

INTRO TO "LIGHTS OUT"

The next segment of our show is not for the faint-hearted. "Lights Out" was a drama anthology that predated other equally horrific programs like "Inner Sanctum" and "Suspense", having started on a local Chicago NBC station in 1934. The series was created by Wyllis Cooper whose stories were often grisly and spiked with dark, tongue-in-cheek humor. Not that his replacement was any milder.

Arch Oboler continued the tradition in spades- but often gave it his own unique spin, sometimes introducing social and political themes into his scripts. One side note: believe it or not, remember that old Bill Cosby routine about the Chicken Heart? Well, there really was a radio episode called "Chicken Heart" and Mr. Oboler wrote it.

The program had a continuous run until 1947. For tonight, we bring you 2 thrillers from the pen of Mr. O, both originally broadcast back in the 30s. While you are listening to this first little gem, imagine, if you will, a kid curled up in bed, in total darkness, except for the dim red glow of the radio, soaking up this horror in the middle of the night. Maybe even close your eyes during the more terrifying moments- and imagine— what it must have been like— to have your pajamas scared off of you---with something like this----- before television---back in 1937.