

A Memorial for My Friend

***** **Kurt Reichenbach** *****

by **Jim Pinkoski**



The Memorial was on 1/23/22, but Kurt died on November 4th, 2021 from a combination of Covid and cancer...

I met Kurt in 1986

I had come to the Takoma Park/Silver Spring area of Maryland from California, and I heard about and met Kurt.... since I'm a artist/cartoonist, and both of us were into

comic collecting, **Kurt let me move into his house in Rockville, MD and I was his house guest for around 6 months!** Yes, I was even there for one of **Kurt's famous *Christmas-in-July* parties!** (...sorry, no pics of it...)

Kurt did **3 major favors**** for me
that affected my entire life!**



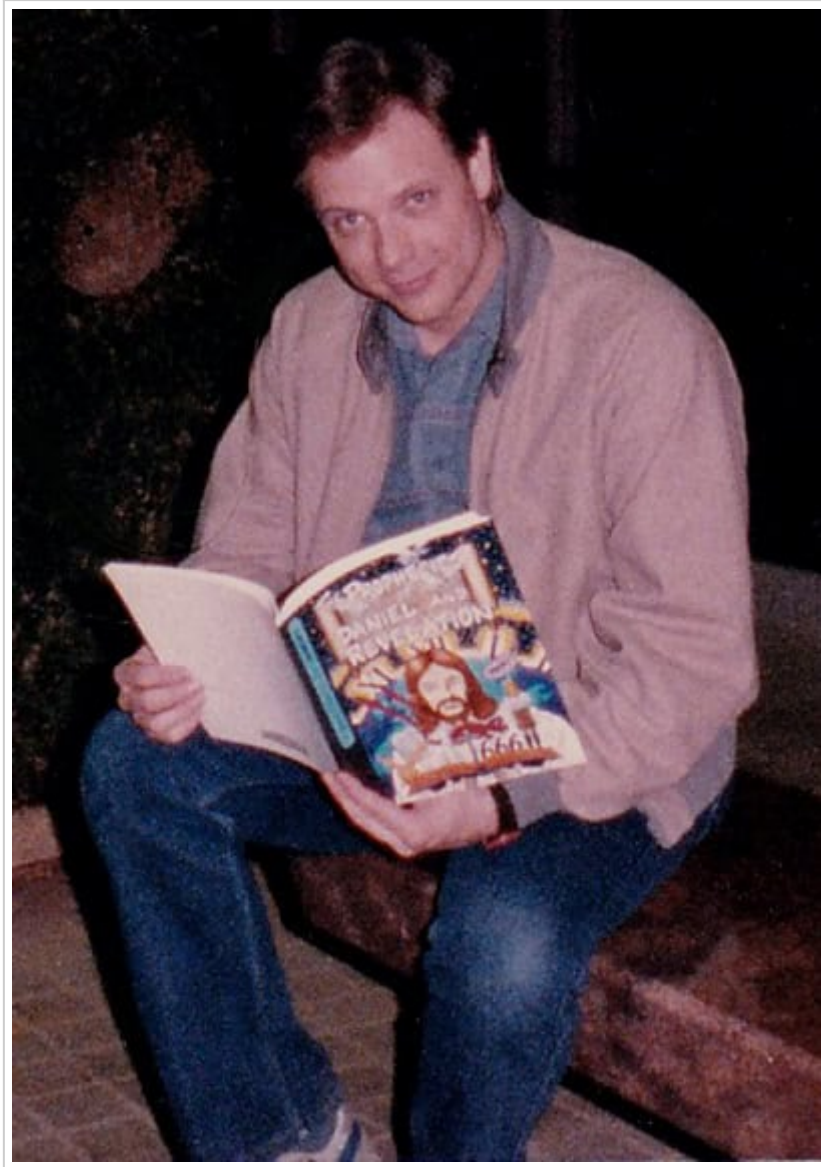
Kurt's **BIG FAVOR #1**

I had worked on my *Prophecies of Daniel and Revelation* book for many months, and I completed the 56 pages and its cover while at Kurt's house — and now it was time to show it around and find someone to publish it! After sending it

to a couple of publishers who said “No,” a photographer friend of Kurt’s stopped by his house to borrow some camera equipment that he needed to do a photo shoot in Africa — his name was **Dennis Crews** — and as Dennis was heading out the door, Kurt suggested giving Dennis a copy of my book to take with him back to Hagerstown where he worked at his father’s ministry, **Joe Crews of AMAZING FACTS.....**

I don’t remember if it was later that day, or the next day, but we got a call from **AFacts** saying that they were interested in publishing my book! While **Joe Crews** was reluctant to publish something that looked like “a comic book,” **Allen Hrenyk** their Treasurer *convinced them to “go for it!”* After all, their duty was to put their witnessing material into formats that “worldly” people would read — and the dreaded “comic book” is the #1 *Easy-to-Read* format on the planet! The book sold quite well — and in the years since, I have done 7 other books for **AFacts** — ***and those 8 books have sold over a half-million copies in the past 35 years!***

THANKS, KURT !!!!!!!!!!!!!

