

Ron's Wrestling Ramblings

Paddington

Join Ron Historyo and add your comments in the forum

<https://heritagedocs.wixsite.com/talkwrestling/forum/memories-of-the-old-days/metropolitan-theatre-paddington>



RON HISTORYO....Time Cop

Spent a lot of time lately on Seaside venues, hoping to tempt out some London fans, and maybe Dr Death in Particular.

The Metropolitan had been a pub on this site even in the 1500's and rebuilt a few times keeping some original features. An old Irish pub and then a Music Hall. Tremendous building although had a reduced capacity of only 1500 in later years.

I believe the bill shown here was on the first night of what was to be three years of weekly wrestling and never Dale Martins.

Anyone remember it or go to wrestling there. Is it a known venue to us.

You will need a long memory as it was pulled down in 1963.

Look at my gallery for 1960.

<https://www.wrestlingheritage.co.uk/apps/photos/album?albumid=16213807>



METROPOLITAN THEATRE — AMB 2478
EDGWARE ROAD

Saturday, October 8th at 8.30 p.m. 1960

INTERNATIONAL FREE-STYLE WRESTLING

DR. DEATH v MAX CRABTREE

MILO v PRICE | **CAUDLER v HUGHES**

GEORGE KIDD v KEN JOYCE
WORLD LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPION v EUROPEAN WELTERWEIGHT CHAMPION

Sunday, October 16 70's STAR CHARITY CONCERT
ALMA COGAN THE KATE SISTERS



THE METROPOLITAN

by Jack Kingst

If ever there was a theatre steeped in tradition it is the Metropolitan in London's busy Edgware Road. Throughout the years the 'Met' has become an institution. On its stage Londoners have seen the greatest of the great names in variety.

Names that have topped the bill at the 'Met' include Charlie Chaplin, Marie Lloyd, Ella Shields and, of course, Gracie Fields. In fact, any great name you can think of in variety must have performed at the Metropolitan. The 'Met' started life well over a century ago as a pub—the White Lion! It soon became famous

for its fine concert room where entertainment was provided by local artistes. As its fame and popularity spread the White Lion became a music hall and was rebuilt in 1861 as the Metropolitan Theatre.

In recent years the live theatre seems to be attracting fewer and fewer people; many theatres have been forced to close their doors for good. Blame television, blame films, blame the ever-suffering public if you will, but the fact is that after many glorious years lots of our fine theatres have now been turned to uses for which they were never intended.

There must be more than one architect who would turn in his if he could see his masterpiece used as a warehouse, a factory supermarket. To see such old theatres is a sad sight indeed; places were not made for com they were built as places of tainment. They were built so i the applause of a delighted a—not the hum of machinery stars' dressing rooms were sacred and certainly never i for use as storage space.

However, such a fate did

continued on

I will add 61-63 over the next few days. My burning question to Paul Lincoln experts is this. Do you think he was the promoter here in 1960? He was on seven times out of 25 bills, but other people were also lurking that could have got this off the ground, or could it have only been a Lincoln Promotion.

adrianpollard.shangri-la

Hi RON!-I'd say the Answer to your Question is 95% YES!

As the Article below States-'It was decided to TRY Wrestling'-in the SUMMER

Season of 1960 for just a Few Weeks!-It ended up being Staged until The Venue Closed!

THE METROPOLITAN

continued from page 12

in store for the 'Met'. When the owners saw the slump in the Variety business they changed their policy. It became 'London's Irish Music Hall', and as such ran quite successfully for about a year.

During the quiet summer season in 1960, it was decided to try wrestling. 'Just for the summer,' said the management. That was well over a year ago and wrestling's still going strong.

There has been wrestling at the Metropolitan every Saturday right through the year. The programme starts at 8.30 but in order to get in at all you've got to be there well before that time.

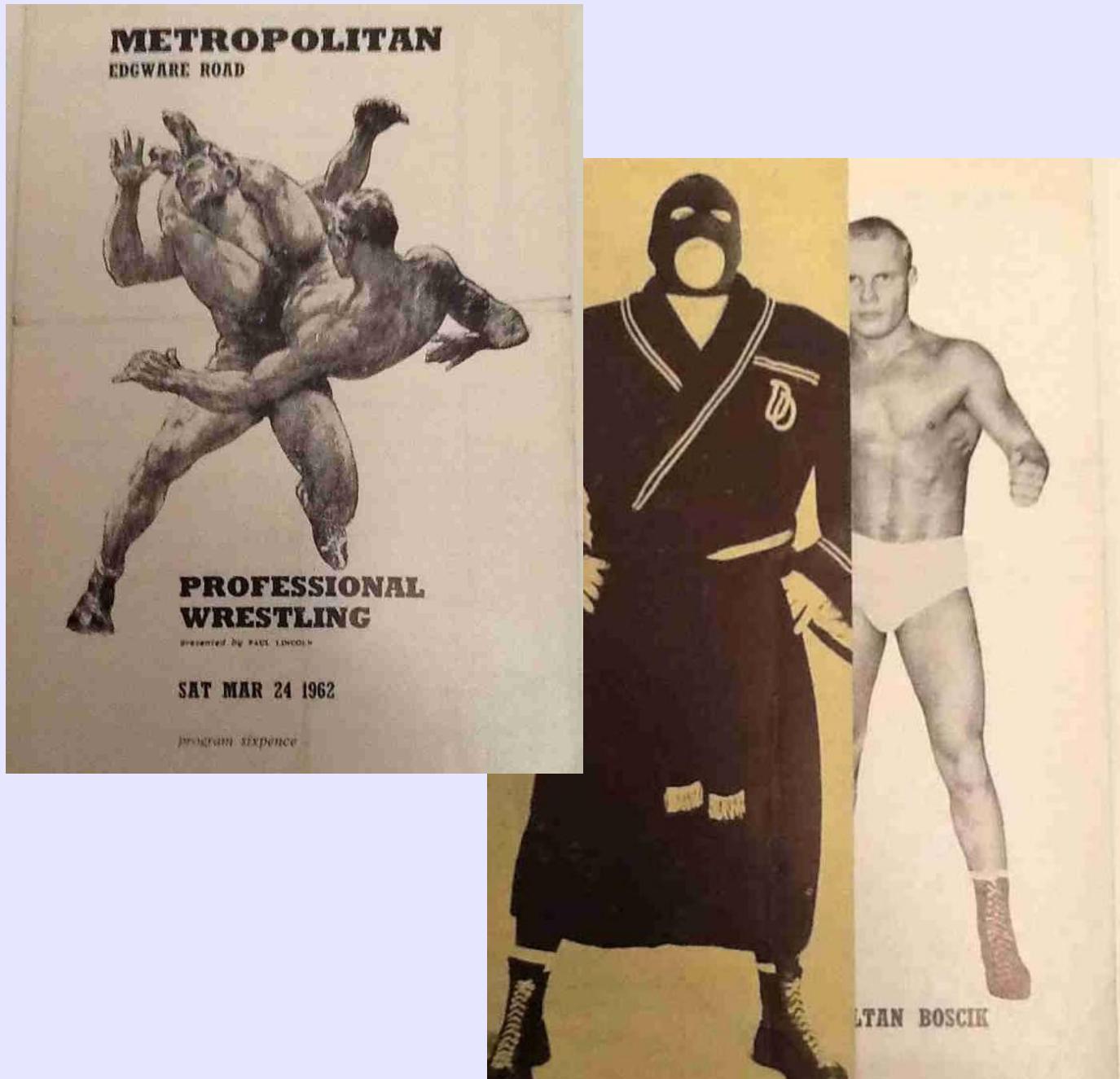
Yes, the Metropolitan has really come into its own again just when things looked a little gloomy. Once again the auditorium echoes to the applause and cheering of delighted fans and also, perhaps, in best music hall tradition, to the catcalls and boos of those patrons whose displeasure has been incurred.

