



**BELA LUGOSI'S**

**\$4.99 #1**

# **TALES FROM THE GRAVE™**



*Basil Gogos*

**FIRST BONE CHILLING ISSUE!**







\$4.99

#1

# BELA LUGOSI'S TALES FROM THE GRAVE



FIRST  
BONE-  
CHILLING  
ISSUE!





# WELCOME





**Kerry Gammill**  
publisher/editor-in-chief

**Kez Wilson**  
editor/art director/production

**Sam F. Park**  
editor/marketing director

cover:  
**Basil Gogos**

variant cover:  
**John Cassaday**  
colors by Kerry Gammill

back cover:  
**Bruce Timm**

writers:  
**Kerry Gammill**  
**Sam F. Park**  
**James Farr**  
**Rob Brown**  
**Derek McCaw**  
**John Cassaday**  
**Joe Freire**  
**Martin Powell**  
**Gary D. Rhodes**

artists:  
**Kerry Gammill**  
**Chris Moreno**  
**Rob Brown**  
**Rafael Navarro**  
**John Cassaday**  
**Joe Freire**  
**Terry Beatty**  
**Tom Smith**  
**Brian Denham**  
**Kez Wilson**  
**Jeff Preston**  
**Frank Dietz**  
**Paul Garner**  
**Kim Loh**

color assist:  
**Mar Omega**  
**Kenny Chapman**  
**Katie Gammill**

Lettering assist:  
**Kathryn S. Renta**

special thanks to:  
**Rob Zombie**  
**John Mitchell**  
**Bela G. Lugosi**  
**Lynne Sparks**

# BELA LUGOSI'S

## TALES FROM THE GRAVE

*Basil Gogos*

### CONTENTS ISSUE NO. 1

- 3**  **UNPLEASANT SIDE EFFECTS**  
An obsessed scientist finds a cure for dying, but the nasty side effects may be even worse than death.
- 9**  **A STRANGELY ISOLATED PLACE**  
Dark forces are summoned by an embittered old man to destroy the one responsible for his life of misery.
- 17**  **THE MARK OF THE ZOMBIE**  
An archaeologist travels to Haiti in search a sacred relic, but is he a match for the powers of a Voodoo priestess?
- 25**  **EYES OF THE PRAIRIE**  
A ghostly Señorita whose beauty once caught the eyes of men, now acquires them in a different way.
- 29**  **THE GOOD DOCTOR**  
In a world of whimsical creatures, a mad doctor gathers his friends for the unveiling of his newest creation.
- 33**  **LUGOSI GALLERY**  
An array of artistic interpretations of the master of horror.
- 36**  **DR. VORNOFF & LOBO**  
Dr. Vornoff still plots to rule the world with his loyal assistant Lobo in a forsaken jungle hell off Route 91.
- 38**  **THE MIDNIGHT MUSEUM**  
An actress makes a midnight visit to the studio of a strange taxidermist. Has she given her final performance?
- 47**  **LUGOSI & DRACULA:**  
Lugosi expert Gary D. Rhodes examines how an actor and a vampire count changed each other forever.



**A** LONELY CEMETERY SOMEWHERE IN LOS ANGELES.

THERE'S THE LIGHT.

OVER HERE, BAT LADY.

DO YOU REALLY KNOW HIM? I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M GOING TO MEET HIM.

YOU SEE.

HOW MUCH FARTHER?

HEY, YOU DIDN'T BRING ME DOWN HERE THINKING I'D PUT THE BITE ON YOU DID YOU? I HAVE MY STANDARDS YA'KNOW.

WE HERE NOW.

WHAT IS IT HUGO? WELL, WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

MASTER, SHE NOT BELIEVE HUGO YOUR HELPER. TELL HER.

OH, WOW! IT'S REALLY YOU! THIS IS SUCH AN HONOR, MR. LUGOSI.

