

Transvestite director fancied angora

GLASSY from Page 6

rambled on endlessly about his character in "Plan Nine": Kelton the cop. Shortly thereafter our mailboxes were constantly stuffed full of trinkets: Kelton the cop bumper stickers, autographed photos, balloons and the elusive Kelton the cop fake-gold-embossed key chain. Marco, like

"Plan Nine from Outer Space" refuses to go away. Is it the worst film ever made? Ray Kinnard in Filmfax says it's not the worst film ever made, but still states, "The film was, and remains, utter swill."

Michael Weldon, author of the indispensable "Psychotronic Encyclopedia of Film," says, "It's the most entertaining bad film you'll find."

With the aid of Paul Marco, and a host of magazines, rumors and criticism, here is a "Plan Nine" viewing guide:

- Because of virtually no budget, director Ed Wood avoided hiring an extra cast member or two by appearing in drag in several scenes. Early in the film he can be spotted as a woman crying at a funeral (with her hands over her face) and doubling for Mona McKinnon when she runs from the caped chiropractor and falls into a ditch alongside a country road.

- Two "Plan Nine" stars were on "You Bet Your Life" with Groucho Marx. The hugely talented wrestler-actor Tor Johnson was subjected to Groucho's wisecracks about his weight, and Joanna Lee, who plays the alien Tanna, seemed to have the las-

civious comedian quite enamored.

- Horror movie/TV show host Elvira is actually a blatant rip-off of "Plan Nine" co-star Vampira. Vampira's claim to fame was that she once made whoopee with James Dean.

- Depending on your source, the Martian spaceships were either paper plates stapled together, spray-painted silver and suspended on wires, or hubcaps on wires. When the military wages an all-out assault on the spacecrafts, off-screen crewmen threw firecrackers at the hubcaps.

- Wood fell on hard times in the '60s and eked out an existence writing pornographic novels and nudie films. One of them, "Orgy of the Dead," is an incredible timepiece narrated by Criswell, featuring a young couple who crash in a cemetery and are terrorized for 90 minutes by "dead" women doing strip dances.

"Plan Nine From Outer Space" (1959) will be screened Friday at 6 p.m. at Avery Auditorium as part of the University Program Council's "Bad Film Festival."



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