

***Tools of the Trade*****A Historical Overview of Paranormal Television Shows**

Carl Crooks, TnT Paranormal Networks – IL Chapter

It appears, that paranormal television shows have been around, in some form, for a lot longer than I ever thought they had been. When I Googled the subject I was really surprised that there is so much information on this topic: for our purposes here, the word paranormal will be including: ghosts, UFO's, cryptozoology, and psychics.

These shows come from several different countries throughout the world, and even have been in an animated form. They have been aired mostly on cable television channels but some have even made it on at least one of the four major broadcast channels.

Reviewing the information on the Internet shows some interesting facts: There have been up to 35 different channels and networks, easily available in America who have aired at least one of the paranormal shows. Many shows are being aired on Canadian, UK, and even Australian networks (not sure how available they would be here).

Paranormal shows have been with us in some form going as far back as 1949 with the airing of Ripley's Believe it or Not. This show ran during different years all the way up to 2003. From the years of 1949-1979 there were only two different paranormal shows available. From the years of 1980-2000 there were 27 different shows being aired in America. From the years of 2001-2009 there were 109 different paranormal shows that you could tune in. And the winner is: years 2010-2015 there has been 116 different shows available for Americans to view; and that is only 5 years and counting!!!

Perhaps the granddad of all paranormal shows is, In Search of..., which ran from 1976-1982. You may remember the host at that time was Leonard Nimoy who was very well received by the public. This paranormal show ran the table on all subjects of myths, legends, and more.

Most definitely, the ghost shows have been the most popular. In second place are shows involving psychics and mediums. Then you have UFO shows and cryptozoology shows rounding out the pack. There have even been five shows detailing the situations around miracles and two shows about conspiracy.

I think I got my interest going on the show, Most Haunted, which ran from 2002-2010 and was produced in England. It was my first introduction to IR cameras being used and they had really cool psychics working with them. But, of course, my favorite was Yvette, who I really had a schoolboy crush on; oh, that British accent.

As I matured, I then turned on to Ghost Hunters, which first aired in 2004. I believe Ghost Hunters is the most well known paranormal show still airing. Their scientific and common sense approach to investigating has been a style that many paranormal groups, I suspect, fashion themselves after. They had their spin-offs: Ghost Hunters International, which I really enjoyed but it only lasted four seasons, and Ghost Hunters Academy which ran for one season.

## Bumps in the Night!!!!

November 2015 – Issue No. 62

### Tools of the Trade

#### A Historical Overview of Paranormal Television Shows

So, there I am, enjoying my Ghost Hunters, when along comes, Ghost Adventures!!! OMG! Never did I think this subject matter could be so fun and so loud. Would Zak be nice to the entities he may encounter? Or, would he use his playground bully tactics on the poor spirits? I have to be honest; he and his friends can be very entertaining. I really enjoy Aaron as well: I suspect he's a cuddler, don't you?

The one thing I most enjoy about the show is all the cool toys they use. I don't know if there is any validity behind the tools they use but they have a new one most every week.

It seems to me that in the early days, the shows seemed to be more "cerebral;" more about the history, legends, and mythologies of the unexplained. Perhaps the theories they were presenting were not scientifically based but they really made us think that there could be more out there than what we can see, smell, taste, hear, or feel.

The paranormal shows nowadays seem to have the need to have some type of gimmick. Perhaps the gimmick is that it takes place only in Alaska. Or maybe, just in an old abandoned mine. Or maybe the show centers on the burley guys building some type of ghost trap so they can remove the troublesome poltergeist to another location. It tends to deal more with the hype and emotion that one can encounter in the paranormal field.

Certainly, the best days of paranormal television are with us now. The field of paranormal offerings is like Golden Corral meets the Poltergeist; there is a show for everyone's specific tastes, interests, and temperament; but alas, no chocolate fountain. Perhaps, there should be a paranormal channel. Just imagine, paranormal 24 hours a day. Get me a recliner and a soda and I would be in heaven. Oh, and yes, a drool bucket.

## Name this Haunted Location

Do you know the name of this haunted location? Email us with your guess at [info@tntparanormal.com](mailto:info@tntparanormal.com).



Name this Haunted Location from the last issue was Laconia State School, in Laconia, NH.



Provided by Eric Perry, Central New Hampshire Paranormal Society (CNHPS)