

L – LE NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN

All entries by Michael J. Weldon

JENNY LAIRD (84) from Manchester, England, was in BLACK NARCISSUS (47), VILLAGE OF THE DAMNED (60), and the TV movies THE TWO FACES OF EVIL (80), and THE MASKS OF DEATH (84). TV shows including DOCTOR WHO, NIGHT GALLERY and HOUSE OF HORROR.

STUART LANCASTER (80), from Sarasota, Fl, acted on stage and TV, then in films, starting with Russ Meyers' MUDHONEY (65), FASTER PUSSYCAT! KILL! KILL! (66), and GOOD MORNING AND GOODBYE! (67). He also worked frequently for David F. Friedman and Larry Buchanan. Some other roles were in THE BORN LOSERS (67), MANTIS IN LACE (68), STARLET (69), CAPTAIN MILKSHAKE (70), SUPERVIXENS and GOODBYE NORMA JEAN (both 75), MISTRESS OF THE APES (81), HE LOCH NESS HORROR (82), BEYOND THE DOORS (83), EDWARD SCISSORHANDS (90), and BATMAN RETURNS (92). His grandfather was Charles Ringling of The Ringling Brothers Circus and his daughter Zina Bethune co-starred in Scorsese's WHOSE THAT KNOCKING AT MY DOOR? See PV #17 for interview and filmography.

HOLLY LANDERS (Veronica Brown) was a young porn "star" in tapes like EXTREME TEEN and 75 NURSE ORGY (both 99) and THE GAG FACTOR (00). She died in a car crash in San Jose, CA.

PAUL LANDRES (89), from NYC, started as an editor at Universal in the 30s and worked on SHE WOLF OF LONDON (46), BLONDE SAVAGE (47) and many others. His movies as director (mostly at Lippert and Monogram/ Allied Artists) include SQUARE DANCE JUBILEE (49), HOLLYWOOD VARIETIES and A MODERN MARRIAGE (both 50), EYES OF THE JUNGLE (53), THE VAMPIRE (57), and GO, JOHNNY, GO!, THE RETURN OF DRACULA, and THE FLAME BARRIER (all 58). His TV work started at Ziv. Some of his many TV directing credits include Spade Cooley's show, TOPPER, THE LONE RANGER, SKY KING, BOSTON BLACKIE, THE CISCO KID, RAMAR OF THE JUNGLE, BLONDIE, KIT CARSON, DEATH VALLEY DAYS, THE RIFLEMAN, 77 SUNSET STRIP, and FLIPPER.

RING (Ringgold Wilmer) LARDNER JR. (85), from Chicago, was a "script doctor" then screenwriter (sometimes uncredited) for films including A STAR IS BORN and NOTHING SACRED (both 37), WOMAN OF THE YEAR (42), THE CROSS OF LORRAINE (43), LAURA (44), CLOAK AND DAGGER (46), and FOREVER AMBER (47). After the 1947 HUAC hearings, he spent nine months in prison, then could only find work on the the British ADVENTURES OF ROBIN HOOD TV series. He used pseudonyms for some later credits including THE CARDINAL (63) and THE CINCINNATI KID (65), then received a second Oscar for M.A.S.H. (70). His last credit was THE GREATEST (77) about Mohammad Ali. Lardner, who also wrote novels, was the last surviving member of the "Hollywood Ten."

ALLA LARIONOVA (69), from Moscow, was a Soviet film star since the 40's and was active until the mid 70's. She was in SADKO aka THE MAGIC VOYAGE OF SINBAD (53).

TAMBI LARSEN (85), from Bangalore, India, was an Oscar winning art director since '45 with many credits including THE SECRET OF THE INCAS (54), THE PARTY CRASHERS (58), THE SPY WHO CAME IN FROM THE COLD (65), THE GRASSHOPPER (70), THE OUTFIT (74), MOHAMMED, MESSENGER OF GOD (76), THE WHITE BUFFALO (77), CIRCLE OF IRON (79), and HEAVEN'S GATE (80). He also worked on many Jerry Lewis and Clint Eastwood movies.

BOB LARSON (72), from L.A., was a child actor in many movies since the late 30s, including THE BANK DICK (40), HERE COMES MR. JORDAN (41), THE ADVENTURES

OF MARK TWAIN (44), and several BLONDIE movies. He served in Korea and later taught elementary school.

FRED LASSWELL (84) was the artist and writer of the Snuffy Smith comic strip, which ran in 21 countries and 900 newspapers, uninterrupted for nearly 60 years. The character had been added to the popular Hearst Syndicate Barney Google strip in 1924. In '42, creator Billy DeBeck died, Monogram made PRIVATE SNUFFY SMITH, and Barney Google and Snuffy Smith comic books debuted. Lowizi and Jughaid were also regulars. The strip helped make whisky jugs, corn cob pipes and outhouses Southern cliches and introduced phrases like "time's a wastin'," "shif'less skonk," and "bodacious."