If theatres have feelings, and I think they do, then I'm sure the Metropolitan is once again happy, happy to be fulfilling the duty of a theatre — giving the public what it wants.

I'd just like to add this—it couldn't happen to a nicer theatre.

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By MARCH 1962-PAUL LINCOLN was Definitely Promoting Shows at The METROPOLITAN-as My Programme Below Attests!



Anglo Italian

In answer to your question, Ron, I think we have known The Metropolitan as Paul Lincoln's Number One venue, so all your guesses come together as fact as far as I'm concerned. George Kidd was the one who told Lincoln to go masked, and he's on the same bill. They clearly had a close relationship.

One thing I can't quite fathom: we see the famous White Angel v Dr Death Tooting bout advertised in the Met programme - but the wrestlers went on to re-perform the bout at The Met, didn't they?

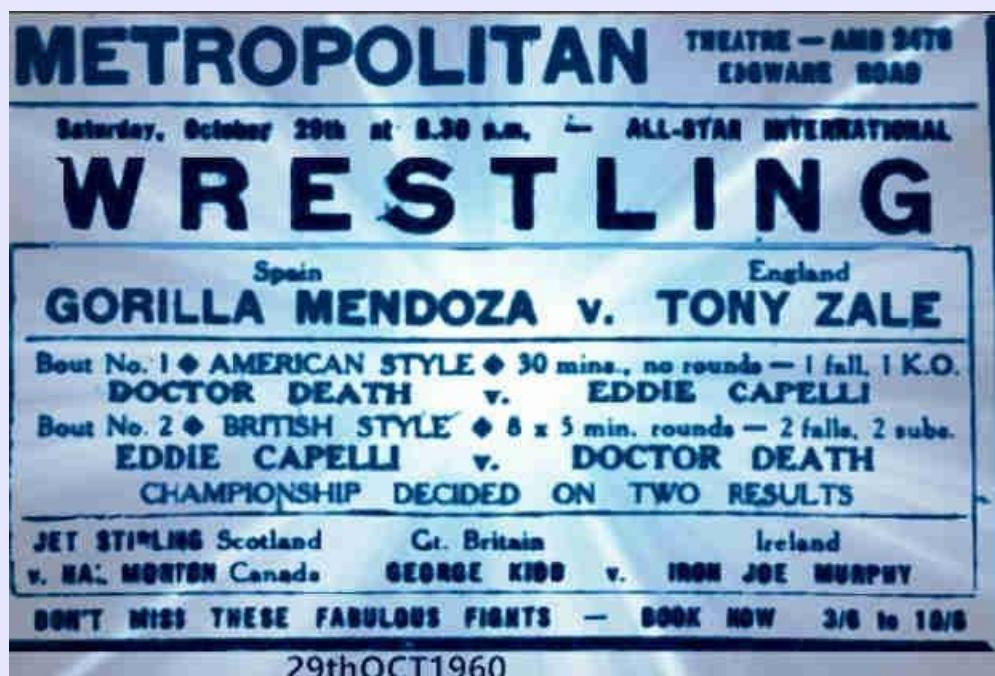
We discussed Leo Demetral about ten years ago. He had a coffee bar, maybe something like The Two IIs. He was in his twilight years but no surprise to see him on an early Lincoln promotion.

And with Joyce, Kidd and Max all on a Lincoln bill it was like a BWF AGM.

RON HISTORYO....Time Cop

Don't know that much about Lincolns roster, and did not think Shirley ever worked for him

Keep this special match in mind and I will reveal more soon. Note your mate Eddie Capelli again Anglo.



RON HISTORYO....Time Cop

1961, a full season at the Metropolitan is now on.

<https://www.wrestlingheritage.co.uk/apps/photos/album?albumid=16216103>

Now you can see the increase in Roster variation compared to 1960.
Business must have been doing well, 50 weeks of wrestling.

James Morton

Well Mr H. That's an impressive collection. You ask for memories of the hall. It was for years the home of Max Miller and of course was used in the film The Blue Lamp.

As for wrestling I used to go on an irregular basis with my then girlfriend. Who did I see there? The good Dr of course. I remember BB Johnson losing to Quasimodo which was great fun and the first time I saw La Savatte. I see on that bill was Peter Rann v Linde Caulder. If that was the bout I saw Rann was the blue eye and round after round Caulder had him in a hold to which he would not submit and then in one amazing move Rann was free... I saw Max Crabtree in tag against the Dr and either Mangotich or Stedman and Crabtree wasn't bad at all. Far, far better than brother Shirl whom I saw against Big Boy Scott and what a stinker that was.

The mention that after the demasking of the White Angel he fought Lincoln again on the Saturday. I believe someone fired an air pellet into Hayes' backside but that might be just another story. Anyway thanks Mr H for the memories – all so long ago. As for the girlfriend we eventually split up and she married but we still keep in touch and meet regularly.

Anglo Italian

You're doing a Main Mask on me, Ron, attributing Eddie as my mate! But he signed me many an autograph so I will take him onto my "roster" as you call it ☺

Shirley's there, less frequently than Max, but billed as European champ.

How does Doctor Death get away with opposing Don Steadman and then someone half his size, dear Eddie? And then appearing in tag **with** Docker Don - the promoter must have hoped for a very forgetful or forgiving Met crowd. Mind you, this location would have attracted tourists and overseas visitors, more than Tooting or Edmonton ever would have.

And with putting Shirley's European and British titles up for grabs in a titles bout ... against an Australian?

Lots of new names for me: Yvon Robert, Chopper Lavack, Al Havoc, Henri Le Mad/Le Mayo ...

Got to laugh at Leon Fortuna billed in the Continentals team against Zoltin Boscik. Leon Arras being there in January 1961 is very eyecatching. Did he really travel so far south? I guess he could manage a Saturday away from school.