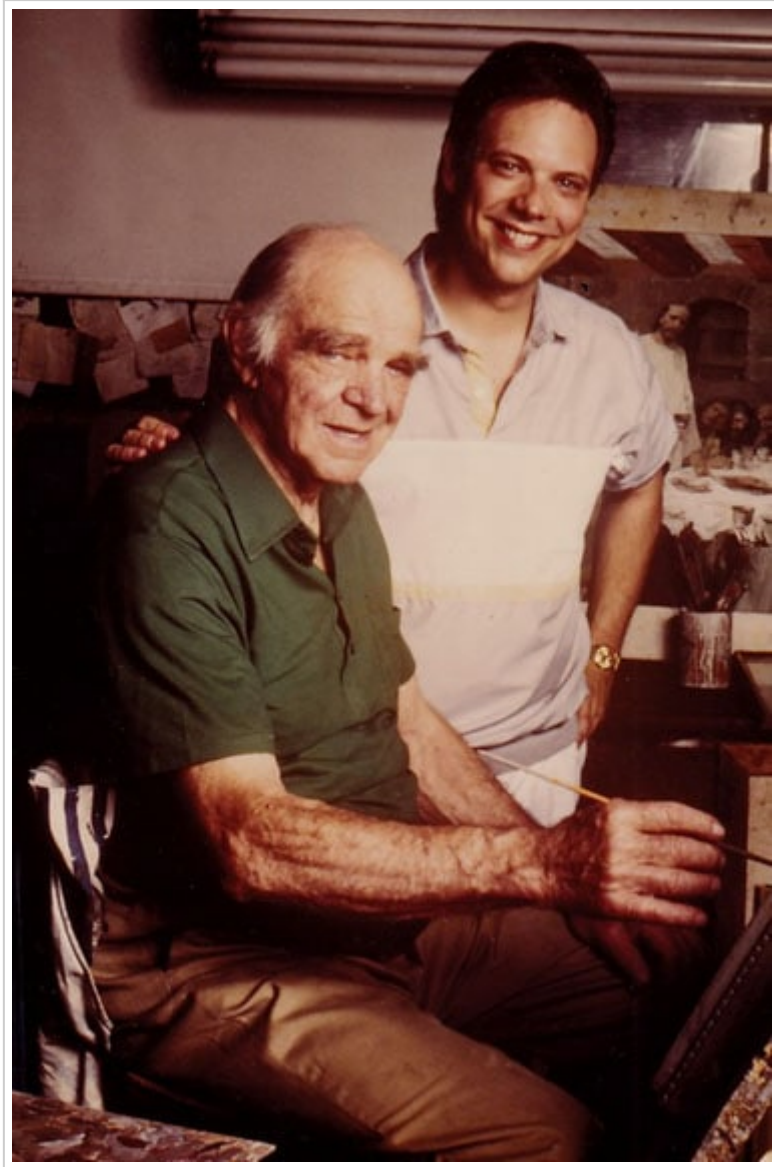


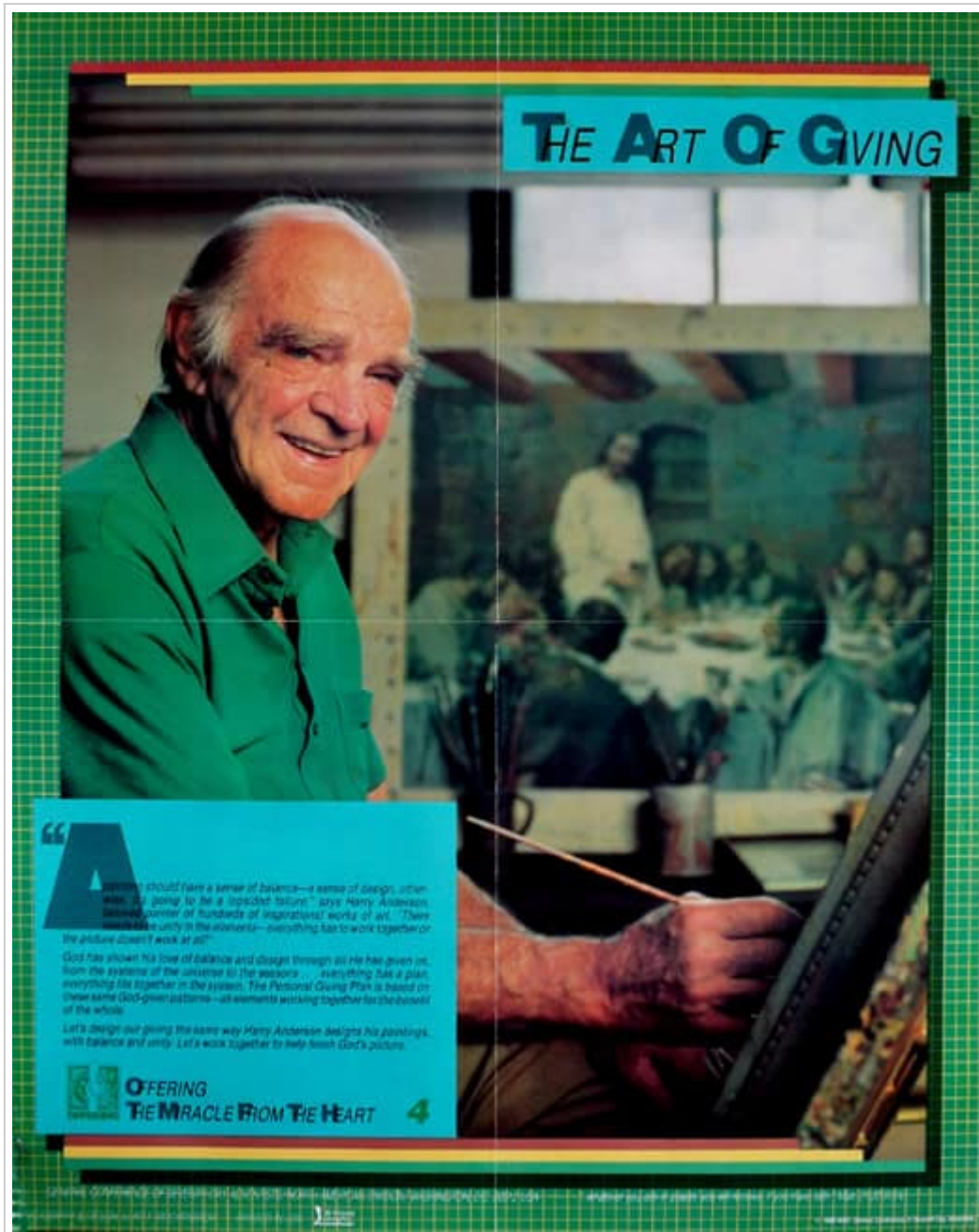
That's Kurt reading a copy of my ****brand new published PROPHECIES book**** back there in **1986** — on the last page **I drew me and Kurt** going into one of the Revelation Seminar meetings along with a crowd of people....



