



The Rod Serling Memorial Foundation

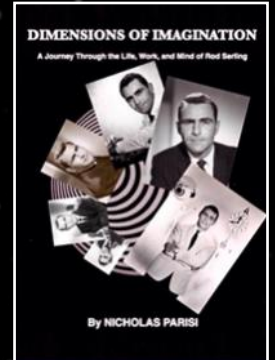
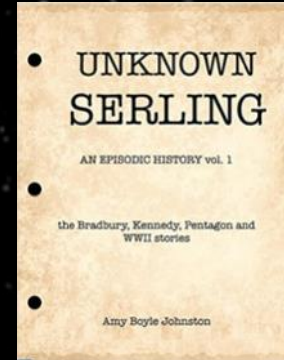
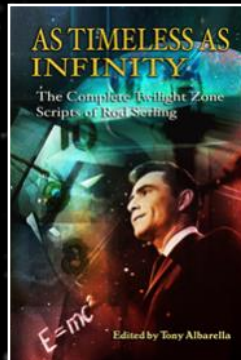
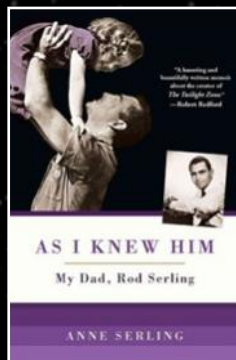
Newsletter — Summer 2016



Since the mid-1980's this organization has been working to honor Rod Serling—one of the most talented and prolific writers in American television. This newsletter highlights the continuing interest in Rod Serling and his work—in an attempt to provide RSMF members with information from the press... on bookshelves... DVDs and the internet.

RSMF BOARD MEMBERS TO PRESENT AT ROBERSON SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

The Rod Serling Memorial Foundation is sponsoring an author's panel at the [2016 Robercon](#) on Saturday, September 24. Featured panelist are Anne Serling — author of *As I Knew Him: My Dad, Rod Serling...* Tony Albarella — author of *As Timeless As Infinity: The Complete Twilight Zone Scripts of Rod Serling...* Amy Boyle Johnston — author of *Unknown Serling: An Episodic History Vol. 1...* and Nicholas Parisi — author of *Dimensions of Imagination: A Journey Through the Life, Work and Mind of Rod Serling*. The diversity of the panel will allow us to examine all aspects of Rod Serling's life and career. This is a great chance to meet these authors in person. Presentations by each author will begin at 2 p.m. — followed by a question and answer period afterward. Books will be available for sale and the authors will be signing copies. Robercon is held at the Roberson Museum, 30 Front Street in Rod's hometown of Binghamton, NY. Hope to see you there!



MYSTERY IMAGES

Can you identify which production of a Serling script the images above came from? The member with the most correct answers will receive a "ROD SERLING MEMORIAL FOUNDATION T-SHIRT." E-mail your answers — listing the titles by *number* — to newsletter editor Gordon Webb:

webb@ithaca.edu

(in case of a tie, the winner will be drawn at random from all finalists).

NEW ANTHOLOGY MAGAZINE...

A new anthology appears in your peripheral vision: "Another Dimension." It brings tales of the macabre, the mysterious, and the just-plain-strange—on paper and in digital versions. It offers 22 scary, thought-provoking stories meant to give you a shiver, essays on Rod Serling and George Clayton Johnson, and an introduction by RSMF Board Member Tony Albarella — recognized Serling expert and editor of the eleven-volume collection of *As Timeless as Infinity: The Complete Twilight Zone Scripts of Rod Serling*. Due out on September 1, 2016, you'll be able to find it at Amazon and other locations detailed at <http://anotherdimensionmag.com/>.



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ROD SERLING — THE HUMAN ICON

Who doesn't love watching that man in a dark suit and a thin tie welcome us to a journey into the *Twilight Zone*, smoking and grinning ...and then usher us out again with a lesson and smile, when the tale has been told? I've read that Rod thought he looked like a Sicilian prize fighter up there on the screen. But I thought he was the coolest thing I'd ever laid eyes on.

He was surprising in person, smaller than I expected, but with that same big voice. He was tuned in to the real world, not some magical place where justice is meted out with supreme irony. I [shared his company with a small group of excited college students](#) for some 30 minutes back in 1969, so in awe that I didn't wash the hand that shook his for several days afterward.

When I finally did some research on Rod Serling, I learned how he helped to shape TV's Golden Age of the 1950s, with Emmy-winning dramas and social commentary that fought hard for human rights and against censorship. The man is an icon, a giant of the Twentieth century.

But I also love the human part of him that lived just behind that iconic television presence, the real live person who couldn't stop reaching out to people one-on-one, just because he had become internationally famous.

[Rodserling.com](#) has a section devoted to the family man, the grown man who ached to be a child again, the singular human who could share a lunch counter meal with you as if you two were just a couple of Joes. Read about:

- A man recalls [how he found a real-life "After Hours" equivalent](#) in a department store.
- A nurse remembers her warm interaction with Rod [when he was hospitalized](#).
- Writer Patrick Timothy Mullikin fondly [recalls his Rod Serling childhood](#).
- A jazz musician [recalls a simple meal shared with Rod in an Ohio hamburger joint](#).
- Scott Sommer marvels at [the cherished memories of his father triggered by "One for the Angels"](#).

I've listed just five of over forty articles waiting for you — on the right side of [this web page](#). You can read how Rod touched people's lives, often by reaching out through *The Twilight Zone*, but sometimes just by hanging with them in person.

Did he affect your life? We'd love to hear about it; we'd love to help you share it with others. Send your stories to me at: webster@rodserling.com



RECENT PASSINGS

[EARL HAMNER, JR.](#) (92) — who wrote eight scripts for "The Twilight Zone" died March 24, 2016. Earl was best known for creating "The Walton's."