MICHAEL "Mike" LECKEBUSCH (62), from Leipzig, Germany, was the creator/director of BEAT CLUB, filmed in Bremen. He booked an incredible array of British and American groups during the show's long (65 to the 80s) run. It was later aka BEAT, BEAT, BEAT, then MUSIK LADEN. Repeats are still being aired in various countries.

FRANCIS (Frantisek) LEDERER (100), from Prague (then in the Austro- Hungarian Empire), was a Czech artillery corporal in WWI before becoming a star in European films, including the German PANDORA'S BOX (29). In America he acted on Broadway and in movies including THE LONE WOLF IN PARIS (38), CONFESSIONS OF A NAZI SPY (39), and THE DIARY OF A CHAMBERMAID (46). He ended his film career in RETURN OF DRACULA and MARACAIBO (both 58) and TERROR IS A MAN (59), made in The Philippines. Some TV roles were on MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE, THE UNTOUCHABLES and NIGHT GALLERY. In later years he taught an actor's workshop and acquired California real estate. The second of three wives was actress Margo.

ANTHONY DWAIN LEE (39), from Redding, CA., was in AMERICAN STRAYS (96), LIAR LIAR and THE SECOND CIVIL WAR (both 97) and various TV shows. Lee was shot to death by an L.A. policeman when he pointed a toy gun at a Halloween mansion costume party.

JACK LEE (89), from Stroud, Gloucestershir, England, was a combat photographer, who went on to direct for Rank. Some of his features were the WWII themed THE WOODEN HORSE (50) and A TOWN LIKE ALICE (56) and CIRCLE OF DECEPTION (60). He later ran the Australian Film Commission. His younger brother was novelist Laurie Lee and he was related by marriage to Nicole Kidman.

JAMES H. LEE (79) was a stage, film and TV writer whose credits include CAREER (59) starring Dean Martin, CHANGE OF HABIT starring Elvis and WINNING starring Paul Newman (both 69), and ROOTS.

JON LEE (33), from Wales, was the drummer of Feeder. The trio released three LPs and their "Buck Rogers," reached #5 on the British charts in 01. Lee hanged himself in his Miami home.

PEGGY LEE (Norma Jean Egstrom) (82), from Jamestown, ND, sang with big bands since she was 14 years old. In '41 she joined Benny Goodman, who renamed her. She sang nine hits (on Okeh and Columbia) with Goodman and sang "Why Don't You Do Right?" (originally "Weed Smoker's Dream" by Lil Green) in STAGE DOOR CANTEEN (43). She recorded solo for Decca, then Capitol and had 46 pop chart hits. She acted in MISTER MUSIC (50) and THE JAZZ SINGER (53), was Oscar nominated for Jack Webb's PETE KELLY'S BLUES (55) and later sued Disney and won over singing and songwriting royalties for LADY AND THE TRAMP (56). Lee was also in

early 50s Transcription juke box shorts and sang the theme for JOHNNY GUITAR (54). In '58 her jazzy version of Little Willie John's "Fever" was #8 pop and #5 on the R+B charts and in England. "Is That All There Is?" went to #11 in '69. It was her last hit but she continued to be a popular respected jazz singer, even after she was confined to a wheelchair.

LEW LEHMAN (66), from Boston, directed THE PIT (81) and wrote KILLERS OF THE WILD (77) and PHOBIA (80).

ROBERT M. LEEDS (79), was a film editor since the late 40's, who went to work for Jack Webb's Mark VII Productions. Leeds edited the DRAGNET, ADAM 12, and PROJECT UFO series and all of Webb's features.

JACK (John Uhler) LEMMON (III) (75), from Newton, Mass, acted on stage, radio and TV, made his film debut in IT SHOULD HAPPEN TO YOU (54) and went on to win two Oscars. Billy Wilder directed him in seven movies, he was in three movies with Ernie Kovacs and wore a gorilla suit several times as part of The Nairobi Trio, was in seven (??) movies with Walter Matthau and directed him in KOTCH (71). Some of his less remembered roles were in HOW TO MURDER YOUR WIFE and THE GREAT RACE (both 65), AIRPORT 77, JFK (91), CHAPLIN and THE PLAYER (both 92), SHORT CUTS (93), and THE LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE (00). Lemmon married actress Cynthia Stone, then actress Felicia Farr (in 60). Son Chris Lemmon was in THE HAPPY HOOKER GOES HOLLYWOOD and others. Lemmon died exactly one year after Matthau.

