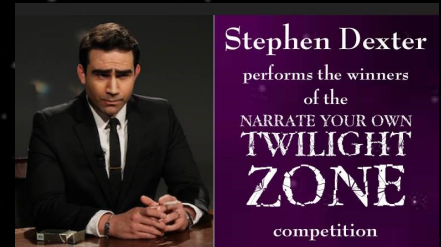




The Rod Serling Memorial Foundation

Newsletter-SPRING 2018



Since the mid-1980's this organization has been dedicated to honoring Rod Serling—one of the most talented and prolific writers in American television. This newsletter highlights RSMF activities, as well as the continuing interest in Rod Serling in the press... on bookshelves... DVDs and the internet.

AN ORIGINAL RSMF PRODUCTION!

We invited you to imagine a new Twilight Zone episode... write Rod Serling's opening and closing narrations... give it a title... and send us your entry. YOU DID!!

There are cool ideas... and once in a while someone comes up with a GREAT idea!

This competition was the brainchild of our own STEVE SCHLICH — RSMF Board member... Webmaster... and — as it turns out — skilled video producer and composer (Steve produced the “pseudo-Twilight Zone” theme you hear in the final videos). Foundation member and professional actor [Stephen Dexter](#) eagerly volunteered to perform the winning entries as Rod Serling. Stephen is proud to be “a rabid Rod Serling/Twilight Zone fan” and at work on his own Rod Serling project. You can see his passion in his performances. WSKG-TV in Binghamton, New York kindly donated their studios to the Rod Serling Memorial Foundation, to stage and film the winning narrations... and we are in awe of their facilities, their people, and their hospitality!

We received an overwhelming 53 entries, which were all judged by a team of RSMF Board members — who selected the following scripts as winners:

- 1st Place:** “Split the Difference” by Joseph Dougherty
- 2nd Place:** “Mr. Calagan and the Road Home” by Gus Holwerda
- 3rd Place:** “The Small Stuff” by Dale Elster

Our video of the winning entries was released on December 18, 2017 (a week before CHRISTMAS DAY — Rod Serling's birthday). Now, here's your key to these writers' imaginations...[CLICK HERE](#) to watch winning scripts in the first NARRATE YOUR OWN TWILIGHT ZONE COMPETITION.

But wait — THERE'S MORE...

One of the hardest things to do on this project was write rejection letters to the writers who didn't win. So many of the entries were good — demonstrating originality, cleverness, and an obvious reverence for Rod Serling's writing. Our judges marvelled at how difficult it was to pare down their favorites to a mere three, and delighted in reading all the entries (so many of them were episodes that we wanted to see).

So, here is the second half of our Christmas present to you: *dozens* of new stories for you to imagine and watch on that little “black-and-white screen” in your head: http://www.rodserling.com/2017_TZNC/2017resultsTZNC.html



RSMF board members Kate Murray, camera, Joe Bardales, floor manager and WSKG production technician Shane Johnson help tape the winners of the 'Narrate Your Own Twilight Zone' competition.



Board members Kate Murray and Joe Bardales observe actor Stephen Dexter as he portrays Rod Serling at WSKG studios.



Film maker Jonathan Napolitano films actor Stephen Dexter as he portrays Rod Serling at the WSKG studios in Binghamton, NY.

SERLING FEST 2018

Following up on the success of 2017's "The Twilight Zone Comes Home," the Rod Serling Memorial Foundation will host "Serling Fest 2018" on July 6 and July 7 at the Forum Theater and the Double Tree hotel in Binghamton.



This two-day celebration will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the release of *PLANET OF THE APES*, and the 35th anniversary of the premiere of *TWILIGHT ZONE: THE MOVIE*, as well as several other notable anniversaries in Rod Serling's career. Joining us will be an incomparable group of experts on Serling's work including: Stephen Jay Rubin (*The Twilight Zone Encyclopedia*), Martin Grams Jr (*Twilight Zone: Unlocking the Door*), Anne Serling, and our own Board members: Tony Albarella, Amy Boyle Johnston, and Nicholas Parisi. There will be screenings, panel discussions, book sales and autograph sessions, and much more. For details as they become available, please visit www.rodserling.com OR our [Facebook page](#).



The classic final scene from "Planet of the Apes" (1968). The concept was Serling's...and is included in the final draft of his original screenplay for the film. <http://www.rodserling.com/pota.htm>

RSMF ARCHIVES

Each issue of the Newsletter, we'll be highlighting a piece of the collection at the Rod Serling Memorial Foundation that will hopefully someday be part of a permanent Museum Exhibit.

