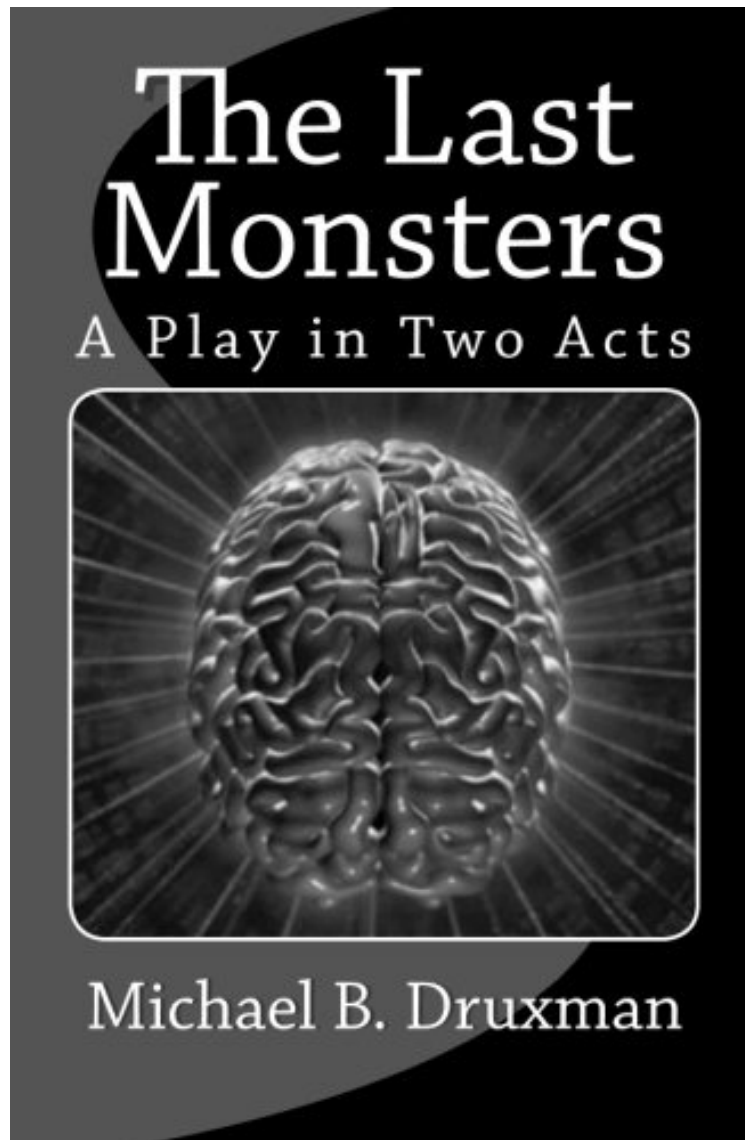


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The Last Monsters: A Play in Two Acts

Michael B. Druxman

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#1720051 in Books 2016-03-13Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .17 x 5.251, .19 #File Name: 153038839274 pages | File size: 15.Mb

Michael B. Druxman : The Last Monsters: A Play in Two Acts before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Last Monsters: A Play in Two Acts:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Get Woke to THE BLACK SLEEP!By J. EarlesFirst of all let me say that the joy in this play is not in the reading - it will be in the playing. If you are a director or producer who has a group of actors "of a certain age" this play is a goldmine for you.The fun the actors - and the audience - will have will be an evening of memorable entertainment. The characterizations of the leading men Lon Chaney, Jr, John Carradine,