I'M NOSFERINA. PROBABLY JUST YOUR BIGGEST FAN IS ALL. YOU WERE THE GREATEST HORROR STAR EVER. I EVEN BECAME A VAMPIRE BECAUSE OF YOU.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M HERE WITH YOU. I SURE LOVE THOSE SPOOKY OLD MOVIES OF YOURS. I WISH THERE WERE MORE OF THEM.

PERHAPS I COULD ENTERTAIN YOU WITH SOME NEW STORIES?

OOH. HOW ELEGANT.

I'M A SUCKER FOR THAT OLD SCHOOL STUFF.

SPEAKING OF SUCKING, HELP YOURSELF TO A NIP OF MY NECK!

NO, THANK YOU, MY DEAR. THAT WAS ONLY IN THE MOVIES.

SINCE CROSSING OVER TO THIS NETHERWORLD I HAVE SEEN MANY STRANGE TALES UNFOLD -

- WEIRD TALES OF HORROR AND THE SUPERNATURAL. COME CLOSER AND I SHALL TELL YOU MY...

**TALES FROM THE GRAVE**





LIFE... AND DEATH! A THIN VEIL SEPARATES THE TWO. BUT THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THOSE WHO HAVE SOUGHT TO LIFT THE VEIL. PROFESSOR KURT VON SCHULER IS SUCH A MAN. HE HAS DISCOVERED A CURE FOR DEATH ITSELF. BUT WITH MANY MEDICAL MIRACLES, ALONG WITH THE BENEFITS, ONE MUST ALSO EXPECT SOME...

## UNPLEASANT SIDE EFFECTS



PROFESSOR VON SCHULER! YOU DID IT! IT'S COME BACK TO LIFE! BUT...BUT IT'S CHANGING...GROWING LARGER!

MARCUS! MIND THE VOLTAGE LEVELS!



IT'S LOOSE! LOOK OUT, PROFESSOR!

DON'T PANIC, MARCUS. I WAS PREPARED FOR THIS.



**BLAM!**  
**BLAM!**



WE MUST FIND THE CAUSE OF THE ABNORMAL CELL REGENERATION!

KURT, I THINK IT'S TIME WE END THIS EXPERIMENT! WHAT GOOD IS RESTORING LIFE IF WE ONLY CREATE MONSTERS?!

OH MY GOD!

WHAT IS THAT THING



I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO SEE THIS MY DEAR. AN EXPERIMENT WITH SOME UNFORTUNATE SIDE EFFECTS.

IT'S SO HORRIBLE.

THERE, THERE, SARAH.

HOW COMFORTING MY ASSISTANT IS TO MY FIANCEE. I SHOULD NEVER HAVE BROUGHT HIM HERE.

BUT MARCUS WAS ONE OF MY MOST BRILLIANT STUDENTS. HE SHOWED A STEADY HAND IN HELPING WITH MY EXPERIMENTS AND I WELCOMED HIS EAGER ASSISTANCE.

TOGETHER WE CHALLENGED DEATH AND PUSHED THE BOUNDARIES OF SCIENCE.

THE UNIVERSITY BECAME UNEASY WITH MY "UNORTHODOX" RESEARCH, BUT SARAH'S INHERITANCE GAVE ME THE MEANS TO CONTINUE MY WORK IN AN OLD FARMHOUSE NEAR HER ESTATE. WE PLANNED TO MARRY AS SOON AS I FINISHED MY EXPERIMENTS AND COULD PRESENT MY FINDINGS TO THE SCIENTIFIC WORLD.

I CONVINCED MARCUS TO JOIN ME AND WE THREE BECAME A CLOSE LITTLE FAMILY. OR RATHER, WE FOUR, COUNTING RAGS.

I GAVE SARAH THE DOG TO KEEP HER COMPANY DURING MY LONG HOURS IN THE LAB.

WHEN HER LITTLE COMPANION WAS RUN OVER BY A CARRIAGE, SARAH BROUGHT HIM TO ME FOR HELP.