On October 3, 2009, during the 50th anniversary celebration of Rod Serling's groundbreaking television series, "The Twilight Zone," WSKG presented "The Twilight Zone LIVE." Reenactments of two Twilight Zone scripts written by Serling and inspired by Binghamton locales ("Walking Distance" & "Mirror Image") as well as a short documentary produced by WSKG's Emmy Award-winning Brian Frey were presented in front of a studio audience of over 100 fans from across the country and broadcast live for television viewers. We thank WSKG for donating their display honoring this event as well as a copy of the broadcast to our archives. For more information on the production and to see some stills visit our page at <http://www.rodserling.com/wskg2009/>.



Scene from "Mirror Image" — Grinstead (Sandy Monachino) tries to comfort Millicent (Heidi Weeks Crocker)

2017 SERLING AWARD RECIPIENTS by Kate Murray

Throughout his writing and educational careers, Rod Serling provoked thought wherever his influence reached. His pen planted seeds of imagination into the minds of old and young alike, even after his passing. It is no surprise that to this day, art blossoms from his inspiration. The memory of Rod Serling can be found in many facets of the creative world, and we would like to honor a select few individuals who excel at this. This award is given for achievement in the artistic aesthetic Serling endowed upon the world, and nominees are considered annually. In 2017, three recipients were chosen by the RSMF board to receive the Serling Award; a Musician, a Filmmaker and an Editor.



The cover of the album "Mink Swimming Pools" by Uncommon Nasa.

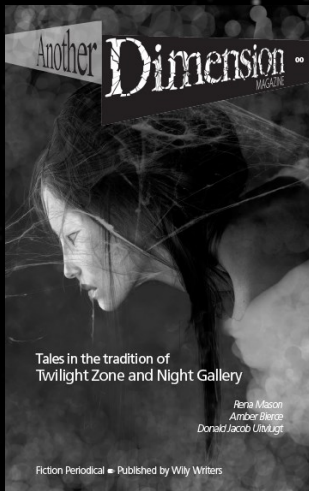
Paul Loverro of Staten Island, NY known professionally as 'Uncommon Nasa' is the owner of Uncommon Records & Nasa Labs, NYC.

Uncommon Nasa is a hip-hop and rap musician who created the album entitled "Mink Swimming Pools, music inspired by Rod Serling and collected for these current times."



Uncommon Nasa holds his Serling award.

Jonathan Napolitano of Burlington, CT, is a documentary film maker with two other films under his belt. His work is entitled "The Carousel" and it tells the story of the merry-go-round found in Recreation Park, Binghamton, NY. This attraction is in Rod Serling's home town and was the one he enjoyed riding as a child growing up in Binghamton. A replica of this merry-go-round was a prominent symbol in the Twilight Zone episode "Walking Distance". The carousel that resides in Recreation Park was recently restored in 2011. Napolitano's documentary follows the work of master carver, Bill Finkenstein of WRF Designs and Cortlandt Hull, who was chosen to paint the panels on the crown above the carousel horses, featuring images from some of *The Twilight Zone's* most prominent episodes (Hull is executive director of the Witch's Dungeon Classic Movie Museum in Bristol, CT). This documentary film revisits the restoration process and the inspiration behind it.



Angel Leigh McCoy, of Seattle, WA is a game designer and fiction writer who collected 22 modern horror and dark fantasy stories into a series entitled "Anthology From Another Dimension." This book has a similar mood to the short stories written for *The Twilight Zone* and *Night Gallery* television series. They take us back to the Horror of the 50s, 60s, and 70s, when writers like Rod Serling, Richard Matheson, George Clayton Johnson, and Charles Beaumont were developing scripts that would become part of our culture for decades to come.

The Rod Serling Memorial Foundation follows closely the works of visual and performing artists and writers who choose to honor Rod Serling in their own creations. As a masterful and influential writer Mr. Serling's influence reaches into the future and into every corner of the world and genre of art.

If you have recently created a piece of art, or know of someone who has, please contact the RSMF and tell us about it. RSMF encourages artists to express their creativity and would perhaps like to honor their work of art with a 2018 Serling Award.

