



STEP UP TO THE BOX OFFICE, BREATHLESS BROWERS, THE MAIN *FEAR FEATURE* IS READY TO ROLL...ALL YOU MONSTER MOVIE BUFFS ARE SURE TO BE ENTHRALLED BY THIS *DEMONIAC DRAMA* OF A REPORTER WHOSE ASSIGNMENT TURNS INTO A...

# SCREAM TEST!



ORGAN MUSIC...  
B-BUT THAT THEATRE'S  
BEEN ABANDONED  
FOR YEARS! IT  
MUST BE...



...GHOSTS! WE'VE RECEIVED REPORTS  
OF STRANGE MUSIC COMING FROM THE OLD  
ALHAMBRA ON BANK STREET. RESEARCH  
DEPARTMENT SAYS THE OWNER LIVES  
RIGHT NEXT DOOR...HE'LL SEE  
YOU THIS EVENING.

THANKS FOR  
THIS CHANCE,  
MR. FOSTER.  
I'LL DO MY  
BEST!

THIS GUY MANAGED THE THEATRE IN THE  
OLD DAYS. GET SOME HUMAN INTEREST  
STUFF; WHAT THE PLACE WAS LIKE IN ITS  
HEYDAY...MAYBE THERE'S A STORY  
THAT WOULD EXPLAIN WHAT'S  
GOING ON NOW...

HEH, HEH,  
MAYBE YOU'LL  
EVEN SEE THE  
GHOST!



GEE, I'VE GOT TO MAKE GOOD ON THIS ASSIGNMENT.

**HAMMPH!**  
NEWSPAPERS! IVAN KIRE'S TOO GREAT A MAN TO BE BOTHERED BY THEM...HE SHOULD NEVER HAVE CONSENTED TO THIS AUDIENCE!



WHAT DO YOU WANT? WE DON'T TAKE SALES!

I'M SUSAN STREET OF THE NEWS. I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH MR. KIRE.



THE LADY FROM THE PAPER.

THANK YOU, VILMA, YOU CAN GO. SIT DOWN, YOUNG LADY, AND TELL A LONELY OLD MAN WHY, AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, THE PRESS IS INTERESTED IN HIM AGAIN...



WELL...ACTUALLY...IT'S YOUR THEATRE AND ITS HISTORY...THAT...

AH, THE GOLDEN ERA! I LIVED AND BREATHED MOVIES THEN, WHEN THEY WERE FANTASY, ETHEREAL... BEFORE THE TALK, TALK, TALK OF TALKIES RUINED THE MAGIC! THE DAYS OF CHAPLIN, MARY PICKFORD, THE GREAT LON CHANEY...

"...CHANEY! THAT'S THE NAME TO CONJURE WITH... CHANEY! I CAN STILL REMEMBER THE MANY AFTERNOONS I PLAYED HOCKEY JUST TO WATCH HIM AND HIS FANTASTIC CREATIONS..."



DOORWAY OF CLAUDIO'S PHOTO © 1965 Universal Pictures Co., Inc.

...BUT YOU DIDN'T COME JUST TO HEAR ME RAMBLE. YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT MY THEATRE? ABOUT THE ALHAMBRA?

WEIRD MUSIC'S BEEN HEARD COMING FROM THERE IN THE NIGHT, COMING FROM A DESERTED MOVIE HOUSE... SOME PEOPLE THINK...WELL... THEY THINK IT COULD BE THE GHOST OF THE THEATRE'S ORGANIST!

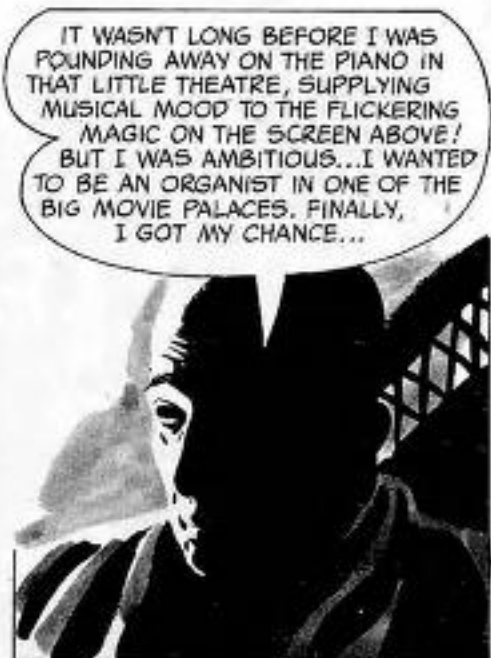
I SHOULD HOPE NOT! YOU SEE I WAS THE ORGANIST FOR MANY YEARS... THERE'S A SIMPLE EXPLANATION FOR THE MUSIC, I'VE FINALLY GOTTEN THE OLD THEATRE ORGAN IN WORKING SHAPE! PLAYING IT REMINDS ME OF THE OLD DAYS...



