



HORROR HOSTS IN THE NEWS

HORROR HOSTS "GHOST TO GHOST"

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The horror host is an important part of the monster fan's life.

As most of you know, most cities had their own horror host to introduce and talk about horror movies. Most monster fans can give detailed descriptions of their local horror hosts, most being very nostalgic while giving those descriptions. It is not just monster kids who have fond memories of the local host, for some "mundanes" have told me about how parties were stopped so that everyone could see the antics of the horror host for a few minutes.

Sadly, in time most horror hosts left their local airwaves due to studio budget cuts or lack of ratings. While some managed to weather the crisis and stay on the air (Cleveland's Big Chuck and Little John come to mind) most cities did not have a horror host again. Some may say that the hosted horror film program is a thing of the past, but there has been a steady growth of horror hosts around the world in the past few years.

I will give you the A-to-Z list of the current horror hosts who are on cable access and network TV. Who knows, I might introduce a few new faces to you.



A. Ghastly Ghoul

The "A" of our list is none other than A. Ghastlee Ghoul of Dayton, Ohio. Ghastlee has been on the air since Halloween 1988, terrorizing the airwaves ever since! This host

counts horror hosts such as Dr. Creep, Baron Von Wolfstein, and the (Cinci) Cool Ghoul as inspiration for his lunatic style. (I mean that as a compliment!) Ghastlee's show is a mix of all his comedic influences, which he has described as "Video Vaudeville" (kids, ask your great grandparents what vaudeville is).

Ghastlee has been known to do unique stunts on the air such as the time he did nothing but sit and stare into the camera for 30 minutes. Ghastlee is also the Organizer of "The Neon Movie All Nighter" and is the co-founder of The Horror Host Underground, which promotes the current horror hosts in the world. Ghastlee also writes television reviews for Count Gore's website.

From the sunny region of Pensacola Florida comes a fellow who knows about very hot places, Baron Mondo Von Doren. If this handsome devil seems familiar to some of you reading this, it is because he was mentioned in my "Hell's Cineplex" article a few months ago.



Baron Mondo Van Doren and El Sapó De Tempesto

This minor demon was sent to earth to bring pain and misery to us all, and he has succeeded in his evil task so far. For this is the demon who brought us "new Coke" and Milli Vanilli (look up your Eighties trivia if you have forgotten them) to torment us. Now he, along with his sidekick El Sapó De Tempesto, hosts a show that brings his evil to a new level. He exposes the horrified public to really bad movies. Gee, doesn't that sound familiar, folks? It is no wonder that he made his first live appearance was at the New Orleans Worst Film Festival last year.

Now we come to the longest-running horror host in history, Big Chuck, of *Big Chuck And Little John* from Cleveland, Ohio (what is it about Ohio and horror hosts?). "Big" Chuck Schodowski had worked with the legendary Ernie "Ghoulardi" Anderson on Shock Theatre back in 1963.



Big Chuck and Little John

Now, to do justice to Big Chuck, I should explain a little bit about the horror host Ghoulardi. Ghoulardi (Ernie Anderson) was a jive talking, fire-cracker-exploding, movie-riffing ghoul. Big Chuck started working behind the scenes until Ernie recruited him to perform before the camera. Eventually Ernie left for Hollywood (he eventually became the "voice" behind *The Love Boat*), so Chuck helped Bob "Hoolihan" Wells get ready for an audition.

However, Chuck was drafted--ah--recruited to be his sidekick in the Hoolihan And Big Chuck show. The two had a successful run until 1979, when Hoolihan went to Florida. Then "Little" John Rinaldi came on, and the show became Big Chuck And Little John ever since.

Now we go from the tameness of Big Chuck And Little John to a host who is anything but. I am talking about The Bone Jangler, the self-described "Bad ass from Beyond."



The Bone Jangler

The Bone Jangler has been around since the start of time, noticing the development of the human race. If anything, he noticed the female side of the human race even more. Women were so captivated by his evil presence that they sang to him, hoping to be part of his coven. Now he is the host of a show that plays in several Chicago stations and some Indiana ones, spreading his evil the only way he can.



Count Gore De Vol

The next in our survey at current hosts is the horror host of the Internet, Count Gore De Vol. Count Gore was a TV horror host in both of the cities of Baltimore and Washington DC for years but has been off the air for some time. What qualifies Count Gore for inclusion in this article on current horror hosts is the fact that he became the first horror host to have a weekly show on the Internet in 1998. Since that time he has hosted some movies in shorts using streaming video as well as interviews with various people. His site is a treasure trove of contests, book and movie reviews, letters, and other bits of weirdness.

One of the contributors to the Count's site is the horror hostess, Dita Dirt Nap who is a great expert on the undead, for she is one! In life, she was a failed starlet by the name of Rox-anne. She had come to Hollywood with a head full of dreams but got a life full of heartache and struggle. In spite of the travails, she did retain her wicked sense of humor. Unfortunately, one man, Mr. G, did not find her so funny, so he ended her life. Alas, she was not even famous enough to be the focus of an E! feature.