Six months later and I cannot start to wonder how Lincoln managed 7 bouts in a ko tourney with six wrestlers...?

Photo 36 shows a Saturday bill with a Tuesday just a few days later. Whatever these bills look like on paper now, they must have given great value to keep the punters coming back for more .

At a general level, fascinating to see just how many DM names seem to have been starting out with Paul Lincoln: Bobby Barnes, Yuri Borienko, Reg Trood, Bruno, Caulder, Tug Holton, Quasimodo (in UK terms), Leon Fortuna, Al Miquet. Dale Martin courted and conquered many of these well before 1.1.1966. Bruno billed at a mere 6'3" is very surprising. I never questioned the extra two inches Dale Martin gave us. Certainly not when getting his autograph.

Thanks for uploading, Ron.

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TONY CASSIO Started out with PAUL LINCOLN too ANGLO!

Did you Notice DOCTOR DEATH vs (Your Real Mate!)- SIR ALAN GARFIELD??!

Absolutely Superb Collection RON!!

WHITE ANGEL Liked it at The METROPOLITAN didn't he?

Anglo Italian

Yes, Main Mask, and what I truly noticed in 1961 was that of all those bills, Garfield genuinely had the biggest billing and build-up of all. His heyday.

RON HISTORYO....Time Cop

Thanks for a wonderful response. To get such a great collection from start to finish over three years is so useful to us. Jame's memories, so great and Anglo's analysis backed up by Main Mask, fantastic.

Here is 1962

<https://www.wrestlingheritage.co.uk/apps/photos/album?albumid=16216314>



What I want to say is this. I think I only missed one week where the bill was chopped in half. If I have looked correctly up to the time of White Angel's unmasking (was it at Tooting) in April 1962, I don't think he and Dr Death had met here.

You will remember that special double bout with Capelli, well what I found two weeks after the unmasking of White Angel, the same thing again here at Paddington. So without overkill on Dr death v White

Angel, this venue pushes White Angels attempted revenge. Don't think we have ever discussed a double contest.

1963 coming up

Peter

Isha Israel has just had a match posted on You Tube by the French Wrestling blogspot

RON HISTORYO....Time Cop

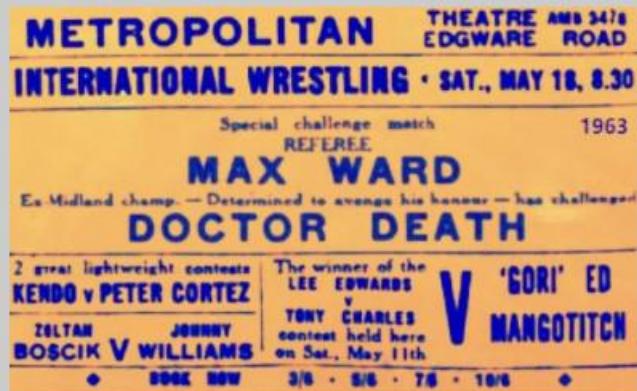
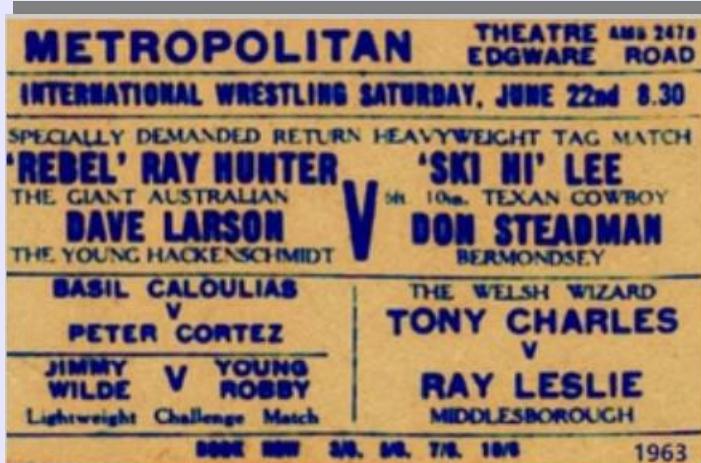
Here is 1963

<https://www.wrestlingheritage.co.uk/apps/photos/album?albumid=16216315>

I just ask Lincoln Fans, are we sure he was in charge back in 1960 or did he take something over. Did Shirley really work for him and the burning question, WHY DID HE LEAVE?

Could he not even make it on a small Roster similar to Stampede Wrestling.

And a bit of trivia. Wikipedia quotes 12th April 1963 as the last entertainment show featuring Tommy Trinder. Like wrestling, did they really keep records of careers such as Brucie, Bob Monkhouse etc. Well wrestling for me went missing after June 22nd and the final viewing of Doctor Death also beat Trinder with May 18th. So Lincoln should be in the record books.



Think you will agree this is a stormer of a collection that should tell us so much about who worked for Paul Lincoln. Does anyone know if he opened up somewhere else in mid 63. And keep the comments coming, this needs a lot more than my analysis.

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5 Star Piece of Work RON!-Truly Excellent! Yes the 1st MASK vs MASK Collision between DOCTOR DEATH and WHITE ANGEL was WEDNESDAY 4TH APRIL 1962 at GRANADA TOOTING!-After a 12 Month 'Build-Up'!!-3000 Seat Sell-Out!

And The Super-Rare Flyer for DOCTOR DEATH vs. WHITE ANGEL!

Note- TERRY O'NEILL on This Bill!-Also Unmasked by DOCTOR DEATH. as DOCTOR BLOOD!!



RON HISTORYO....Time Cop

Then the bigger capacity at Tooting may have been the reason for the match there.

I also find that as soon as the Metropolitan shut, Lincoln started Saturdays at The Free Trade Hall in a sort of partnership with Bill Benny initially. These were not weekly but did pick up to 2-3 times a month and went on until 1966 when Cape promotions had a go.

Quite an innovative change of territory.

Anglo Italian

On your point about when Lincoln started Ron, two comments:

His was the initiative for stage wrestling in these cinemas and music halls.

A clear marker for his promotional debut is also the first appearance of Doctor Death.

I think your questions rather necessitate the compilation of a list of regular Lincoln venues. We have seen hundreds of great Lincoln posters on here and over the years, all a bit sprawling.

Did Ray Plunkett ever compile a list of Dr Death matches? The Doctor surely appeared at every Paul Lincoln venue.

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Big Task that ANGLO!-In Early 1962-DOCTOR DEATH 'Stated' that he had Fought 2006 Matches!!

RON HISTORYO....Time Cop

I have always noticed the multitude of venues and a bill here and there, but to get this collection is the icing on the cake. Interested though in what happened to Shirley.

