



★★★ HOLLYWOOD MONSTERS ★★★

www.hollywoodmonsters.net

In her 1989 memoir, "My Gorgeous Life," Australian drag queen extraordinaire Dame Edna Everage recalls her earliest childhood memory. She is lying in her bassinet as a "pubba" and her grandparent's large faces are leering into it, speculating about her future and what would she be

when she grew up? "If only my little rusk-encrusted lips could have spoken," recalls Dame Edna, "I would have cooed one simple word: Megastar." Several decades and a couple of continents over in the City of Salt grew up a little boy/entrepreneur with similar aspirations. His given name is Brigham H. Moody, alternatively and preferably known as Budgie. From his humble childhood to his first public offering with Galaxina, all the way to his latest opus, the fabulous "Hollywood Monsters" Web site, he has never lost that vision.

On September 1st of 1994, in Salt Lake City's eclectic Ninth & Ninth neighborhood, the "Glamour Beast" to be known as Galaxina was born. The fact that some people didn't get it was exactly the point. In a hilarious quote from the Hollywood Monster Web site, Budgie describes Galaxina's arrival: "Conceived in decadence from the depths of the Salt Slums (Salt Lake City)-Galaxina Inc. opened its doors to the public with its first and only monster — GALAXINA . . . The glamour beast spewed forth with its plastic, rubber, holography, fake fur, metal, psychedelics, glitter and more . . . We had no interest in playing by society's rules or expectations — we preferred to set our own and to live our own lies . . ." Whether it was too cool for Salt Lake — or just too ahead of its time — it sadly became a legend when it closed its doors to the public nearly three years later, ending with a spectacular party that is talked about to this day.

Let's fast forward now, two years later, to the city of hopes and dreams, Los Angeles, where the resurrection as it were, began. With an advertising budget of less than \$100, and the help of various club promoters, www.hollywoodmonsters.net came to reality. It offered the world (via the Web) its own twisted vision, and continues the tradition that Galaxina had started,

while expanding upon it greatly. Not only does it offer the unique fashion/shopping experience that Galaxina was infamous for, it has expanded drastically by offering news, information, and event listings for the LA rock and nightlife underground. During its first seven months, it received over

21,000 total page views — no small feat for a relatively new site. And now as the site grows, so do its numbers: Hollywood Monsters boasts 5,000 page views for December and expects that number to double at 10,000 for the month of January, 2000!

Screaming its rally cries of "Fashion vs. Lifestyle with a greedy smile—Sex, Clubs, and Rock'n'roll — As plastic as you want us to be . . ." the site offers its own "RANTS" page (for kids to post their own messages, and in a galaxy of colors no less), plus its humorous guestbook, free e-mail and so much more. There's even a "GALAXINA" section to reminisce by, complete with photos and tombstone. The site is scheduled to relaunch come March 1st and will have an all-new look (would we expect anything less from Budgie?) along with several new additions including promotional merchandise, a weekly "ROCK'N'ROLL RE-HAB" column by LA celebrant photographer and club promoter Apollo Starr, permanent anti-art and photography installations and a slew of other surprises.

As the anticipated re-launch approaches, SLUG sent Budgie a questionnaire about his past/present/and future, and as expected, he answered it as only he could. Here are some of the highlights:

SLUG: When did the word "glamour" enter your vocabulary?

BUDGIE: I think it was stamped on my forehead at birth . . . Really, truly — I have no idea . . .

SLUG: Were you different from other kiddies growing up?

B: No question about that! As a little kid I practically lived in this full-on Batman suit — gray spandex, yellow utility belt, black rubber boots and all. I was always doing really tripped out things to my bedroom and

I think most of the other kids thought I was pretty strange. I didn't have very many friends at school, either . . .

SLUG: Who were your early role models?

B: Wow — I had a bunch. Out of all of them I'd have to say that Nina Hagen, Stiv Bator and Tony James came out on top . . . Sigue Sigue Sputnik changed my life forever and I can still listen to the Lords of the New Church or the Dead Boys without it ever getting old or boring . . .

SLUG: Favorite movie growing up?

B: "Flash Gordon!" Don't ask me why, but I have and will always love that flick . . . The costumes were great and Ming rules all . . .

SLUG: What kind of music did you listen to growing up?