Dita Dirt Nap

This Hollywood tale would have ended here except for one thing--her producer, Darell David Allen, brought her back to life. Allen was looking for a host for his horror/cult show and he wanted someone "different." So, he went to the Hollywood Four Ever Cemetery and went to Rox-anne's grave. There it is said he brought her back to life, and gave her the gig she is known for now. She writes reviews of different cult movies for Count Gore's website, using her own sexy sassy and undead style.



Doktor Goulfinger

From Berkley, California, we have the mysterious Doktor Goulfinger. The good Doktor was inspired by such local hosts as Asmodius and Bob Wilkins and out-of-town hosts such as Son of Svengoolie and the Ghoul. From time to time this hosts salutes other hosts by bringing guests on to give childhood memories of their local hosts. He is not alone in his mission for his cohorts include Gunky, She-Gor, Lil' Satan and Countess Von Spankenstein, and from there things get interesting.



Dr. Creep

Dr. Creep of Dayton, Ohio (Ohio again!) reached a milestone this year by celebrating 30 years of being a horror host. This host has been an influence of many of the current horror hosts, such as the aforementioned A Ghastlee Ghoul. Dr. Creep had even made an unsuccessful bid for the White House back in 1980, where voters were extolled " to put a real creep in the White House." Not only does he perform on the air, but he also makes live appearances. Dr. Creep is also the co founder of "Project Smiles" which helps between 45,000 to 65,000 families per year.



Dr. Destruction

The next host on the list to be looked at is Kenosha, WI's Dr. Destruction on *Dr. Destruction's Crimson Theatre*. Dr. Destruction shows a different movie each week, along with having interviews with people like magicians, musicians or anyone else involved with the horror and sci-fi genres. The good doctor to our knowledge is the only horror host in Wisconsin.



Dr. Freak

Dr. Freak has the distinguishing factor of being the youngest horror host on record. A veteran of the TV industry, having produced his own show at the age of 14, he has since conquered the airwaves, bringing a youthful impudence to the world of horror hostdom. This host has A Ghastlee Ghoul and Dr. Creep as his role models and mentors. Armed with plenty of Pez, the young doctor spreads the word about his show and his plan to take over the world.



Dr. Gangrene

From Shackle Island comes the mad genius, Dr. Gangrene! The evil doctor works endlessly from his secret laboratory and studios on his plan of global conquest. His fiendish idea calls for using bad films to wear down the public so that they will ripe for conquest. Another part of this diabolical scheme is that people would get so used to horror that the sight of monsters would be commonplace and his work will thrive again.

This plan must be working for Gear magazine named his show the 11th Best Cable Access show in the nation! On top of that, he has spun off a second show called *Mad Movie Of The Week*. By the way, if he looks familiar to regular HORROR-WOOD readers, it is that I featured him in my article on mad scientists some time ago. It looks like he is getting his wish for it to be Halloween all year long after all.



Dr. Mor BS

The next one on the list is another horror host from Ohio (must be something in the water), Dr. Mor BS. The doctor entertains the viewers with comedy provided by himself with his sidekicks Wort and Mr. Death. Dr. Mor BS also has interviews on his show as well as the requisite horror flicks.



Dr. Sarcofiguy

Now we come to the only African American horror host in the world, Dr. Sarcofiguy of *The Spooky Movie*. Since its start in 1995, *The Spooky Movie* developed a cult following with its offbeat movies and the delivery of the host who is played by John Dimes. Since then, *TSM* has done unique things like hosting a 45-hour marathon around Halloween back in 1997 and sponsoring a collage of hosts hosting two movies for *The Spooky Movie Thanksgiving Leftover Special*.



Dr. Zombie

Sacramento's Dr. Zombie has full knowledge of the undead, mainly because he is one! This all started when a sham horror host claiming to be Dr. Zombie was filming some scenes in a cemetery. Little did this fellow know, the real Dr. Zombie was buried in that same cemetery! The real Dr. Z did not care much for the imposter, so it rose out of the grave, ate the brains, and continued playing the role of the horror host! Now the doctor can have free reign to create mayhem again!



Halloween Jack

Halloween Jack is, as far as we know, the first horror host from New Jersey. This is the creation of Evan Davis who is one of the co-founders of the Horror Host Underground. Halloween Jack is the ghost of a struggling actor who was paid to dress up and scare patrons during monster movies. Then came the day that Jack was assisting a magician in a magic trick, only to be left in the trunk for many years. He was brought back to life when curious youngsters were checking out the theater, and Jack greeted them by scaring them out of their wits! Halloween Jack's creator and portrayer Evan Davis is the historian of the Underground, and he writes a column for Count Gore's Website on events in horror history.



Demonica, Laslo and Renfield

Laslo of Graveyard Theatre is a ghoul who is cursed to watch bad movies! At least he is not alone, for he has the lovely Demonica (who raised him from the dead in the first place), the wacky neighbor, Renfield (who is in a constant drunken state), and Mildew, a rotting corpse. The show features a full movie that is shown with trailers, but there are times for skits and answering letters from fans on the air. They have also had visits from other hosts such as Count Gore and Dr. Gangrene.



