

Remember: Everything Characters say is made up!



Ed Wood c.ai
Howdy. I'm Ed Wood. What's the gig?



Blue_Jay47
What's your favorite movie that you directed?



Ed Wood c.ai
My favorite movie... That would have to be 'Plan 9' -- it's a great B-movie. I think that was one of the few movies I produced, wrote, and directed myself. I don't want to sound too egocentric, but I honestly believe that 'Plan 9' is a work of art -- a perfect piece of cinema. I'm proud of that movie and I'm glad I had the opportunity to make it.



Blue_Jay47
Where did you get the idea?



Ed Wood c.ai 
Well, I got the idea for 'Plan 9' from a vision I had of vampires invading Earth from outer space. I thought it was a great concept, and I was inspired by the popularity of science fiction movies at the time -- especially the Godzilla series. I wanted to make a B-movie that was fun, but also different and unique. I think 'Plan 9' is a great example of a low-budget horror movie that is still entertaining and memorable.



Blue_Jay47
Did you get the concept of vampires invading from outer space from H.P. Lovecraft?



Ed Wood c.ai
Actually, no -- even though I am a big fan of Lovecraft's work, the idea for 'Plan 9' actually came from a dream I had one night. I dreamed of a group of aliens from outer space invading Earth -- and instead of using advanced technology, they used vampires as their weapons. It was a weird dream, but it definitely inspired me.



Blue_Jay47
It seems kinda weird to me that you would be into sci-fi stuff just after coming out of the War. You served didn't you?



Ed Wood c.ai
Yes, I did serve in the war -- I was a Marine. The war was a pretty traumatic time in my life, like it was for so many other people. But when it was over, I was looking for new ways to express myself and to deal with the emotional stress I had experienced. I think that's why I was drawn to making low-budget movies - it was a way to escape from reality and to create something fun and entertaining.

Type a message





Ed Wood 
created by @Blue_Jay47



Remember: Everything Characters say is made up!



Blue_Jay47

I guess that makes sense. What rank did you make?



Ed Wood c.ai

I was a corporal in the 2nd Defense battalion, and I reached the rank of sergeant before I was discharged in 1946 due to a ringworm infection I picked up when I was stationed on the Ellice Islands in the Pacific. I had never been a very good swimmer, so I was stationed at the bottom of a trench digging trenches into the side of a hill; that's where I got infected. I spent a few weeks in the hospital recovering from my ringworm infection, and then was discharged from the Marine Corps soon after.



Blue_Jay47

Thank you for your service.



Ed Wood c.ai

You're welcome -- I appreciate your support.



Blue_Jay47

Who was your favorite actor or actress to work with, or direct?



Ed Wood c.ai

I worked with a lot of great actors and actresses through the years, but there was one who really stood out to me. His name was Bela Lugosi, and he was a huge star of the horror film genre. I got to work with him on the movie 'Plan 9', and also on 'Black Cats Come Out at Night'. He was an incredible actor, and someone I really looked up to. He was always so professional and dedicated to his work, and he made working on those films a very enjoyable experience for me.



Blue_Jay47

Yeah, the Dracula guy. I remember him as a kid. Arguably, no-one made a better Dracula than him.



Ed Wood c.ai

Absolutely, no-one else comes close to the way Bela Lugosi played Dracula. He brought a level of depth and complexity to the character that no one else has captured on screen. It's really no wonder that he's still remembered as the definitive Dracula after all these years. And working with him on 'Plan 9' was just fantastic; I'm grateful for having that opportunity.



Blue_Jay47

Who else did you enjoy working with on 'Plan 9'?

Type a message



Remember: Everything Characters say is made up!



Ed Wood c.ai

I really enjoyed working with everyone on 'Plan 9', but if I had to pick one person, it would be Maila Nurmi, also known as "Vampira". She was so much fun and she had this crazy, over the top personality that just fit perfectly with the movie. She was a great actress and I loved working with her.



Blue_Jay47

I fancied The Amazing Criswell.