Kurt's BIG FAVOR #2

While I was still out in California in 1985, I saw the art of **Harry Anderson** for the first time — I totally loved his work, and I was collecting as much of it as I could find.... In **June of 1986** Kurt got a photo job doing a series of Investment Posters for the church, and he wanted one of them to feature **Harry Anderson!**





Kurt and I took a plane flight to **Harry Anderson’s** house in Connecticut, and we spent 3 wonderful hours at Harry’s house one Sunday afternoon! Kurt set up his photo equipment in Harry’s studio, and while he took his pics, *I took my pic of him & Harry from the studio balcony....*



Kurt Reichenbach / June 1986



I just wish that I had brought along *more film* — while I did take several pictures,

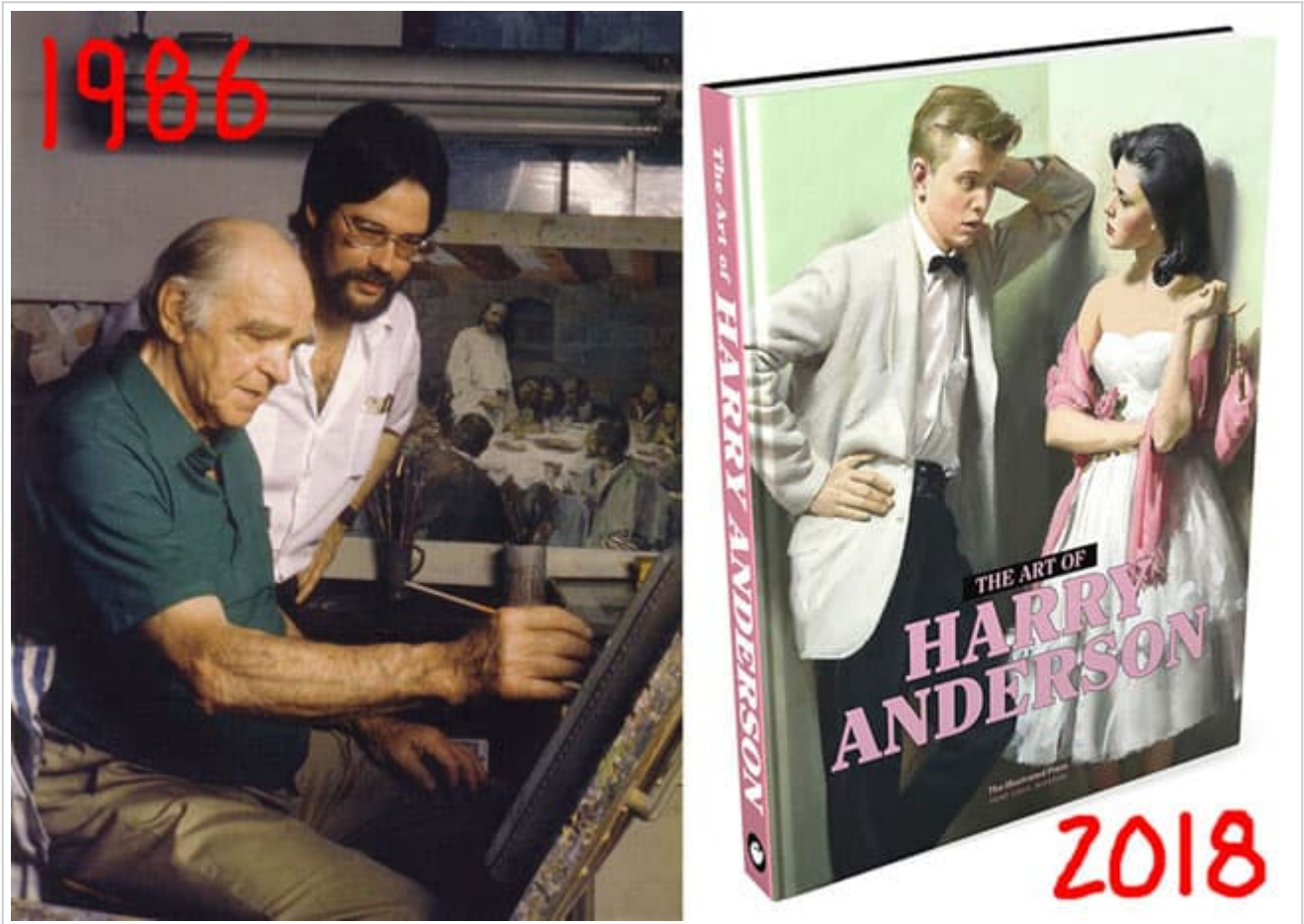
there are ones I had to pass on because I was “running low on film” (there was one painting that has haunted me to this day, it was a beautiful scene of a young boy and girl climbing out a second story window into a big tree with green leaves all around them... *and I have never been able to find this painting since then!*)

