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## Welcome, Foolish Mortals, Revised Edition: The Life and Voices of Paul Frees

*Ben Ohmart*

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**Ben Ohmart : Welcome, Foolish Mortals, Revised Edition: The Life and Voices of Paul Frees** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Welcome, Foolish Mortals, Revised Edition: The Life and Voices of Paul Frees:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Allow me to introduce myself...By PianoGuyFromSC "Paul Frees" was a name I learned early in life, because it appeared in the credits of my favorite show, "Rocky and Bullwinkle." I just finished watching the DVD versions of RB, and once again marveled at the versatility of Frees and his colleagues. Not only did he play Boris, Capt. Peachfuzz, and a host of other characters in every episode, but he was the Pillsbury Doughboy, Little Sprout (on the Green Giant commercials), the voice of Disney's Haunted Mansion and he did thousands of other voice-overs. This loving tribute to Frees by cartoon/voice artist fan Ben Ohmart fills in a lot of the blanks in Frees's life, although Ohmart confesses that, since many of Frees's contemporaries have died, there are still many blanks to fill. But there are interviews with fellow voice artists, family members, and his few friends (Frees was an eccentric, private person). I was fascinated by the stories of Frees' early work in radio. The book also helped flesh out the story of his involvement with Spike Jones, beginning with his wonderful Peter Lorre impression on "My Old Flame." What I also did not know about until now was Frees' strange, eccentric private life and his eventual suicide. He became more and more of a hermit, doing some voice work from his own studio or making brief trips to the city. Such a talented guy could have continued entertaining the world for decades! This is must reading for those of you who are

fans of TV cartoons, and Frees' work in particular. (Speaking of that, the book ends with a huge index of his many credits.)PS - I bought a used copy on . When I looked at the title page, I discovered that it was inscribed (by the author) to a member of Frees's family - and that it also featured June Foray's (Rocky/Natasha)autograph! A rare find.9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Unknown Face of 1000+ Voices We All Have HeardBy J.T.J., an AuthorUnlike many, I had known about Paul Frees being the man of multiple voices. The famous voice of the Disney Haunted Mansion ride "Ghost Host," Boris Badenov of Rocky and Bullwinkle, and the narrator of the original "War of the Worlds" movie are but a few of this man's familiar characters. What I did not realize, however, was how well known, and in demand he was during his entire lengthy career. I learned, but was not surprised to find out, how many hours and productions he had participated in on the radio. Furthermore, I found it interesting that just about anytime any film maker needed to come up with an exotic voice, or wanted someone to finish up another actor's dialogue, they called Paul Frees. I learned all of this by reading his biography, "Welcome, Foolish Mortals," which is the tagline for the Disney Ghost Host.Anyone wishing to read about the career of a person of outstanding versatility and talent, should read this book. The composition of the book is smooth, and the narrative sustains one's continuing curiosity and interest. I wish that the author had interviewed, and provided more quotes from more people in show business still living that had worked with him professionally. I would have liked, for example, if the author had spoken with surviving personnel from the Disney organization, or individuals from companies for whom he had worked as a vocal pitchman. Pillsbury, for example, comes to mind; Frees was the voice of the Pillsbury Doughboy (of course, Frees was quoted as suggesting he did not want to be solely remembered as just being the Pillsbury Doughboy).Compared to the late Paul Frees, there is no one his equal past or present. Even the great impressionist Rich Little must have been in awe of this incredible man. In his own field, he really was a Burgermeister Meisterburger!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy EthanThis is for anyone who is a fan of Paul Frees or voice over. Humorous, tragic, and very nostalgic.

He was Disney's Haunted Mansion Ghost Host, Boris Badenov, Professor Ludwig von Drake, Pillsbury Doughboy, Toucan Sam, the Green Lama, and thousands of voices you have heard on records, radio, television, and in films. He was voice acting genius Paul Frees. Paul's son Fred Frees reads this second edition of author Ben Ohmart's biography. Fred Frees is a successful voice actor in his own right, who has been called upon to recreate his dad's characters and create new ones all his own. Ben Ohmart says, "He has inherited his father's amazing, weird gifts."

Ben Ohmart has written several books and The Life and Voices of Paul Frees is one of his best. This is the first thorough look at the actor who has been in thousands of radio programs, TV shows and commercials. It is all documented. Very well recommended. - Jay HickersonAbout the AuthorBen Ohmart has written books on voice actors Paul Frees and Walter Tetley, as well as biographies of Don Ameche, the Bickersons, Disney composer Buddy Baker, playwright Tim Kelly, and others. He runs BearManor Media, a small publishing company specializing in books on old radio and old film actors.