

BLOOD MOON PRODUCTIONS

ITS ORIGINS, ITS *OEUVRE*, ITS SOURCES, & ITS LEGACY

This 250-page ‘wild card,’ combines aspects of a catalogue with a memoir, an autobiography, and a manual for Media Studies. It was inspired by new (and in many cases, horrifying) realities in North America’s book distribution patterns. It’s also a late-in-life effort to document our company’s research methods. How did two (eccentric but agile) writers manage to accumulate so many gossipy, historically compelling *exposés*?

This is it...our best shot at compiling, for estate purposes and as an effort to revise our distribution networks, a CATALOGUE of our *oeuvre*.

How things got DOWN and LOW at Blood Moon will never happen again. Our story is unique. Here’s our spin on the quirky small press that brazenly recorded tell-all tales that many other venues would have refused to publish.

We present it as a bookseller’s catalogue on steroids. We’ve added narratives that illustrate our investigative techniques...and insights into the high-flying *milieux* in which—for a few decades, at least—we thrived.

Perhaps it’s also a mournful testimonial to the value of old-fashioned “up-close-and-personal,” (i.e. “non Internet”) conversations. In our case, many them were with living witnesses to dramas-within-dramas that were crucial to that all-American phenomenon known as SHOW BIZ.

Many thanks for your interest. May your lives be happy, and may all your hopes and dreams come true.

—Danforth Prince
President and Founder
BloodMoonProductions.com



“Packed with enough gossip to fuel a carload of *Kaffeeklatsches* on both sides of the Atlantic, this book is accessorized with grasping, arts-industry tales of ‘who did what to whom,’ during the Golden Age of Show Biz.”

—Darwin Porter

BLOOD MOON PRODUCTIONS

Its Origins, Its Oeuvre, Its Sources, Its Legacy

Darwin Porter and Danforth Prince

ISBN 978-1-936003-94-5

Unless otherwise stated, all texts are
© 2025 Blood Moon Productions, Ltd.

Book covers, designs, and layouts by Danforth Prince



THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO VERNON HENRY (1960-2025)



and to anyone who ever embarrassed themselves in public during their pursuit of a career in publishing, show biz, the music industry, politics, or the creative arts. Its galleys were composed and laid out on Quark Express. It was manufactured in the USA, and it's distributed worldwide through Ingram, Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble.com, and through internet vendors everywhere.

CONTENTS

PART ONE BLOOD MOON

Its Origins and Its Oeuvre in 62 photo-accessorized pages

page 1

PART TWO DARWIN PORTER

Recording the Scene from the Peripheries of Show Biz

- In the Beginning
Lash La Rue, Sophie Tucker, Movies as therapy during World War II, Senator George Smathers and JFK. Lucille Ball and Eleanor Roosevelt at the U. of Miami, *The Miami Herald*, and hard-drinking, pre-gentrification days with Harry Truman and the Pink Triangle in Key West page 63
- Arts Industry Socialite Stanley Mills Haggart and his links to Hedda Hopper page 73
- Madison Avenue's Zeal for Celebrity Endorsements:
Pumping up Sales with William Holden, Debbie Reynolds, and Joan Fontaine page 75
- The Frommer Guides as a Celebrity Confessional page 76
- In Praise of Older Women: Their Beauty, their Savvy, and their Resources. The Confessions of Burt Reynolds. **Plus** Hedy Lamarr, Anne Baxter; and Ruth Warrick page 77
- Lessons from Darwin Porter on the Fine Art of "Walking" (i.e., Escorting) Celebrity "*Grandes Dames*" to Parties and Social Events page 78
- The Magnolia-Scented Saga of Greta Keller, Pola Negri, and Jolie Gabor page 79
- Introducing the Queen of Off-Broadway: Lucille Lortel, matriarch and goddess of Christopher Street page 80
- Hustling a Bodybuilder: The Sword & Sandals saga of Stanley Cranston and Steve Reeves page 81
- Mae Murray: The Self-Enchanted Dancer With the Bee-Stung Lips page 81
- The Most Famous Actress of 1941: Junior Miss (aka Patricia Peardon):
Her widely heralded appearance on the cover of LIFE coincided with the Japanese Bombardment of Pearl Harbor. page 82
- How Darwin's business partner and mentor (an insider from the glory days of silent films) introduced him to Arthur Miller, the world famous playwright, then the husband of Marilyn Monroe, and how it led to a thwarted involvement (and inside view) of Milton Green's Marilyn Monroe Productions. page 83
- MONARCHS IN HIDING: **Visit Portugal.** How Darwin, then an emissary of The Frommer Guides, researched the Royal Hideaways of the Portuguese Riviera. Piercing the entourages of the Pretenders to the Thrones of France, Italy, and Spain, A-List Celebrities who romanced the bisexual (deposed) King of Italy; his long-suffering wife, Giovanna de Savoia; Magda Lupescu (the despised everyday citizen who married the deposed King of Romania); and Amalia Rodriguez, the nightclub entertainer who became the Queen of Fado. page 85

