

Save **50% off** Sunday home delivery



SUBSCRIBE NOW >

Los Angeles Times

LAT Home | Print Edition | All Sections

Jobs | Cars.com | Real Estate | More Classifieds

Los Angeles Times | Entertainment

Save on home delivery. **ORDER NOW!**

Movies TV Music Interactive The Biz Celebrity Awards Photos Hollywood A-Z Reviews Charts

You are here: [LAT Home](#) > [Blogs](#) > [Hero Complex](#)

HERO COMPLEX

FOR YOUR INNER FANBOY; NEWS ON GENRE FILMS, GRAPHIC NOVELS AND SCIENCE FICTION

« [Comic Book Store Clerks of America, No. 10: Tempe, Ariz](#) | [Main](#)

Forrest J. Ackerman's scary treasures part of Hollywood auction

06:36 PM PT, Apr 28 2009



The late **Forrest J. Ackerman** dedicated his life to amassing what many consider to have been the world's largest personal collection of science fiction, fantasy and horror

memorabilia. On Thursday, about 500 remnants of his prized cache will go on the block as part of a larger auction of Hollywood collectibles. (The auction has plenty of other historic Hollywood totems, among them this mask from classic 1954 monster tale "[The Creature from the Black Lagoon](#).")

Among the Ackerman-owned items for sale are the ring worn by actor **Bela Lugosi** in the 1931 film

ADVERTISEMENT

CLICK HERE

TM & (c) DC Comics

About the Blogger

Growing up, **Geoff Boucher** always wanted to be a mild-mannered reporter working for a major metropolitan newspaper...or maybe a wookiee. He came to the Los Angeles Times in 1991 and, after years covering crime and local politics, he switched to the Hollywood beat covering film and music. Now he's the paper's go-to geek.

Also contributing: The Legion of Super-Bloggers here at the Hero Complex includes **Jevon Phillips**, a Times staffer who specializes in our favorite television shows, especially "Heroes" and the frakking brilliant "Battlestar Galactica;" **Denise Martin**, another Times staffer, who has an undying passion for "Twilight" and anyone ever enrolled at Hogwarts; and **Gina McIntyre**, a Times editor who learned her craft by watching too many slasher films.

Follow us »



Follow [@latherocomplex](#) for mobile updates.

Subscribe to Blog:



Categories

100 Bullets 24 30 Days of Night 300 A-Team A.D. Aaron Eckhart ACT-I-VATE Adam West Addams Family Adult Swim Akira Alan Moore Alex Proyas Alex Ross Alfred Hitchcock Alias (TV) Alice in Wonderland Alien Trespass American Splendor Angel of Death Anne Rice Aquaman ARG Arnold Schwarzenegger Art Spiegelman Artists Astro Boy Avatar

"Dracula," Lugosi's vampire cape from "Plan 9 From Outer Space" and other movies and his robe from "The Raven."

"Forry died a pretty broke guy," said **Joe Maddalena**, president of the auction house **Profiles in History**, who's staging the event at its Calabasas Hills headquarters and online at www.liveauctioneers.com. "He didn't do this for money. He did it for love."

and he was approached by a litany of people, including former Los Angeles **Mayor Tom Bradley**, with hopes of transforming his collection of 300,000 items into a museum. But the plans always fell through, and Ackerman eventually had to sell his trove piecemeal amid mounting bills for health problems and a legal fight surrounding the magazine he edited and wrote for, **Famous Monsters of Filmland**.



"During his lifetime, Ackerman put the items on display at his house. When Ackerman died in December at age 92, he left behind thousands of pieces in his modest Los Feliz home. The house was dubbed the Acker Mini-Mansion, an allusion to his original 18-room home, the Ackermansion, which was sold in 2002 along with the majority of his collection.

What he had left were the most sentimental, intimate things that he treasured," Maddalena said. He estimates that Ackerman's portion of the auction is expected to bring in \$500,000, to be distributed among the 17 beneficiaries stipulated in his will.

Though his inner circle included sci-fi royalty — he was **Ray Bradbury's** first agent, and Famous Monsters influenced **Stephen King**, **Steven Spielberg** and **George Lucas** — the beneficiaries aren't famous. Among them is a waitress from his favorite restaurant, **House of Pies** in Los Feliz, said friend and estate trustee **Kevin Burns**.

"It's because they weren't expecting to be in his will that they are in his will," he said. "We're expecting that everyone will get something."

Auction items include a signed first edition of **Mary Shelley's** novel "Frankenstein," priced at \$2,000 to \$3,000; a first edition of **Bram Stoker's** "Dracula," signed by the author, Lugosi and **Boris Karloff**, at \$6,000 to \$8,000; and a copy of "Triton," signed by Ackerman and bearing the property label of **L. Ron Hubbard**, at \$600 to \$800.