OVER MARCUS' OBJECTIONS, I SEIZED THE OPPORTUNITY TO USE THE FRESHLY DEAD ANIMAL IN AN EXPERIMENT I HAD BEEN PLANNING.

I MADE A SERIES OF INCISIONS AND INSERTED WIRES UNDER THE SKIN.

I THEN EMBEDDED AN ARRAY OF CONDUCTING AND REGULATING APPARATUS.

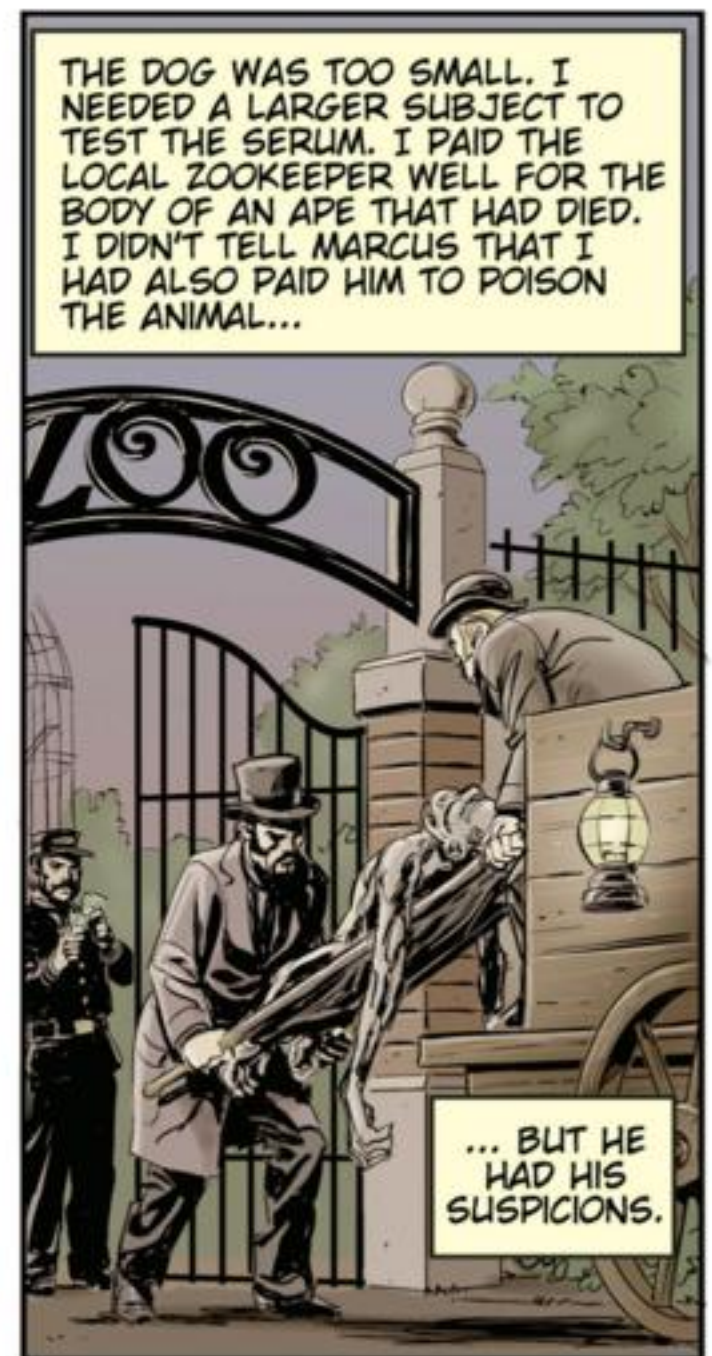
LASTLY, I INJECTED A CHEMICAL SOLUTION DESIGNED TO REVITALIZE DEAD CELLS.

WHEN ALL WAS READY, I APPLIED THE CURRENT AND...