KNOW YOUR SERLING by Amy Boyle Johnston



When Rod Serling's wife Carol was pregnant with their first child, Serling left his staff position at WLW-TV in Cincinnati to write dramatic shows freelance. His reasoning: he was no longer able to write meaningful scripts for the "Queen City;" instead, he was just making things up to sell products under the guise of entertainment.

One series Serling himself proposed while at WLW was "A Program Idea for Raleigh Cigarettes: Know Your Onions."

The whole (proposed) show was a vehicle for Raleigh cigarettes. At the beginning of the program each member of the panel would receive a carton of Raleigh cigarettes; they were also given a box that was "painted and shaped like an onion" which contained questions on various subjects. When someone answered a questions incorrectly - they were to give up a pack of cigarettes for each wrong answer. According to Serling's proposal, "The first person on the panel who gives away all his cigarettes by failing to answer questions or by giving wrong answers receives a real onion." But, "should they guess a certain number of questions correctly they receive one of the Raleigh coupon prizes."

Serling, who would later win the first Peabody award for excellence in television writing, did not mince words in his proposal: "Using these Gimicks (sic) keeps the name Raleigh running through the show very naturally, as well as plugging the cupon-premiums (sic) throughout."

Serling wrote another series proposal at the same time -- this time involving a couple: Mr. and Mrs. Raleigh -- in which they would, in each show, mention the taste, coupons and value of Raleigh cigarettes during their banter.

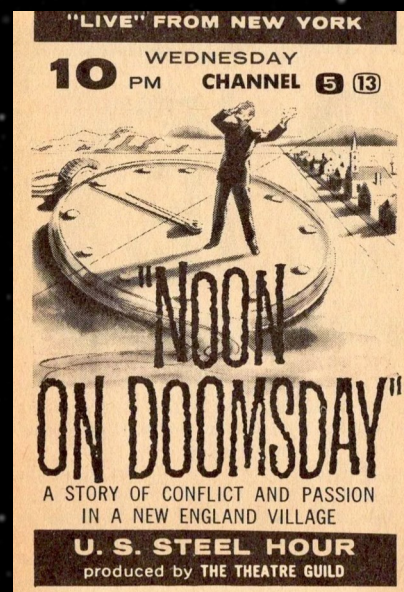
While it is mind-numbing to think that one of TV's greatest writers would be reduced to making meaningless drivel to push cigarettes, it was also one of the reasons that pushed Serling into the national market. By becoming a freelance writer Serling was hoping to no longer be beholden to sponsor demands. So it is with even greater irony that Serling would experience sponsor interference with scripts such as "Noon on Doomsday" later in his career.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

[UNKNOWN SERLING: An Episodic History](#) by Amy Boyle Johnston

This book is painstakingly researched, well-written and respectful of Rod Serling and his legacy. The first portion is out as an e-book: *The Bradbury, Kennedy, Pentagon and WWII stories*. It's excellent, inexpensive, and available at Amazon in paperback...for their Kindle reader, or for the free [Kindle reader app](#) on IOS, Android, Mac and PC.

AND... listen to the [radio interview of author Amy Boyle Johnston](#) on WXXI, Rochester, NY.



Upcoming talk will bridge work of Carl Sagan, Rod Serling ...

The children of two prominent locals from Ithaca, NY – astrophysicist Carl Sagan and 'Twilight Zone' creator Rod Serling – will be panelists in an upcoming discussion presented by "The History center of Tompkins County."

Info: [The Ithaca Journal](#)

Bill D'Elia '69 and David E. Kelley Receive Serling Award

Award-winning television producer/director Bill D'Elia and producer/writer David E. Kelley received the Rod Serling Award for Advancing Social Justice Through Popular Media on December 7, 2017 at The Paley Center for Media in Beverly Hills, California. The award is presented by the Roy H. Park School of Communications at Ithaca College in honor of "Twilight Zone" creator Rod Serling, who taught at Ithaca from 1967-1973.

The goal of the Serling Award is to recognize modern media professionals' work that raises awareness of prejudice, inequality and society's changing social norms. The award was presented by actor William Shatner, who appeared on two episodes of Serling's groundbreaking show "The Twilight Zone," and also starred in "Boston Legal." The event was emceed by Brian Herzlinger '97, who credits D'Elia with hiring him into his first industry position after the pair met at an Ithaca College event.

D'Elia and Kelley worked together on groundbreaking T.V. shows — several of which earned a Peabody Award — one of the most prestigious awards in electronic media, given in honor of "distinguished achievement and meritorious public service."



