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DVD Review: "The Life After Death Project"
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by Deborah Painter

It would be just like Forrest J Ackerman to be the subject of the first paranormal biographical film. After all, “Forry” had many “firsts” in his resume. He and his girlfriend Myrtle Douglas were the first to wear costumes to the first ever World Science Fiction Convention in 1939. He was the first to edit a true monster movie magazine, FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND. The list goes on.

Yellow Hat Productions added to Forry’s list by making THE LIFE AFTER DEATH PROJECT come to fruition. I can’t deny it’s a controversial topic. In his career filmmaker Paul Davids has not been a stranger to offbeat ideas for his movies. Jesus may have spent his missing eighteen years in India (JESUS IN INDIA). A UFO may have crashed outside Roswell, New Mexico and left bodies and debris for the military to possess (ROSWELL). Suppose Vincent van Gogh came to life in the 20th century; how would the world treat him? (STARRY NIGHT).. FM readers may know Davids’ name from his Saturn Award and Rondo Award winning documentary THE SCI-FI BOYS.

As a scientist, I have often said that if there is any way to truly understand metaphysics it will be through science. “Belief” is a meaningless term in science fields. Unfortunately TV and the movies tend not to agree with me and have ignored scientific studies in labs in favor of such programs as HAUNTED COLLECTOR. Fortunately, things are changing. Maybe the public wants better programs. After all, many people have had unusual things happen in their lives. Scientists, always careful and conservative when it comes to being seen on TV talking about the paranormal, are being treated a bit better in programs like the BIO Channel documentary series THE UNEXPLAINED. Another significant film is the May 2013 Sy Fy Channel broadcast of THE LIFE AFTER DEATH PROJECT, in which university chemists and a psychologist discuss their findings. I have personally read many of the books and papers published by universities on the subject of the afterlife. Why? I’m an ecologist, so why would I be interested in such matters? Well, I am curious about the natural world! And if there is empirical evidence for consciousness continuing after death I am all for it. That is why I like THE LIFE AFTER DEATH PROJECT.

Solid empirical evidence that does not go away is the hallmark of THE LIFE AFTER DEATH PROJECT. Strange events that occurred in the life of Paul Davids, Joe Moe, Sean Fernald, Forry film biographers Ian Johnston and Michael MacDonald, and other persons close to Forrest J Ackerman compelled Davids to direct and write the film. It started with a peculiar inkblot that appeared on an ordinary laser printer print-out of routine business contacts which Davids had printed just minutes before he walked away to take a restroom break. He was all alone at his house and there were no animals roaming about. He had the sheet of paper analyzed by top chemists who could not duplicate the mark. The film also shows pioneering experiments using standard biomedical imaging equipment and light tight boxes with sensitive software that measure light bursts in the boxes occurring when the scientist asks questions of consciousness identified as the spirit of Forry and many others. You need to see this in the real time film footage!

Science fiction author and Forry friend Richard Matheson joins makeup artist Casey Wong, author Joe Moe, psychologist Gary Schwartz, and others. It is Richard Matheson’s final appearance on camera. The DVD release from Yellow Hat Productions of THE LIFE AFTER DEATH PROJECT was July 16. The two DVD set, all regions, includes many DVD extras about Forry that will be sure to interest us. They are: The Demise of the Ackermansion, Seattle, Washington’s Sci-Fi Museum, and portions of Forrest J Ackerman’s tribute at the American Cinematheque in 2009. The sequel to THE LIFE AFTER DEATH PROJECT: PERSONAL ENCOUNTERS (interviews with doctors and nurses who have witnessed encounters with spirit, plus interviews with witnesses in various hotels and private homes

in New Mexico and elsewhere). Updates on the ink blot analysis are also included in Part Two.

A link to the web site is: <http://www.lifeafterdeathproject.com/>



Forry and Paul.



The Davids at the Saturn Awards.



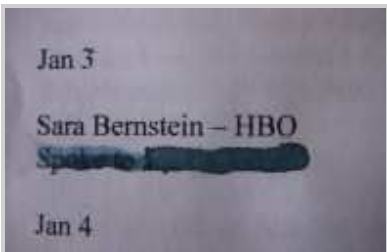
Forry friend Joe Moe.



The great Richard Matheson.



Paul as a young Monster Kid invoking his inner Harryhausen.



The ink stain that started it all.



And here's some further reading on the topic as Robbie Graham of Silver Screen Saucers sits down with Paul to get into the story behind THE LIFE AFTER DEATH PROJECT:

<http://silverscreensaucers.blogspot.co.uk/2013/08/roswell-and-beyond-interview-with-paul.html>

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