[GEORGE CLAYTON JOHNSON](#) (86) — author of seven "Twilight Zone" scripts passed away Christmas Day 2015. He also co-wrote the sci-fi classic "Logan's Run" and the first "Star Trek" episode.

[RICHARD BARE](#) (101) — directed seven "Twilight Zone" episodes and is known for directing EVERY episode of "Green Acres." He passed away March 28, 2015.

[ARLENE MARTEL](#) (78) died on August 12, 2014. She appeared in nearly 70 TV series, [including two TWZ episodes...](#)and is best known as Mr. Spock's Vulcan wife on "Star Trek." AKA: Arlene Sax.

GOT QUESTIONS ?

Members of this distinguished organization know a fair amount about Rod Serling... but 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.

R.S.M.F. SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO BINGHAMTON SENIOR

This year the Rod Serling Memorial Foundation Scholarship goes to Connor Carangelo — who will be attending Sierra College in the Fall. Entrants — all students at the [Rod Serling School of Fine Arts](#) in Binghamton — were required to submit an essay dealing with *how themes in Serling's television writing might be dealt with in the current era of internet connectivity and social media*. In Connor's winning essay, he pointed out that "spreading a message to huge numbers of people has never been easier, and we need to use that advantage. Education is said to be one of the most important tools against intolerance, and these massive platforms are a great way to teach those who would have otherwise been unreachable."



Noted artist CORTLANDT HULL puts finishing touches on one of the "rounding boards" for the 1925 Recreation Park carousel. The renovation, dedicated in 2011 features nine images from Serling's iconic *Twilight Zone* series including the nostalgic "Walking Distance," shown here, which depicts a man with a hectic job in the big city returning to find his hometown just as he left it. Serling grew up a few blocks from this carousel in Binghamton, NY. [More info...](#)

(the photo on our masthead shows the renovated Carousel in action)

ITHACA COLLEGE PRESENTS THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF MAJOR AWARDS HONORING ROD SERLING



T-V writer/producer [David Simon](#) received the first “Rod Serling Award for the Advancement of Social Justice in Popular Media” at a ceremony in Los Angeles on February 4. A former reporter for the Baltimore Sun, Simon is best known for creating the celebrated HBO series *The Wire* — which depicts the political and socioeconomic fissures in an American city. Other television credits include the NBC drama *Homicide: Life on the Streets*, and HBO’s *The Corner*, *Generation Kill* and *Treme*.

Students from I-C’s “Los Angeles Center” as well as members of the entertainment industry were on hand as Simon received his award from Carol Serling. In his acceptance speech, Simon said he was astonished and honored to be compared to Serling. Simon said while he usually tries to avoid award ceremonies, when he got the call that he was going to be the first recipient of an award named after Rod Serling, he accepted the invitation with “alacrity.”

Dean of the Park School of Communications Diane Gayeski said Simon was the perfect choice to receive this award. “Like Rod Serling, his gift is the ability to make his audiences uncomfortable but unable to switch off the story,” Gayeski said. “Both leave viewers with lingering images and issues that can’t be ignored and force us to confront

our own responsibility to those who still have unequal opportunities in our country.”

[CLICK](#) to view the complete award ceremony.

LATEST SERLING BOOK: TEN YEARS IN THE MAKING

In the forward to [Unknown Serling: An Episodic History, Vol. 1](#) — Amy Boyle Johnston lays out her goal right up front: “to prove Rod Serling’s television writings dealing with anxiety, identity and conformity are more relevant to a post 9/11 society than the 1950’s and to do it in under 18 months.” She adds: “I was only off by 8.5 years.”

Her interview subjects read like a “who’s who” of Serling history: Ray Bradbury, George Clayton Johnson, Nolan Miller (Serling’s writing instructor at Antioch College), Richard Matheson, Earl Hamner, Jr. etc. etc. Add to that visits to both Serling Archives (Ithaca College and Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison — requiring the Serling family’s permission)...three visits to reunions of the U. S. Army’s 511th Parachute Regiment (Serling’s old unit)...writers and actors from his old radio days at WLW in Cincinnati and even a well-known Broadway producer who remembered a script Serling wrote in 1968. Further research took Amy to more archives, dusty attics... and there were hundreds of scripts to read... and transcribed interviews to go through.

The result of Amy’s research has been separated into three parts -- allowing readers to focus on individual topics (such as the JFK or Bradbury essays) without carrying around “a 300+ page book.” Volume 1 contains essays on Bradbury, Kennedy, the Pentagon and WWII.

Unlike several existing biographies -- [Unknown Serling](#) does not deal with Serling’s private life. It focuses on “his relationship with us.” But Amy points out that, without a doubt, Serling “as a man, was a good guy...it is clear that he loved his wife and children, and cared for his extended family, friends and fellow soldiers.”

[Unknown Serling: An Episodic History, Vol. 1](#) is available in paperback and as an e-book through [Amazon](#).

(Amy is a new member of the RSMF Board of Directors).

JUST OUT...

Our eagle-eyed president (Andy Polak) spotted this in a Facebook post: a new DVD set of Serling’s “The Loner.”

Never available commercially — this short-lived Serling western series starred Lloyd Bridges. We understand the set includes all 26 episodes...and several BOD members have ordered it already thru [Walmart online](#).

More info [here...](#)



MORE...

Turner Classic Movies has announced that “Planet of the Apes” will be shown on the big screen around the country July 24 & 27 in [a special two-day event at selected theaters](#). Rod Serling wrote the original screenplay for Planet...and shares screen credit with Michael Wilson in the film — released in 1968. The film’s classic “statue-of-liberty” ending was Serling’s creation...[as documented by RSMF Board member Gordon C. Webb](#).

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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