

Noted horror writer comes to Collier Library

Noted author and cultural historian David J. Skal, of Los Angeles, gave signed copies of his books about Hollywood, screenplays and horror memorabilia this week for the television and film collection started years ago at Collier Library.

The donation was arranged by TimesDaily entertainment editor Terry Pace. Other celebrities recruited by Pace for the collection include Ray Bradbury and Forrest J. Ackerman.

Skal's latest book, "Death Makes a Holiday: A Cultural History of Halloween," was named last week to the New York Times' ranking of new and notable paperbacks. At the event, he presented signed copies of his books, out-of-print videos and DVDs, Dracula posters and copies of three original screenplays by Bradbury.

Dr. Garry Warren thanked Skal for his gifts.

"We are grateful to David Skal for these items which continue to strengthen our television/film collection. This gift also builds on previous gifts, arranged by Terry Pace, for the science fiction, fantasy and horror genre," Warren said.

Pace, who is a UNA graduate student and founder and director of Pillar of Fire Productions also commented on Skal's presence.

"David is one of the most admired and respected authors and cultural historians in the



field. His reputation is impeccable and his work has been highly influential," Pace said.

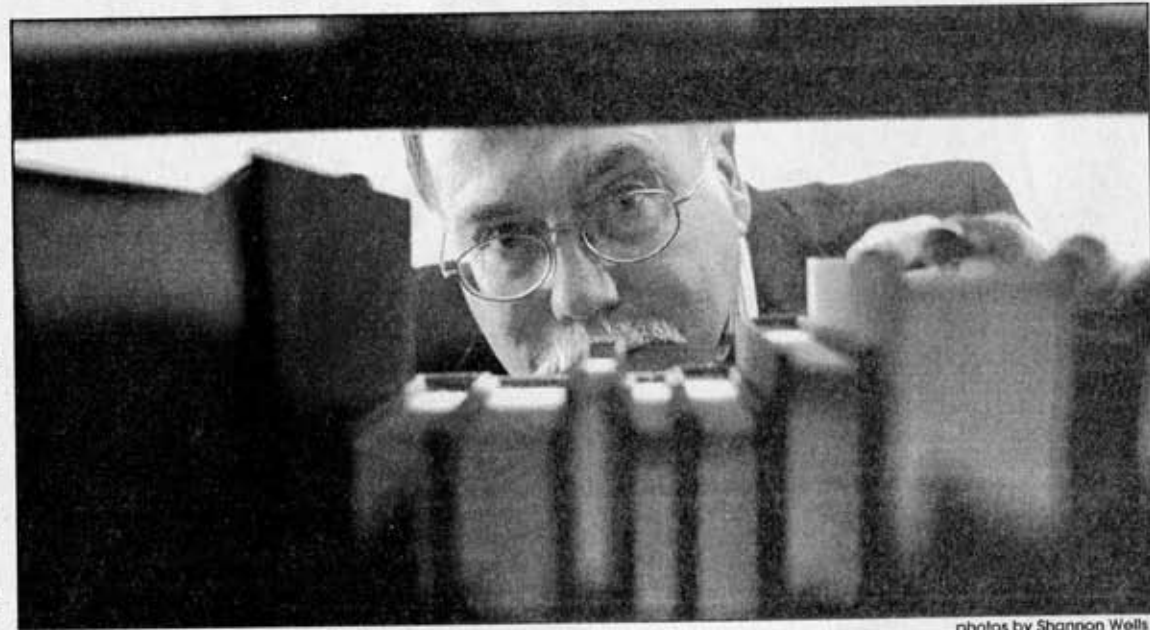
Skal's other books include "The Monster Show: A Cultural History of Horror," "Hollywood Gothic: The Tangled Web of Dracula from Novel to Stage to Screen" and "V is for Vampire: The A-Z Guide to Everything Undead."

He was also co-editor of the Norton Critical Edition of "Dracula" and co-wrote "Dark Carnival: The Secret World of Tod Browning" and "Hollywood's Master of the Macabre."

Skal has written, produced and directed documentary films for DVD release of classic horror films like "Dracula," 1931, "Frankenstein," 1931, "The Mummy," 1932, "The Invisible Man," 1933, "The Bride of

Frankenstein," 1935, "The Wolf Man," 1941, "The Phantom of the Opera," 1943, "Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein," 1948, "It Came From Outer Space," 1953 and "The Creature From The Black Lagoon," 1954.

He also created documentaries for DVD release of Walt Disney's 1954 feature "20,000 Leagues Under The Sea" and the Oscar-winning



photos by Shannon Wells

"Gods and Monsters," 1998.

Skal also signed the original "Dracula" screenplay donated to the UNA archives by Ackerman two years ago.

The Bradbury scripts include his adaptations of "Something Wicked This Way Comes," 1983, "The Halloween Tree," which was a 1993 Emmy-winning animated film for television. Also included is "The Wonderful Ice Cream Suit," 1998.

During the presentation, Warren noted that the archived material is displayed for the public in protected cases.

"These items ideally complement the archival material already donated to the university by Ray Bradbury, Forrest J. Ackerman, George Lindsey, Ernest Borgnine and so many other

luminaries from the world of arts and entertainment," Pace said.

Skal, who is also a Halloween expert, was in the Shoals Area to deliver a lecture on "Hollywood Gothic: The Tangled Web of Dracula from Novel to Stage to Screen," Tuesday, at the Ritz Theater in downtown Sheffield.

He was booked to participate in a radio-theatre dramatization by Pillar of Fire Productions of Orson Welles' adaptation of "Dracula."

Skal's presentation to UNA also included a first-edition hardbound copy of "This Is Orson Welles," a book of Welles' interviews conducted by fan and fellow filmmaker Peter Bogdanovich.