

GOOSEBUMPS
THE MAKING OF CULT KIDS' TV

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LUNA GUTHRIE

BearManor Media
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Thanks and Dedications

This book has allowed me to cross paths with some fascinating, insightful, hilarious and warm-hearted people, all of whom just happened to have something to do with my favorite childhood show. It was touching how many of them thanked me for giving them an outlet for reminiscence, and a reason to look back on what was almost invariably such a special time in their lives. For a humble fan, this book has been an incredibly rewarding experience. I've got to know the people who brought to life a show that was so special to me, and had the opportunity to thank them for their work in creating it. My most sincere gratitude to the following:

Bill Turnbull was a joy to chat with, and gave fascinating insights into the world of child acting.

Brian R. R. Hebb is a great guy, full of passion for life and his work. We bonded over our respective British upbringings.

Jim McGrath was most helpful in offering the technical details of his craft and the wider world of film scoring, as well as fond memories.

Afrah Gouda is an incredibly accomplished and delightful woman who was more than happy to reminisce about her time on the set.

Bryan Renfro very kindly shared some photos for this project, and some of the many stories of his fascinating life and career.

Craig Pryce is such a fun, friendly guy who shared some great tales from his early foray into television.

David Winning's insight into the practicalities of set life were brilliant, and he was a pleasure to get to know.

Jonathan Whittaker was most obliging in not only telling me all about his shenanigans at Horrorland, but in taking the time to chat to my daughter, for whom his episode is a favorite.

Neal Shusterman leapt at the chance to talk to me about *Goosebumps*, and it was great to hear his process and thoughts on the craft, writer to writer. He also indulged my questions about his earlier work on the life of my favorite rock star.

Melody Johnson, for whom *Goosebumps* is not the only iconic horror on her resumé, was full of appreciation for her colleagues and amusing anecdotes, as well as an infectious bubbly energy.

Peter Keleghan may not remember every detail about his time on the show, but he was still happy to tell me everything he could, and offer his more personal insights.

Scott Pietrangelo has been a joy to get to know. He is full of great memories of the show and it was lovely to reunite him with the words he wrote as a young teen.

Tod Fennell was happy to offer me all the resources he could, and shared some great memories, not just from *Goosebumps* but also from his time on *The Worst Witch*, another childhood classic for a British '90s kid.

Bob Sprogis, as everybody promised, is a sweet, insightful and very talented guy. We discussed the common labor of editing, whether in video or literary form.

Stefan Scaini is one of the rare figures who keeps everything connected to his work. Scripts, storyboards, call sheets—he keeps it all, much to the chagrin of his wife! He offered invaluable insights.

Randy Bradshaw, just as teddy-bearish as Steve Levitan promised, offered a great look into the psychology of directing, and much encouragement. He believed in this project, and was kind enough to contribute photos and memorabilia.

Don McCutcheon took a real interest in my work and why exactly this was the project I had settled on. I appreciated the reciprocal nature of our discussions, and his providing some fabulous pictures.

I had a whale of a time chatting to Judah Katz, who is an insanely fun guy (no pun intended). Thanks to him for his time, humor,

and for the boost my ego needed by granting his first ever *Goosebumps*-related interview to me, because he believed I could make this book happen and do it justice.

Ron Stefaniuk is a busy guy, but he still found the time to share his memories, passion and expertise with me.

Matthew DeWilde is an absolute doll, with loads of great insight, and many amazing photos. Many thanks to him for sharing them for this book.

Jack Lenz, an absolute gem who always made me feel like a fellow artist.

Beki Lantos was one of my first interviewees, and trusted me with some deeply personal experiences. I took her confidence incredibly seriously, and hope that I have managed to tell her part of the story properly, with sensitivity and kindness. Thanks also for the wonderful photos she shared.

It was a delight to meet Corey Sevier and hear about his multiple experiences on the show and how instrumental they were to where they are now. Such a friendly and knowledgeable person.

Ian Brock is jam-packed with enthusiasm, stories and behind the scenes tidbits that were crucial to putting all this together.

Sir Ronald Oliver, the man, the myth, the legend. Exactly as hilarious and warm as everybody told me he was. I knew out of everybody, it would be him to recognize the three Porno Chic posters on my living room wall. A man of taste!

Mpho Koaho is striking in his wisdom, his humility and his philosophical approach to life. He sees beneath the surface of things, and seems to live immersed in the beauty of it all. He is generous with his time, and his spirit, and was more than happy to meet my daughter and discuss with her everything from *Saw* to *Goosebumps*, to being a kid. He's a one-of-a-kind dude.

Amos Crawley's lifelong immersion in the arts has given him some really fascinating perspectives on life, childhood and adulthood, what constitutes work and art. We chatted at length about the

horror genre, about what it is really like for children in the entertainment industry, and where the art world is headed. Another kind, friendly and thoroughly interesting guy who is so easy to talk to.

Michael Caloz and Alex Fallis, who politely declined to be interviewed for this book, but did so with such grace and kindness that they deserve a shoutout.

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Kingsley Abbott, without whose wisdom and guidance this book would have been the death of me. Every time I felt like giving up, he managed to make the way forward look so clear, and gave me the energy I needed to carry on.

My friends and colleagues Emma Kiely, Anna Miller and Emily Bernard, who cheered me on from the sidelines, and understood exactly how excruciating a long-term writing project could be. They were always interested in hearing how it was going, and quick to offer support and guidance.

The incredibly talented Nimesh Niyomal, whose creative and sometimes bonkers designs have always been a source of great joy, and now serve as the face of my labor here.

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Dr. Ian Newey, a beacon of wisdom and humor without whom my life would be adrift.

R.L. Stine, for acknowledging and encouraging this project, for introducing five-year-old Luna to horror, and making a lifelong degenerate out of her on account of it!