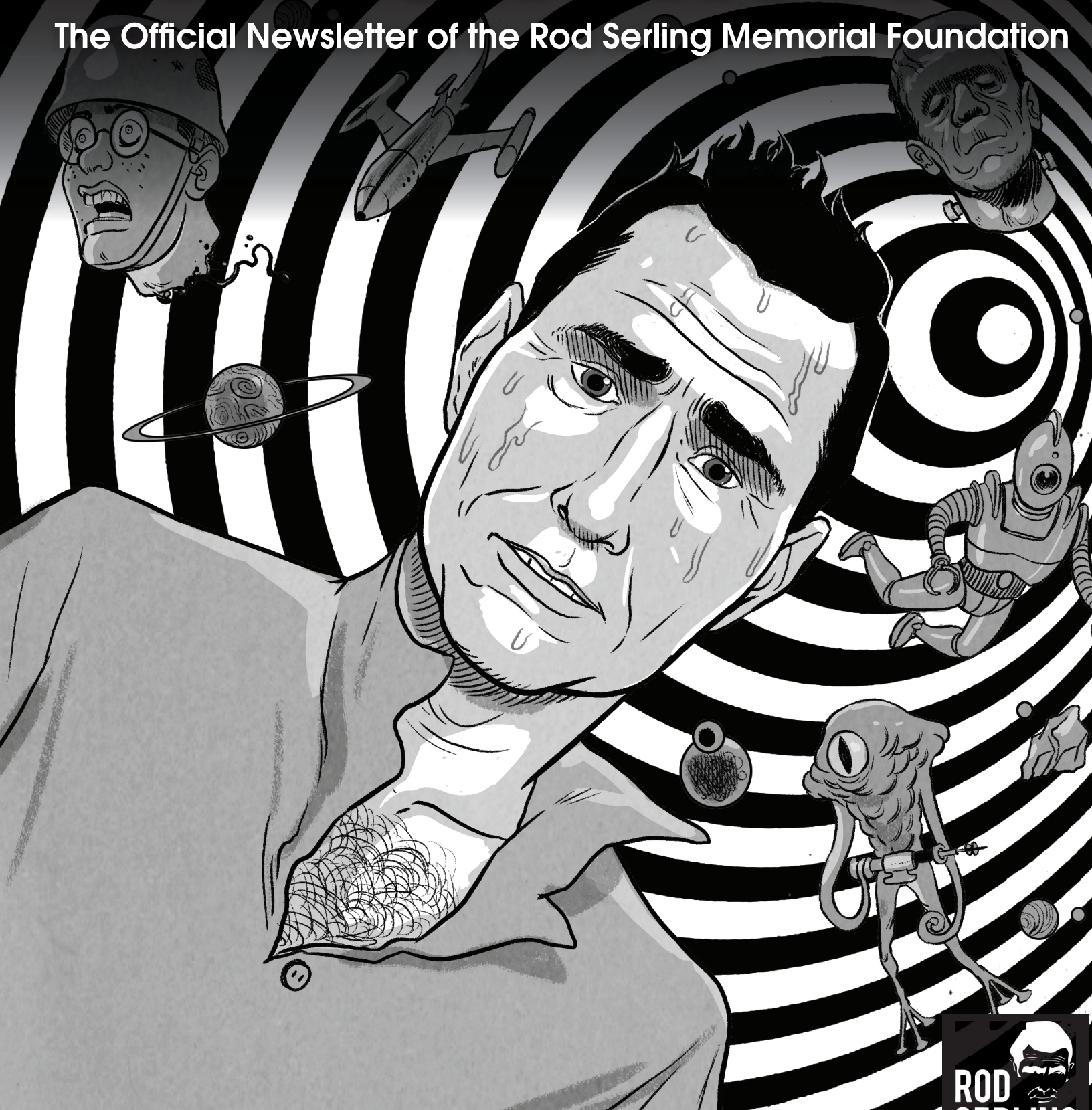
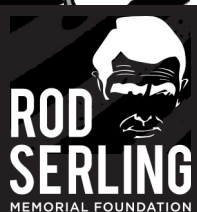


DIMENSIONS OF IMAGINATION

The Official Newsletter of the Rod Serling Memorial Foundation



AUTUMN 2020



INTRODUCTION

NOTES FROM NICK

An Update from RSMF President Nick Parisi

Hello and welcome to the debut issue of DIMENSIONS OF IMAGINATION: THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROD SERLING MEMORIAL FOUNDATION.