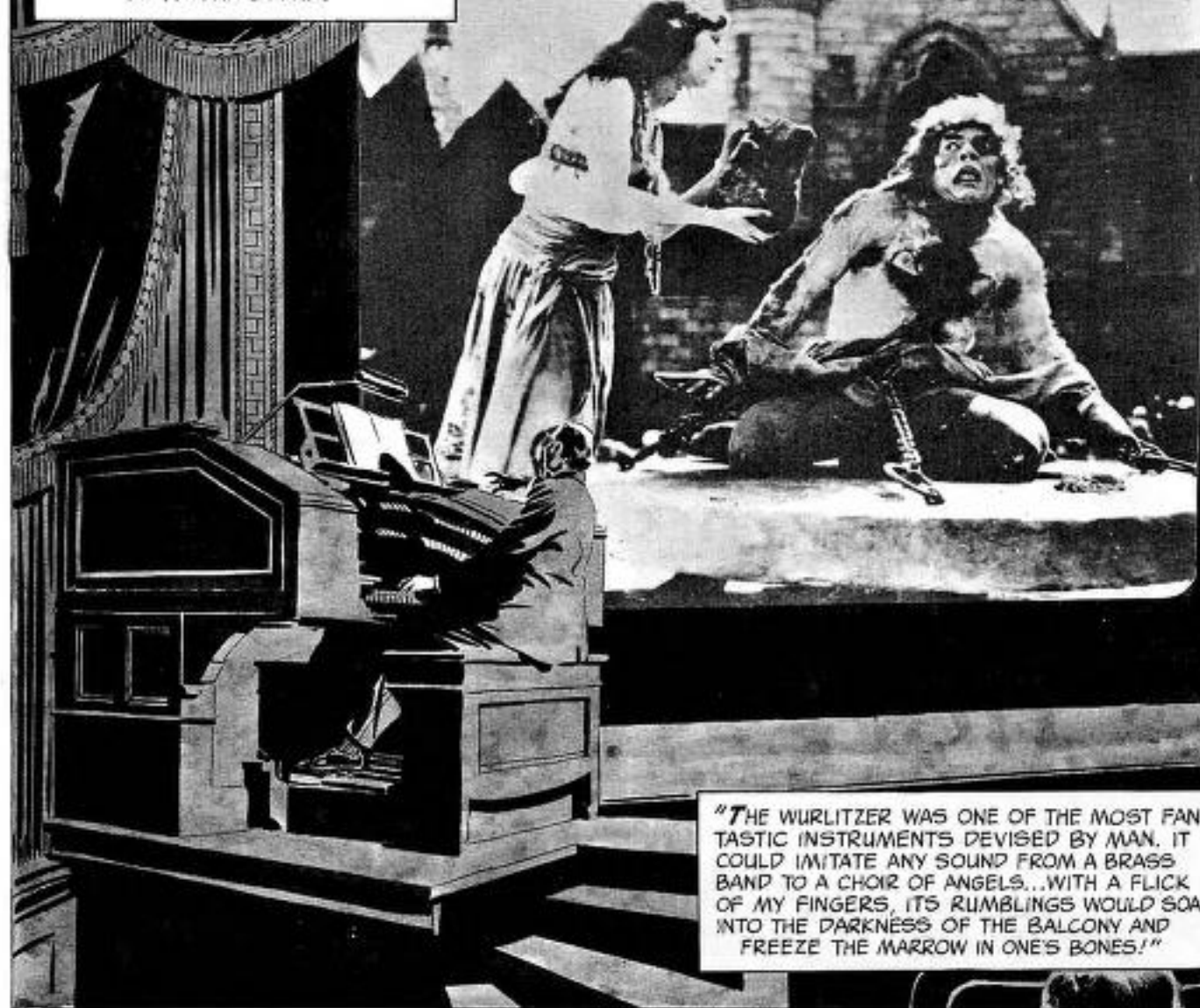
### LOU CHANEY

"I STARTED WORKING AS AN USHER AFTER SCHOOL, BUT WAS SOON PROMOTED TO BARKER--STANDING OUTSIDE IN THE CHILL AIR, SHOUTING OUT AS BEST I COULD OF THE ROMANCE AND ADVENTURE TO BE SEEN INSIDE..."

IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE I WAS POUNDING AWAY ON THE PIANO IN THAT LITTLE THEATRE, SUPPLYING MUSICAL MOOD TO THE FLICKERING MAGIC ON THE SCREEN ABOVE! BUT I WAS AMBITIOUS...I WANTED TO BE AN ORGANIST IN ONE OF THE BIG MOVIE PALACES. FINALLY, I GOT MY CHANCE...



