

Dark Adventure Radio Theatre

The Players

Leslie Baldwin	Alice Peaslee
Aidan Branney	Robert Peaslee
Sean Branney	Mr. Fife, Woodville, Dyer
Kacey Camp	Young Wingate
Mark Colson	Conductor, Dr. Chambers
Dan Conroy	Wireless Operator, Mackenzie
Steve Coombs	Tyler, Wingate Peaslee
Matt Foyer	Purser, Professor Freeborn
McKerrin Kelly	Fleur Girl, Mrs. Fife, Sally
Andrew Leman	Nathaniel Peaslee
Anna Lerbom	Swedish Librarian
Barry Lynch	Dr. Creighton, Professor Ashley
John A. McKenna	Radio Chief, Professor Boyle
Josh Thoenke	Announcer, Amaroo
Noah Wagner	Chester Langfield

The Staff

Based on the story by H. P. Lovecraft
Radio Adaptation by Sean Branney, with Andrew Leman
Original Music by Troy Sterling Nies
Cover and Disc Illustrations by Darrell Tutchton
Prop Inserts by Andrew Leman, with Sean Branney
German Translation by Peter Lang*
Thanks to Judy Ruha, Michael Dalager and the
Uppsala Bibliotek Volunteer Research Team
Very Special Thanks to Chris Horvath
Produced by Sean Branney and Andrew Leman

...IN *Phyllophone*
SINCE 1934

*An English translation of the page from *Von Unaussprechlichen Kulten* is available from our website. For this bonus bonus prop, visit www.cthulhulives.org/library/kulten/english.pdf



Cover illustration from the original publication of "The Shadow Out of Time" in 1936 by Howard V. Brown.

ENTIRE ORIGINAL CONTENTS AND PACKAGING © & ™ MMVIII BY HPLHS, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. UNAUTHORIZED DUPLICATION IS A VIOLATION OF APPLICABLE, AND FREQUENTLY BROKEN, LAW. THIS AUDIO PROGRAM IS LICENSED ONLY FOR PRIVATE HOME ENJOYMENT, AND IS, PERHAPS IRONICALLY, NOT INTENDED FOR ACTUAL RADIO BROADCAST.

But first, a few words from our sponsor....

"The Shadow Out of Time" is a fascinating story in its own right, but it also contains many intriguing reflections of HPL himself. The protagonist, Nathaniel Wingate Peaslee, is a New Englander (of impeccable breeding, mind you), an intellectual, and a man who, after a period of amnesia lasting five years, ends up fearing for his own sanity. Lovecraft's father, Winfield Scott Lovecraft, suffered a sudden onset of madness which lasted for a period of five years until he died in a sanitarium. S.T. Joshi noted that the years of Peaslee's affliction (1908-1913) correspond with H.P. Lovecraft's own nervous breakdown which prevented him from completing high school or enrolling in college. Lovecraft often expressed the feeling that he had been born into the wrong age, and, like Peaslee, he was haunted by pseudo-memories. "...All my life," he said, "I have felt as if I might wake up out of this dream of an idiotic Victorian age and insane jazz age into the same reality of 1760 or 1770 or 1780." Peaslee displays a complex psychology and humanity not often seen in Lovecraftian protagonists. While ostracized by much of his family, he values his relationship with his son Wingate and actually finds a modicum of comfort in another human being.

The Great Race of Yith is an embodiment in many ways of Lovecraft's own notions of racial superiority. They are an idealized civilization of intellectuals whose time is spent in cerebral endeavors—cosmic antiquarians, if you will. They euthanize imperfect specimens of their race. As a species, they've largely moved beyond the mundane pursuits of wealth, sex, and war and instead cherish the sciences and arts. And the Yithians had arrived at a form of governance which, by the mid-1930s, had firmly taken root among Earthly nations also pursuing the concept of a Master Race. "The political and economic system of each unit was a sort of fascistic socialism." Yet, like Lovecraft himself, his Great Race is haunted by a persistent gnawing fear of formless figures from the past, lurking in the dark.

Mythos author and critic Lin Carter described "The Shadow Out of Time" as Lovecraft's "single greatest achievement in fiction," for "its amazing scope and sense of cosmic immensity, the gulfs of time it opens, [and] the titanic sweep of the narrative." The story has a lot in common with Lovecraft's "At the Mountains of Madness": professors go off to a distant corner of the world, discover an unknown cyclopean city, and learn that the city's builders were haunted by another race of beings that may still be a threat. It even features some of the same characters. But in "The Shadow Out of Time" the story's horror is almost purely intellectual. Here it's the ideas—rather than the monsters—that have teeth. This is a story about a man correlating the facts of his own life to discover implications that are more than he can bear. He opens terrifying vistas of reality, and our frightful position therein, and is pushed to the brink of madness by the revelation.

The story was one of HPL's last major works and was published in *Astounding Stories* just four months after "At the Mountains of Madness"—less than a year before his death. In a letter to E. Hoffman Price, Lovecraft had written, "I finished 'The Shadow Out of Time' last week, but I doubt whether it is good enough to type. Somehow or another it does not seem to embody what I want to embody—and I may tear it up and start all over again." He was referring to his third draft of the piece. But to his astonishment, the story not only sold and brought in a much-needed \$280, but netted him the second of only two magazine cover paintings of his lifetime.

In adapting it for radio, we have taken a few liberties with the tale, adding characters and dramatizing events which are only alluded to in the text. We hope that our additions will serve to enhance your experience of the rich world Lovecraft created for the strange and terrible journey of Nathaniel Wingate Peaslee.

—Sean Branney
HPLHS



WWW.CTHULHULIVES.ORG
LUOD FORE PUTAVIMUS