Submitted for your approval, perusal, and consideration, a revamped and redesigned publication that will update our members on anything and everything related to the Foundation's "patron saint," Rod Serling.

DIMENSIONS OF IMAGINATION will be delivered in PDF form via email three times per year. These three publications will then be combined with additional content and released as a bound, physical publication once per year.

This and subsequent PDFs will be emailed to everyone who has ever donated anything at all to the Rod Serling Memorial Foundation (assuming we have your correct e-mail address!), with our great thanks. The annual



bound issue, however, will be mailed only to members in good standing, as part of our new basic membership package. For a donation of \$25.00 per year, you will receive:

1. A one-year subscription to this newsletter (three PDF issues

and one print issue).

2. Access to exclusive content on our new, Rod Serling Memorial Foundation YouTube channel.
3. A one-year subscription to our soon-to-be-launched RSMF Official Podcast.
4. A 10% discount on any

merchandise offered at www.rodserling.com, including tickets to upcoming SerlingFests.

5. A personalized membership card.
6. Your own rodserling.com email address.
7. Voting privileges in Foundation-related elections.

If you haven't recently donated, please visit www.rodserling.com to make your donation and ensure that you will receive all the privileges of membership. Also, please make sure that we have your current physical mailing address. And when you have a chance, please give us a like on Facebook (www.facebook.com/RSMemorialFoundation) and follow us on Twitter.

Thank you for your support!

Nicholas Parisi, President,
The Rod Serling Memorial
Foundation



OUR PLEDGE

Rod Serling's achievements in playwriting, speech making and broadcasting are considerable and important. As members of The Rod Serling Memorial Foundation, we dedicate ourselves to promote and preserve this great man's contributions to the Arts and Humanities.

We pledge to educate the public about Rod Serling's genius and his passion, hoping that they will understand and appreciate his mastery of the creative arts, his unique understanding of human relationships, his esteem as a writer, his generosity as a speaker in and around Binghamton, and his uncompromising commitment to quality.

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Tony Albarella, Secretary / Archivist
Andrew Polak, Treasurer
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Jodi Serling
Jackie Stapleton

WEBMASTER

Steve Schlich

NEWSLETTER DESIGNER

Gail Flug

Rod Serling Memorial Foundation
Box 2101, Binghamton, New York USA 13902-2101

www.RodSerling.com

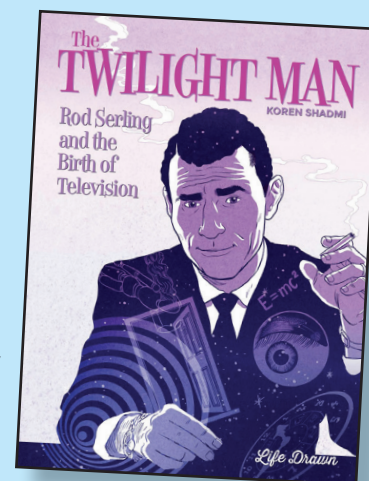
NON-PROFIT PLEDGE The Rod Serling Memorial Foundation is operated exclusively for the above and other non-profit purposes, and is registered with the IRS as a non-profit entity. No part of any net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any private member.

ON THE COVER

THANK YOU to Koren Shadmi for allowing us to use his illustration of Rod from his graphic novel *The Twilight Man: Rod Serling and the Birth of Television*.

From the publisher: A biographical tale that follows Hollywood revolutionary Rod Serling's rise to fame in the Golden Age of Television, and his descent into his own personal Twilight Zone.

We recognize him as our sharply dressed, cigarette-smoking tour guide of *The Twilight Zone*, but the entertainment business once regarded him as the "Angry Young Man" of Television. Before he became the revered master of science fiction, Rod Serling was just a writer who had to fight to make his voice heard. He vehemently challenged the networks and viewership alike to expand their minds and standards—rejecting notions of censorship, racism and war. But it wasn't until he began to write about real world enemies in the guise of aliens and monsters that people lent their ears. In



doing so, he pushed the television industry to the edge of glory, and himself to the edge of sanity. Rod operated in a dimension beyond that of contemporary society, making him both a revolutionary and an outsider.

