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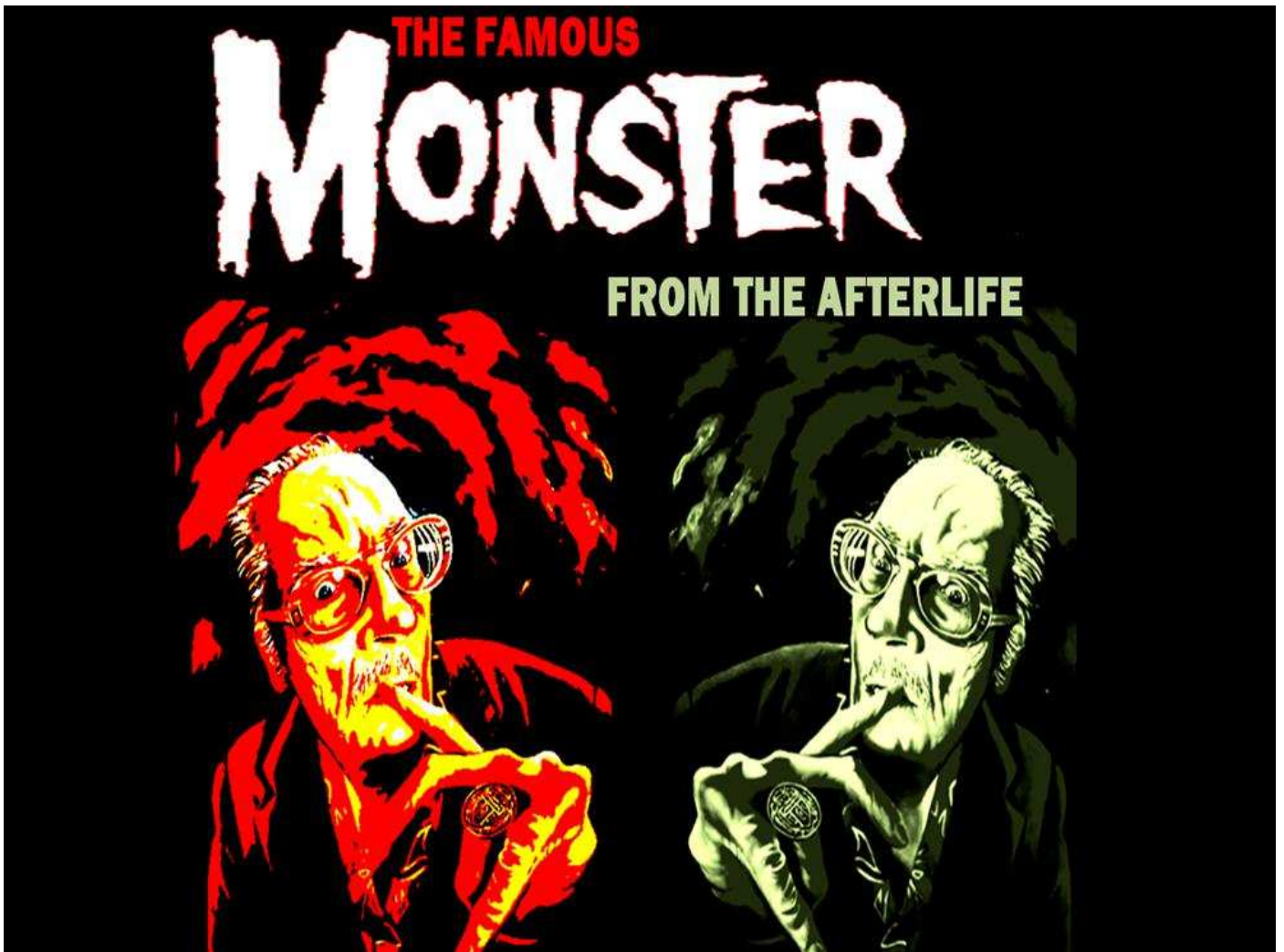
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The Famous Monster From The Afterlife

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- by [Clyde Lewis](#)
- in [Articles](#)



THE FAMOUS MONSTER
FROM THE AFTERLIFE

It is not every day that a paranormal story makes the mainstream and the story is even more bizarre when it is about an old friend of yours, especially a friend that when asked about the paranormal would tell you it was all nonsense.