The most expensive items are those Ackerman cherished above all others. Lugosi's black cape is priced at \$15,000 to \$20,000; his ring, at \$20,000 to \$30,000, and it is expected to go for much higher, Maddalena said. Lugosi kept the ring until he died; a friend of his gave it to Ackerman because of his admiration for Lugosi.

"Having the 'Dracula' ring was something he could wear on his hand, and once he started wearing it, he became known as the man who had Lugosi's ring," Burns said. "It has a certain mystery and magic having been worn by Lugosi and then by Ackerman. He would never take it off."



Another favorite possession is a copy of the robot from **Fritz Lang's** "Metropolis." Ackerman reportedly watched the 1927 movie more than 100 times and spent years trying to track down the original prop. But he could never locate it, because the robot was burned at the end of the movie. Never willing to give up, Ackerman got hold of the design and gave it to filmmaker **Bill Malone**, who built a replica. The robot comes with a stuffed monkey doll that once belonged to Lang. Only two were made, and one of them was buried with the Austrian director in 1976. The estimated price for the lot: \$12,000.

Other items are not as pricey: Autographed photos of **Marlene Dietrich**, Karloff and countless other actors, writers and filmmakers start at \$200. The goal was to make the auction accessible to fans and collectors, Burns said, and preserve Ackerman's legacy.

"At the end of the day, the one that made the museum was him," he said. "He was the greatest item in his collection."

-- Alicia Lozano

RECENT AND RELATED



The lost saucer from the set of "Forbidden Planet" is rediscovered

The lowdown: 13 upcoming remakes of Hollywood sci-fi classics

VIDEO: Forrest J. Ackerman, remembered

"Forbidden Planet," remixed

Batman Battlestar Galactica BBC Berkeley

Breathed Bionic Woman Blade Runner Blogging Book of Lies
Brad Meltzer Brandon Routh Brett Ratner Brevity Brian
Azzarello Brian K. Vaughan Brian Michael Bendis Broadway
Bruce Willis Bryan Singer Buck Rogers Buckaroo Banzai Buffy
the Vampire Slayer Caliber Captain America Caption contest
Cartoon Network Catherine Hardwicke Charles Burns Chip
Kidd Chris Carter Chris Pine Chris Ware Christian Bale
Christopher Nolan Christopher Priest Christopher Reeve
Chronicles of Narnia Chuck Jones City of Ember collecting
Comic Book Legal Defense Fund Comic Book Store Clerks of

America **Comic-Con** Conan Coraline Craig
Thompson Crime comics D.J. Caruso Da Vinci Code Dan DiDio
Daniel Craig Daredevil Dark Horse Dark Path Chronicles Dark
Shadows Dave Howe David Cronenberg David Duchovny Dexter
Lapham David Tennant DC DC Comics Dean Haspiel Dexter
Dick Tracy Disney Disturbia Dollhouse Douglas Adams Dr.
Who Dracula Dragonball E.T. Eagle Eye EC Ed Brubaker
Eddie Campbell Edgar Wright Eduardo Riso Edward James
Olmos Elvira Ender's Game Eoin Colfer Eric Powell

Everyday Hero round-up Ex Machina

Fables fan costumes **Film** Flash Gordon Forbidden Planet
Forrest J. Ackerman Foundation Frank Miller Frank Spotnitz
Fred Hembeck's Hero Complex Fringe G.I. Joe Gabriel Ba
Gabriel Macht Galaxy Quest Game (the film) Games Garth
Ennis Gene Roddenberry Geoff Johns George Lucas George
Romero Gerard Butler Gerard Way Ghostbusters Goosebumps
Grant Morrison Greatest American Hero Green Arrow Green
Hornet Green Lantern Greg Nicotero Greg Pak Guillermo del
Toro Guy Ritchie Halloween Harrison Ford **Harry Potter**
Hayao Miyazaki Heath Ledger Hellboy Henry Selick Heroes (TV
show) Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy horror Hugh Jackman
Hulk Human Target Ian McKellen Incognito Independence Day
Indiana Jones **Iron Man** Isaac Asimov J. J. Abrams J.K.
Rowling J.R.R. Tolkien Jack Kirby Jackie Earle Haley James
Bond James Cameron Jason Statham Jennifer's Body Jeph
Loeb Jerry Robinson Joe Quesada Joe Sacco John Barrowman
John Byrne John Carpenter John Moore Johnny Depp Jon
Favreau Jonah Hex Jonathan Ames Jonny Quest Josh Neufeld
Joss Whedon Juan Antonio Bayona Jules Verne Jurassic Park
Keanu Reeves Kevin Smith Kid Eternity Kristen Stewart L.A.
events Land of the Lost League of Extraordinary Gentlemen
Legacy Effects Leonard Nimoy Lethal Weapon Lex Luthor Life
imitates comics Liquid Comics live chats Logan's Run Lon
Chaney Jr. Looney Tunes Lord of the Rings Lost Louis Leterrier
Lynda Carter M. Night Shyamalan Mad Magazine manga Marc
Guggenheim Mark Millar Mark Valley **Marvel** Mary Lambert
Matt Smith Max Payne McG Merch Michael Chabon Michael
Nankin Michael Uslan Mike Carey Mike Mignola Mike
Richardson **MMORPG** Monsters vs Aliens Music Neal Adams
Near Dark Neil Gaiman Nicolas Cage Nightmare on Elm Street
Ninja Assassin On This Date Original art Orson Scott Card
Patrick Stewart Paul Chadwick Paul Dini Paul Levitz Paul Pope
Peter Gross Peter Jackson Pirates of the Caribbean Pixar Planet
of the Apes Plastic Man **Politics** Ponyo on the Cliff Primeval
Push Quentin Tarantino Radical Comics **Random**