IT'S WORKING! I'VE DONE IT! I BROUGHT IT BACK TO LIFE!

YES! BUT... SOMETHING'S WRONG!







**CLANG!**

LATER...

WHA? NO! NO!  
KURT! YOU CAN'T  
DO THIS!

BUT, MY FRIEND, YOU'VE BEEN SO  
HELPFUL THESE PAST MONTHS, TO MY  
WORK AND, OF COURSE... TO SARAH.

SO... I KNEW YOU  
WOULD WANT TO BE  
PART OF THIS FINAL  
EXPERIMENT...

... TO HELP  
SOLVE THE PROBLEM  
OF MY SERUM'S...  
UNPLEASANT SIDE  
EFFECTS.

**AAAAAGGGGGHHHH...**

THIS FORMULA HAS A NEW  
AGENT THAT I'M CERTAIN  
WILL CHECK THE UNNATURAL  
GROWTH THAT OCCURS  
DURING THE PROCEDURE.

OF COURSE,  
I CAN'T BRING  
YOU BACK TO LIFE...  
UNLESS YOU'RE  
DEAD.

FORTUNATELY, THE  
SERUM IS QUITE  
LETHAL TO A LIVING  
PERSON.

PULSE GONE.  
EXCELLENT!  
HOW HELPFUL  
OF YOU TO DIE  
SO QUICKLY.

I HOPE  
YOU'LL BE AS  
COOPERATIVE  
THE NEXT TIME  
I KILL YOU...  
AND THE TIME  
AFTER THAT.  
UNTIL I FIND  
THE ANSWERS  
I NEED.

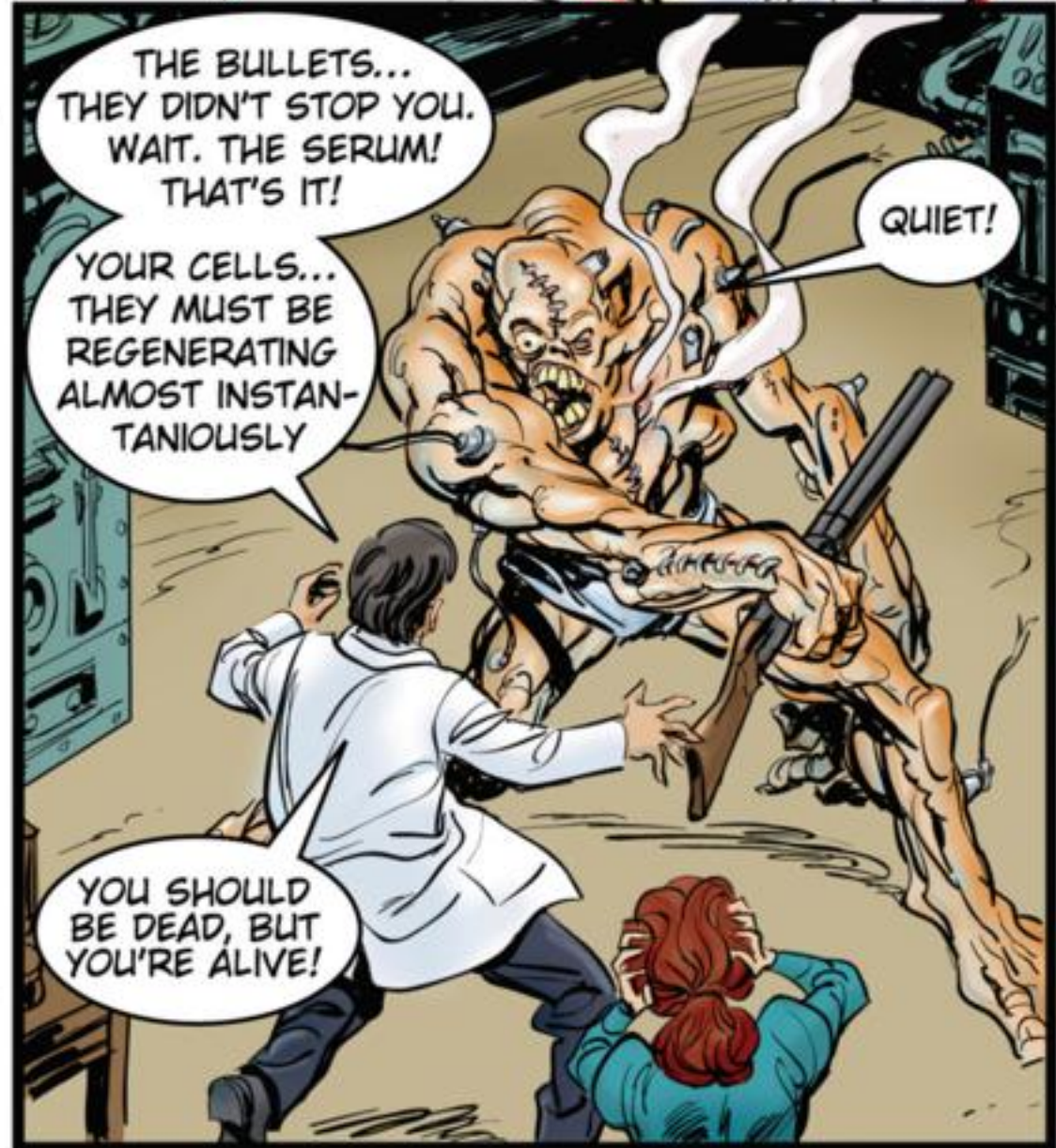
KURT? MARCUS? I'VE  
BEEN WAIT-- WHA?