I had the pleasure of knowing [Forrest J. Ackerman](#) in the last years of his life. Ackerman is well known as the publisher, editor and founder of the magazine '[Famous Monsters of Filmland](#)'.

Many people do not know but those who are true fans know that Ackerman is the man that coined the term 'sci-fi'.

I first contacted him in 1996 to be a part of a horror movie festival in Salt Lake City. He, along with other notables in the horror field, gathered together at the [Tower Theater](#) to show and comment on some great movies.

Ackerman was present at a showing of the original 'Evil Dead' starring [Bruce Campbell](#) and another showing of [Vincent Price's](#) "[The Abominable Doctor Phibes](#)." When he was asked to remain after for a question-and-answer session from the fans, the event went on until close to 4:00 am.

He was telling stories of his friendships with great horror actors like [Boris Karloff](#), [Bela Lugosi](#), [Lon Cheney Jr.](#), [Vincent Price](#) and others and as the time passed no one cared that the hour was getting late. People remained in their seats, hanging on every word and Forry was obliged to continue. You literally did not want him to stop telling his stories.

Even after the event I was actually so caught up in what he had to say that we actually left the event in a limousine and arrived at an old greasy spoon called "[Bill and Nada's](#)" where the actual specialty was "brains and eggs." Of course we didn't have the courage to eat that particular menu item, but we did drink coffee till sunrise and then we escorted him back to his room.

I remember having to sleep at the same hotel and he then he rang my phone at noon wondering why I wasn't downstairs at the restaurant having lunch. I most certainly jumped out of bed and there he was still full of energy and wanting to carry on where he left off about his experiences.

In many ways you would get lost in his stories and you knew that you had other things to attend to, but they had to wait, it is not every day you have the opportunity to meet and spend time with the man who worked with Ed Wood, and inspired many great writers like [Ray Bradbury](#) and [Stephen King](#).

This would not be the last time I would be in the company of Forry. Many times when I would visit Los Angeles and whenever there was a weekend he would open up the "[Ackermansion](#)" and people could go and see his collectibles. A friend of mine, Jeff Rector, who also was a science fiction movie actor would always find a reason to meet up with Forry and there was a time when he and I would shop all over Hollywood for some movie memorabilia including a ring that I purchased that was a small coffin with my birthstone inside it.

Forry agreed to appear in a film that my friend Kevin De Lullo worked on called "[Fatal Kiss](#)". The movie starred Jeff Rector, James Karen, Adam Smoot, and another actor that I had the privilege of traveling with in the mountains, [Carel Struycken](#) the man who is known for playing Lurch in the "Addams Family" movies.

After I saw the film in 2003, I wanted badly to get back to Los Angeles and visit. Most of the time my visits were business and I stayed in town only long enough to be involved in some television documentary or some other project.

I was notified years later that Forry was becoming frail and that there were many people who were saying that he was already saying that he knew that he was going to die soon.

I called him and asked to do an interview with him and we talked on-the-air about flying saucers and he explained to me that, while he was a fan of all things horror and science fiction, he wasn't much of a believer in any of the supernatural stuff out there. He also lamented the new shock and terrifying realism in horror films and looked back on how horror was more of a fantastic ride into the supernatural and how back then films were thrilling and not trauma-based.

In 2008, I was just recovering from a bout with cancer and was told that [Forrest J. Ackerman had passed away](#). At first I was told that he either died or was dying just after the 2008 election. Later I found out that he died just before Christmas in 2008.

I was unable to attend the funeral so I sent a card to my friend to give to his caregiver, Joe Moe.

Forrest J. Ackerman was an inspiration to me because my radio show really evolved from a fanzine I published when I was out of work and hung out at a coffee shop called Bandaloops. The magazine was called "B-Lame" and eventually became both a horror movie 'zine combined with a rock magazine called "Garage Pile". He most certainly was an inspiration to me and, quite frankly, I really don't think that in my sheltered part of the world many people were aware of everything he was involved in.

Recently, I saw his name come up in Internet trends and I wondered what was up so I clicked on a [Huffington Post article that said that Forrest J. Ackerman was trying to contact some people from the other side](#).

I thought that it was ironic since he said he was more or less agnostic and really didn't believe in an afterlife.

According to the Huffington Post, the whole "life after death experience" with Ackerman began shortly after his death when an odd ink blot mysteriously appeared on a sheet of paper at the home of his friend, [filmmaker Paul Davids](#).

Davids was a well-known friend of Ackerman and would appear with him on numerous horror tours.

