

# OH, THE HORROR! ROMERO

and the Horror Studies Collection at the  
University of Pittsburgh Library System

*A University of Pittsburgh Library System newsletter, sharing Horror Studies Collection updates, Romero news, horror genre events, and more.*

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## **A Note from the Collection Coordinator**

Summer is heating up for horror fans! With the streaming release of *The Amusement Park*, the premiere of the restored *Iron City Asskickers*, and the return of the Living Dead Weekend, there are plenty of ways to stay scared this month. You might even see me on a panel or assisting at the George A. Romero Foundation table during the Living Dead Weekend! To celebrate, we're sharing some selections from the archive related to *The Amusement Park*, including behind-the-scenes photos featuring George on set, an original promotional booklet for the film, and early ad copy with a description and call to air on television.

*- Ben Rubin, Horror Studies Collection Coordinator*

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*"The Amusement Park?  
you won't like it...  
there's nothing out there."*

Everyman  
grows older  
with expectations  
of profiting from his past.  
Perhaps through accumulated wisdom.  
Or basking in the love of his children.  
Through greater independence. Or financially.

Retirement.  
Even the most able  
are unprepared in some way  
to meet and overcome the problems  
which face a person entering "the golden years."

The aging,  
whether rich, poor  
or somewhere in between,  
have two basic limitations:  
those placed upon an aging body  
and those forced upon them by a society  
geared for another, but younger, generation.

The ramifications  
of these basic limitations  
are diverse and very real problems  
which change their lifestyles, and their lives.

Everyman  
knows what some  
of these problems are.  
They can be overlooked.  
Or, with illumination,  
they can be alleviated.  
Perhaps even eliminated.

Old.  
Senile.  
Ancient.  
Decrepit.  
Antiquated.  
Stigma, Stigma.

The door to  
The Amusement Park  
should become a door  
to positive change which  
every man can help pry open;  
there's something out there for  
Everyman.



*A Film on the Problems of the Aging in Our Society*

## **A Long Lost Romero Masterpiece**

You can now see *The Amusement Park* on Shudder! This rarely seen, once thought to be lost gem will finally enjoy wide release after a much-deserved restoration project. Interest in the film has only grown since the restored version premiered in Pittsburgh in October 2019 and is a must-see for any Romero fan. Commissioned by Luther Social Services and released in 1973, *The Amusement Park* stands apart from Romero's normal filmography. It is a public service announcement intended to communicate the problems elderly folks face without adequate social services and safety nets.

The film follows the tribulations of an elderly man as he navigates through a day at an amusement park (filmed at the now-defunct West Side Park). Romero utilizes the disorienting sights and sounds of the park to situate the viewer into the same state of confusion and fear the man faces. Despite not being an actual horror film, *The Amusement Park* has the distinct, terrifying feel of a traditional Romero movie. Like so much of Romero's work, the social message and themes remain just as relevant today as they were almost 50 years ago.



**Station Buyers And Program Managers:  
Did You Know That May Is Senior Citizens Month?**

**And That  
"THE AMUSEMENT PARK"  
Is Available For Most Markets**

## **THE AMUSEMENT PARK**

**Directed by George Romero**

**Is A One Hour Television Special Which Takes  
A Surrealistic Look At The Problems Of Those  
Who Have Reached "The Winter" Of Their  
Years.**

**Contact:  
Richard Rubinstein  
Laurel Tape & Film, Inc.  
127 West 79th Street  
New York City, 10024  
(212) 362-7500 X-16B**

The purpose of "The Amusement Park" will be to serve as a tool to recruit volunteers to assist the aged in the following areas:

- A. Friendly visitation
- B. Telephone reassurance
- C. Meals-on-Wheels
- D. Escort Services
- E. Shopping services
- F. Transportation services
- G. Delivery of information to the aged

The film will be used by interdenominational church groups, student groups, retired persons groups, civic service organizations, and other bodies interested in providing solutions to the problem of the aged.

