

SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY/HORROR ANTHOLOGY SERIES(1951-)

* *TALES OF TOMORROW* (1951-53, ABC)

A thirty-minute series that mixed original stories & classic literary efforts (i.e. Frankenstein, 20,000 Leagues Under The Sea, etc.)

* *ALFRED HITCHCOCK PRESENTS*(1955-62, CBS & NBC)

THE ALFRED HITCHCOCK HOUR (1962-65, CBS & NBC)

The first successful horror anthology hosted, produced (& directed on occasion) by the Great Man himself. Became known for his opening & closing remarks, showcasing him in a wide variety of macabre settings, usually with contempt for commercials.

* *SCIENCE FICTION THEATER* (1955-57, Syndicated)

Hosted by Truman Bradley, who began each week's show by demonstrating the invention or scientific principle upon which the evening's story was based. Most stories took a police-procedural approach. (Would influence Leslie Stevens, and later Ben Brady, in the creation of THE OUTER LIMITS).

* *ALCOA PRESENTS: ONE STEP BEYOND* (1959-61, ABC & Syndication)

This show predates TZ by six months & dealt mostly with ESP & Supernatural phenomena. Created by Mervyn Gerard (who claimed that the stories were true) & Hosted by the "breathlessly enthusiastic" John Newland (who also directed the series). Produced by Collier Young, with the theme music ("Fear") by Harry Lubin (who adapted the same melody for the second season theme music of THE OUTER LIMITS).

* *THE TWILIGHT ZONE (Original Version)*(1959-64, CBS)

The original version of this series became the standard bearer for all SF/Fantasy Horror anthology series that followed. Rod Serling hosted, wrote 92 of the 156 episodes & was Executive Producer. Featured adaptations of other authors by Serling, along with contributions from Richard Matheson, Charles Beaumont, Earl Hamner Jr., George Clayton Johnson, Ray Bradbury, et al. Top notch Production values from Buck Houghton, Herbert Hirschman, Bert Granet & William Froug, including the finest scores of Bernard Herrmann, Jerry Goldsmith, etc. Its' major focus was fantasy stories involving ordinary people in extraordinary situations (with a twist; mostly written by Serling), but also handled some science-fiction & horror stories (from Matheson & Beaumont, among others).

* *THRILLER* (1960-62, NBC)

Produced by Hubbell Robinson after he left CBS in 1960, this program split the difference between Crime & Horror stories (handled respectively by Maxwell Shane & William Frye). Boris Karloff was the host (and occasionally played the lead in stories).

* *WAY OUT* (1961,CBS)

Hosted by Roald Dahl; lasted one month.

* *THE OUTER LIMITS(Original Version)*(1963-65,ABC)

One of the finest anthologies in television history, mixed Science Fiction & Horror in roughly equal amounts. Showcased some of the best cinematography in TV history from Conrad Hall & John Nickolaus, and taut direction from Byron Haskin,Gerd Oswald,etc. Created by Leslie Stevens(who wrote some of the more science-oriented shows during the 1st season), & Produced by Joseph Stefano(who wrote 50% of the first season shows)& Ben Brady(during the 2nd Season, who brought a police-procedural approach to the stories). The show became known for its Monsters and special effects ,along with producing two Harlan Ellison stories, “*Soldier*”, & “*Demon With A Glass Hand*”.

* *ROD SERLING’S NIGHT GALLERY*(1969[pilot],1970-72[series run],NBC)

Rod 2nd anthology series, was not as successful as the first one, as he was more or less a figurehead for Producer Jack Laird, whose taste in horror differed from Serling’s, and who had more creative control. Nonetheless, Serling still got in his share of scripts, & the show has been hailed as a director’s showcase,with work from John Astin, Jeannot Szwarc, Steven Spielberg, & Jeff Corey, among others.

* *THE NEXT STEP BEYOND* (1978-79,ABC & Syndication)

* *STEVEN SPIELBERG’S AMAZING STORIES*(1985-87, NBC)

* *ALFRED HITCHCOCK PRESENTS II*(1985-86,NBC/1987-88, USA[Cable])

* *RAY BRADBURY THEATER* (1985-1992,HBO & USA[Cable])

* *THE TWILIGHT ZONE II*(1985-87,CBS/1988-89 Syndication)

* *TALES FROM THE DARKSIDE*(1984-88, Syndicated)

* *MONSTERS*(1988-1990,Syndicated)

* *TALES FROM THE CRYPT*(1994-1996,FOX & HBO[Cable])

* *THE OUTER LIMITS II*(1995-2002,Showtime & Sci-Fi Channel[Cable])

* *THE TWILIGHT ZONE III*(2003-2004, UPN)