Poor Little Rich Girl: The embarrassing tale of Woolworth Heiress BARBARA HUTTON & her MATADOR, 24-year-old ANGEL TERUEL	page 91
Marlene Dietrich's most implacable rival, GRETA KELLER: Her years-long status as Darwin's housemate, how she handled the scariest overlords of the Third Reich, how she had to escape from Nazi Germany on 30 minutes' notice; her lavender marriage to the bisexual actor who was blackmailing Howard Hughes; and how she introduced Darwin to the filmmaker cited as "the most brilliant producer of propaganda films in the history of moviemaking, Leni Riefenstahl.	page 92
Howard Hughes' scandalous titty film: <i>The Outlaw</i> , and the sad and sorry "blackmailers tend to get killed" saga of David Bacon.	page 94
WHEN DIVAS CLASH: The fight over ROBERT TAYLOR when TAMARA GEVA (<i>the Great Russian Ballerina and ex-wife of George Balanchine</i>) is assaulted in a theater lobby by BARBARA STANWYCK.	page 99
TELL IT TO TALLULAH: The story behind the story of Bankhead's failed marriage to John Emery, and how Tamara Geva ferociously struggled to keep him.	page 101
ROBERT TAYLOR: Greta Garbo described him as "So beautiful, So dumb."	page 103
OLD WOUNDS (in this case, because of Robert Taylor) NEVER HEAL: More about TAMARA GEVA vs. "BLOODY BABS" STANWYCK	page 104
HEDY (in <i>Ecstasy</i>) LAMARR: The Bizarre Story of the International Intrigue and Censorship Problems Whirling Around the Most Beautiful Woman in the World	page 104
JACK DEMPSEY, The World's Heavyweight Boxing Champion, and his Widely Publicized Dalliance with MAE WEST	page 108
More about Darwin's friendship with JACK DEMPSEY	page 109
MAE WEST: Size Mattered. Race and Notoriety Didn't. Her links to Mickey Hargitay, Steve Cochran, Bugsy Siegel, Cary Grant ("I knew he was homosexual before he did!"), Harry Houdini, and Duke Ellington	page 111
HOW HENRY WILLSON, Hollywood's Gay Svengali, Created the Beefcake Craze of the 1950s. He Renames the Men he "discovers" and morphs them into Heartthrobs. He also discovers LANA TURNER	page 112
BEEFCAKE BLUES: Darwin reviews "guys gone wrong in the fleshpots of show-biz," and the occasional career he helped to steer right: Guy Madison, John Derek, Craig Stevens, Ty Hardin, Kerwin Matthews, Yale Summers, Clint Walker, Dack Rambo, Doug McClure, Chad Everett, Mike Connors (think " <i>Mannix</i> "), Rory Calhoun, and the age of Sputnik's ultimate heartthrob, Tab Hunter	page 113
TROY DONAHUE, the Self-Destructive Pin-up Boy of Pop Culture	page 125
Star-Crossed Lovers: ROBERT WAGNER & NATALIE WOOD. During their heyday, the only couple more famous was "Jack and Jackie"	page 128
NATALIE WOOD & JAMES DEAN: Rebels With a Curse: Live Fast, Die Young and Violently. Nick Adams, Sal Mineo, & Natalie Wood: "Who's Sleeping with Jimmy Tonight?"	page 133
SEARCHING for the female lead (Judy) of <i>Rebel Without a Cause</i> : How the outcome was affected by Nicholas Ray's Casting Couch. How Jayne Mansfield and Unsinkable Tammy (Debbie Reynolds) lost the coveted role.	page 136
Let the (Gay) Games Begin: James Dean and His Rise to Fame.	

