



Paranormal Phenomenon:
Ghosts, Spirits & Hauntings

LIBERTY-ACADEMY.ORG



Episode 12:

TOP 6 Cases of Demonic
Possession -
Roland Doe



Course URL: liberty-academy.org/teens-adults/paranormal_phenomenon/paranormal_phenomenon.html

Types of – Demonic Possession

TOP 6 CASES

3. 1940's, USA: "Roland Doe"/"Robbie Mannheim" (pseudonyms) upon which the 1971 novel & 1973 film of the same name *The Exorcist* was based.

Reportedly, his real name is Ronald Hunkeler, (born June 1, 1935, died May 10, 2020)

THE EXORCIST



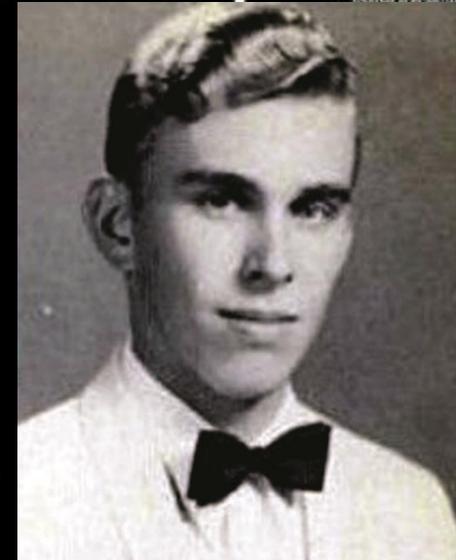
WILLIAM PETER BLATTY

WILLIAM PETER BLATTY'S THE EXORCIST

Directed by WILLIAM FRIEDKIN



STARRING ELLEN BURSTYN • MAX VON SYDOW • LEE J. COBB
KITTY WINN • JACK MACGOWRAN
JASON MILLER • ASHER KASSAB • LINDA BLAIR
PRODUCED BY WILLIAM PETER BLATTY • EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS NOLA BURSHALL
SCREENPLAY BY WILLIAM PETER BLATTY • BASED ON HIS NOVEL
A WARNER COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY



This is the **true story** of the events that inspired the 1971 novel and extremely successful 1973 film of the same name, **The Exorcist** .

What most don't realize is that it was a **boy** who suffered the events and not a girl, as depicted in the fictionalized account.

The story begins in 1949 in suburban Washington, D.C., (more precisely in **Cottage City, Maryland**) when 13-year old **Ronald Hunkeler** became disheartened over the loss of his beloved aunt Harriet.

His aunt Harriet was a **spiritualist** who had taught him how to use a **Ouija board** which he apparently later used on his own.

On January 15 (or 18), 1949, the family started to experience strange occurrences such as **scratching and dripping noises** emanating from their house's walls, **a painting of Jesus Christ being shaken** (as if somebody were bumping the wall behind the painting), the **boy's bed being shaken violently**, among other abnormalities.



Desperate, the family consulted with physicians, psychiatrists, and a minister from the Lutheran church who urged them to go to a Catholic Priest in that of **Father E. Albert Hughes**.

Father Hughes later asked the archbishop of Washington, D.C., for permission to perform an **exorcism** on the boy. **And that attempt ended when the boy broke off a piece of a spring from the mattress he was strapped to and slashed Hughes "from shoulder to wrist".**

On February 26, **scratches** appeared on the boy's body and four nights later these in the form of **words**.

On one occasion the letters **S-P-I-T-E** appeared on the boy's chest as red welts, an ominous sign of possession.

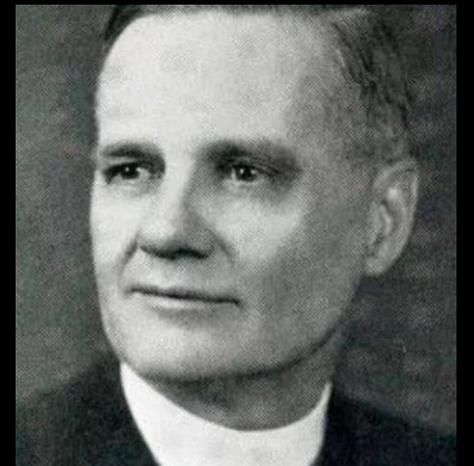
Between Feb. 28 and March 2nd, Roland is hospitalized at **Georgetown Hospital**.

On a another occasion, the word **L-O-U-I-S** appeared on his rib cage – which the family took as a sign to take the boy to **St. Louis**.

Shortly after, the boy and his mother travel to St. Louis and stay at the home of relatives.

However, the entity attached to him follows and continues with **scratching his body** and **violently moving the mattress** he rests on, as observed by several people, including **Raymond Bishop**.

On March 11, **Jesuit Father William S. Bowdern** (of St. Francis Xavier College Church) observes the boy in his relatives' house. **Bowdern blesses him with a relic**, a piece of bone from St. Francis Xavier's forearm.



On March 16, Archbishop Joseph Ritter grants Bowdern permission to perform an exorcism according to **the Roman Ritual** with the ultimate goal of **ridding the demon from his tormented soul**.

Bowdern, the Bishop and assistant Jesuit Father Walter Halloran arrive at the house around 10:15 p.m., and the prayers of exorcism begin shortly thereafter.

That night, a diary reports:

*On the first 'Praecipio' there was immediate action. **Three large parallel bars were scratched on the boy's stomach**. From then on at the names of Our Lord and His Blessed Mother and St. Michael **scratches appeared on the boy's legs, thighs, stomach, back, chest, face and throat**. The most distinct marking on the body were the pictures of the Devil on R's right leg and the word **'HELL'** imprinted on R's chest."*

A March 18 diary entry reads:

*"The prayers of the exorcism were continued and R was seized violently so that he began to struggle with his pillow and the bed clothing. The arms, legs, and head of R had to be held by three men. The **contortions revealed physical strength beyond the natural power. R spit at the faces** of those who held him and at those who prayed over him. **He spit at the relics and at the priests' hands. He writhed under the sprinkling of Holy Water. He fought and screamed in a diabolical, high-pitched voice.**"*

Another from March 20 reports that the boy reacted with more violence:

*"The high point of the evening were urinations which really burned R, breaking wind through rectum three different times, and **cursing the exorcists**. Some of the vulgarity follows: **'Go to hell, you dirty sons of bitches. You dirty assholes.'**"*

A few days later he is moved to **Alexian Brothers Hospital** in St. Louis before returning to the relative's house.



On March 23rd, Bowdern had arranged for the boy and his father to stay at the College Church rectory with an **angered Roland who reportedly breaks Halloran's nose.**

On April 1st, Roland **converts to Catholicism** and is **baptized** at the College Church rectory taking his **first holy Communion** the very next day.

Two days later he returns to the Washington D.C. area with his parents, Bowdern and another **Jesuit priest, William Van Roo, S.J.**

But on April 9th, he returns to Alexian Brothers Hospital back in St. Louis.

The day following Easter, on April 18th, Roland successfully gets through the **rite of exorcism**.

Thomas B. Allen, the author of the book **Possessed: The True Story of an Exorcism** – an account with numerous interviews with the concerned clergy – stated the following after the exorcism:

On April 18, the day after Easter Sunday, the exorcism appeared to have succeeded. An entry from Bishop's diary reads:

"Since Monday at 11 p.m. there have been no indications of the presence of the devil."

and,

The boy left St. Louis several days later and went on to lead an otherwise normal life; he married around 1970, had children and never experienced anything like possession again, according to the Jesuits and Alexians who "kept track of him,"