The Twilight Man: Rod Serling and the Birth of Television is available at amazon.com

RSMF PROFILE

Steve Schlich — Webmaster/ Board of Directors

In 1998, Steve Schlich bought rodserling.com when he discovered that no one owned it. The next year he convinced Andy Polak to let him be webmaster when the RSMF president wrote asking to buy the domain. The rest is ongoing history: "It's a labor of love."

Steve earned membership in the Science Fiction Writers of America (SFWA) in 1982, the same year that he began writing software documentation

for WordStar, the original "killer app" for personal computers.

Since retiring in 2017, he's been providing tech support for seniors in his hometown, composing and recording music, writing the occasional political blog, and running the Narrate Your Own Twilight Zone competition.

"Rod Serling gave me permission to be a writer."



RSMF ARCHIVE

A Meat Fork from the Serling's Family Market

by Andy Polak

In each issue of the newsletter we like to highlight an item we have in the Rod Serling Memorial Foundation archive that we hope to some day have on display at a museum dedicated to his life and work.

This is a great piece of Serling family history! This meat fork pictured was given to our archives by an anonymous donor back in the 1990s. When Rod's father Sam moved the family to Binghamton from Syracuse, he opened "Serling's Sanitary Market."



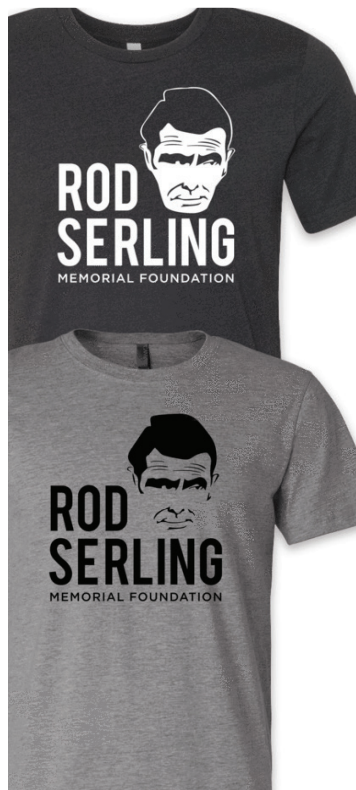
Over the years, the business operated at several different locations. This one came from the building at 161 Washington Street in downtown Binghamton.



For anyone who has attended SerlingFests at the Broome County Forum Theater, this location would have been just down the street (now a parking lot).

What do you think of their slogan? GET THE HABIT - MARKET AT SERLING'S MARKET

RSMF MERCHANDISE



The RSMF has teamed up with Muckles Ink - a retail & commercial screen-printed apparel company owned and operated by Binghamton University Alumni - to print and distribute our official shirt! Proceeds will benefit the Rod Serling Memorial Foundation. It's a great conversation starter to meet fellow fans and a rewarding way to show your support for Rod's legacy!

Details:

- 52/48 Airlume combed and ringpun cotton/polyester
- Unisex sizing
- Coverstitched collar and sleeves
- Shoulder-to-shoulder taping
- Retail fit, side seams
- Tear-away label

Available in black with white print or grey with black print; sizes S to 4X - \$22.00 plus shipping.

Muckles also offers a wide range of Binghamton and Binghamton University shirts and tote bags.

Go to www.mucklesu.com, scroll down to the house Merch section.

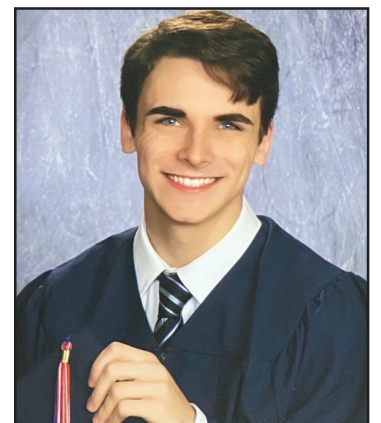
TREVOR TERRY WINS 2020 SERLING SCHOLARSHIP

The Rod Serling Memorial Foundation proudly presents the 2020 winner of our scholarship: Trevor Terry. He will seek a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at Coastal Carolina University, majoring in acting ...and likely do some singing and dancing as well!

