

# Moon & Son

## The Newsletter of Glenn's Gothic Works

Spring & Summer 2008

*"Here's to a New World of Gods and Monsters." (Professor Septimus Pretorius)*

*Welcome to the Moon & Son Newsletter, a quarterly update designed with news of how things are developing with Skaler, and other Gothic works.*

### *Since We Last Saw You...*

This newsletter is something special, as we have some really important news to let you know about, but there is something vital to do first. As you will see, we have recently launched our new website, and this was built by Angela herself. This extraordinary woman designed the whole new site in 9 weeks flat from a standing start, and saying that she has a talent for IT is a magnificent understatement! It is proving our best ever shop window, and drawing some very high praise indeed.

### *Sara Karloff, Frankenstein & First Skaler Short Story Online....*



It's wonderful to be able to tell you that two of Glenn's short stories are available to be read online. The very first Skaler short story, titled *"According to Bill"* and another story, a Frankenstein tribute called *"A Shock to the System"* were published by *Newsblaze* and *The SOP* in the United States, towards the end of June. The really



wonderful thing, which has had us feeling like we have had a letter from the Queen, is that *"Shock"* has been commented on very favourably by no less a person than *Boris Karloff's daughter, Sara Karloff.*

Glenn contacted the Karloff website to inform them that it had gone online, and was astonished when Sara replied in person, saying how much she had enjoyed the story! This is a point of particular pride, because there is a strong Frankenstein link to the genesis of Skaler: In the mid 90's, Glenn was getting his earliest notes down for the vampire when passing Dudley Castle every day, enroute for College. This is where James Whale, Frankenstein's director would go sketching as a student himself, and when Glenn heard this, it acted as a source of enormous inspiration. *"A Shock to the System"* was written at the same time, in 1996, and we are very proud of this response.

And of course Skaler himself is now online, in the edgy and atmospheric mood piece *"According to Bill,"* and we hope that those of you who have continued to have such a kind interest in the work will enjoy this dark and mischievous story. The links are:

*"A Shock to the System"*, Frankenstein short story.  
<http://newsblaze.com/story/20080618155027tsop.nb/topstory.html>

*"According to Bill"*, Short Story about Skaler  
<http://newsblaze.com/story/20080623075613tsop.nb/topstory.html>

.. *And the story in The Worcester News*



*The Worcester News* of July 30<sup>th</sup> 2008 carried a large lead story by *Journalist James Connell*, reporting on *Sara Karloff's* kind remarks, about the work having gone online, and giving a lot of background as to the circumstances surrounding the writing of the two stories. If you would like to view it at the newspapers website, it is as follows:

[http://www.worcesternews.co.uk/news/local/3556263:Daughter\\_of\\_horror\\_film\\_legend\\_praises\\_author\\_s\\_hard\\_work/](http://www.worcesternews.co.uk/news/local/3556263:Daughter_of_horror_film_legend_praises_author_s_hard_work/)

This has been an important development in the Gothic Works, and Glenn and Angela would like to take the opportunity to express their thanks to *Sara Karloff* for the enjoyment she expressed on having read *'Shock'*. It was crucial in the evolution of Glenn's attempt to find his own style, and one where he wanted to acknowledge the important influence of Universal at a time when he was just starting to find his own way as an author and artist.

It is equally important to thank *Judyth Piazza* and *Alan Grey* of *Newsblaze* and *The SOP*, for uploading the work and encouraging Glenn's efforts as a writer. *James Connell* and the *Worcester News* have also been enormously supportive of the developments in his career, and are equally saluted in this Newsletter.

One other crucial person we wanted to thank is the highly gifted young *Gothic Artist Coral Marsh*, of Worcester. Coral has been an unflagging enthusiast of the Skaler work, and was the first person to read *"According to Bill"* online. We were delighted you enjoyed it Coral, and it was only right and proper that you were the first one to see it!

*"Bela and The Count"*  
*Article on Newsblaze, and...*



Touching again on classic Horror Cinema, you may remember from earlier this year that Glenn contributed a drawing of *Bela Lugosi* to the Star's official Website. He has always taken a keen interest in the Bram Stoker's Gothic Novel, and was inspired to write an article for Newsblaze looking into Bela's cinematic legacy. This piece examines both the Great Actor's contribution to the screen legend of *Dracula*, and the equal and opposite effect that the Aristocratic Vampire had on his work, following his legendary performance in Todd Browning's film. The resulting article, *"Bela and the Count"*, was published by Newsblaze earlier this year, and if you would like to read it then the link to the story is as follows:

<http://newsblaze.com/story/20080522134427tsop.nb/topstory.html>

*... The Howard Bentham Show,  
BBC Hereford and Worcester*



Due to the interest shown by the BBC in the story surrounding the Bela Lugosi drawing and article, Glenn was asked in to the *Howard Bentham Breakfast Show* on *BBC Hereford and Worcester* on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2008. Glenn got on very well with the presenter, and was given a generous opportunity to talk about his work at some length, whilst also drawing a Gothic cartoon of the shows'

production team! (We hope to bring you a copy in due course...)