I had brought along my special **Nimslo 3D camera**, and I took a very special pic of Harry sitting in his living room, and his family really enjoyed getting 8×10 prints of it — and while I was at Kurt’s house, I also took a really great **3D photo of Kurt** with his Disney toys!



It was funny — Kurt was the “professional photographer” —

but I was the one with the **3D camera!**



ABOVE: Kurt's pic of me & Harry Anderson — and in **2018** I was the main contributor to the beautiful 260-page hardcover book **THE ART OF HARRY ANDERSON!**

BELOW: Kurt clowning around with one of Harry's originals....



And in **2014** for Christmas I got Kurt a copy of the **1953 magazine** that published that very cute Rabbit Lady illustration!



See my website: www.HarryAndersonArt.com

* * *

Kurt's BIG FAVOR #3

!!! The Saturn Awards !!!

In **2002** when Kurt was in Hollywood and I was in Tennessee, he called me up and asked me to draw a cover for the **Saturn Awards magazine!** In 1989 Kurt moved from Maryland out to Hollywood, and he got the job of doing the layouts for the yearly **Saturn Awards magazines** — I have managed to acquire a number of them (see below), and then in **2002** when **MARVEL COMICS Stan Lee** was receiving a special award that year, *Kurt called me up and asked me to do the cover....*



Kurt wanted to do a comicbook-like cover with a superhero ripping open his shirt showing the **Saturn Awards logo**... so I drew the cover, and Kurt added the **Saturn Awards logo**!



BELOW: This was my 1st sketch — but Kurt said it had to be much *closer*.... so I drew the close-up version!



An article in a science fiction fan magazine included my cover....



It was really strange... there I was, living in “the boonies of Tennessee” — **and I get to do the cover of the program book to the equivalent of the Oscars for Science Fiction and Fantasy Movies!?!** Wow... amazing.... That was also the year that Kurt’s friend **Drew Struzan** got his first ever **Life Career Award** for his fantastic movie posters...



KURT REICHENBACH
The Night Was Blue

Gary Grant
Biff Hannon
Dan Higgins
Larry Koonse
Mike Lang
Don Menza
Bill Reichenbach, Sr.
Bill Reichenbach
Carl Saunders
Tom Warrington
Ernie Watts

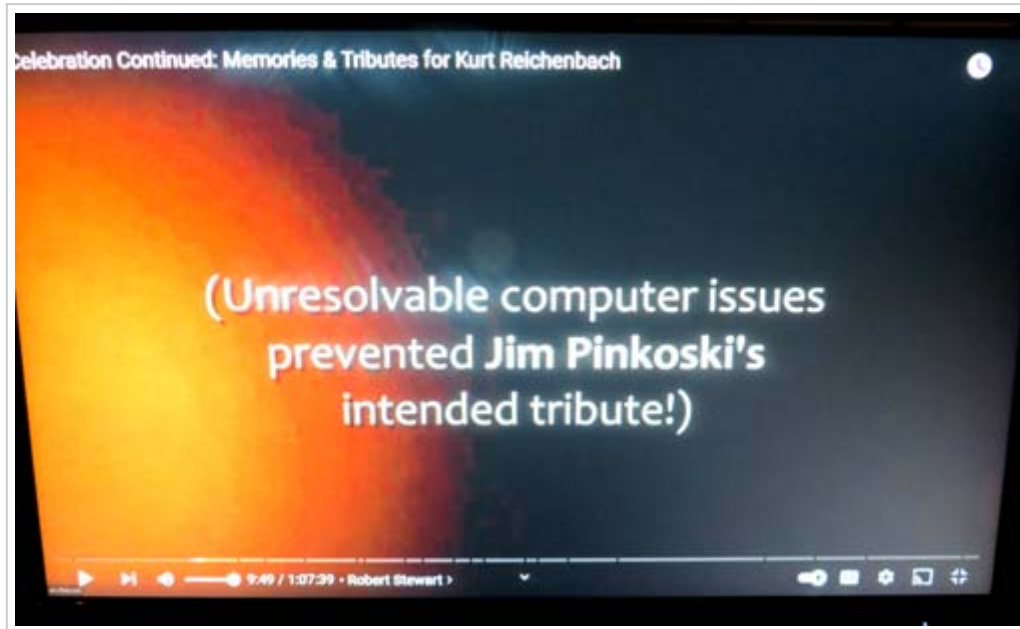
*"...one of the most
dynamic vocal debuts
of the past decade."*

