



## HORROR HOSTS IN THE NEWS

The following article about "Graveyard Theatre" appeared in the May 2001 edition of "The Monster News."



### GETTING THE DIRT ON GRAVEYARD THEATRE

Article by Dan Johnson

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If you are fortunate enough to live in the viewing area for WYIN 56, the Gary/Merrillville, IN PBS station, then you may already know about "Graveyard Theatre". For the folks out there who aren't in the know, "Graveyard Theatre" is a horror host show that has been on the air since October of 1997. It is presided over by Laslo, the Keeper of the

Dead and his three cohorts; Demonica, a vampire demoness who has a bad attitude; Rinfield, a wacky neighbor who is in a drunken state of death and a corpse named Mildew. What can you say, it's not your usual PBS show.

"Basically what "Graveyard Theatre" is about is three ghouls that were risen from the dead by a vampire demoness named Demonica," says Rick Thomas, who plays Laslo.

"The show consists of us in our castle at night running B-movies and trailers and doing specials for the program." So what is the long story short of "Graveyard Theatre"? Rick provides that answer simply enough, "We watch crummy movies and we mock them." Sounds like the perfect job to us here at Monster News. Rick's character Laslo is the lead host of "Graveyard Theatre". In real life, Rick is a film production editing engineer from Hammond, IN. Besides doing duty in front of the cameras as Laslo, Rick also does most of the editing and public relations for "Graveyard Theatre". Laslo's female cohort on "Graveyard Theatre" is Demonica, played by Rachel Foley of Olympian Fields, IL.

It is her character who raised Laslo and the other undead hosts of "Graveyard Theatre" and it is she who is now stuck with them as they roll the movies. In real life Rachel is a musician and artist who does a lot more on the show than just play the resident vampire demon with an attitude. She also provided the castle that is seen in the opening of "Graveyard Theatre" and just about all of the puppets that are seen on the show.

Then there is Rinfield, Laslo's male cohort who is played by Ron Hemphill of Hammond, IN. Rick commented on Rinfield saying, "[He is] a jester type of goofy guy. He brings in the mail, the trailers and the movies." Behind the scenes of "Graveyard Theatre", Ron is a much more sober fellow than Rinfield. He has been certified in television production since 1992 and he also helps with the writing of "Graveyard Theatre".

Finally, there is Mildew, Laslo's... well, Laslo's dead cohort. Mildew is a rotting corpse, in actuality the only puppet on the show that was not made by Rachel Foley. Instead, Mildew is the creation of a gent named Doug Goins.

Besides the 'Slab Four', viewers never know who might show up on "Graveyard Theatre". As Rick told us, "I've got a segment on my show called the Monster Hobby Corner and what that consists of is special celebrities or people with special collections, horror related or gothic or anything that is monster related. Recently we've had a lot of famous people on our show. We had the guy (Robert Herron) who played Kahless on "Star Trek" in the sixties. I've had Richard Crowe, the shadowland ghost hunter. I've had several horror host, [like] Bob Wilkins from California. I've had Count Gore DeVol, [who is] a personal, good friend of mine. I had Dr. Gangrene from Nashville, TN. I'm working on getting Dr. Creep from Dayton, OH and Elvira, [she] is definitely one I'm working on getting."

If you're in the broadcast area for "Graveyard Theatre" (again it is on PBS station WYIN 56 out of Gary/ Merrillville, IN) but you haven't caught the show yet, check it out. It is on Saturday nights at 11:00 pm. If you aren't lucky enough to be in the viewing area, but you're still interested in finding out more about the show, you can visit "Graveyard Theatre"'s website at <http://www.graveyardtheatre.com/>