Jack Simmons “The Hawk” Glides Into Jimmy’s Life. TV Star Vampira and her televised calls from the grave.	page 139
Role-playing and Method Acting during an audition: Sal Mineo Makes Pornographic Love to Jimmy Dean in full view of Nick Ray as a demonstration of their onscreen chemistry.	page 140
CASTING ISSUES during the pre-production of James Dean’s classic: The search for a Henpecked Husband, a Tarantula Mother, a 1950’s Sitcom Mom, & an Incestuous Father. The 1950s weren’t as dull as you might have thought.	page 141
More than a Bromance: DENNIS HOPPER	page 143
“Me Tarzan, You Jimmy” —Johnny Weissmuller to James Dean	page 144
METHOD MANIA: Jimmy Rages Through Some of the Most Iconic Film Sequences In the History of Cinema. <i>Walpurgisnacht</i> on the set of <i>Rebel without a Cause</i>	page 146
James Dean’s long-term effect on Elvis Presley	page 156
The Murky, Suspicious, & Unexplained Death of Sex Kitten/Screen Goddess NATALIE WOOD Death in a Dinghy WHO DID IT?	page 159
ROCK HUDSON: EROTIC FIRE A Truck Driver and Master Seducer Morphs Into a PHALLIC SYMBOL and OBJECT OF LUST for Love-Starved Teenage Girls and Gay Men	page 166
Tony Randall: The Most Unfunny Man in Show-Biz	page 171
GAY EXTORTION: How Rock Hudson coped with blackmail from the unscrupulous lesbian he married	page 173

PART THREE **ANITA FINLEY**

<i>Portrait of a Lady: She made Baby Boomers (their care, maintenance, and marketing) the focus of her career</i>	page 177
---	----------

PART FOUR **DANFORTH PRINCE**

<i>Behind the Scenes of a Celebrity Exposé Publisher</i>	page 183
Hookers, Road Kill, & Panning for Gold in the Klondike: The Early Days of the Trump Dynasty	page 184
Puritanical America the Way It Used to Be (<i>i.e., the Genealogical Origins of a Publishing Maverick</i>)	page 184
The Complicated Celluloid Saga of BUTTERFLIES IN HEAT	page 185
Chasing Butterflies (Celebrity Endorsements)	page 186
Literary License: The Sordid Story of Jay Garon	page 186
Casting Wars: Wannabes for the film adaptation of Darwin Porter’s hustler, Numie Chase: Perry King, Jan Michael Vincent, Christopher Jones, Matt Collins	page 187
Casting Wars: Round Two: Gloria Swanson: Egomaniacal, Temperamental, and Very Very Grand Rita Hayworth: The Decline and Fall of the Love Goddess	page 188 page 188

AND THE WINNER IS: Barbara Baxley	page 189
Joan Blondell vs. Pat Carroll	page 189
Gay? Gay-for-Pay?	
The Commodore vs. Orson Welles	page 190
Eartha Kitt as a Black Trans-sexual	page 190
Rainy Nights in Georgia with THE GEORGIA LITERARY ASSOCIATION	page 191
<i>Razzle Dazzle</i> : A Libertine Romp as a Sequel to <i>Butterflies in Heat</i>	page 192
SILENT DEBAUCHERY: Soundless Films “on the Down Low”	page 192
Homosexuals with Southern Twangs: <i>Rhinestone Country</i> : A Novel about Closeted Lives South of the Mason-Dixon Line	page 193
BLOOD MOON: A Novel about What Happens When the Moon Turns to Blood	page 193
Blood Moon “Discovers” the Fine Art of Biography with A Double Dose of Humphrey Bogart	page 193
BLOODY WONDERFUL	
KATHARINE THE GREAT: The Secret Life of Katharine Hepburn	page 194
Bad Boy, Megastar, Sexual Outlaw: UNZIPPING MARLON BRANDO	page 195
HOWARD HUGHES is What Happens When a Demented Billionaire Pulls Strings in Hollywood	page 195
JACKO	page 196
Heeeeere’s Merv!	page 197
Heathcliff & Scarlett (<i>aka</i> Larry and Viv)	page 197
The Kennedys: The Gift that Keeps on Giving. All The Gossip Unfit to Print	page 197
Fabulous Frank, <i>the Boudoir Singer</i>	page 198
J. Edgar Hoover & Clyde Tolson: High Jinx and Gay Trysts at the FBI	page 198
“La Liz,” SuperDiva: Elizabeth Taylor, <i>There Is Nothing Like a Dame</i>	page 199
Pornographic America: <i>Inside Linda Lovelace’s Deep Throat</i>	page 199
Eva, Magda, and Zsa Zsa: THE GABORS, Bombshells from Budapest, Great Courtesans of the 20th Century	page 200
UNHOLY TRIO: Pink Triangle, The Feuds and Private Lives of Tennessee Williams, Gore Vidal, & Truman Capote.	page 201
Blood Moon’s Presidents Club (This Time, It’s THE REAGANS)	page 201
MORE from Blood Moon’s Presidents Club: THE CLINTONS (<i>So This Is That Thing Called Love</i>) Get a Celebrity <i>Exposé</i> of Their Own	page 202
Peter O’Toole: Hellraiser, Sexual Outlaw, Irish Rebel	page 202
<i>Jimmy, Lad, We Hardly Knew ‘Ye</i> : The Public vs. The Private James Dean	page 203
Presidents Club Bad Boy, THE DONALD, The Man Who Would Be King	page 203
LUSCIOUS LANA: Hearts and Diamonds Take All	page 204
Getting a Piece of the Rock: EROTIC FIRE	page 204
Playboy’s HUGH HEFNER: Empire of Skin. All Those Bunnies	page 205
Princess Leia and Unsinkable Debbie Reynolds in Hell	page 205
Kirk Douglas: The Life & Death of a Hollywood Horndog	page 205
The Highest-Grossing MegaStar of the ‘80s: BURT REYNOLDS	page 206
GOING GLOBAL (Selling Celebrity to the Chinese)	page 206
When the World Was Young: GLOBETROTTING	page 207
MEGASTARS UNCENSORED AND UNVARNISHED: Lana and Rock	page 208
Blood Moon’s Invasion of Babylon and its Detour to Gomorrah	page 209
CELEBRITY and the IRONIES OF FAME: Blood Moon’s Magnolia House Series	page 212
WHO MURDERED SHOW BIZ’S MOST FAMOUS BLONDE?: An excerpt, with names and mug shots, lifted directly from the pages of one of our best-sellers	page 215
The Seductive Sapphic Exploits of Hollywood’s Greatest Lover: MERCEDES DE ACOSTA . Everything you ever wanted to know about <i>Über</i> -glam and Lesbians in the Golden Age of Show-Biz.	page 221
TOO MANY DAMN RAINBOWS: Judy Garland & Liza Minnelli	page 222