KURT!  
WHAT ARE YOU  
DOING??!

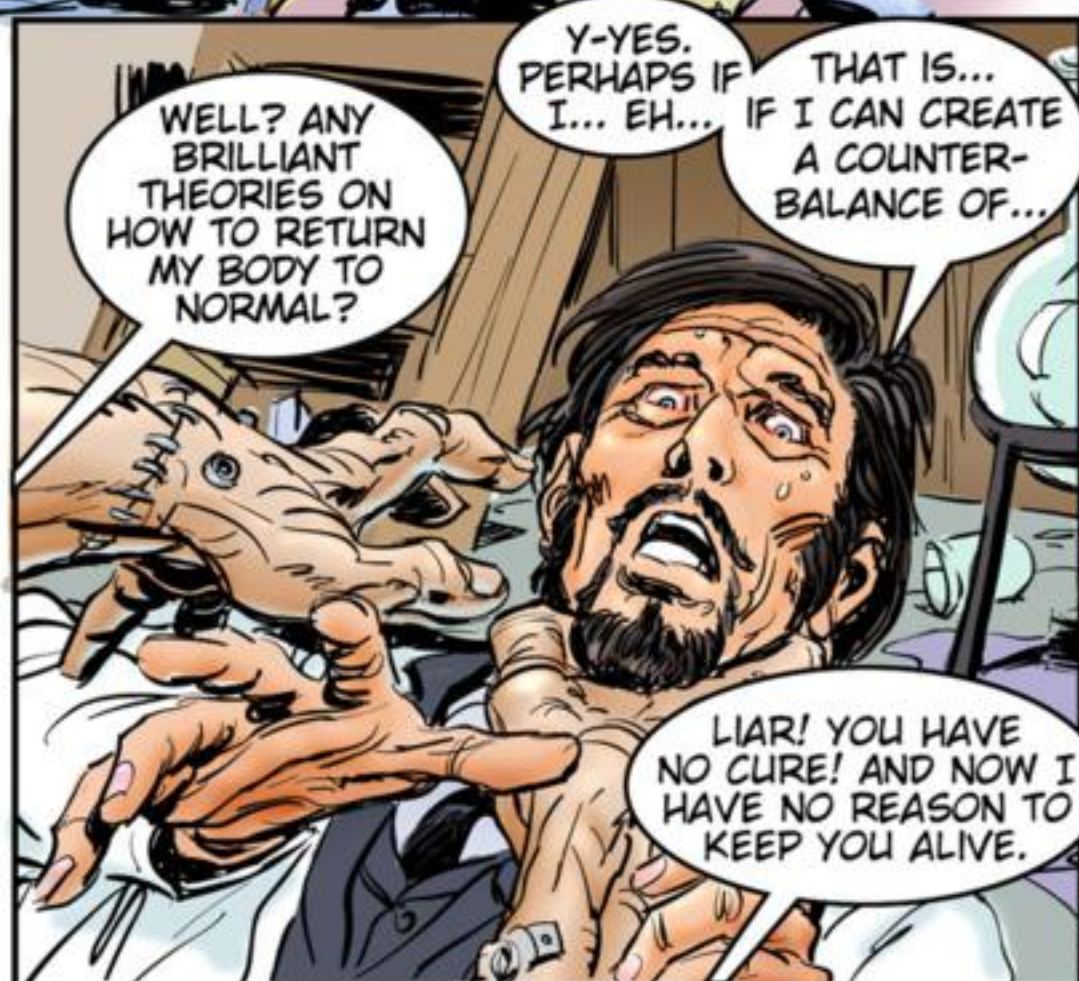
GASP --  
MARCUS!