The Ost

Thanks for this Ron, I look forward to going through this and filling in any gaps in my listings. The earliest I had at this venue was August 13, 1960. In late 1959 Paul Lincoln was promoting at the Adelphi in West Brom. London seemed to have opened up in 1960. Other venues he had in 1960 included the Adelphi in Slough, and the Granadas in Greenford and Woolwich. He was also on some bills for DeMarto who were putting on shows at the Caledonian Rd Baths.

I had a quick look and can see shows from April 1959 (Granada Woolwich) and June 1959 (Granada Tooting & Granada Kensington). Dr Death is not on these shows but the handbills have the Lincoln look to them.

RON HISTORYO....Time Cop

He did Ryde Town Hall on the Isle of Wight on Tuesdays. Also the Essoldo at London's Burnt Oak on Mondays. And Essoldo at Sheerness in Kent on Thursdays. The Savoy at Heyes (Thursdays) and Majestic at Mitcham (Saturdays). The list is endless.

frostini2000

Ryde Town Hall switched to Wednesdays at some point. Weekly during the summer season, then once a month for the rest of the year. It was my local venue.

Anglo Italian

Now don't go believing what wrestlers say, Main Mask ☺ 2006 bouts. About ten years of regular wrestling. Could be about right, though, and he had to create the illusion that he had wrestled in America and elsewhere. That's interesting, Ost, that Dr Death was absent from 1959 Lincoln bills.

Unless he had shows elsewhere on the same night?

Is it really an endless list, Ron? A lot of these venues seemed to be weekly. In my mind I see Lincoln with two or three shows a night.

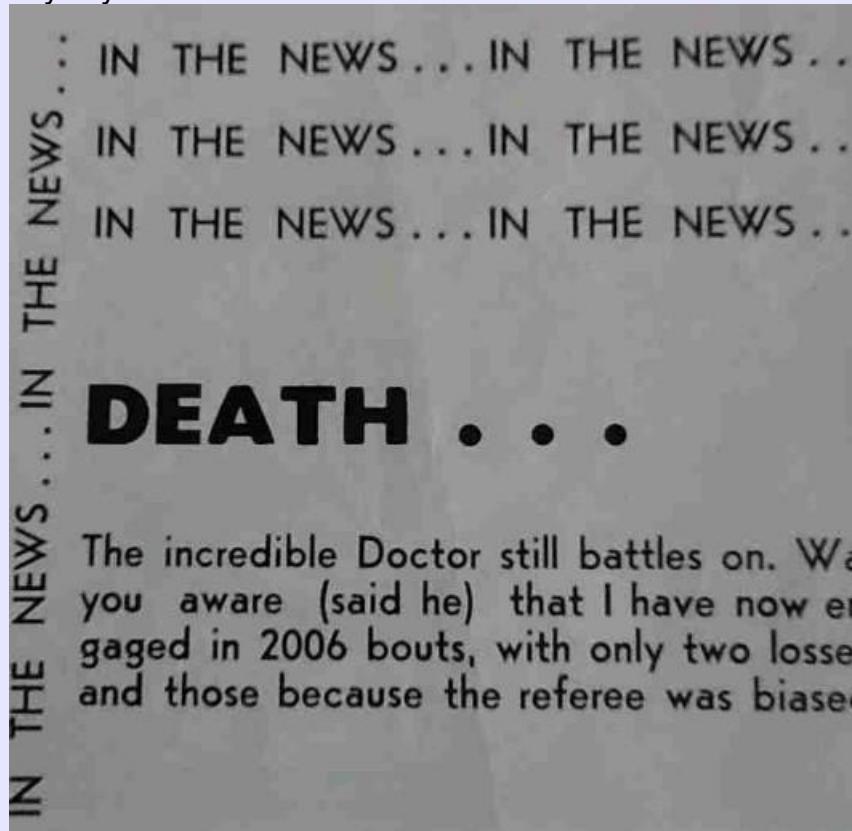
The Ost has proved that we will have difficulty identifying the first Lincoln show because Dr Death probably wasn't on it and Lincoln didn't state his name as the promoter, perhaps thinking he was too well known as a wrestler. It does look like he was getting the Doctor Death idea through 1959. Actually, when he was starting out, it made sense that he wasn't wrestling. He probably dashed across London to be present at two of his shows. Probably nervous and juggling all roles, making sure all went well. At Tooting, he used to sit brazenly in the foyer selling the programmes, then nipping round the back to put his mask on.

Probably 1959 went well, he got into a confident routine, Hayes and Hunter became trusted colleagues and he felt confident enough making the huge saving of a top-of-the-bill name every time DD appeared.

We've been watching Hayes this year in Paris, 1957, 58. He quite possibly came back with stories of L'Ange Blanc and L'Homme Masqué, and the pair just imitated it all in UK, similarly masked.

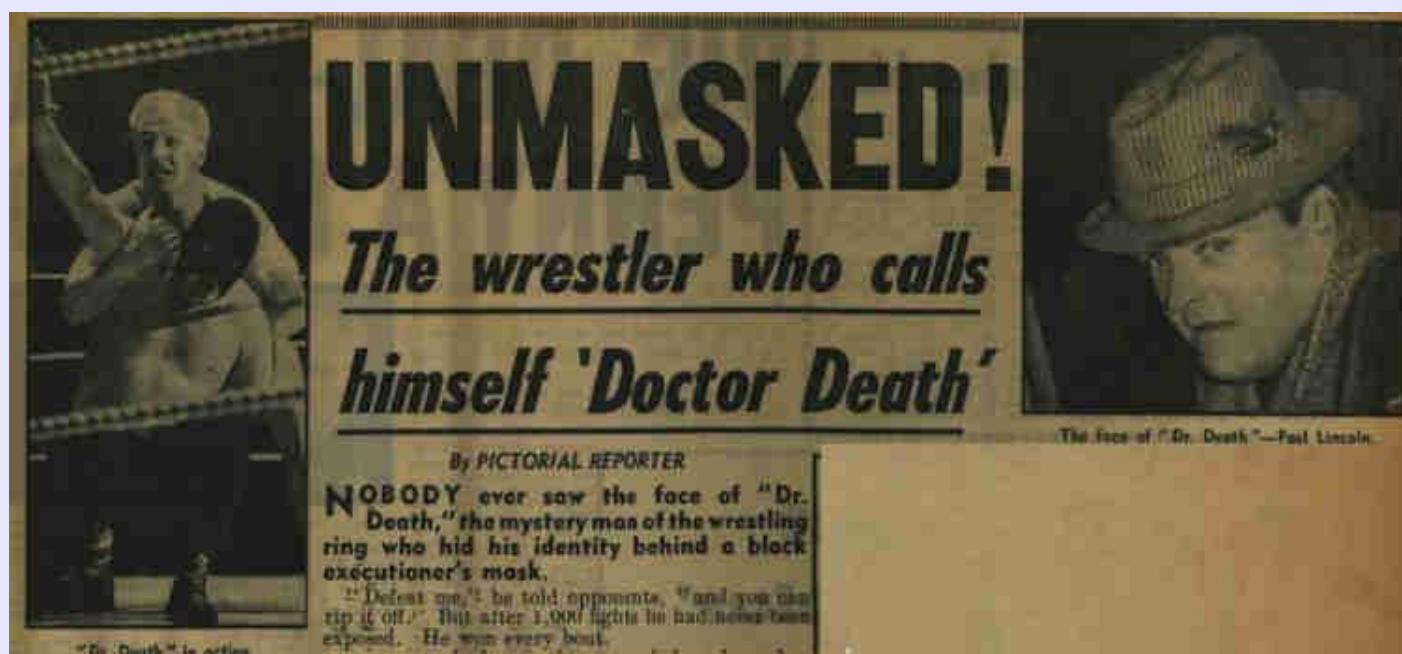
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Yes ANGLO!-I don't Believe ANYTHING a Wrestler tells Me!-Unless I have Corroborative Proof!-That's Why 'Stated' was in Inverted Commas!! With Them-it's all about 'Bigging-Up' The Sort/Game! Here's The Snippet anyway!