ROSETTA LeNOIRE (Burton) (90), from NYC, was a stage actress who took music lessons from Eubie Blake, was a chorus girl working with her godfather, Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, and was in Orson Welles' all-black version of Macbeth in the 30s. Some movie roles were in Oscar Micheaux's TEN MINUTES TO KILL (33), ANNA LUCASTA (58), FRITZ THE CAT (72), THE SUNSHINE BOYS (75), THE BROTHER FROM ANOTHER PLANET and MOSCOW ON THE HUDSON (both 84), and BREWSTER'S MILLIONS (85). She acted on several soap operas, AMEN (87-9), and FAMILY MATTERS (89-97).

NATHANIEL (Frankenstein) LEON (85), from Mexico, was a bald wrestler in nearly 50 features, often with Santo, including SANTO VS. THE DIABOLICAL BRAIN (61), SANTO VS. THE VAMPIRE WOMEN (62), THE INCREDIBLE INVASION and MADAME DEATH (both 68).

QUEENIE LEONARD (Pearl Walker) (96), from Manchester, England, played English maids and other character roles in over 30 movies including WHO KILLED DOC ROBBIN? (31), LADIES IN RETIREMENT (41), THE LODGER and THE UNINVITED (both 44), AND THEN THERE WERE NONE and MY NAME IS JULIA ROSS (both 45), THE LONE WOLF IN LONDON (47), and LES MISERABLES (52). She also voiced characters for ALICE IN WONDERLAND (51), and 101 DALMATIANS (61). Some TV roles were on ONE STEP BEYOND, BEWITCHED and I DREAM OF JEANNIE.

FRANCIS LEROI (59), from Paris, directed EMMANUELLE 2 (75), EMMANUELLE 4 (84), and other sequels.

BUDDY LESTER (86), from Chicago, was a stand up comedian who appeared in a record number of Jerry Lewis movies and became Sinatra's opening act in Vegas. He was in THE GENE KRUPA STORY (59), OCEAN'S ELEVEN (60), THE LADIES' MAN (61), SERGEANTS THREE (62), THE NUTTY PROFESSOR (63), THE PATSY (64), THREE ON A COUCH (66), THE BIG MOUTH (67), THE PARTY (68), POOR DEVIL (73), CRASH (78), HARDLY WORKING (80), and CRACKING UP (83). He had

recurring roles on THE NEW PHIL SILVERS SHOW and STARSKY AND HUTCH and acted on many other shows.

ALFRED LEWIS LEVITT (87), from NYC, co-wrote the anti war fantasy THE BOY WITH GREEN HAIR (48) but was soon blacklisted (as was director Joseph Losey). He used the name Tom August for writing THE MISADVENTURES OF MERLIN JONES (64) and THE MONKEES UNCLE (65) for Disney, and for TV shows including THE DONNA REED SHOW, and THE GHOST AND MRS. MUIR. Levitt often wrote with his wife, Helen Slotte Levitt (also aka August), who died in '93. They also wrote for and THE BRADY BUNCH and ALL IN THE FAMILY.

JOSEPH H. LEWIS (93), from NYC, directed NAVY SPY (37), THE SPY RING (38), THE GHOST CREEPS (40), THE INVISIBLE GHOST (41), THE MAD DOCTOR OF MARKET STREET (42), MINSTREL MAN (44), THE FALCON IN SAN FRANCISCO and MY NAME IS JULIA ROSS (both 45), the musical numbers for THE JOLSON STORY (46), and his best known cult film, GUN CRAZY (49), shot in 30 days for \$400,000. Later titles include RETREAT HELL! (53), THE BIG COMBO (55) and TERROR IN A TEXAS TOWN (58). He also made instructional films for the Army during the war, many westerns, several Bowery Boy movies, and TV episodes (RIFLEMAN, GUNSMOKE, DEFENDERS...).

HARALD LEIPNITZ (74), from Wuppertal, Germany, was in over 70 movies including THE SINISTER MONK and AGENT 505 (both 65), BRIDES OF FU MANCHU, RAMPAGE AT APACHE WELLS and PLAYGIRL (all 66), DEADLY SANCTUARY (69), PRAIRIE IN THE CITY and THE CREATURE WITH THE BLUE HAND (both 71) and other Edgar Wallace movies, and VORTEX (00).

NAN LESLIE (74), from L.A., was in GEORGE WHITE'S SCANDALS (45), DEVIL THUMBS A RIDE (47), many westerns, often with Gene Autry, and THE BAMBOO SAUCER (68). She was also on THE LONE RANGER, THE ROY ROGERS SHOW, THE GENE AUTRY SHOW, RIN TIN TIN, CIRCUS BOY, PERRY MASON, THRILLER, and many others.

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