silliness re-releases Red Sonja Richard Donner Rob
Liefeld Rob Zombie Robert Downey Jr. Robert Pattinson Robert
Rodriguez Robert Wise RoboCop Robot Chicken Rock Comics
Ron Moore Rose McGowan Sam Raimi Samuel L. Jackson
Sanctuary Sandman Saw Scene Stealer Sci Fi Channel Scream
Awards Sean Phillips Seth Green Seth Rogen Sherlock Holmes
Shia LeBeouf Simon Pegg Simpsons Sin City Six Million Dollar
Man Smallville SMITH Magazine South Park Spaced special
effects **Spider-Man** Stan Lee Stan Winston Stanley Kubrick
Star Trek **Star Wars** Stardust Stargate Stephen
Chow Stephen King Stephanie Meyer Steve Ditko Steve Niles
Steve Preeg Steven Spielberg Street Fighter Sunday review
Superman Swamp Thing Sylvester Stallone Television
Terminator THB The Alcoholic The Avengers The Crow **The**
Dark Knight The Dark Knight Returns The Darker Mask The
Day the Earth Stood Still The Essential Shelf The Exorcist The
Flash The Fly The Goon The Graveyard Book The Joker The
Lone Ranger The Matrix films The Phantom The Prisoner The

"The Day the Earth Stood Still," the once and future film

Exclusive: William Shatner vents about "Star Trek" snub

Auction items photos courtesy of Profiles in History. Forrest J Ackerman at his home in 1969. Credit: Jack Carrick / Los Angeles Times.

Bookmark it: Digg [submit](#)

April 28, 2009 in [Forrest J. Ackerman](#) | [Permalink](#)

TrackBack

TrackBack URL for this entry:
<http://www.typepad.com/services/trackback/6a00d8341c630a53ef01157056bf72970b>

Listed below are links to weblogs that reference [Forrest J. Ackerman's scary treasures part of Hollywood auction](#):

Add a comment

If you are under 13 years of age you may read this message board, but you may not participate. [Here are the full legal terms you agree to by using this comment form.](#)

Comments are moderated, and will not appear until they've been approved.

Name:

E-mail Address: (will not be published)

URL:

Remember personal info?

Comments:

[PREVIEW COMMENT](#)

[SUBMIT COMMENT](#)

[Punisher](#) [The Running Man](#) [The Spirit](#) [The Thing](#) [The Wizard of Oz](#) [The Wolf Man](#) [Thor](#) [Tim Burton](#) [Tintin](#) [Tobey Maguire](#) [Tony Harris](#) [Torchwood](#) [Torso](#) [Toxic Avenger](#) [toys](#) [Transformers](#) [Trey Parker](#) [Tron](#) [True Blood](#) [Twilight](#) [Umbrella Academy](#) [Unbreakable](#) [Underworld](#) [Unwritten](#) [V](#) [V for Vendetta](#) [Vertigo](#) [video games](#) [Vincent Price](#) [vintage ads](#) [Virgin Comics](#) [Virulents](#) [Wachowskis](#) [WALL-E](#) [Waltz with Bashir](#) [Wanted](#)
Watchmen [Web comics](#) [Weblogs](#) [Wes Craven](#) [Where The Wild Things Are](#) [Will Eisner](#) [William Shatner](#) [Wizards of Hollywood](#) [Wolverine](#) [Wonder Woman](#) [X-Files](#) [X-Men](#) [Y: The Last Man](#) [Year Zero](#) [Zack Snyder](#) [zombies](#)

Recent Comments

RE: [For 'X-Files,' the truth is still out there ... but what about a third film?](#)

comment by [philiater](#)

RE: [For 'X-Files,' the truth is still out there ... but what about a third film?](#)

comment by [dreamscatcher](#)

RE: [For 'X-Files,' the truth is still out there ... but what about a third film?](#)

comment by [Deeca](#)

RE: [For 'X-Files,' the truth is still out there ... but what about a third film?](#)

comment by [ksnake](#)

RE: ['Twilight': Stephenie Meyer puts 'Midnight Sun' on back burner 'indefinitely'](#)

comment by [Arinigawa](#)

RE: [For 'X-Files,' the truth is still out there ... but what about a third film?](#)

comment by [Kylie](#)