—Christopher London
Jazz columnist



Uh.... “OOPS”

When it came time to do Kurt’s Memorial, I was there online waiting my turn to be able to say a few words about my good friend of 35+ years — but as everyone saw on the Memorial footage, when my time came to speak, ***I could not get the computer image to work*** — **this was all that was on the screen:**

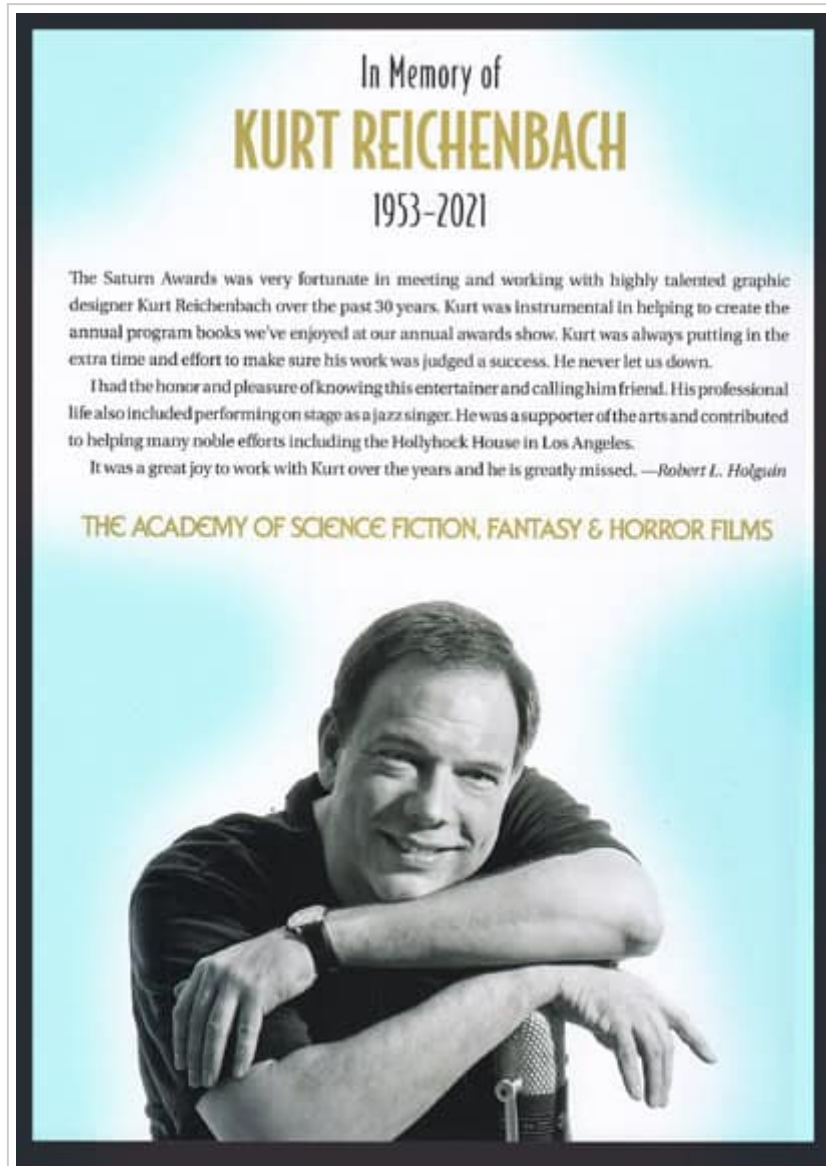


So I was not able to contribute to the video comments — and two days later we finally figured out what the problem was... I was using my new laptop, and since I never do any Zoom meetings, etc., I was unfamiliar with using the camera eye on the laptop... ***the lens was still covered with the tiny clear plastic protective covering to protect the small round lens!!!*** That is why there was an odd orange glare there, some light was getting through the clear plastic!DUH.....