Bill D'Elia, David E. Kelley, William Shatner and Diane Gayeski at the Serling Award ceremony. (Photo by Jake West for Ithaca College)

"The partnership between Bill D'Elia as a producer/director and David E. Kelley as a producer/writer has yielded decades of prominent television shows such as 'Ally McBeal,' 'The Practice,' 'Harry's Law' and others that have bravely addressed contemporary issues of social justice, diversity and inclusion," said Diane Gayeski, dean of the Roy H. Park School of Communications.

D'Elia began directing television in 1991, when he helmed several episodes of the Emmy-award winning show, "Northern Exposure." Over the course of his career, he's won two Television Academy Honors Awards, and earned eight Emmy and four Golden Globe nominations. He was taught by Serling while at Ithaca College.

"It doesn't go without notice that the arc of my career goes from Rod Serling to David Kelley, two guys that only knew how to write stories that not just entertained,

but provoked thought," said D'Elia. Kelley, who was inducted into the Television Hall of Fame in 2014, has won 10 Emmy awards, and is one of the few screenwriters to have shows air on ABC, NBC, CBS and Fox.

"We need more Rod Serlings," said Kelley. "We need more people who are willing to mine that terrain of humanity and what it is to be human and to have to look yourself in the mirror and examine your value judgments, and to sort of turn the world upside down and explore what it means to be human."

Ithaca College currently houses the Rod Serling Archives, a comprehensive collection of his television scripts, film screenplays, stage play scripts, films, unpublished works, awards and other materials. The Park School has one of Serling's Emmys on display in its lobby.



2018 ROD SERLING FILM FESTIVAL OPENS—WSKG

The 2018 Rod Serling Film Festival is now open. WSKG-TV in Binghamton is accepting submissions from K-12 students through May 25, 2018. Entrants must use the online submission form:

<https://wskg.org/education/rod-serling-film-festival-2016-2/#form>

Everything I Needed to Know I Learned in The Twilight Zone

Review by Anne Serling

Writing a review for a book can be an arduous and intimidating process. Particularly when the author is a friend and the book is about a series of your father's works. One might be accused of partiality, certain bias. I plead guilty to both.

That said, let's allow Mark Dawidziak's works to speak for themselves. A theater, film and television reviewer for more than 35 years, Mark has been the TV critic at the Cleveland Plain Dealer since 1999 and also an adjunct professor at Kent State University where he teaches two classes each semester: *Reviewing Film and Television* and *Vampires on Film and Television*. Additionally, as an actor and director, he often plays Mark Twain and Charles Dickens in productions staged by the Largely Literary Theater Company, the touring troupe he founded in 2002 with his wife, actress Sara Showman. Last summer (2017) we were fortunate to have Mark and Sara in a staged production of a *Twilight Zone* at the forum theater in Binghamton, New York.

Mark has written fiction and non-fiction, works in the horror field, books on Mark Twain, and volumes of theater and television history. Here are some of his varied titles: *Mark Twain for Cat Lovers: True and Imaginary Adventures with Feline Friends*; *Mark Twain's Guide to Diet, Exercise, Beauty, Fashion, Investment, Romance, Health and Happiness*; *Theodore Roosevelt for Nature Lovers: Adventures with America's Great Outdoorsman*; *The Columbo File: A Casebook*; *Kolchak The Night Stalker: Sound Of Fear*; *Jim Tully: American Writer, Irish Rover, Hollywood Brawler*; *Mark My Words: Mark Twain on Writing*; *Richard Matheson's Kolchak Scripts*.

When Mark and I first met and he told me of his idea to write about lessons from *The Twilight Zone*, one of his very first questions to me was, "Why do you think your father wrote what he did?" I said I wanted to think about that for a while.

As Mark and I continued talking, I learned that the idea of his writing, *Everything I Needed to Know I Learned in The Twilight Zone*, stemmed from watching the five seasons of *The Twilight Zone* with his daughter, Becky, when she was about to turn fifteen. "It was time to introduce her to that wondrous land whose boundaries are that of imagination," Mark said.

Perfectly described as, "a kind of fifth-dimension self – help book," *Everything I Needed to Know I Learned in The Twilight Zone*, articulates the parables of *The Twilight Zone* and is more than a simple catalogue. It is also an in-depth look at the multiple lessons to be found in any given episode. Written in a light and entertaining way, the book successfully disguises the profoundness of its analysis and intent, much like *The Twilight Zone* parables themselves and pays a heartfelt homage to my father's work and life.