COME IN MY SWEET. YOU'VE  
ARRIVED JUST IN TIME.





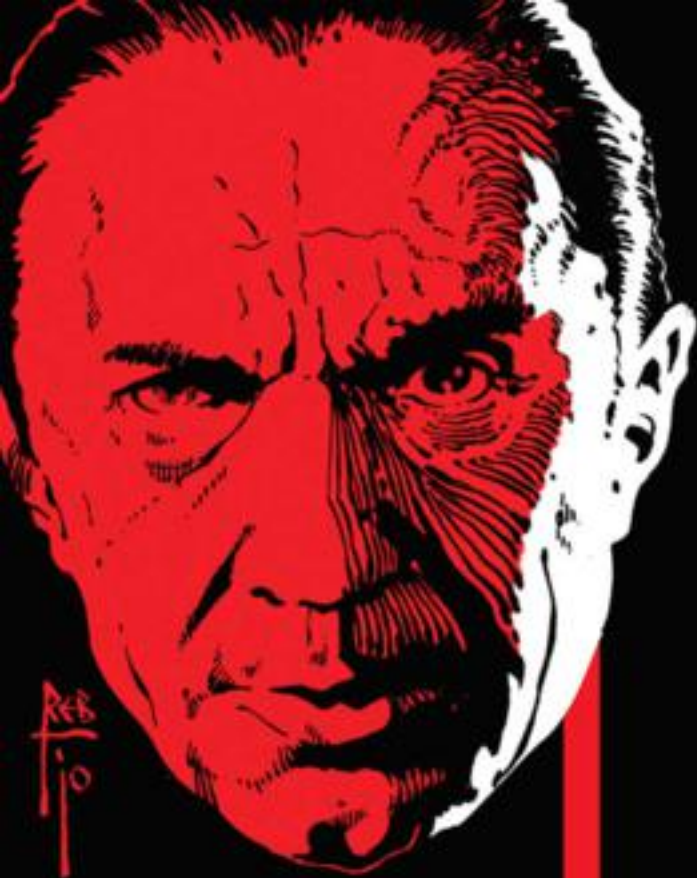




ISN'T LOVE BEAUTIFUL? KURT AGREED TO ONE FINAL EXPERIMENT. AFTERWARDS, HE WAS MORE THAN HAPPY TO PROCLAIM MARCUS THE VICTOR IN THEIR LOVE TRIANGLE. ALTHOUGH HE ALSO VOWED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY AND GIVE UP HIS EXPERIMENTS IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS LIFE, YOU CAN'T EXPECT ANY SELF RESPECTING MAD SCIENTIST TO GIVE UP HIS CALLING COMPLETELY. WE'LL BE LOOKING FOR HIS NEXT CREATION. NOW WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A LOOK AT OURS?







