentation: Rod Serling's *Planet of the Apes*

Rod’s first draft had the apes living in a modern city. While an associate professor at Ithaca College, Gordon Webb scoured every version that Rod wrote, and he’ll tell you which Serling elements made it into the film—and which did not. Now

retired and an RSMF board member, Gordon continues researching the many incarnations of the classic film.

3:30pm Screening: *Planet of the Apes (1968)*

The reboot movies may have dazzling special effects, but nothing can diminish the power of the original. Watch it again, as if for the first time.

6:00pm – 7:30pm Dinner Break

7:30pm RSMF Raffle Prizes

Raffle prizes will be on display and raffle tickets will be available throughout the weekend – you must be present to win!

7:45pm Rod Serling's *Twilight Zone: The Movie*

What if Rod Serling had made that film? What would *he* have done? He tried several times. Serling experts/authors Amy Boyle-Johnston and Nick Parisi speculate on what stories Rod's flick might have contained.

8:15pm Screening: *Twilight Zone: The Movie*

You've listened to us discuss it, you've read about the tragedy and controversy of the filming, now watch it.

Sunday, July 7, The Southern Tier Independence Center

All Day The Twilight Zone Escape Room!

Special passes will be available throughout SerlingFest, but Sunday is the day when we will be making a mass exodus to the one and only Twilight Zone Escape Room.