B: I went through so many musical stages growing up—it's really quite amazing when I look back on it all . . . I was ultimately introduced to music through KCGL, so the majority would've been your classic '80s New Wave and Punk Rock, but I also really got into Industrial, Acid House, New Beat, Gothic, and Classic Rock. I used to go to the old Cosmic Aeroplane and look through their albums — I've always been very visually stimulated — so I'd pick out the album with the most outrageous looking freak on the cover and that's usually what ended up on my turntable at home . . . That's how I discovered a lot of bands . . . To this day I'm still a sucker for the "whole package."

SLUG: Favorite television show?

B: It's actually kind of strange that I'd end up in Hollywood 'cuz I'm so clueless when it comes to movies and television. As a kid I used to dig "H.R. Puff n' Stuff" and I was really quite fascinated with "Andy Warhol's 15 Minutes" on MTV . . . "Melrose Place" was always fun for me — (it) made me feel like my personal dramas were rather minimal by comparison, but that's about it.

SLUG: If you could have chosen to grow up ANYWHERE in the world, where would you have been besides Utah?

B: There's something about growing up in all of that repression that I think pushes

certain people to their outer most limits — I don't regret being raised in Salt Lake City 'cuz I don't think I'd be who I am today had I not grown up there . . . But that's not to say that I'll be running back anytime soon . . .

SLUG: When did you decide to show the world the high road to "glamour & fashion"?

B: It never was my intention to show anybody anything — it's just sort of worked out that way. When I moved back to Salt Lake City — after failing miserably living in Atlanta — I was so bored I couldn't stand it! I had to design a life for myself and I've always been into clothing, so that's when I decided to open up Galaxina. It all took off from there . . .

SLUG: Your thoughts on the Beehive state?

B: It's a nice place with a ton of great people, but you couldn't pay me to live there again . . .

SLUG: I know the name "Galaxina" came partially from a Nina Hagen song, but what about the 1980 sci-fi flick of the same name starring the late Dorothy Stratten? Ever seen it? Did this influence you?

B: I had no idea there was a film named "Galaxina" until after I had already opened the shop. I stole the name outright from Nina Hagen's "Cosma Shiva" on the "Nunsexmonkrock" album. I love that album.

SLUG: How old were you when you decided to go into business for yourself? And how long did it take (from idea to reality) to set up the Galaxina Empire?

B: Both my father and grandfather were hard-core businessmen . . . Even when I was little I was always workin' the lemonade stand taking all of the neighbor kids for every cent they had. I opened Galaxina two months following my 21st birthday. It was my first "official" business endeavor. It took roughly 9 months of planning and 3 months of remodeling. I don't think I've ever been quite so motivated in my entire life. At

least, not up until now . . .

SLUG: When did you create Hollywood Monsters?

B: After I closed up shop in Salt Lake and moved to Hollywood. I was working at Boy London and getting really frustrated with life in general. I missed having the shop and I wanted to open up another one here, but I had already burned through all of my cash and I wasn't so sure I was ready to deal with the whole retail grind again. I decided to put my computer skills to use and try and do something online. I had been drawing the logo since I was a little kid in church and I knew it'd be perfect so I converted it to a graphic format. I came up with the name after working through a million others and I was getting really excited, then everything fell apart. After three jobs, a stalker, a move to a new apartment, a nasty car accident, a really rotten relationship, two surgeries, a helluva lotta doctors, lawyers and insurance companies [author's note: I feel your pain] — 2 YEARS LATER — I finally managed to get it up online.

SLUG: What was your original goal with the web site? And has this changed?

B: I initially just wanted to do the fashion thing, but as I got more involved in it, I thought it'd be cool to put up some club listings with some links. I've always thought that fashion, rock and clubs all kinda went hand in hand. I kept putting up more and more listings and it sort of snowballed from there. . . Now I see it more like a community than just my own thing and I'm trying to continue building on that concept: shameless self-promotion for the masses . . .

SLUG: What are the best clubs in LA?

B: There are so many great clubs in LA: Bar Sinister, Makeup, Pretty Ugly Club, the list goes on and on . . . If I had to pick out a couple of favorites, they'd have to be Dragstrip 66 and Scream. Paul V. and Mr. Dan (AKA Ms. Gina Lotriman) have created something really special with Dragstrip — 7 years later, it's STILL packed. I once read in an article about the old Scream club that Dayle Gloria had "the best ears in the rock business" — she still does . . . I've seen some AMAZING shows there . . .