He was able to explain in some detail about the Lugosi drawing, and there was a lot of interest in that it represents Worcester's second Dracula connection: The first being the fact that *the BBC filmed the 2006 Christmas special of Dracula with Marc Warren* in and around Worcester and Malvern, and the second being that the ruined Abbey behind Bela, in Glenn's drawing, is the remains of a medieval building at the rear of Worcester Cathedral!

In the course of a 3 part interview, Glenn also had chance to talk about *The Reluctant Ghost Hunter* Project at some length, going into some detail about *Judyth Piazza*, *Kolchak The Night Stalker*, and her inspiration for the idea, as well as talking about Skaler and the novel. Howard was tremendously interested, and requested copies of Glenn's drawings to be forwarded to the BBC Website, so we will keep you updated as to developments.

### *The New Website*

[www.gjamesgothicworks.com](http://www.gjamesgothicworks.com)



Our new website went online in June this year, and we believe it is about 3 times the size of the old Skaler site, which it effectively replaces. There was an awful lot to go on, as the work is constantly developing, and it has been a herculean labour for Angela, who has literally worked miracles. It seems inadequate simply to say thanks, but it stands as an eloquent testament to her ability as a website designer, as it has been praised very highly by industry professionals.

Of course, the site devotes a lot to *Skaler*, and the ongoing project, but it covers all of Glenn's new involvements, too: Such as *The Reluctant Ghost Hunter*, *Murky Depths*, *Trespass Magazine*, and his articles and review work for *Newsblaze* and *The Student Operated Press*. It also details previous projects (Glenn's radio, legal, and fanzine work), as well as looking at his style and

technique. Most importantly, it has vital facilities which we have never had before.

There is a *Café Press Shop*, where you can order items of your choice emblazoned with Glenn's artwork, and also a *Forum* and a *Guestbook*. We hope you will check it out and let us know what you think, as it has been quite an undertaking.

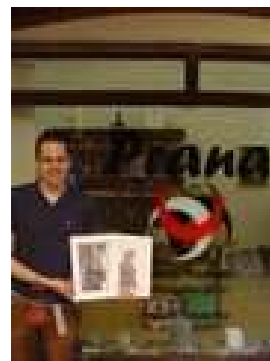
The new address is [www.gjamesgothicworks.com](http://www.gjamesgothicworks.com), and don't forget that this new site replaces the old one at [www.skaler.co.uk](http://www.skaler.co.uk).

### *Café Press Shop*



The launch of the new website has meant that we have also been able to also launch a Café Press shop for Glenn's Gothic work. A wide range of Glenn's dark work is now available through this online shop, which we hope will be of interest. We are quite excited in that we have never been able to do anything like this before, and we hope that lovers of Glenn's work will find it of interest. It may be accessed through entering the "Shop" link on the new website or direct at [www.cafepress.com/gjamesgothic](http://www.cafepress.com/gjamesgothic)

### *Prana Alternative Lifestyles Stock Skaler Prints*



June 2008 has also seen another benchmark in that Prana Alternative Lifestyles, (located opposite Saint John's Post Office, Worcester) has undertaken to stock prints of Glenn's Skaler work. Proprietor Mr. Rob Shotton will

also be stocking copies of "Ghosts, Murders and Scandals" by Anne Bradford, which of course Glenn illustrated.

This is the first time that a retail outlet has stocked any of Glenn's work, and we are particularly proud as by a neat coincidence "Prana" (which means "Life Force" in Sanscript, was also the name of the company which made "Nosferatu!" If you would like to contact Rob about Glenn's work, or any of his impressive Holistic and Alternative lifestyle range, then please E-mail him on [Rob1243.548@fsmail.net](mailto:Rob1243.548@fsmail.net)

## *The Reluctant Ghost Hunter*



Work continues on developing the *Reluctant Ghost Hunter* project, and May saw Glenn complete a new strip Titled "*The Bell Toll's*" for "*The Reluctant Ghost Hunter*". Concerning the hauntings of the famous *Bell Witch*, in the Red River Valley, Tennessee, this two page story is a prequel to a future issue of the RGH comic about this famous American Legend (which may have inspired *The Blair Witch Project*), and may be viewed on our website, where there is a more detailed account of the story.

This cell was drawn to demonstrate the style and type of story the comic will carry, and has proved a huge hit at a Convention in Ohio, when presented there by Judyth Piazza, the original Reluctant Ghost Hunter!