# BELA IS BACK!

As the Bauhaus song reminds us, Bela Lugosi's dead. But, though he left this realm over fifty years ago, like the undead vampire he played on the screen, Lugosi will never truly die.

He became forever linked with the weird and the supernatural when he captured the world's attention with his hypnotic portrayal of Dracula in 1931. All these decades later, he still has horror fans mesmerized. We here at Monsterverse have been under Lugosi's spell since those monster-crazed days of the '60s when television brought the classic Frankenstein, Dracula, Wolf Man and scores more films to a new generation of young fans who have now come to be known as "Monster Kids". To us, the names Lugosi, Karloff, Chaney and Atwill were almost as well known as John, Paul, George and Ringo (members of a little band that was also becoming popular at that time).

Although horror films have changed and evolved (mutated?) much since the early days of the movies, Bela Lugosi continues to be recognized as one of the icons of horror. The comic you now hold is a result of our love for the classic horror films of stars like Bela Lugosi and our love for the great horror comics of the past. We have attempted to carry on that tradition with BELA LUGOSI'S TALES FROM THE GRAVE. We have also sought to capture Lugosi's strange and magnetic presence in comic book form and add something new and different to the Lugosi legend. It's too bad we can't capture his unique voice and accent on paper, but we're working on that too!

Bringing Bela back for this new series has been a genuine labor of love and we are extremely proud of this premiere issue, as we think Lugosi himself would be. We are exceedingly grateful to all of the contributing artists and writers who made this comic possible. My thanks to my friend Basil Gogos for allowing us to use his beautiful Lugosi portrait on our first cover, through the kind permission of its owner, Rob Zombie.

Our special thanks to Lugosi Enterprises and the Lugosi family for their participation and support in this effort. Working with Lugosi's son, Bela G. Lugosi, and his granddaughter, Lynne Sparks, has been a very pleasant and rewarding experience. If you are a connoisseur of fine wines, you will be interested to know that the Lugosi family has launched the Bela Lugosi Signature Wine series. For more information check out [www.lugosiwines.com](http://www.lugosiwines.com).

And of course, our thanks to you the readers. Whether you're a fan of Lugosi's classic films or you know him only from his appearances in the movies of Ed Wood, or you are simply a fan of good horror comics, we bid you welcome and hope that you enjoy BELA LUGOSI'S TALES FROM THE GRAVE. Look for more great horror comics from Monsterverse in the near future!

Kerry Gammill - publisher

Please visit the  
websites of some of  
our contributors.

John Cassaday  
[johncassaday.com](http://johncassaday.com)

James Farr  
[jamesfarr.com](http://jamesfarr.com)

Chris Moreno  
[chrismoreno.org](http://chrismoreno.org)

Rob Brown  
[baneofthewerewolf.co](http://baneofthewerewolf.co)

Martin Powell  
[martinpowell221bcorff.blogspot.com](http://martinpowell221bcorff.blogspot.com)

Terry Beatty  
[terrybeatty.com](http://terrybeatty.com)

Derek McCaw  
[fanboyplanet.com](http://fanboyplanet.com)

Rafael Navarro  
[sonambulo.com](http://sonambulo.com)

Jeff Peston  
[jeffpreston.net](http://jeffpreston.net)

Paul Garner  
[gawkagogo.com](http://gawkagogo.com)

Kim Loh  
[artofkimloh.com](http://artofkimloh.com)

Frank Dietz  
[sketchythings.com](http://sketchythings.com)