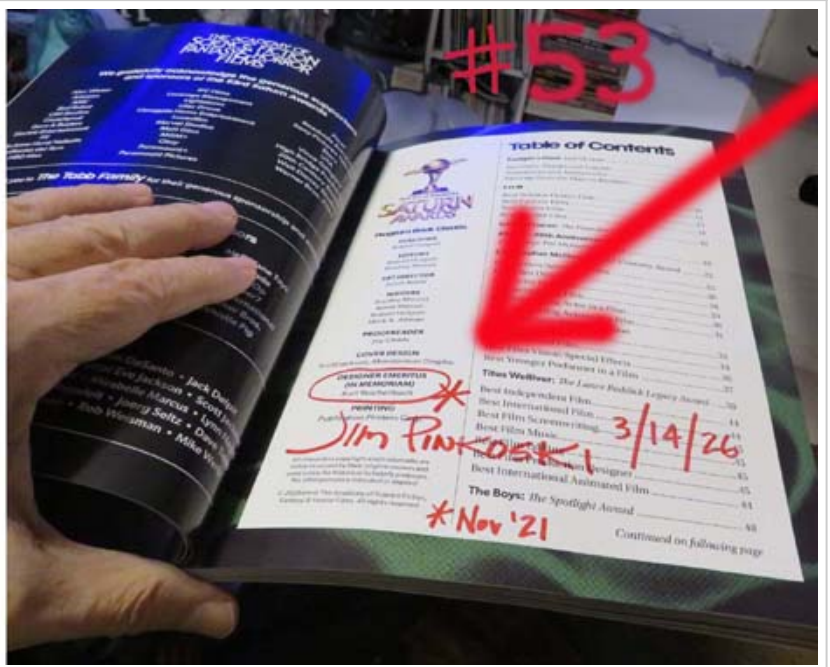
Oh well, I knew I had lots of pics that would be posted on the website, so I knew I would “eventually” get a chance to share my stories about Kurt....

The 50th SATURN AWARDS / October 2022





The **53rd SATURN AWARDS** happened in March 2026, and on the Contents Page they continued to give Kurt credit as “Designer Emeritus (in Memoriam)”....



****My "Old Pics" of Kurt****



ABOVE: Me and Kurt with one of his booklet cover paintings of Jesus.



Kurt clowning around with one of his ALIEN figurines! IT'S BURSTING OUT OF HIS CHEST!!!

SNOW IN ROCKVILLE AT KURT'S HOUSE IN 1986

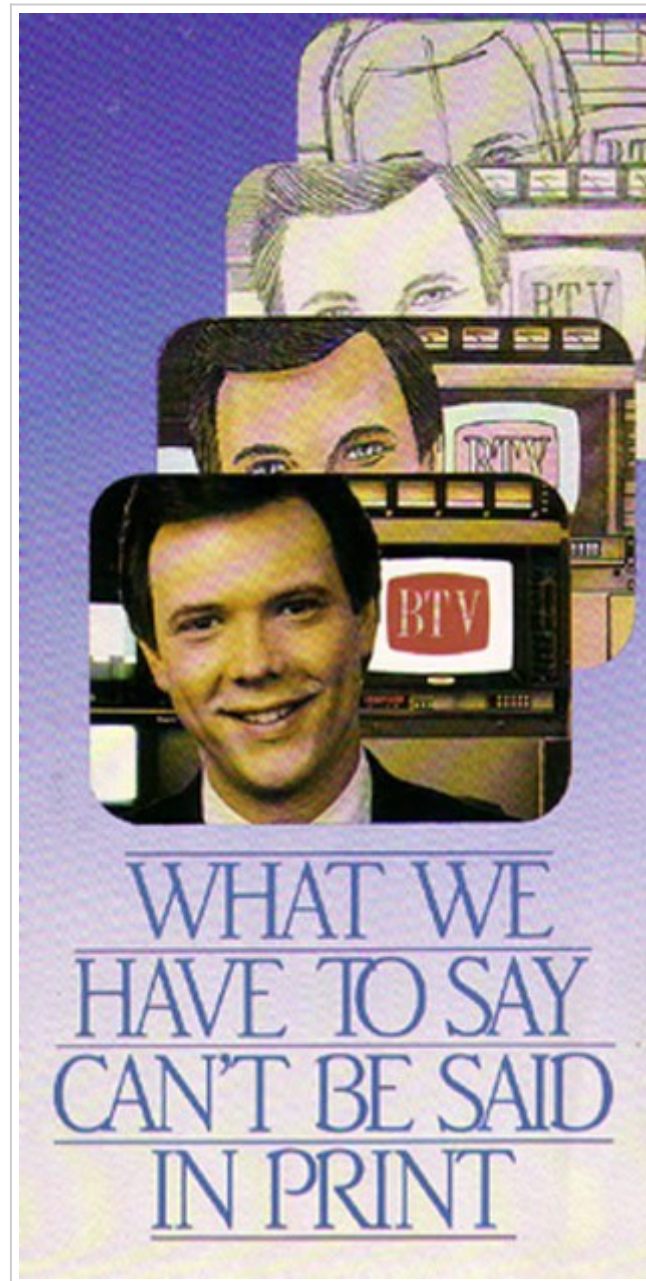




BELOW: Kurt bought a really nice juke box that went in his living room!



BELOW: Kurt and I collaborated on a pamphlet ad for **BTV (Business Television)**....





Kurt wanted the storyboards to start out as *pencil sketches*, then *tight pencils*, then *inked art*, and then it becomes a *color pic* of Kurt-the-salesperson! (I drew myself in panel 2, and my brother Ken in panel 3)....