"WELL I REMEMBER THAT FIRST DAY AND THE FIRST FILM THAT I ACCOMPANIED ON THE WURLITZER ORGAN-- LON CHANEY IN HIS MAGNIFICENT PORTRAYAL OF *THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME!*"

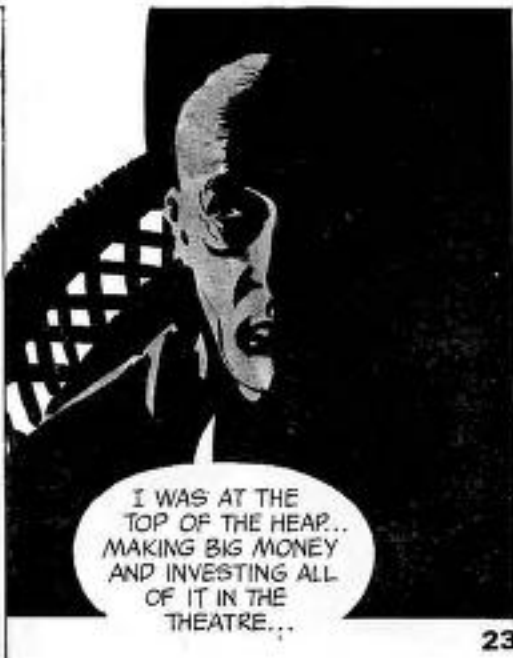


"THE WURLITZER WAS ONE OF THE MOST FANTASTIC INSTRUMENTS DEvised BY MAN. IT COULD IMITATE ANY SOUND FROM A BRASS BAND TO A CHOIR OF ANGELS...WITH A FLICK OF MY FINGERS, ITS RUMBLINGS WOULD SOAR INTO THE DARKNESS OF THE BALCONY AND FREEZE THE MARROW IN ONE'S BONES!"

YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO REMEMBER THOSE DAYS...THEATRES HANDED OUT PROGRAMS THEN AND THE ORGANIST'S NAME WAS AS BIG AS THE NAMES OF THE STARS IN THE PICTURE! AND I, IVAN KIRE WAS ONE OF THE BEST!



I WAS AT THE TOP OF THE HEAP... MAKING BIG MONEY AND INVESTING ALL OF IT IN THE THEATRE...



"FINALLY, I BECAME MANAGER AND THEN OWNER OF THE ALHAMBRA. FOR A FEW SHORT YEARS MY SUCCESS WAS GOLDEN. AND THEN..."



...AND THEN THE SOUND ERA CAME IN?

YES, BUT TRAGEDY STRUCK EVEN BEFORE THAT. MY CAREER ENDED EVEN BEFORE THE SILENTS DID!



WHAT HAPPENED?

IT'S TOO PAINFUL TO TALK ABOUT. I CANNOT!



I WONDER WHAT HIS SECRET IS... WHAT COULD MAKE HIM FEEL THIS WAY... THERE MAY STILL BE A STORY IN ALL THIS...



PERHAPS IF I...

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR ME PLAY? ABOUT THIS TIME OF EVENING I GO OVER TO THE THEATRE ANYWAY...



YOU MUST FORGIVE THE CONDITION, MISS STREET... I'M NOT ABLE TO CLEAN THE WHOLE THEATRE BY MYSELF. ALL MY ENERGIES HAVE GONE TO THE WURLITZER...

...I'LL GO NOW AND START THE PROJECTOR.



AND THE GREAT WURLITZER BEGAN TO SPIN ITS WEB OF FANTASY AGAIN, AS IT HAD DECADES AGO...



AS LON CHANEY SILENTLY GLIDED THROUGH THE OPERA HOUSE ON THE SCREEN, SUSAN BEGAN TO WONDER...

WHAT WAS THE GREAT TRAGEDY HE MENTIONED?.. IF ONLY HE HAD SAID MORE... I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT!



ABSORBED IN THE MAGIC OF HIS MUSIC AND THE FLICKERING FILM SHADOWS, KIRE FORGOT ABOUT HIS YOUNG VISITOR...

THE WALL SEEMS STAINED AND CHARRED AROUND THE ORGAN... OF COURSE! I SHOULD HAVE REMEMBERED!



...MY FATHER ONCE TOLD ME ABOUT A FIRE IN A MOVIE HOUSE WHILE HE WAS WATCHING A SILENT FILM... IT MUST HAVE BEEN **THIS** THEATRE!





LOOKS LIKE OLD KIRE WAS *MASKING* HIS TRUE FEELINGS, EH, KIDDIES? WELL: THAT BRINGS AN END TO THIS *SHRIEK SHOWING*, SO I SUGGEST YOU MOVE ON WHILE I *REEL* OFF MY NEXT *HORROR HANDIWORK*...