We will keep you up to speed with developments, and we would also like to express our thanks: Firstly, and most importantly, to *Judyth* herself, whose article on the Bell Witch Hauntings was so invaluable, and also to Jack Cook, of Tennessee. Jack is the author of the learned online historical paper "*The Spirit of Red River*", and was an invaluable help over checking the architecture and appearance of The Red River Baptists Church in the early 1800's! Keep your eyes peeled on our future newsletters and the Website News Page, as there are

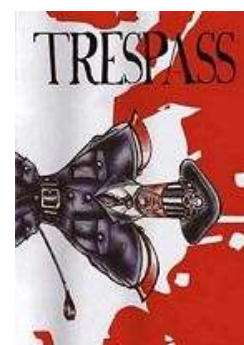
exciting developments afoot concerning the *Reluctant Ghost Hunter Comic* which we hope to bring you news of soon.

## *Murky Depths*



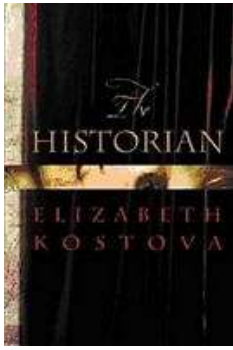
*Issue # 4 of Murky Depths* was out this year during late March, and Glenn contributed the inside illustration to *D.K. Thompson's* impressively fogbound Victorian chiller, "*Saint Darwin's Spirituals*," which is cutting quite a dash for itself. The Magazine is doing splendidly, and has recently been the recipient of an award by no less a Publication than *SFX* for best fanzine. Going from strength to strength with every issue, and if you would like a copy don't forget you can order it online at official website: [www.murkydepths.com](http://www.murkydepths.com)

## *Trespass Magazine*



Issue 4 of *Trespass Magazine* was launched in June this year, to which Glenn contributed the illustration to Grahame Hartill's poem "Le Therapeute". This stylish and controversial magazine is filled with items to interest virtually everyone, and Glenn wrote both a review of the issue and a report on the Launch near Covent Garden. The story was published on the *SOP*, and the link to the story, which we hope you will enjoy, is [www.thesop.org/index.php?article=12364](http://www.thesop.org/index.php?article=12364)

## Glenn's Review of "The Historian" (By Elizabeth Kostova)



During June Glenn had the opportunity to review Elizabeth Kostova's epic novel about the search for *Vlad the Impaler*. Anyone who is interested in "Dracula" or the legends from which he came will have heard of Vlad and Kostova's book is an enthralling adventure. The tale reveals a lot about Vlad's actual historical past, and how he fits into world history, as well as having him shown as a genuinely fascinating vampire at the centre of the action.

Told across three periods of history, in Stoker's journalistic style, *The Historian* is a lovely tribute to the Dracula legend and a worth addition to anyone's library of vampire fiction. For anyone interested in reading Glenn's review, the link is as follows:

<http://newsblaze.com/story/20080618190440tsop.nb/topstory.html>

## Do You Have Any Books on Dyslexia?



Glenn was diagnosed as being Dyslexic in 2002, via a referral to a specialist from his GP and after suspecting it for many years. It came as an indignant irony at the time, as he was at that point 5 Chapters into writing *Skaler*, and was two years into working as a Verbatim Reporter logging Criminal Proceedings. He felt that he wanted to write something about his experiences as a Dyslexic Author, about the frustrations, the ironies, and the coping mechanisms he discovered as he went along. The resulting article, "Do You Have any books on Dyslexia?" was published by Newsblaze and The SOP earlier in the year and we hope it might be of some little assistance to other

creative people coming to grips with the condition. You can access the story via the News Page on our website, or by the following link.

<http://newsblaze.com/story/20080619190727tsop.nb/topstory.html>

## Film Reviews for Newsblaze & The SOP

Glenn is reviewing films on a regular basis for *Newsblaze*, *The Student Operated Press* & *The Worcester News*.

Since Easter, he has reviewed *Cloverfield*, *The Incredible Hulk*, *Prince Caspian* and *The Edge of Love*, about Welsh Poet Dyan Thomas. Links to all these may be found on the website via the News Page and Biography.

Glenn has been aided hugely in his review work by the co-operation & assistance of the *Odeon Cinema Worcester*, & we would like to thank Will the manager & his gallant staff.

So in closing, we hope you will have time to check out the new website, and please, don't be afraid to let us know what you think! It has taken a lot of work, and we have tried to make it really navigable, and put plenty in of interest, so hopefully it will be something which you will enjoy.

Please also check out the short stories, too, as both are good examples of Glenn's written work, and are solid original pieces. After so often telling people, who are taking a genuine interest in *Skaler*, all about the stories and characters, it feels wonderful to be able to point them to something they can read and enjoy themselves!

Till next time,

With Darkest Best Wishes,

Earl Gray and Cobwebs,  
Glenn and Angela James

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