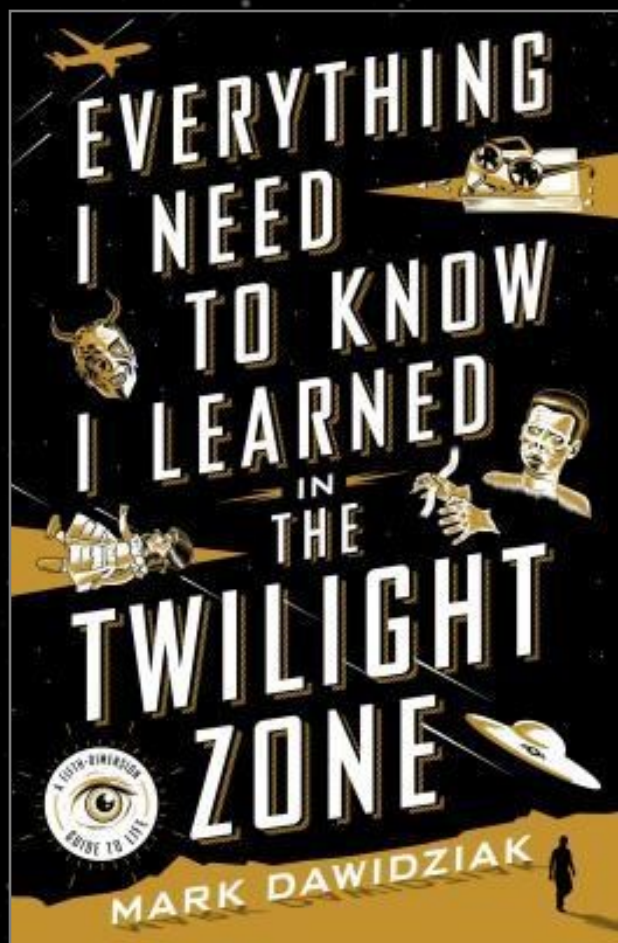
When I finally got back to Mark and his question, "Why do you think your father wrote what he did?" I told him, "Because, quite simply, he truly and deeply cared about all of us."

How humbled my dad would have been to know people felt the same about him and grateful, too, for books like Mark's, Amy Boyle Johnston, Tony Albarella and Nick Parissi's forthcoming book.

Mark Dawidziak's exposition of the lessons found in *The Twilight Zone* brings renewed and much needed hope that the human spirit can overcome the malaise of our turbulent times.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

[Everything I Needed to Know I Learned in The Twilight Zone](#) is available at Amazon in hardcover and for the free [Kindle reader app](#) on IOS, Android, Mac and PC.



THE "OTHER" ROD SERLING by Steve Schlich

For anyone under fifty-eight, *The Twilight Zone* has always been on television; Rod Serling has always stood before us, welcoming and warning in nearly the same breath. His show, his brainchild, pushed the envelope for fantasy, science fiction, and true social comment on television at a time when sponsors acted as censors and networks were terrified to take a controversial stand on anything.

But Serling wasn't only that smoker in the dark suit with a tight-lipped grin and a story to tell. Before that, he was one of the golden boys of television's first Golden Age. He earned his own show by honing his talent with plain old hard work. He won two of his record-setting six writing Emmys for *Twilight Zone*, but the other four made their own history.

1. "On January 13, 1955, the Kraft Television Theatre presented *Patterns*. Serling later wrote "one minute after the show went off the air, my phone started to ring. It has been ringing ever since." Deservedly so. The broadcast was so highly praised that NBC repeated it a month later, the very first time anything was ever repeated on TV, and not an easy task in 1955: they restaged the broadcast, live.

That success came only after years of free-lancing on the kitchen table in the evening and four-plus years of writing for TV full time. [Tough years, when at first, rejections outnumbered acceptances.](#) Serling walked the walk. [In this article](#), he describes the work that went into *Patterns*, crediting its success to many people, not just himself. That acknowledgment of others is classic Rod Serling.

2. After the 1956 broadcast of *Requiem for a Heavyweight*, CBS head [William Paley called Requiem's producer Martin Manulius](#) and said, "Tell everyone, especially Rod Serling, that tonight we put television about ten years ahead."