SLUG: How have you kept the Web site so minty fresh?

B: Lots of sleep deprivation and late-night tweaking on the computer.

SLUG: Do the clubs/promoters contact you? How does that work?

B: Initially, I contacted everybody myself. It's a very hard sell in LA. If people have no point of reference to you, they're generally not interested and they don't hesitate in acting like it, either. Some of the club promoters have been nicer than others, but as time goes on I find more and more people contacting me, and I'm amazed at the support I've received from most of them — particularly Paul V. (Dragstrip 66), Dayle Gloria (Scream), Taime Downe (Pretty Ugly Club/Newlydeads), Tricia La Belle (Bar Sinister), and Reverend Dan (Jetset/Music for Nimrods-KXLU). It's taken a lot of effort to get everybody involved and that's ultimately what I want.

SLUG: What is the future of Hollywood Monsters?

B: Being on the Internet, it's anybody's guess, but I'd like to eventually take it to a national level. I'll be starting up with that in the near future. I also really want to expand the catalog with lots of new goodies. Ultimately, I want it to take on a life of its own.

SLUG: Celebrity sightings? Your LA experience . . .

B: Good God, the celebrities run rampant like cockroaches in this town. Half the time I don't even realize I've seen or met one until later. I did have a pretty silly encounter with Tori Spelling at Rage: I accidentally bumped right smack into her and I just busted up laughing — I couldn't help myself. I don't think she was too impressed.

SLUG: Obviously the club scene is cooler in LA, but what are your favorite clubs in Salt

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Lake?

B: The Palladium and London Underground will always go down in my heart as the best that ever were . . . I had so many great and wonderful experiences at those two clubs...I don't think most club promoters in SLC really get it these days — it's a synergy between environment, music, and your clientele — and it's rare that you actually get that in a club in Salt Lake. They always feel kinda like bad hotel bars . . .

SLUG: What music influences you today?

B: Most of the music I listened to as a kid is the same music I'm influenced by today. I've been fairly bored with the mainstream music industry, but more recently I've been exposed to a bunch of local LA bands that are really great: Newlydeads, Bubble, Motorcycle Boy, Superfiends, Texas Terri & The Stiff Ones, Broken—there's a ton of 'em. It's a wonderful feeling to have that sense of discovery again. The music industry has become so packaged and force-fed over the years, so it's a nice change for me . . .

SLUG: Favorite zines?

B: Currently, Coyote Shivers' new "H.O.R.N.Y. (Hollywood's Only Rock and Nightlife Yellow) Pages". It totally rocks and it's got Hollywood Monsters plastered all over it . . .

SLUG: Trends? What are they? Do you believe in them? (We all know you set them)

B: I think trends are great! If there weren't trends—I'd be out of business! Throw in a little of your own individuality and you can set the town on fire . . .

SLUG: Worst experience in LA?

B: Way too many to count . . . The last 2 years have been the best and worst years of

my life. It's a complete love/hate relationship living here in L.A . . .

SLUG: Favorite cocktail?

B: I sure do miss walkin' around with one of those quart-size Long Island Iced Teas in Salt Lake . . . The Long Islands here are a little too potent for my tastes, and about 1/3 the size...I've succumbed to rum 'n' coke . . .

SLUG: Favorite accessory?

B: I bought myself the Millennium Swatch for X-mas . . . It's completely covered in silver glitter and it's even filled with glitter . . . Not very functional, but it sure looks great . . .

SLUG: Boxers or briefs?

B: Neither! I wear the slinkiest little g-strings and things—leopard printed, glittery, whatever . . . If yer not feelin' glamorous in yer pants, how could you possible project that to the rest of the world?

SLUG: Paper or plastic?

B: As plastic as you want us to be . . .

SLUG: Is there anything else you'd like to add?

B: As a matter of fact, I've been hearing there's all kinds of whacked-out rumors about me floatin' around the Salt Slums, and I'd just like to take this opportunity to say: they're ALL TRUE! Every single last one of them . . . One other thing—Hollywood Monsters loves you . . . We really do . . .

Don't forget to check out:
www.hollywoodmonsters.net and be sure not to miss it's re-launch March 1st, 2000!

—Son Of Damian