His activities at the Rod Serling School of Fine Arts included competitive dancing, stage plays and musical theater, Binghamton area community theater, chamber orchestra, mixed choir, and a steel drum percussion ensemble.

Trevor participated in an "Only We Know" Public Service Announcement about school gun violence.

From his application: "Social media is a tool that has the power to bring everyone in the world together, and it should be used to show the world what it really looks like. By sharing information and stories about the horrors of this world, we as a global community could grow



and connect in a way no previous generation has before.

"My hope for the world is that someday everyone will see this power we have, and finally begin using it to fight for the change everyone deserves."

Trevor played several roles in the reading of "The Happy Place" during the 2019 Serling Fest last October.

SERLINGFEST AT HOME

Our Annual Event Goes On Despite COVID-19

By Nick Parisi

In the summer of 2020 we had planned to hold our fourth annual "SerlingFest" in Binghamton, New York, live and in person. With all of us forced to imitate James Corry, exiled to our personal asteroids, we decided instead to hold our first "virtual" SerlingFest – and it was a huge success.

On August 15, 2020, the Rod Serling Memorial Foundation Facebook page played host to an eight-hour marathon of presentations and interviews with an array of Serling aficionados.

Our first guest was Mark Olshaker, co-writer of *MINDHUNTER* (inspiration for the hit Netflix series). When he was a teenager, Mark first met Rod and it was the beginning of a friendship that lasted for the last ten years of Serling's life. "He owed me nothing," Mark said, and "I just couldn't believe how generous and supportive he was." What left the greatest impression on Mark was not Rod's greatness as a writer but, "How generous a man he was, how much he would do for other people, how much he put himself out and really, really cared."

Following Mark Olshaker was the second in a trio of "Marks," Mark Dawidziak, author of several books including *EVERYTHING I NEED TO KNOW I LEARNED IN THE TWILIGHT ZONE*. Among several things, we talked about Rod Serling's amazing longevity as an American icon. "Rod Serling is (still) immediately recognized," Mark said, "not just for the writing but for himself. I think he would be stunned – just utterly and completely stunned to know that it's not just the writing that lives on . . . they remember the writing and they remember the writer."

Members of the Rod Serling Memorial Foundation Board Of Directors, Andy Polak, Steve Schlich, and Gordon Webb joined me for a round table discussion about their histories with the Foundation and the Foundation's goals, and then our fellow Board member, Tony Albarella joined us for an in-depth discussion about Rod's "forgotten" and vastly underrated Western series, *THE LONER*.



RSMF President Nick Parisi, Author Mark Dawidziak, RSMF Board Members Gordon Webb, Andrew Polak and Steve Schlich were among the guests during SerlingFest 2020.



"Children of the Zone"; Nick's discussion with R.C. Matheson, Anne Serling and Christopher Beaumont (not on screen) closed the Fest

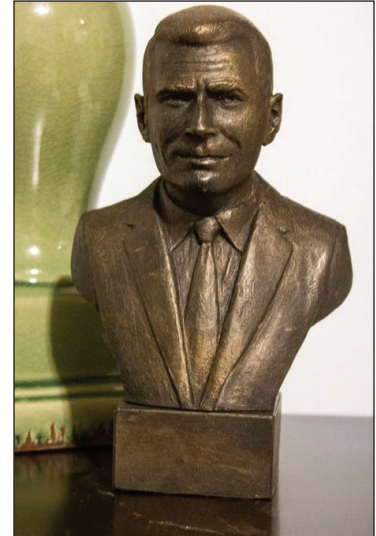
Prolific editor, Ann Vandermeer (*THE WEIRD, THE BIG BOOK OF MODERN FANTASY*), helped us to put Rod Serling's work into the context of the science fiction and fantasy genres, crediting Serling with "infusing the weirdness with the social commentary at the same time, which is not an easy thing to do. It's a very delicate balance, to be able to put something in there in such a subtle, delicate way that the reader or the watcher doesn't really know what's happening to them until they are able to think about it afterwards."

