
CHAPTER 4- THE HIRSUTE HAND OF FICKLE FATE

"GHASTLEE tells me that your show was broadcast from Indianapolis in the late 1970's." I began. "How long were you on and what was your main reason for stopping?"

The BARON smiled at the mention of GHASTLEE.

"I'm exceedingly grateful for GHASTLEE'S flawless memory and his kindness to his ELDER-MONSTERS. True, Channel 4 sponsored my show, but, in those days, 4 was an independent TV Station. Now, it's the WB affiliate, so, local programming, like my show, is no longer an option."

"To the new management's credit, among their recent broadcasting fare was BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER."

"On a sadder note, their Bloomington studio, where we did our taping, is long gone. Inspired by the unforgettable times there, I've written an epic poem entitled: 'LONG GONE AFTER MIDNIGHT', to commemorate its demise!"

"Alas, our 'On-Air' Reign was short-lived."

"It encompassed a mere 8 months, for, despite their promise to me not to do so, the Station's management placed Oue Show across from SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE. 'Twas THE ERA when SNL reigned supreme; when John Belushi, Dan Ackroyd and Bill Murray, Gilda Radner, etc., were in their Glory Years!"

"I'd tune in to see what 'The Competition' was doing, only to hear: 'This week's Guest Stars are THE ROLLING STONES; next week we have GEORGE HARRISON and PAUL SIMON!'"

"Little did I know that I'd signed on for the equivalent of a 'Suicide Mission'. Therefore, I didn't find it the least surprising, that I 'Died' in the ratings. It's a good thing that I am a MONSTER, so I didn't have to take that particular 'death' lying down!" The BARON mused. "Our Show's Nielson Rating had remained a steady 58,000 viewers, too. Had we been given a chance to share with our Fans in a more fortuitous time-slot, we might still be reigning to this day."

"My only lingering sorrow is this; a scant eight months later, upon being rather unceremoniously cancelled, we still had six weeks of unseen programming 'IN THE CAN', as they say in TV parlance.

Sad to report, those tapes, like so many of our other episodes, have been lost to the ages."

"But, Television is that most fickle of Mediums. My Predecessor, SAMMY TERRY, had Friday Nights and commanded strong ratings in that night's time-slot for many years."

"Within two years after his 'demise', My Friends and I appeared, shackled with our Time-Slot across from The GOLIATH that SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE was in its Hey-Day. I didn't wager that we should last too long. To say the least, we were swimming against their tide of popularity."

"As if those weren't dangerous enough waters, we were also beset upon by those pesky LAND-SHARKS!"

"The Television Medium's agenda of 'Promises made; Promises broken' was distressingly sullied and disillusioning. Ah, well, 'tis all too often the Human way of 'DOING BUSINESS'! And, THEY have the audacity call US 'MONSTERS'!"

"'Tis small wonder that PEACE is such an elusive commodity, since you can neither manufacture it, nor, sustain it with approval Ratings... 'though, there are some that try..."

Here The BARON interrupted his train of thought.

"DAN, this is where the inclusion of TIMOTHY'S Memories could best be served, especially, if we can employ a TAG-TEAM approach. Is that acceptable to your reporting criteria?"