Davids told the Huffington Post that he had printed out a list of business meetings. He goes on to say that the ink on the paper was completely dry as he left the room. When he returned, he discovered a black ink blot had somehow covered a group of words, "*Spoke to Joe Amodei*."

"I had no idea why these particular words were blacked out," Davids told The Huffington Post. "It made no sense to me until later, when I was researching Forry's editorial style and I found lots of examples of where he blacked out words so completely. I have found 15 examples of where Forry found a name within a name or a word within a word as being a hidden word to make a pun or a point out of it."

I can concur that Forry had this knack for secretly putting messages in some of his books. I have two "Famous Monsters" compilations where he apparently had left me messages in my books that said things like "*Beast Witches Clyde*" or "*Come visit me in Karloffornia*" or some other funny word play that he would love to hide deep in the pages of the book. I believe he did that just to see if I was really reading them or just kept them in some box somewhere.

Davids believes this was the first in a series of unexplained instances where Ackerman was trying to communicate with him. He eventually involved several university scientists to try to explain these phenomena explored in "[The Life After Death Project](#)", a documentary that recently aired on the SyFy channel.

Paul Davids is an acclaimed director, writer and producer of many remarkable films that people who listen to Ground Zero are familiar with. Davids worked as a producer, director and production coordinator for the original "[Transformers](#)" animated TV series. He then produced and co-wrote the Showtime film "[Roswell](#)" and then he produced and directed one of the best known tribute documentaries about Ackerman called "[The Sci-Fi Boys](#)," which won a Saturn Award in 2007.

Davids was a guest speaker at [Forrest Ackerman's memorial](#). It was there that he heard of the story of two Canadian filmmakers, [Ian Johnston and Mike MacDonald that went to Forest Lawn to visit Uncle Forry's grave](#).

One of them jokingly knocked on his tomb, knowing full well that Forry would have found that funny. What happened later may have indicated that Forry wanted to play a joke on them later on.

Both Johnston and MacDonald claim that some very weird and inexplicable things happened to them the weekend of the Forrest J. Ackerman memorial tribute.

When Ian and Mike returned to the room they shared for the weekend in Hollywood, their computers performed some strange synchronicity . The computers were side by side in the room. Mike's computer popped up with a security code for him to type in as he was trying to post a blog about the cemetery visit on Facebook. The security code was: Ackerman 000

The Ackerman 000 code was capitalized and it was odd that this combination was a code that they had to use to post on Facebook information about their visit to Forrest Ackerman's' grave.

Then Ian Johnston's computer, which they thought was in sleep mode at the time, burst out with a voice that said: "*Oh my God, no way!*" It turned out, they later discovered, that there is a round, yellow emoticon that does say "*Oh my God, no way!*" Ian's computer was not linked to any of the

emoticons and the screen was dark.

Oddly, his computer had a photo of young Forrest Ackerman on the home page which Ian had placed when working on their documentary. The picture showed Forry at about age four and a half, so the childlike voice that blurted out "[Oh my God, no way!](#)" was very appropriate to the boyish Forry pictured home page.

Joe Moe had also confided in Davids and told him that Forry appeared to him in a dream telling him that the tribute he created for him was the 9th wonder of the world. That would be something Forry would say because King Kong was one Forry's favorite films and of course Kong was called the 8th wonder in the motion picture.

There are many other experiences that Davids talks about in his project. After reading about many of his experiences, I could confirm that it seemed that – if it *wasn't* Forry Ackerman pranking his friends from beyond – then someone really seemed to know exactly what he would do if he was still living.

[I was compelled to write Paul Davids and invite him on my show.](#)

After knowing what I know about Forrest J. Ackerman I get the feeling that there is one restless famous monster in the afterlife. I told Davids in the e-mail I sent that I believe that Ackerman has more stories to tell and that perhaps he has a message he wants to send.

Forry had a stock of anecdotes, well-worn puns, plays on words and gags which he used many times in his interviews. He had a consistent style and it's what Davids is saying about life after death and the possibility that Uncle Forry is speaking beyond the grave, rings true with those who knew him.

It even rings with me because of the memories I have of being a young talk show host that had the privilege of staying up late, shopping for scary jewelry and visiting the 'Ackermansion' on at least two occasions.

I still have my autographed copies of 'Famous Monsters' books and perhaps I need to go back and read some of the hidden words and greetings he placed in both of them.

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