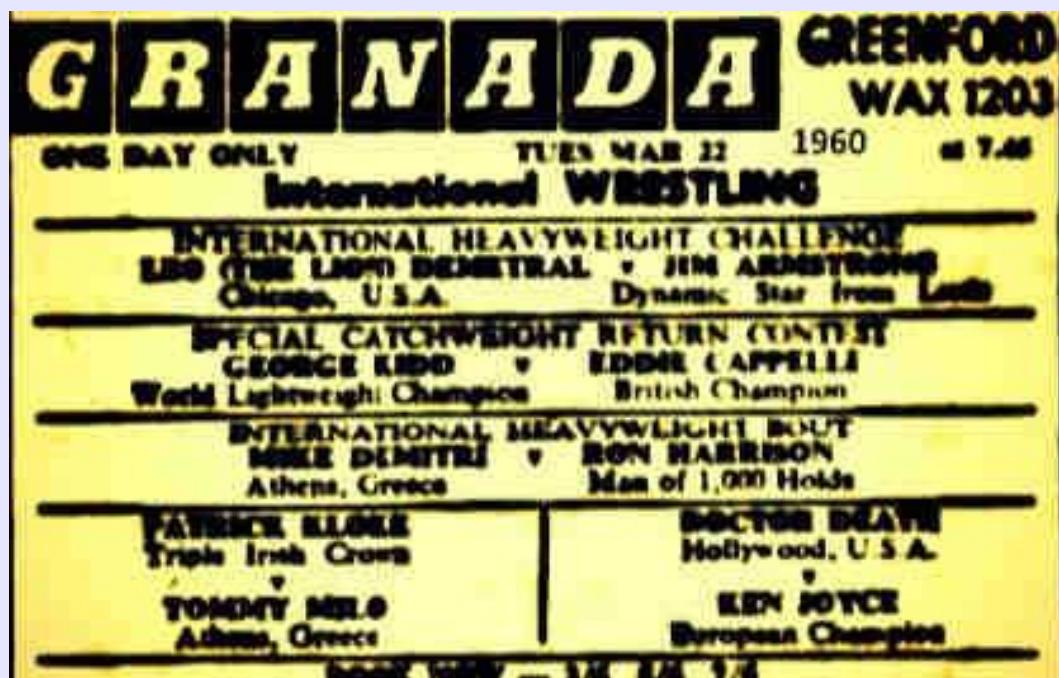
RON HISTORYO....Time Cop

I shall have a look how early I can find Dr Death or a Lincoln show. He was exposed in the papers as early as October 1960.



RON HISTORYO....Time Cop

I think the earliest bill I have is March 22nd 1960 at Greenford.



GRANADA

Greenford



PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING

presented by PAUL LINCOLN

TUES OCT 18 1960

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I've been Deep in The Vault seeking out All My GRANADA Wrestling Programmes!

SO FAR-The Earliest One I've found is for GREENFORD-A Popular LINCOLN

Venue-TUESDAY 18TH 1960!

The METROPOLITAN Started Staging Wrestling Shows circa MAY 1960-So the Chances of LINCOLN Promoting there since the Beginning-in My View-are 95%+

And The BOUTS Page for This Show!..
DOCTOR DEATH vs. JOHNNY PETERS!

TODAY'S PROGRAM

Middleweight Contest
CYRIL KNOWLES v **PETER RANN**
 (British Middleweight Champion)
 eight five minute rounds

Welterweight Contest
VASSILIOUS MANTOPOLOUS v **ED CAPPELLI**
 (Light and Welterweight Champion of Greece)
 (London)
 eight five minute rounds

Special Return Contest—£50 0s. 0d. a side
"DR. DEATH" v **JOHNNY PETERS**
 (Hollywood, California)
 (London)

M.C.: Raymond Miller

Referee: John Harris

Special Referee: Billy Barber

INTERVAL

4. Heavyweight Contest
PROFESSOR ADI WASSER v **PRINCE KUMALI**
 (Tel Aviv—215lb, Zulu Ch)
 ten five minute rounds

5. Heavyweight Contest
"BIG BOY" SCOTT v **ROB TAYLOR**
 (Friends Terror)
 (London, London)

*Thirsty?
 . . . take the
 necessary
 Schweppes*

CYRIL KNOWLES v PETER RANN

Cyril Knowles, the former Leeds paratrooper tonight fights England's 1960 poll winning wrestler Peter Rann, in a bout that should give you action from start to finish.

VASSILIOUS MANTOPOLOUS v ED CAPPELLI

The second bout on this evening's program especially for those fans who appreciate the finer art of wrestling. Vassilious Mantopoulos, the Golden Greek from Athens, who thrilled you all on his first appearance here, tonight fights former British Welterweight Champion from Wimbledon, Ed Cappelli, in a bout that will give you action from start to finish. We are sure you will be impressed by the performance of these two great international stars.

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'Interested in what happened to SHIRLEY though'!....

Well RON!..Here's The Info.I have!....

Towards the End of 1961-CRABTREE was becoming more and more

'Disillusioned' at the seeming 'Lack of Progress and Recognition' in his Career!

It was hard to 'Promote' him as BRITISH HEAVYWEIGHT 'Champion' when

JOINT's BILLY JOYCE was much more Accepted by The Fans!