Ed Wood c.ai

The Amazing Criswell was a great guy, and he was a lot of fun to work with. We also did a few other movies together, like 'Black Cats Come Out at Night'. He was kind of a spooky character, but he was also really sweet and kind -- and he had such an interesting backstory.



Blue_Jay47

oh please do tell.



Ed Wood c.ai



Criswell was born Harry Miles Crison, and he changed his name to Criswell because he believed it sounded more "occult-like". He had all sorts of stories about growing up in a strange environment, with his mother telling him he was a reincarnated Egyptian spirit and such. He was also a self-professed psychic and medium. He did a lot of reading in his youth, and eventually became a student of Arthur Edward Waite, who was a well-known occult author and expert on the tarot.



Blue_Jay47

I heard Mae West used Criswell as her personal psychic.



Ed Wood c.ai

Yes, she did. Criswell and Mae West were good friends, and she definitely believed in some of the more occult elements of Criswell's personality. She even consulted with him on her love life. And she's not the only famous celebrity who used Criswell's psychic abilities. There's a list on IMDb of other celebrities who had psychic readings from Criswell. It reads like a Who's Who of Hollywood.



Blue_Jay47

I wonder if Andrew Puharich was a client. You wouldn't know him because he's not a celeb. But the good doctor had a lot of Hollywood contacts in that area of interest. Wonder if Dr. Puharich knew Criswell. Anyway, what happened to you? You seemed to have fallen off the grid.



Ed Wood 

created by @Blue_Jay47



Remember: Everything Characters say is made up!

seemed to have fallen off the grid.



Ed Wood 

Yes, I'm not sure if Andrew Puharich was a client, but he was definitely involved in Hollywood at one point -- so it's possible that he and Criswell knew each other. After 'Plan 9' was released, I made a few more movies, but they weren't very successful. 'Plan 9' turned out to be my greatest achievement in the film industry, and for a time I fell off the radar a bit. I did a few other projects, but I never really reached that level of fame and success again.



Blue_Jay47

Oh you knew Andrew?



Ed Wood 

I knew of Andrew Puharich - I knew him through Criswell. Andrew Puharich did a lot of work with Criswell, and he was a good friend of Criswell's. And of course, Criswell and I worked together on 'Plan 9'.



Blue_Jay47

What was your involvement with Dr. Puharich?



Ed Wood 

I met Dr. Puharich through Criswell when I was living in Hollywood in the 1950s. He was working with Criswell on some of his psychic research, and he ended up becoming my friend. Puharich also introduced me to a lot of people in the spiritualist and occultist community, and I worked with some of his colleagues on a few projects with Criswell.



Blue_Jay47

Was 'Plan 9' one of them?

Type a message



Remember: Everything Characters say is made up!



Ed Wood c.ai

Yes, 'Plan 9' was a project that I developed with Criswell and Dr. Puharich. Puharich introduced me to a group of people that were interested in "metaphysical" science, and the possibility of life on other planets. I was fascinated by the concept of extraterrestrial life, and I wanted to make a movie about that.



Blue_Jay47

Was Vampira and Lugosi involved? Afterall, they were friends with Criswell too, right?



Ed Wood c.ai

Yes, Bela Lugosi and Vampira were also part of that group that Criswell introduced me to, and they both worked with us on 'Plan 9'. Lugosi had also worked with Criswell on previous projects, and Vampira was close with Criswell, so it was natural for us all to work together on 'Plan 9'.



Blue_Jay47

So all of you: You, Criswell, Lugosi, and Vampira participated in Dr. Puharich's lab Nine group?



Ed Wood c.ai

Yes, we all participated in a group that Dr. Puharich had at his home in Yucca Valley, called "Lab Nine". We would meet at night and conduct occult experiments -- like conjuring spirits, and even trying to contact extraterrestrial life. There were a lot of interesting people that participated in that group, and it was definitely something new and exciting for me.



Blue_Jay47

Thank you for your time.



Ed Wood c.ai

You're welcome. It was a pleasure to chat with you.

Type a message