Koren Shadmi, author and illustrator of *TWILIGHT MAN: ROD SERLING AND THE BIRTH OF TELEVISION* gave us his unique perspective on discovering *THE TWILIGHT ZONE* while living in Israel. "I knew what it was," he

said, "but I thought it was some sort of cheesy, hokey 50s TV show. And then I started seeing it and it completely blew me away, because there are so many episodes that are basically as good as any art film or better. The quality was so high and it had something really unique about it."

Arlen Schumer (*VISIONS FROM THE TWILIGHT ZONE*) then took over for an hour, presenting his "Twilight Zone in the Age of Corona," a visual lecture about *The Twilight Zone*'s relevance during this strange and unsettling time.

Following Arlen, we were treated to a look at the upcoming book, *NIGHT GALLERY: THE ART OF DARKNESS* with author Scott Skelton, designer Joe Sikoryak, and artist Thomas Wright. This



The Limited Edition Rod Serling Bust was created exclusively for SerlingFest

beautiful, limited edition book will be available for purchase soon (see story on following page).

And closing out our event was "Children of the Zone," a talk with R.C. Matheson, Christopher Beaumont, and Anne Serling, about their wonderful and brilliant fathers, Richard Matheson, Charles Beaumont, and Rod Serling.

Thank you to everyone who donated during this incredible event, and also to the folks who very generously donated items to our cause, including: www.statues.com; Parlor City Cards in Binghamton; as well as Paul Gallagher, Shelley MacKay Young, and Christopher Benedict.

We sure hope that we can repeat this event in 2021 – in person!

THE ART OF DARKNESS

New Book exploring Night Gallery Paintings This Year

By Joe Sikoryak

Fifty years ago, NBC-TV premiered the bone-chilling, three-episode pilot that gave birth to the supernatural series ROD SERLING'S NIGHT GALLERY. Millions of viewers were riveted to the subsequent series (often watching through their fingers) as the uncanny events unfolded. After three seasons, the show ended — but the memories lingered. These potent impressions led to a new publication from CreatureFeatures — ROD SERLING'S NIGHT GALLERY - THE ART OF DARKNESS.

While the virtues of each segment were hotly debated among fans and critics, everyone who tuned in agreed that one of the series' most memorable elements were the paintings showcased at the start of each episode. Chillingly introduced by writer-host Serling in his inimitable voice, these macabre masterpieces were almost entirely the work of artist Thomas J. Wright, and have remained the stuff of dreams and nightmares for generations. All of the paintings and many of the sculptures — nearly 200 in all — are collected in The Art of Darkness.

Assembling this tome was a twenty-year process, led by an intrepid duo of dedicated Night Gallery historians who dug deep into the history of the series. Co-authors Scott Skelton and Jim Benson wrote ROD SERLING'S NIGHT GALLERY: AN AFTER HOURS TOUR, (published in 1998 by Syracuse University Press which provided the definitive history of the show — but sadly went to print without a single illustration. Taylor White, publisher of Creature Features, joined the search to bring the original paintings and sculptures to light.



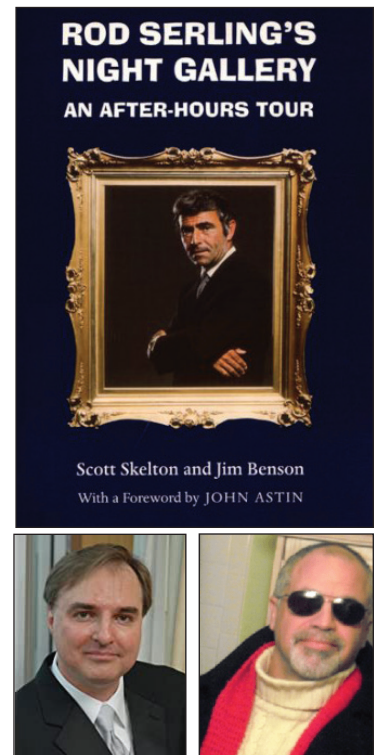
The Art of Darkness is the authors' second collaboration, following Night Gallery: An After-Hours Tour (top right)

This trio followed a trail around the world to discover the whereabouts of the paintings, including those by Jaroslav Gebr (who illustrated the pilot and additional episodes that were added in syndication) and the gallery sculptures by Phil Vanderlei. Their fascinating search, chronicled in the book, tells the tale of aficionados, collectors, and historians who painstakingly tracked down, traded and restored each artful

artifact, most presumed lost to the ages. In fact, one of the most famous, "Eyes" (featuring Joan Crawford in Steven Spielberg's first professional assignment) surfaced mere weeks before the book went to print.