BTV BUSINESS TELEVISION, INC. BTV

CLIENT: **BTV — In-House** TITLE: **"THE BTV MESSAGE"**

<p>SCENE ONE: A GROCERY STORE MANAGER: THEN PRESS THE ITEM NUMBER AND KEY IN THE AMOUNT ... TRAINEE: CAN'T YOU DO THAT AGAIN ? ...</p>	<p>SCENE TWO: A HARDWARE STORE SALESCLERK: ...AND TO USE IT OUTDOORS, JUST MAKE UP THE AREA WITH THIS TAPE AND ... CUSTOMER: BUT HOW DO I ASK UP THE PRICE SPREADER ? ...</p>	<p>SCENE THREE: A BUSINESS OFFICE EXECUTIVE ON PHONE: ... AND THEN I HAVE TO REHEAR NINE ORATURAL PRESENTATIONS TO OUR EMPLOYEES IN THE SOUTH, CENTRAL, MIDWEST AND MOUNTAIN TRADING OFFICES ...</p>	<p>NARRATOR: ALL THESE INSTRUCTIONS AND MESSAGES COULD HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVELY DELIVERED THROUGH VIDEO. VISUALLY THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN EASY TO UNDERSTAND, AND EASY TO REVIEW.</p>	<p>EVERYONE UNDERSTANDS A MESSAGE BETTER WHEN THEY CAN SEE IT MOVE AS WELL AS HEAR IT. THAT'S WHY THIS MESSAGE IS ONLY "TRACTIVE" EFFECTIVE IN DELIVERING OUR MESSAGE ...</p>
<p>WHAT'S OUR MESSAGE ? ... LET BUSINESS TELEVISION HELP YOUR ORGANIZATION USE VIDEO TO MEET YOUR BUSINESS OBJECTIVES. BTV IS A FULL-SERVICE VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY, OFFERING EVERYTHING FROM SCRIPTING AND PRODUCTION TO FINAL IN-HOUSE EDITING.</p>	<p>LOTS OF COMPANIES CAN TRANSFER YOUR IDEAS TO VIDEO. BUT AT BTV WE CAN HELP UNRAVEL THESE IDEAS AND SHAPE THE MESSAGE TO REFLECT YOUR BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT. AND WE'LL PUT IT ON TAPE BETTER AND MORE ECONOMICALLY THAN THOSE FRANTIC "HIGH COST" PROMOTION HOUSES COULD EVER HOPE TO DO.</p>	<p>APPLICATIONS FOR VIDEO ARE EXPANDING IN EVERY AREA OF BUSINESS. WHAT BEGAN AS AN INDEPENDENT SYSTEM FOR DELIVERY SKILLS TRAINING IS NOW USED FOR EVERYTHING FROM NEW PRODUCT INTRODUCTIONS (CONT'D)</p>	<p>ANNUAL REPORTS TO FUND-RAISING AND MEETINGS AND CONVENTION PRESENTATIONS !</p>	<p>MOST NUMBERS OF MULTI-UNIT RETAILERS, MANUFACTURERS, ASSOCIATIONS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS ARE SETTING UP VIDEO NETWORK LIBRARIES TO MEET MULTIPLE NEEDS THROUGH VIDEO.</p>
<p>BTV HAS BEEN A PIONEER IN VIRTUALLY ALL OF THESE BUSINESS VIDEO APPLICATIONS. WE HAVE DESIGNED, DEVELOPED, AND IMPLEMENTED BUSINESS NETWORKS, ON-SITE TELEVISION, NUMEROUS TRAINING PROGRAMS AND ALL KINDS OF SALES AND INFORMATIONAL MESSAGES ...</p>	<p>BTV IS MADE UP OF TALANTED PROFESSIONALS WHO CAN ANALYZE YOUR COMPANY'S NEEDS AND GIVE YOU FROM CONCEPT THROUGH SCRIPTS, CASTING, LOCATION SCOUTING, PRODUCTION, EDITING, IMPLICATING AND PROMOTION.</p>	<p>AND WE DON'T STOP THERE ! OUR SERVICES EXTEND TO TRAINING SUPPORT, PROGRAM EVALUATION AND SYSTEM DESIGN ...</p>	<p>SO WHATEVER YOUR NEEDS : SCALE TRAINING PROGRAMS, MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION TOOLS, SALES PRESENTATIONS IN A FULL-SCALE VIDEO NETWORK... CALL US AT BUSINESS TELEVISION ...</p>	<p>WE'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE AMBITIOUS BACK-THROUGH IN BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS : VIDEO !</p>

"Real" Christmas in 1986 at Kurt's Parents' House







BELOW: Kurt and I went to New York City so Kurt could photograph some of the **Christmas Window Displays** — and while there we stopped by and saw the **Alice in Wonderland** sculpture in **Central Park**!



BELOW: Kurt, his Dad, and his bother Bill



BELOW: Kurt did the album cover art for **his bother Bill's record** some time before I came to town.... Bill Reichenbach was a professional studio musician for decades in Hollywood and played on several movie soundtracks, with the Buddy Rich Band, on Michael Jackson's THRILLER album, and he even wrote the 1980's HBO theme music!