LUCY & DESI vs. The Ricardos: Everyone Had Something to Say about Them	page 223
FONDA (<i>Père</i>) and His Counter-culture, Movie Star Children: TRIPLE EXPOSURE	page 227
HOLLYWOOD REMEMBERED: What it is, why we wrote it, and why it's Gone With the Wind	page 227

PART FIVE COMING ATTRACTIONS

What's New and What's Next from Blood Moon Productions

The King of Hollywood (CLARK GABLE in Three Volumes)	page 233
Volume One: CLARK GABLE, King of Hollywood (1901-1938)	
Volume Two: GONE WITH THE WIND (1938-1939). <i>Frankly, My Dear, He DID Give a Damn</i>	
Volume Three: CLARK GABLE: Where Love Has Gone (1940-1961)	
A Double-Barreled Overview of the Sexiest, Most Fantasy-Adaptable Actor in Golden Age Hollywood	page 235
Volume One (1901-1939): GARY COOPER, The Montana Mule	
Volume Two (1940-1961): GARY COOPER, High Noon in Hell	
MEDIA BUZZ Media is Buzzing for What's Next at Blood Moon. (HINT: It's gonna vaguely resemble what we did with Blood Moon's BABYLON series)	page 236
Blood Moon's STARDUST Series: A Startling Two-Volume Overview of Why NYC was, during the 60s, and 70s, Truly Great	
Volume One: <i>STARDUST. From Off-Off Broadway to Hollywood: Lucille Lortel, Joseph Papp, and the Explosive Birth of the Modern Theatre</i>	page 237
Volume Two : <i>X-Rated Manhattan in the Jaded 1970s. Sybaritic Denizens of the Night Thrive in an Emporium of Exotica & Erotica</i>	page 240
Blood Moon's INSIDE BROADWAY, a publishing triptych with MORE about THE AMERICAN THEATER Anticipating Publication, beginning in 2028	page 242
Volume One: <i>Broadway Actors, Directors, & Playwrights Who Lit Up the Great White Way</i>	
Volume Two: <i>Broadway Damsels, Dames, & Divas: They Gave Us So Many Enchanted Evenings</i>	
Volume Three: <i>Babes (Male and Female) on Broadway. Mystique, Ego, Triumph, and Tragedy</i>	
GOMORRAH: IT'S BACK.	page 244
Volume One was published in 2024. Two additional installments are almost ready for their closeup:	
Volume Two of Three: <i>SLIMELIGHT—Nobody's Perfect. Hidden Tales from Celebrity Boudoirs</i>	
Volume Three of Three: <i>ONLY ANGELS HAVE WINGS: More Hidden Tales from Celebrity Boudoirs</i>	
<i>And after that, after all the others on this page have been processed, we'll churn out Blood Moon's finale:</i>	
ERROL FLYNN, THE TASMANIAN DEVIL Golden Age Hollywood's Phallic Symbol	page 245

BLOOD MOON PRODUCTIONS

AND THE CELEBRITY ASSOCIATIONS THAT MADE ITS PUBLICATIONS POSSIBLE

www.BloodMoonProductions.com

Entertainment about Fame and How America Interprets its Celebrities



“We present this as an exhilarating but mournful overview of an age when gossip got registered (and amplified) in confrontational, face-to-face (non-Internet) ways.”

—Danforth Prince