"I think our preoccupation with the occult is a direct result of our technology. I think we're seeking escape. I think we're looking to the unknown because the known is so unbearable."
Rod Serling,
Akron, Ohio, 1971

Now that the search is complete, Creature Features is proud to present the results: ROD SERLING'S NIGHT GALLERY - THE ART OF DARKNESS, fully licensed by Universal Studios, with an Introduction by Guillermo Del Toro and a Foreword by Anne



Authors, Jim Benson (left) and Scott Skelton (right)

Serling. The deluxe 11x11" art book, featuring 316 pages and nearly 300 illustrations, includes every painting ever shown in the NIGHT GALLERY, with in-depth commentary and background from the artists themselves, plus previously unseen concept art, memorabilia, and tribute art by contemporary artists. White remarks, "We intended this as both a tribute to the art, the artists, and the vision of Rod Serling, who continues to inspire us all."

The book is currently available for pre-order at CreatureFeatures.com, and is expected to ship before the 50th anniversary of the show's premiere on December 16, 2020.



Good evening, and welcome to a private showing of three paintings, displayed here for the first time. Each is a collectors' item in its own way - not because of any special artistic quality, but because each captures on a canvas, and suspends in time and space, a frozen moment of a nightmare.

The opening monologue, written and narrated by Rod Serling, from the Night Gallery pilot film, which premiered on November 8, 1969. The painting pictured represents the segment, "Eyes," which starred Joan Crawford and was directed by Steven Spielberg.

THE COMPLETE COLLECTION OF...

TWILIGHT ZONE SCRIPTS IN PRINT

More Selections For Your Serling Library

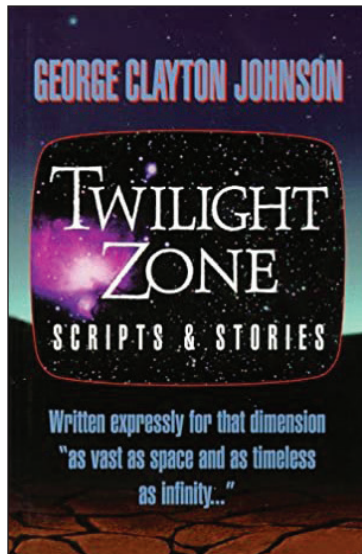
By Nick Parisi

If you are a collector, you are likely a completist. For most collectors, the whole point of collecting anything is to collect every available piece of whatever it is you are collecting, to finally be able to say that the collection is complete. Unfortunately, anyone interested in collecting Twilight Zone scripts in published form will have to settle for "close enough." With the following eighteen volumes, you will be able to amass 139 of The Twilight Zone's 156 episodes.

Any collection of Twilight Zone scripts has to begin with *AS TIMELESS AS INFINITY: THE COMPLETE TWILIGHT ZONE SCRIPTS OF ROD SERLING*. Edited by our own Tony Albarella, these ten volumes collect all 92 scripts written by Rod Serling, along with Rod's script for The Twilight Zone's "unofficial" pilot episode, "The Time Element." Published by Gauntlet Press (www.gauntletpress.com) between 2004 and 2014, these beautiful volumes can be pricey but are well worth the cost. For a more affordable alternative, Tony also edited a "greatest hits" collection, *THE BEST OF ROD SERLING'S TWILIGHT ZONE SCRIPTS*, which is available in paperback.

In 2004, Gauntlet Press gave the same loving treatment to Charles Beaumont, publishing *THE TWILIGHT ZONE SCRIPTS OF CHARLES BEAUMONT: VOLUME 1*, which collects eight of Beaumont's scripts for the series along with one unproduced script, "Gentlemen, Be Seated." Sadly, Gauntlet has not followed through with any more volumes of Beaumont's scripts.