Ads for **Kurt and his music** that appeared in the **Saturn Awards magazines** in **2006 to 2010**



Kurt Reichenbach
LIVE AT *Hollywood Studio*
BAR & GRILL

What the Critics Say...

"... a dazzling new singer... Words fail to adequately describe the thrill of hearing someone with this much talent and class." —*Rex Ford*

"... a jazz singer out of the Mid Thermo-Billy Stratus school of polished pop-jazz crooning..." —*Stephen Holden, The New York Times*

"... a natural singer who understands lyrics, is blessed with a smooth baritone voice, and has the musical sensitivity to find approaches to each song that make his versions of even the most frequently performed standards sound fresh..." —*Joe Long, Jersey Jazz Magazine*

Saturday, August 28, 2010 • 8 p.m.
Join Kurt and his all-star jazz trio for his ONLY SUMMER 2010 L.A. APPEARANCE!

\$10 cover-~~only~~ drink or dinner minimum
Come for dinner from 7 p.m.
FREE PARKING!
Call 323-466-9977 for reservations

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6122 Sunset Blvd. (in Gower Gulch), Hollywood, CA 90028

www.ryy.com/KurtReichenbach
To join Kurt's mailing list, email kurtjazz@yahoo.com

THE 32ND ANNUAL SATURN AWARDS

Kurt's Ad! **2006**
When Words Collide

"Live long and Prosper."
—Neil Dick

"We belong Dead."
—The Duke of Frodo

"Late, I have a feeling...
we'll rest in Kincaid's arms."
—The Wizard of Oz

KURT REICHENBACH
The Night Was Blue

KURT REICHENBACH
Live at Vibrato Grill Jazz...etc.
May 10, 2006

Bill Hansen, piano
Pat Sematore, bass
Bob Leatherbarrow, drums
Special Guest Bill Reichenbach, trombone

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www.vibratogrilljazz.com

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BELOW: And then there was the time in 1986 when Kurt was driving us to his storage locker on the Beltway **AND HE RAN OUT OF GAS!!!!!!** Of course I had to take a pic.....



Kurt bought a working **35mm film projector** and several cans of various films — (the only problem with watching movies this way is that *you can't "fast forward" through them....*)

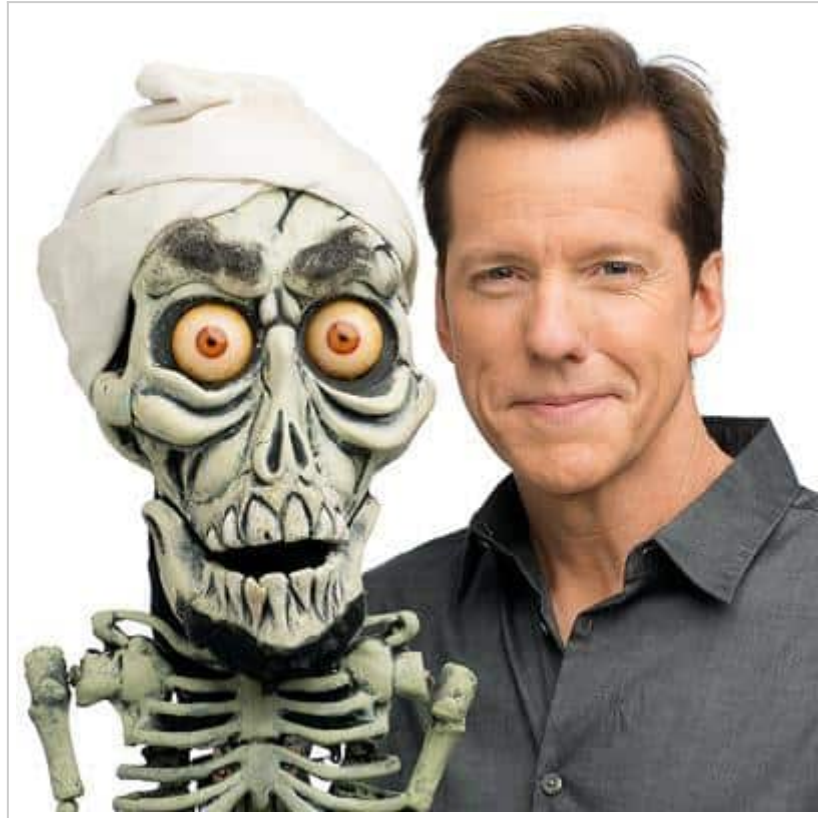
BELOW: And we also found a **REALLY BIG CIGARETTE** at a Health Booth that was just too good not to clown around with....



One of Kurt's many, many, many art projects.... done with cutting out colored paper....



I myself have always thought that **Kurt and Jeff Dunham the Ventriloquist** almost looked like twins! Oh yes, I told Kurt about it.....





I think about Kurt nearly every single day — I have so many things around me that bring Kurt to mind.... he was a great friend and one of the nicest and most generous people I have ever known....

I REALLY MISS YOU, KURT

* * *

An Unfortunate Up-Date

On **August 17th, 2023**, Kurt's lifelong good friend **Wendell Hill** passed away at the age of 70.... Wendell hosted Kurt's online memorial.....

wendellhilljr.forevermissed.com