Here's another aspect of this production that will renew your faith in humanity: the show featured former vaudeville comedian Ed Wynn in his very first dramatic role—and that could not have happened without [selfless support and dedicated hard work from his costars](#).

3. and 4. Rod won two more Emmys adapting other people's work, for [The Comedian](#) (1957) and [It's Mental Work](#) (1963). Through the screenplays, he put his own distinctive mark on both productions.

Rod's six Emmys are still the record for a writer, 54 years after he earned the final one. But they are merely the cream of a career full of impassioned, affecting writing. I'll name a few of my Golden Age favorites: *The Strike*, *A Town Has Turned to Dust*, *The Rank and File*, *The Time Element*, *The Velvet Alley* ...and *In the Presence of Mine Enemies*, in my opinion among the very finest of Serling's writings.

Here's a [clip from the 1960 Playhouse 90 broadcast](#) of *In the Presence...*—when young Nazi Sgt. Lutz (played by a young Robert Redford) learns about "the morality of hating Jews." It's explosive stuff.

This teleplay might have won Serling his seventh Emmy had the network not insisted on a seriously weakened climax. Armin Mueller-Stahl [filmed the original script](#) for a 1997 Showtime movie that includes the original heart-wrenching ending. I just found it [on eBay for \\$9.99 \(or best offer!\)](#), and it is worth both your money and time.

You can find most of Rod Serling's Golden Age TV work at [The Paley Center for Media in Beverly Hills](#) or New York City. The above article describes my visit to the Beverly Hills location, and contains a [catalog of Serling-authored videos there](#).

If that visit is not convenient, you can look for recordings on eBay or YouTube. Use this [Filmography](#) to facilitate your search.

Finally, here's a wonderfully demented treat from 1953, a precursor to *The Twilight Zone*: [Nightmare at Ground Zero](#). But be warned: the third act fails. It's early TV and early Serling; the Golden Age was still a couple of years away.



Rod with director Fielder Cook, working on "Patterns" (Jan. 1955). Source: Binghamton Press.



R.S.M.F. PROFILE

Tony Albarella —Secretary / Archivist

Tony Albarella joined the Rod Serling Memorial Foundation in the 1990's and soon after began chronicling Serling's work in several literary formats. His magazine articles have appeared in publications that include Filmfax, Outré, and Radiogram, and he is the co-author of THE TWILIGHT ZONE SCRIPTS OF EARL HAMNER.

Tony joined the RSMF Board of Directors and established several long-lasting and cherished friendships among fellow board members and the Serling family, for which he is grateful. He also credits his association with the organization for opportunities to work on various projects with several of his literary heroes, including Earl Hamner, Richard Matheson, and George Clayton Johnson.

From 2004-2015, Tony served as editor of the ten-volume limited edition (and one paperback "Best Of" volume) series from Gauntlet Press, AS TIMELESS AS INFINITY: THE COMPLETE TWILIGHT ZONE SCRIPTS OF ROD SERLING. This collection published all 92 of Serling's teleplays for the seminal television series, and to provide background information Tony interviewed over one hundred actors, writers, directors and producers associated with *The Twilight Zone*. Tony also edited RICHARD MATHESON'S NIGHTMARE AT 20,000 FEET and contributed to several other books on Richard Matheson's work. Tony frequently speaks about Serling's career on radio and television shows, documentaries, podcasts, and at educational conferences and presentations.

He lives in New Jersey with his wife, Cindy, and two daughters, Veronica and Alyssa.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

For more on Tony's work — check out this [REVIEW of the AS TIMELESS AS INFINITY](#) series, and an interview with Tony [HERE](#).



Tony (L) with Earl Hamner (Los Angeles).

GOT QUESTIONS?

Members of this distinguished organization know a fair amount about Rod Serling. If there's something you've always wondered about...or have questions about an obscure Serling work — just [send us an e-mail...](#) and one of our resident "experts" will try to fulfill your request in a future newsletter.

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(Check [rodserling.com](#) for more details as they become available)

<http://xscapes-stic.com/>

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If you have an Amazon.com account — a portion of every purchase made at [smile.amazon.com](#) can be donated to the Rod Serling Memorial Foundation.

More details:

<http://www.rodserling.com/donate.htm>

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The caricature of Rod Serling on our masthead is by the late Johnny Hart — internationally-known cartoonist ("B.C." and "The Wizard of Id")...another creative genius who called the Binghamton area "home."

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