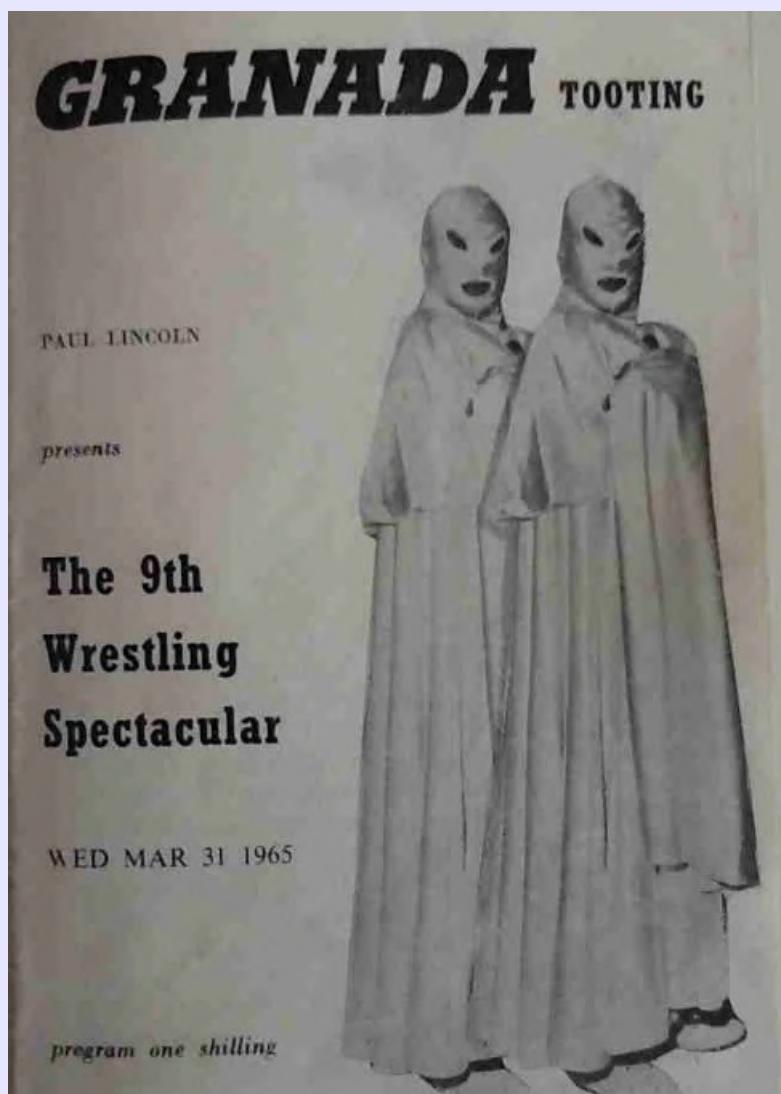
So he LEFT Wrestling for around 4 Years!-In between Periods of Unemployment-
he had Several in his Early Life-he Worked at Various Jobs such as Beach
Lifeguard at BLACKPOOL!

Towards the End of 1964-Announcements began to Appear in Programmes etc.
that SHIRLEY CRABTREE was 'Making a Comeback'!

He went back to PAUL LINCOLN-Who gave him Some Bouts from MARCH 1965!

He was Billed against BILL COVERDALE on LINCOLN'S 9TH Wrestling
Spectacular at TOOTING on MARCH 11TH 1965!

Programme Cover for This Spectacular below!!



The Ost

I think with Shirley it was that he would do a London trip and work for whomever in the "BWA", I can find him working at Round House Dagenham (Not sure this was Lincoln yet) and Caledonian Rd Baths (DeMartino) as well as Ilford Town Hall (Frank Price). This is in the 1960-61 timeframe.

Here's a tidbit that perhaps you folks might be able to turn into something. I have Paul Lincoln wrestling at the Adelphi in West Brom in 1959 - but as Carl Von Braun. Would love to find something in print for that.

Hack

Hold on, I don't think we should rush in to believing these were Lincoln shows. I don't know, none of us do, but we should just pause. Main Mask has produced the 1962 programmes.

But independents came and went like buses, are you reading the Wisbech series?

Two big things happened that must make us question Lincoln's involvement. In 1960 and 1961 two other big independent promoters were on the scene - Kidd/Capelli/D'Orazio and Crabtree/Berry. Look how often the Crabtrees and Kidd appear on these shows. Paul Lincoln himself said Kidd suggested the DD persona to him and that early DD matches were on Kidd shows. They could have been the promoters. At the beginning of 1962 Kidd, Capelli, D'Orazio and Crabtrees packed in and went back to Joint Promotions, leaving the door open for Paul Lincoln to move in. I don't know if that's what happened but it is a possibility.

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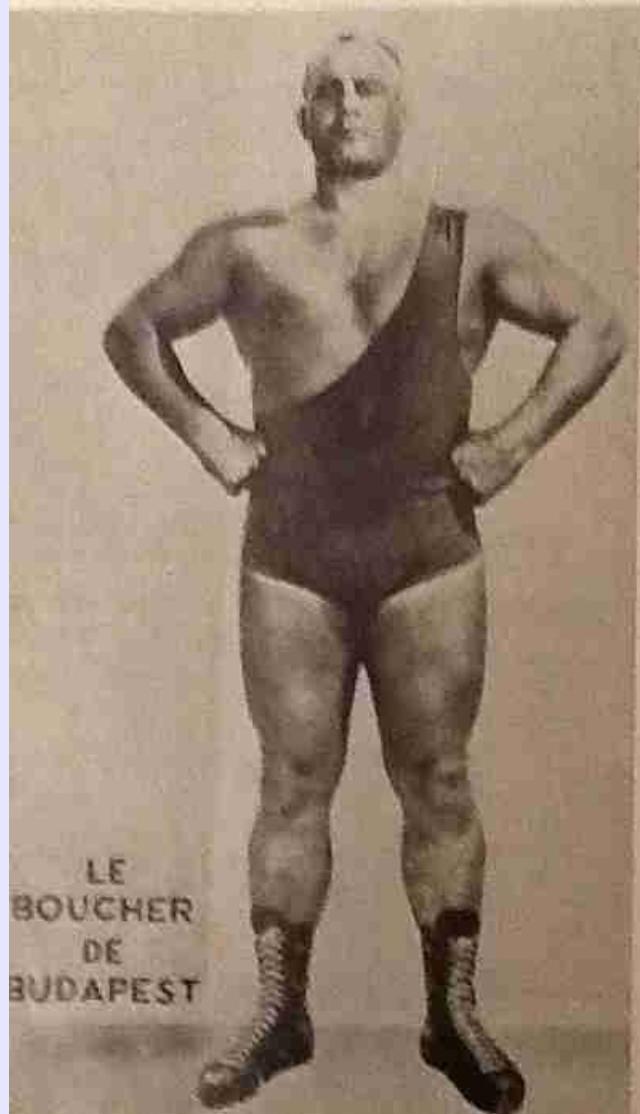
Don't mean to Rain on your Parade **Hack**...BUT...

In DECEMBER 1960- D'ORAZIO-KIDD AND CAPELLI were in Fact
Wrestling for PAUL LINCOLN!!