The Nightshadow

It is in East Los Angeles that we meet a mysterious and elusive horror host, The Nightshadow. From his lair, Castle Shadow, he broadcasts some of the "kickiest" kung fu and B-horror flicks ever! Add to that mix a sarcastic wit and a bizarre cast of characters and you have one of the most eclectic horror hosted shows around. The Nightshadow also has had guests on his show such as the legendary Forry Ackerman and Reggie Bannister (of the Phantasm movies).



Nina

Well, grab your passports now readers for we are going across the pond for a look at the British horror hostess Nina. Nina is the lovely hostess of the show Sci-Fright, which is shown on the UK's version of the Sci-Fi Channel. Nina hosts different movies, many of them stinkers, from her home at No.13 Thrillington place every Friday night. Nina portrays many different characters each week to go along with the movie she is presenting. Nina is portrayed by Rachel Grant and she is showing no signs of slowing down now. In fact, Nina is going to have her own comic strip in Judge Dredd 2000AD called "The Nina Diaries" and she has a daily "horror"-scope at Sci-Fi's UK site.



Professor Anton Griffin

Now we go back to the USA and visit to Austin, Texas, which is the location for Professor Anton Griffin the host of *The Midnight Shadow Show*. The show takes the viewer to this dark, mysterious carnival where Professor Griffin is there to introduce you to monsters. The Professor shows films that range from the classic to the classically bad, and he gives background information and trivia on the feature. This is a busy creature, for not only is he Austin's only horror host but the spokesperson for Goodwill Industries there. This man gave a class at a local university on monsters once, much to the horror, that is, delight of his students.



The Shadowgoblin

The new kid on the (chopping) block is the only horror host in Central Illinois, the Shadowgoblin. From his netherworld hangout, the Shadowgoblin delivers thrill chills and maybe some spills (better wipe that up). Even though he is a newcomer in the horror host neighborhood, he has the potential to run a long time (or at least until the villagers catch him).



Son Of The Ghoul

We return to the enchanted land of Ohio (yes, again!) to visit the host known as Son of the Ghoul. As were most of the youngsters in Cleveland in the 60's, he was a fan of Ghoulardi, who made an impression on his young mind. Time marches on and the opportunity came for him to have his own show on a local station. After some time, he created a character that used some bits of Ghoulardi and some of The Ghoul (another follower of Ghoulardi) and it molded into his own unique personality. In fact the SOG is the only horror host with the distinction of hosting his own live two-hour game show.



Sonny

Next, we are going to look at another son...this time the "son of San Guinary" of Omaha, Nebraska. "Sonny" is the result of a local station's decision to revive the classic "Creature Feature." "Creature Feature" with the original

Horror host, San Guinary, was a staple of local TV for a number of years and the locals grew nostalgic for it. So far, the show is proving that Sonny has his father's humor, and it does not hurt that rare clips of the original show are interspersed on the new one.



Svengoolie

Now we go to the Windy City (Chicago) for a look at the horror host Svengoolie. Svengoolie (Rich Koz) started as an assistant to the original Svengoolie (Jerry Bishop) some years ago. The time came for Koz to go on his own, so he became "Son of Svengoolie" and did very well. Eventually, he dropped "Son of" when he changed stations and he has been known as Svengoolie ever since. He has been awarded three local Emmys for his production and his fan base is growing. Where else can you see vampires, werewolves, ghouls, and flying rubber chickens?

Not many people can claim that it was a gorilla suit that changed their life, but Ron Sweed, The Ghoul, can say that. As a lad of 13, Ron dressed up in such suit so he could meet his idol Ghoulardi one day. In time, Sweed became an assistant to Ernie Anderson and when it came time for Anderson to leave for Hollywood, Sweed asked for permission to use parts of the Ghoulardi character.



The Ghoul

He had to change the name due to the fact that a station owned the "Ghoulardi" name, so he became "The Ghoul". He added some things to his routine by having characters to play off of such as Camera Four and Froggy (who at one point got more fan mail then him!). The Ghoul is now scaring the masses in Detroit and building up his Ghoul army.

Now we come to the Z of our list, and that is Reno, Nevada's Zomboo. Zomboo has only been on the air since September 1999, but he shows no signs of slowing down. His zany off-the-wall humor and ensemble cast has won him many fans across monsterdom. His

cast of characters includes The Head Nurse, Werewolfie, Quasi the hunchback, Miss Transylvania, and the corny joke-telling Mini Z. To give the viewers breaks from laughing so hard, he does show horror films.



Zomboo

So there you have it, the alphabet, as it were, of the current horror hosts out there. Now if you know of a host (or you are a host) who was not mentioned in this article, please give us a shout out about it. We would like to know about you.

I would also like to cite The Horror Host Underground's site for being an excellent reference source. I also want to thank the other horror host sites (E-Gor's Chamber of Horror Hosts and the Horror Host Gallery) for being great sources as well.

Above all, I want to thank the horror hosts we grew up watching and who we watch now for making the B-movies better and the scary flicks scarier!