Secondary uses of the film will be television, and possibly theatrical release as a short subject.

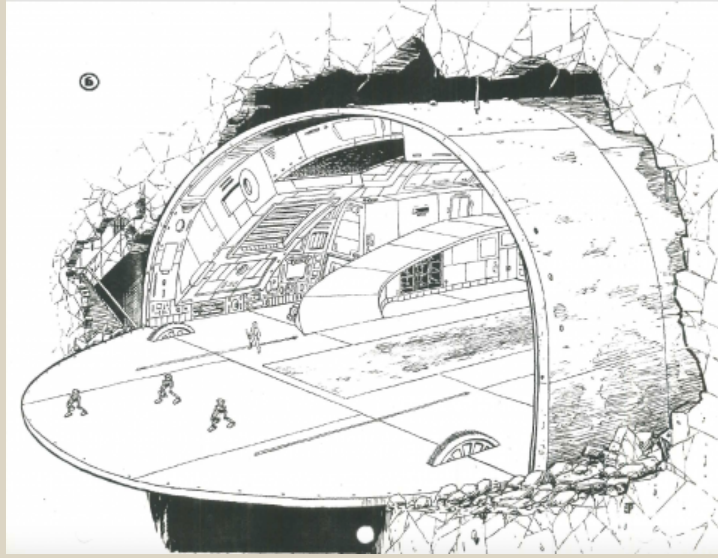
## The Living Dead Weekend Returns This Friday

The Living Dead Weekend returns to the Monroeville Mall on July 2-4th! The annual celebration of Romero and horror will feature cast reunions and celebrate Day of the Dead and Return of the Living Dead (the programming was originally intended for 2020 to mark the 35th anniversary of both films). The convention will include numerous panels reflecting on Day and Return, among other films, exhibit halls with celebrity autograph opportunities, and more. There will also be a feature panel of the minds behind Cryptic Pictures, as well as cast and crew members from the Iron City Asskickers. Also, check out the memorabilia at The Living Dead Museum, which has returned to the Monroeville Mall after a stint in Evans City, PA.

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## Fresh Cuts from the Blog

*Visiting scholar Adam Charles Hart shares freaky and fantastic behind-the-scenes highlights on our [Horror Studies website](#).*



## George Romero's War of the Worlds

Romero's *War of the Worlds: The Night They Came* radically re-conceives H.G. Wells' story and its various adaptations (including the infamous radio broadcast created by Orson Welles, one of Romero's artistic heroes), that moves it from the countryside into a crowded metropolis. All the action takes place in and around a single skyscraper into which a malfunctioning alien ship crashes at the start of the script.

[Read the War of the Worlds Post](#)

### GOOSEBUMPS

BASED ON  
"WELCOME TO DEAD HOUSE"  
BY  
R. L. STINE

ROUGH OUTLINE  
BY  
GEORGE A. ROMERO

ROMERO-GRUNWALD PRODUCTIONS  
MARCH 19, 1996

## George Romero's Goosebumps

In 1992, R.L. Stine debuted *Welcome to Dead House*, the first *Goosebumps* book. It was creepy, it was spooky, and it was massively popular. Romero's version of *Goosebumps* picks up an idea previously developed in a project called *Apartment Living*: a house that is alive and feeds off of its inhabitants.

[Read the Goosebumps Post](#)

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## Cryptic Pictures Releases the Newly Restored *Iron City Asskickers*

Filed in 1998 and intended as a pilot for a television series, *Iron City Asskickers* focuses on the underground wrestling circuit in Pittsburgh. While a poor-quality version has been available online for many years, the folks at Cryptic Pictures (whose archives also enjoy a home within the University of Pittsburgh Library System's Horror Studies Collection) got their hands on the original tapes and restored the pilot. The recently released DVD contains the episode itself plus lots of extras, including interviews with folks associated with the project. These interviews offer a fascinating look back at perhaps the last project Romero filmed in Pittsburgh before moving to Canada.

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 [Forward](#)

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