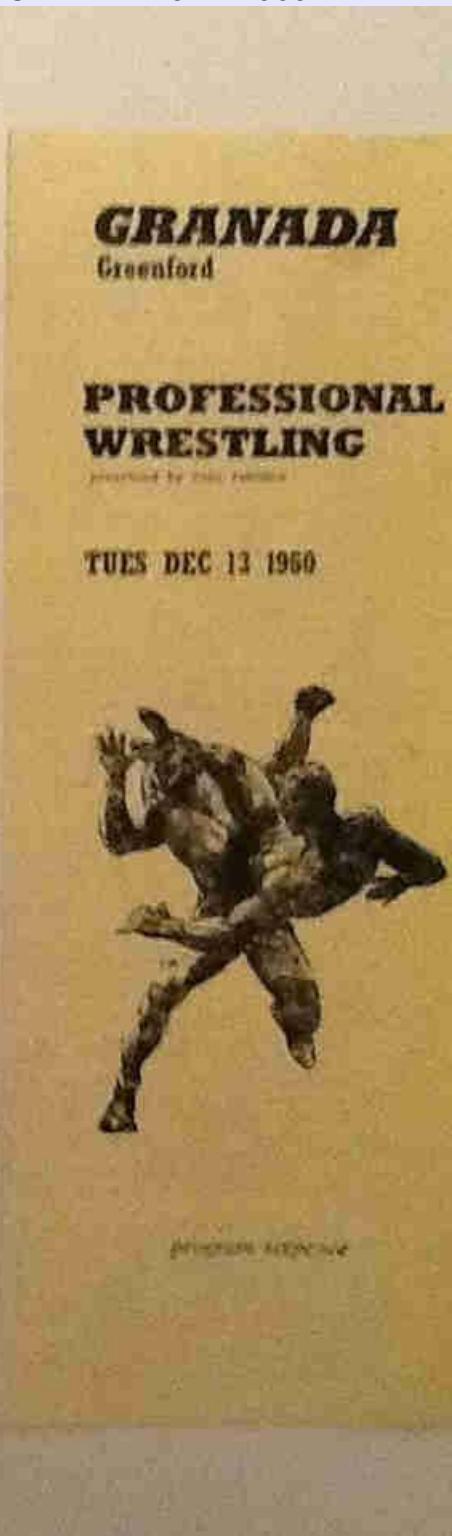
Below Programme for GRANADA GREENFORD!...Bouts Page

TODAY'S PROGRAM			
1. Middleweight Contest JOE DORAZIO (Fond du Lac)	vs. NORMAN THOMAS (Bismarck)	eight five minute rounds	
2. Lightweight Contest AL MIQUET (Winnipeg)	vs. GEORGE KIDD (Official World Lightweight Champion)	ten five minute rounds	
3. International Heavyweight Contest JOSEPH KOVACS (Master of Ceremonies)	vs. DON MENDOZA (Hartford)	eight five minute rounds	
M.C.: Raymond Miller		INTERVAL	
4. Welterweight Contest KEN JOYCE (Winnipeg)	vs. ED CAPPELLI (Winnipeg)	eight five minute rounds	
5. Heavyweight Contest TONY ZALE (Wigan's Bearded Wonder)	vs. BOB TAYLOR (Lewisham, London)	ten five minute rounds	
Referee: Billy Barber			

Programme Cover for Above Show-TUESDAY DECEMBER 13TH 1960!



JOSEPH KOVACS



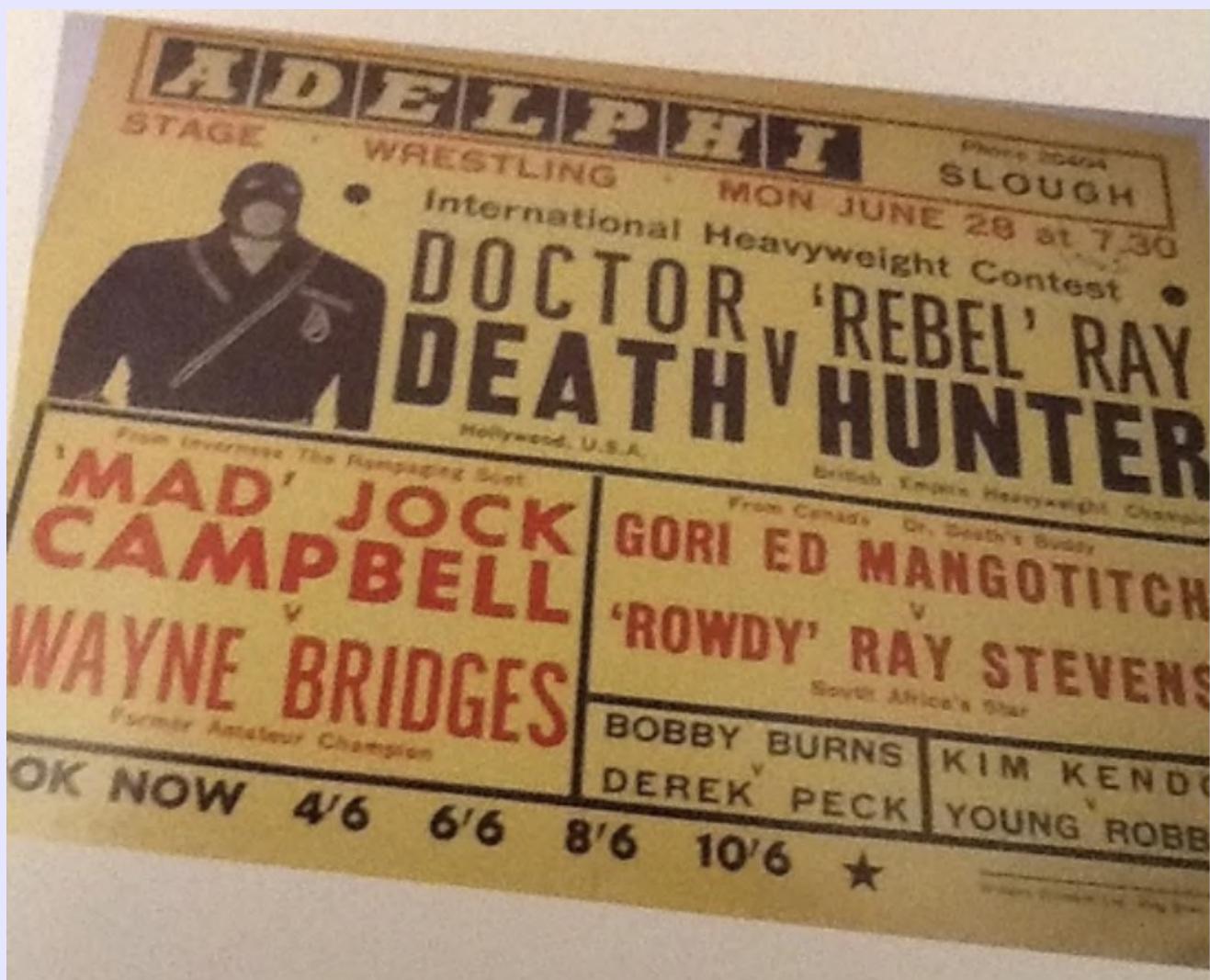
The Ost

Hack, I agree that not everything might be Lincoln's own promotion. Especially 1959-60. That's why I said the bills i've seen have the "Lincoln look". Also I'm not certain he was running Adelphi West Brom as I haven't found any printed material yet, just results. But I do have something from Adelphi Slough.