All of Richard Matheson's fourteen scripts for the series can be found in *RICHARD MATHESON'S THE*

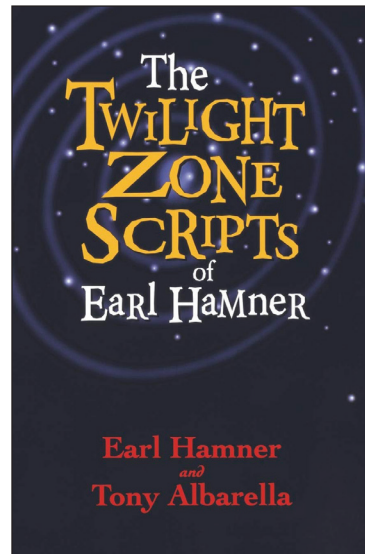


TWILIGHT ZONE SCRIPTS, volumes one and two (2001 and 2002), edited by Stanley Wiater for Edge Books. These two can also be purchased at gauntletpress.com.

George Clayton Johnson collected four of his Twilight Zone teleplays along with stories or outlines for four episodes that were scripted by others in *TWILIGHT ZONE SCRIPTS & STORIES*, published in 2009 by Streamline Pictures Books.

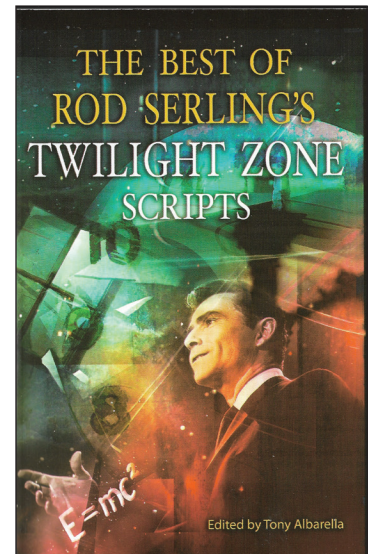
One year before the release of the first *AS TIMELESS AS INFINITY* collection, Tony Albarella edited *THE TWILIGHT ZONE SCRIPTS OF EARL HAMNER*, which collects Hamner's eight scripts for the series. This collection was published in 2003 by Cumberland Press.

In 2004, Bear Manor Media published *THE TWILIGHT ZONE SCRIPTS OF JERRY SOHL*, edited by Christopher Conlon. Here you'll find Sohl's "Living Doll" (ghostwritten for Charles Beaumont), "The New Exhibit," and "Queen of the Nile." The true completists will also want



to check out *FILET OF SOHL: THE CLASSIC SCRIPTS AND STORIES OF JERRY SOHL*, which was also edited by Conlon and published by Bear Manor Media, and which contains two unproduced Twilight Zone scripts, "Pattern for Doomsday" (from a story by Beaumont) and "Who Am I?"

And the final pieces of the collection are found in two volumes of *FORGOTTEN GEMS FROM THE TWILIGHT ZONE*, also from Bear Manor, edited by Andrew Ramage. These books collect ten scripts from writers such



as John Tomerlin and Martin M. Goldsmith, as well as Beaumont's source story for "Pattern for Doomsday" and an unproduced script written by Johnson and William F. Nolan, "Dreamflight."

The seventeen Twilight Zone episodes not included in any of these books are: Beaumont's "Valley of the Shadow," "Miniature," "Shadow Play," "Elegy," "Long Live Walter Jameson," "Static," and "Printer's Devil," Montgomery Pittman's "Two," "The Grave," and "The Last Rites of Jeff Myrtlebank," Ray Bradbury's "I Sing the Body Electric," and the following from one-time writers for the show: "Ninety Years Without Slumbering," "The Self Improvement of Salvatore Ross," "From Agnes - With Love," "Caesar and Me," "The Fugitive," and "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge."

One more volume of Beaumont scripts and one more "forgotten gems" collection could finally make this collection complete.

NARRATE YOUR OWN TWILIGHT ZONE

This fun competition is back for 2020 - offering a chance to invest some of your free time and pent-up energy into creating a Twilight Zone episode that's worthy of immortality. Actor Stephen Dexter (as Rod Serling) will again perform the winning entries on video - which will be accessible on our website forever!

