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

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
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:
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Laurel Tape & Film, Inc.
127 West 79th Street
New York City, 10024
(212) 362-7500 X-168
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

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**GOOSEBUMPS**

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

ROUGH OUTLINE
BY
GEORGE A. ROMERO

ROMERO-GRUNWALD PRODUCTIONS
MARCH 19, 1986
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.

Cryptic Pictures Releases the Newly Restored Iron City Asskickers

Filmed 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.