and Bela Lugosi is spot on. For the long time and well read fan there is NO new information here. But the fact that playwright Michael Druxman puts these words into the "horses' mouths" so to speak brings magic to the stage. Written to be simply staged - the play is the thing. And while it's not necessary that your actors be strong mimics - I think finding the right performers who at least lose some of themselves in these roles is what will make it go! The movie that is being filmed as the play takes place "The Black Sleep" is rarely shown on television, but it can be found. I also think it's important that your director and actors and tech people seek it out to make the time period authentic. Druxman - a longtime Hollywood publicist - has set the play in a specific period in time and at a specific time period in the careers of each of these famous gentlemen. The play would also be good for class work and scene work for actors. Don't just buy this play - buy it with a view to mounting a production. Your box office will ring - as they used to say!!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This multiple character play features the great horror stars Bela Lugosi. By Frances Doel Michael Druxman hits the jackpot with this recent addition to his Hollywood Legends series of two-act plays about the most popular stars of classic movies. This multiple character play features the great horror stars Bela Lugosi, Lon Chaney, Jr. and John Carradine (who between them scared us as the Frankenstein Monster, Dracula, the Wolf Man, the Mummy, and quite a few mad scientists). It has been said that there are no 2nd acts in American lives, but Druxman knows that it is not the pinnacle of success in a life that makes for an involving drama but the struggle at the beginning - and in the decline. I was completely captivated by this vivid presentation of Lugosi, Chaney and Carradine after their glory years as famous monsters, when they themselves relegated to playing bit parts in a low-budget movie. We meet them in the dressing room area of a sound stage as they wait to perform their brief roles on camera. The interplay amongst them as they reminisce and kid each other, recapping their past triumphs and comic mishaps is very entertaining. Then Druxman introduces riveting conflicts as old professional rivalries and self-destructive urges arising from troubled personal lives overwhelm them. Two appealing young characters, Paul, the assistant director, and Joy, an aspiring actress working as a production assistant, have the job of riding herd on the actors - getting them to make-up and wardrobe and keeping them sober, or sober enough, for the shooting to stay on schedule. Druxman's creates characters who move us with their complexity and depth. He also spices the drama with Carradine's wit and the touching humor of young Joy's dedication to taking care of her charges, the Last Monsters.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Know Your Monsters. By Loves to Read I so enjoy Michael Druxman's plays, fiction based on facts with many of the stars he knew personally. Three big stars of yesterday come together for what you know will be their last film Lon Chaney, Jr., Bela Lugosi, and John Carradine. Full of wisecracks and put downs this story has a sense of sadness for what was in their glory days, all of the former fame is gone, their ghost and addictions are apparent but yet you know, you really know that they were kings of their genre at one time. This is a look back at what once was and the humor is still alive and well though touched with a little bitterness, it is very much a good read.

With Boris Karloff having abandoned the genre for Broadway, the last of the cinema's great horror stars Lon Chaney, Jr., Bela Lugosi and John Carradine gathered together in 1956 to appear in what would be a final gesture to the classic fright films of the 1930s and 40s, a low budget effort, THE BLACK SLEEP. Between them, these three icons had played Count Dracula, the Frankenstein Monster, the Mummy and The Wolf Man, as well as a collection of mad scientists and their victims. Now, as this trio waits on the set to act out their brief, secondary roles, old resentments, personal frustrations and insecurities rise to surface, wreaking havoc on a troubled picture that is already behind schedule. THE LAST MONSTERS is a probing look at the dark, personal lives of three men who scared us as children and now remain in our nightmares. 4 men. 1 woman; single set.

About the Author Michael B. Druxman is a veteran Hollywood screenwriter whose credits include CHEYENNE WARRIOR with Kelly Preston; DILLINGER AND CAPONE starring Martin Sheen and F. Murray Abraham; and THE DOORWAY with Roy Scheider, which he also directed. He is also a prolific playwright, his one-person play, JOLSON, having had numerous productions around the country. Other produced stage credits include one-person plays about Clark Gable, Carole Lombard, Spencer Tracy and Orson Welles. Additionally, Mr. Druxman is the author of thirteen other published books, including several nonfiction works about Hollywood, its movies, and the people who make them (e.g., BASIL RATHBONE: His Life and His Films, MAKE IT AGAIN, SAM: A Survey of Movie Remakes, ONE GOOD FILM DESERVES ANOTHER: A Survey of Movie Sequels, MERV [Griffin] and THE MUSICAL: From Broadway to Hollywood). He has written three novels, NOBODY DROWNS IN MINERAL LAKE, SHADOW WATCHER and MURDER IN BABYLON, plus the humorous revisionist history, ONCE UPON A TIME IN HOLLYWOOD: From the Secret Files of Harry Pennypacker, and FAMILY SECRET, a non-fiction book co-authored with Warren Hull, which reveals the true facts behind the 1947 murder of mobster Bugsy Siegel in Beverly Hills. An acknowledged Hollywood historian, he has also written television documentaries and has been interviewed for various retrospective featurettes that have accompanied DVD releases of classic films (e.g. THE MALTESE FALCON, etc.). Mr. Druxman is a former Hollywood publicist of 35 years experience who has represented many film and television stars, as well as noted directors, producers and composers. One of his Academy

Award campaigns is often mentioned in books dealing with Oscars history. He has taught various dramatic writing and film appreciation courses in an adult university and is the author of *How to Write a Story* and *Any Story: THE ART OF STORYTELLING*, which has been used as a text in several colleges. A native of Seattle who graduated from Garfield High School and the University of Washington, Mr. Druxman moved with his wife, Sandy, from Los Angeles to Austin, TX in 2009. His two memoirs, *MY FORTY-FIVE YEARS IN HOLLYWOOD AND HOW I ESCAPED ALIVE* and *LIFE, LIBERTY THE PURSUIT OF HOLLYWOOD*, are published by Bear Manor Media.