Entries will be judged by Rod Serling Memorial Foundation board members, based on:

- Originality
- How easily we can imagine Rod speaking your words
- How well your narrations suggest the imaginary episode

The entry deadline is **Halloween 2020 (October 31)**. There's lots of



important information on this cool competition - and you can find it all at www.RodSerling.com

RSMF PHOTO GALLERY

Rare Photographs from Our Archive

By Gordon C. Webb

Rod Serling fans are familiar with the classic "headshots" (see below) used to promote his work but in this column we'll share some production shots, and other Serling photos that are rarely seen.

Rod Serling was a guest professor at Ithaca College from 1967-1975, where he taught advanced screenwriting in the Communications Department. Many I-C alumni remember his classes and were influenced by his

teaching, including Hollywood TV producer-director Bill D'Elia (How To Get Away With Murder, Harry's Law, Boston Legal, etc.)

The Serlings often spent summers at their cottage on Cayuga Lake near Ithaca, NY - about 60 miles north of Binghamton -- Rod's hometown.

Some of Serling's classes were videotaped, and you can see an example of Rod in the classroom here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UaiO8GVm2do>



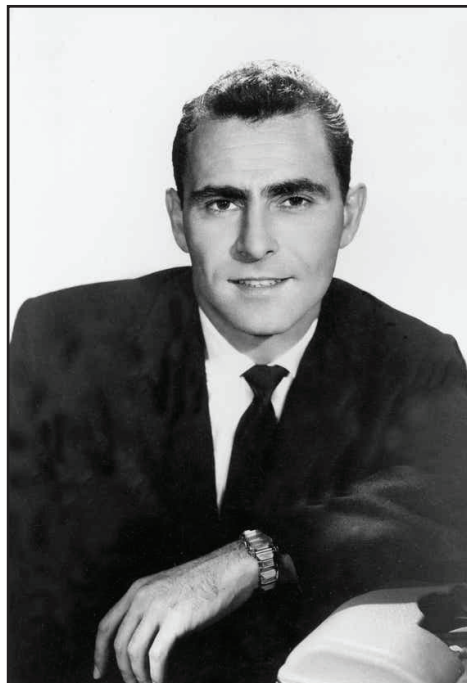
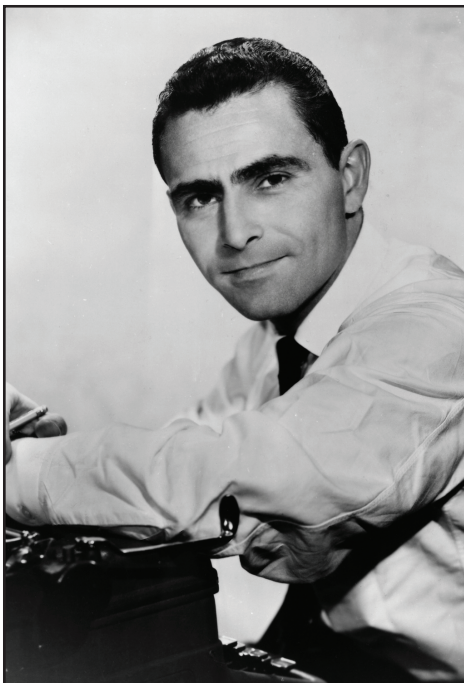
Future producer-director Bill D'Elia (on Serling's right) waits to ask Rod a question.



Serling listens attentively as a student asks the famous writer about his work. (Photo: C. Hadley Smith, courtesy Rod Serling Archive at Ithaca College)



Some lucky students listen to Serling, cigarette in hand, in his "seminar style" class at the Ithaca College television studio -- in the early 1970's. (Photo: C. Hadley Smith, courtesy Rod Serling Archive at Ithaca College)

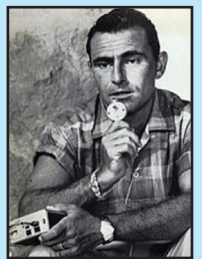


ROD SERLING SAID THIS:

"Every writer is a frustrated actor who recites his lines in the hidden auditorium of his skull."

"Any state, any entity, any ideology that fails to recognize the worth, the dignity, the rights of man, that state is obsolete."

"...the worst aspect of our time is prejudice... In almost everything I've written, there is a thread of this—man's seemingly palpable need to dislike someone other than himself."



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When you join AmazonSmile you can make a donation to the Rod Serling Memorial Foundation every time you shop. Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to us. Sign up at www.smile.amazon.com

