



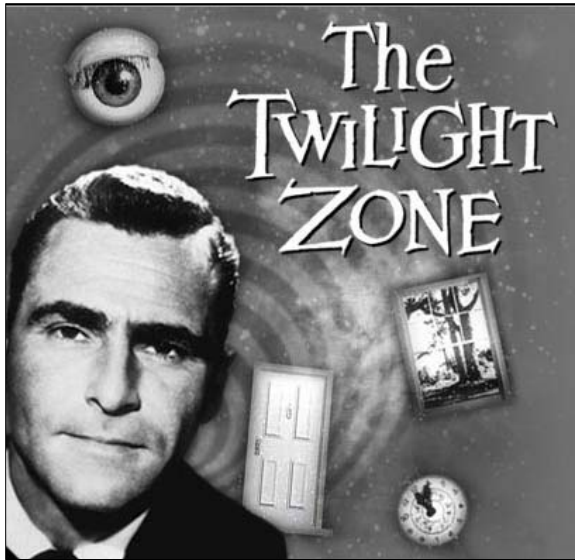
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Press Release



March 2, 2006

**The Twilight Zone: The
Cincinnati Connection Panel
Discussion
at Main Library March 25**

Rod Serling, creator of the hit series *The Twilight Zone* (1959-1964), lived and worked in Cincinnati from 1949 to 1954, writing for WLW Radio and freelancing for early television. Join a panel of his friends, co-workers, and historians for a discussion of the man before he became a TV icon, and how his time in Ohio shaped the sensibility of his writing. The Main Library, 800 Vine Street, will be hosting a

very special program about Rod Serling on Saturday March 25 at 1:00 p.m. in the Huenefeld Tower Room (third floor).

Mark Magistrelli, host of WMKV's (89.3 FM) **The Big Broadcast** and co-founder of the Media Heritage Museum and Research Center in West Chester, will be the panel moderator. Panelists include:

- **Jack Gifford:** Mr. Gifford sat back to back with Serling at WLW radio offices for several years writing radio shows.
- **Amy Boyle Johnston:** Author of the upcoming book *Requiem for a Heavyweight; The Words of Rod Serling*, which uses Serling's speeches, scripts, and correspondence to illustrate the meaning behind his work. The book shows Serling's enduring contribution to popular culture and investigates why our culture has never tired of his works.
- **Saul Marmer:** Friend and neighbor when Serling and his wife Carol lived on Sidney Road in Covedale. Mr. Marmer also instructs a continuing education course for the University of Cincinnati, *My Friend, Rod Serling*
- **John Morris:** Producer of the WLW radio show *Leave It to Cathy* that Serling wrote for.
- **H. Michael Sanders:** Serling historian and collector, Sanders is Director of the Media Services Center and Electronic Media Program, and Professor of Electronic Media, University of Cincinnati Raymond Walters College. He has presented *The Cincinnati Roots of Rod Serling*, a program about the early work of Rod Serling in Cincinnati, at several conferences.

Rod Serling Biography

Rodman Edward Serling was born in Syracuse, New York in 1924. By his own account, he had no early literary ambitions. After being discharged from the U. S. Army in 1946, Serling enrolled at Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, where he majored in Physical Education. He soon switched to Language and Literature, and began writing, directing and acting in weekly productions on a local radio station. While still a student, Serling sold his first three national radio scripts — and even his first television script, "Grady Everett for the People," which he sold to the live half-hour anthology series *Stars Over Hollywood* (NBC 1950-51) for \$100.

Serling married Carolyn Louise Kramer in 1948 and moved to Cincinnati, where he became a staff writer for WLW radio, collecting more than 40 rejection slips for his freelance writing. His fortune changed when he began writing full-time. From 1951-1955, more than 70 of his television scripts were produced, garnering both critical and public acclaim. Full-scale success came on Wednesday, January 12, 1955, with the live airing of his *Kraft Television Theatre* script "Patterns." Deemed a "creative triumph" by critics, and the winner of the first of Serling's six Emmy awards, the acclaimed production was actually remounted live to air a second time on February 9, 1955 — an unprecedented event.

Serling went to work on screenplays for MGM and as a writer for CBS's *Playhouse 90*, for which he wrote 90-minute dramas — including both the series' 1956 debut, "Forbidden Area," starring Charlton Heston, Vincent Price, Jackie Coogan and Tab Hunter; and the multiple-Emmy Award-winning "Requiem for a Heavyweight," starring Jack Palance and Keenan Wynn. Serling took the writing Emmy again the following year for his *Playhouse 90* script "The Comedian," starring Mickey Rooney.

Serling shocked many of his fans in 1957 when he left *Playhouse 90* to create a science-fiction series he called *The Twilight Zone*. CBS would air 156 episodes of *The Twilight Zone*, an astonishing 92 of which were written by Serling, over the next five years. His writing earned him two more Emmy Awards. With early appearances by such performers as Robert Redford, Burt Reynolds, Dennis Hopper and many others, *The Twilight Zone* became a launching pad for some of Hollywood's biggest stars.

After the production of *The Twilight Zone* ended in early 1964, Serling remained active in television and movies, hosting and writing episodes of the 1970-73 anthology series *Rod Serling's Night Gallery*. There, his script "They're Tearing Down Tim Riley's Bar" earned an Emmy nomination as the year's Outstanding Single Program. He then returned to Antioch College as a professor and lectured at college campuses across the country. Rod Serling died on June 28, 1975, in Rochester, N.Y., of complications arising from a coronary bypass operation.

This free program is presented by the Literature & Languages Department. For more information call (513) 369 6991.

✓ **Our goal is to make our programs accessible to everyone. Please request ADA services one week in advance at 513-369-4400 (TTY 369-4409).**

✓ Information about events at the Main Library and 41 branch libraries is available on the Internet site: www.CincinnatiLibrary.org.