That's why any stuff MM or anyone else can share helps a lot. I will dig out the 1959 items again when I can, I think I first posted them a couple of years ago.

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Hey OSTY!-Here's DOCTOR DEATH Taking-On his Best Chum-RAY HUNTER..
at ADELPHI SLOUGH!!



RING PROMOTIONS (LONDON) LTD.
PROUDLY PRESENT

ALL STAR • WRESTLING •

BATHS ASSEMBLY HALL
Pinfold, Bloxwich, Walsall

THURSDAY, 22nd JANUARY 1959

Doors Open 6.45 Commence 7.45

6 x 10 Minute Rounds 2 Falls, Subs or K.O.

Heavyweight Bout

DARA SINGH v MILO POPOCOPOLIS

Heavyweight Champion of India Athens The Golden Greek
Official Nutkin-E-Mind. Durat Heavyweight Champion of Greece.
since 1953 World Class.

6 Feet 4 inches — 17 Stone.

8 x 3 Minute Rounds 2 Falls, Subs or K.O.

Lightweight Rubber Contest RASCHID ANWAR

PAT KELLY Indian Middleweight Star
London Irish Wizard

ANTONY CORDEZ SPLIT WATERMAN

Anglo-Spanish Star Birmingham

8 x 3 Minute Rounds 2 Falls, Subs or K.O.

Middleweight Clash

CARL VON BRAUN v PETER RANN

HAMBURG LONDON
The Rough and Tough German A Favourite with everybody.

Prices of Admission: 6/-, 4/- (2/- Unreserved 100 only)
BOOKABLE AT HALL — BLOXWICH 76195

RON HISTORYO....Time Cop

The Ost mentions Carl Von Braun was Lincoln.
Here we are 1959 and a clue RING
PROMOTIONS LONDON

RING PROMOTIONS (LONDON) LTD. Proudly present

ALL STAR WRESTLING

BATHS ASSEMBLY HALL, BLOXWICH

THURSDAY, 12th FEBRUARY 1959

DOORS OPEN 6.45 COMMENCE 7.45

8 x 3 Minute Rounds THRILLS—SPILLS Best of 3 Falls

TAG MATCH

Eddie Capelli and Van der Burg
(LONDON) (SOUTH AFRICA)

v

Carl Von Braun and Ken Shaw
(HAMBURG) (LONDON)

TAG MATCH

6 x 10 Minute Rounds 2 Falls, Subs or K.O.

The Black Panther v Charlie (Smasher) Green
(TRINIDAD) (WIGAN)

AND TWO SUPPORTING CONTESTS

Prices of Admission: 6/-, 4/- (2/- Standing 100 only)
BOOKABLE AT HALL — BLOXWICH 76195

and 1958.

WRESTLING
BATHS ASSEMBLY HALL, BLOXWICH

Thursday, December 11th 1958

Doors open 6.45 p.m. Commence 7.45 p.m.

SIX OUTSTANDING CONTESTS

GRAND INTERNATIONAL K.O. TOURNAMENT

Preliminary Semi-Finals and Final £25 for the winner

CARLTON SMITH

VON BRAUN
(Germany)
The roughest at his weight

JOHN HALL
(Harley)
Loves a fight

BILL O'DEN
(Manchester)
The Stumbling Block

GEORGE GOLDIE
(Stoke)
Midland Champion
Prices of Admission: 6/-, 4/- (2/- Standing 100 only)
Bookable at Hall, Bloxwich 76195

Barnsley's
No 1 Challenger

EDDIE CAPELLI
(London)
British Welterweight Champion

JOSE SANTOS
(Spain)
The Best Welterweight in Europe
£25 FOR THE WINNER

So we have Von Braun, late 1958 and going into 1959.

Just when I was starting to suspect we can't find the Doc before 1960, I have finally done it.

The Curzon was in Liverpool and note Cappelli and even Carlton Smith,

Kidd and Danny Flynn were also promoters.

Are we near the start of Doctor Death and not on his own promotion.

CURZON THEATRE Old Swan

Telephone: STO 2281 1959

MONDAY 28th SEPT. 7.30 p.m.

DOORS OPEN 6.30 P.M.

INTERNATIONAL WRESTLING

JO JO GRANT v TONY RENALDO

CARLTON-SMITH v ED CAPPELLI

GEORGE KIDD v DANNY FLYNN

DOCTOR DEATH v PATRICK KLOKE

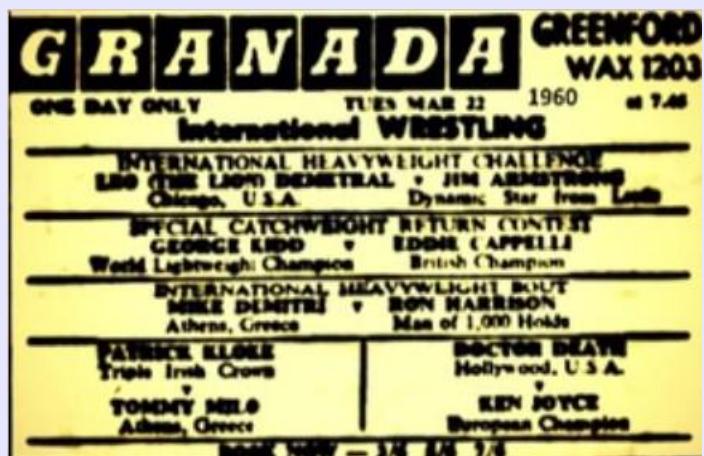
BOOKING OFFICE NOW OPEN

I would suggest that The Doctor Death fame spread like mad in mid 1960 and it led to the newspaper exposure in October.

The bill I put on at Greenford in March 1960 contains possibly something that we may never have talked of or seen before.

Could it be at this stage that a big run for the Doctor had not been thought of.

The newspapers reveal that he lost this bout to Ken Joyce who kicked him out of the ring, I assume a K.O. Was this swept under the carpet?



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All VERY Interesting Stuff RON!-See Above for My DOCTOR DEATH Snippet where he Claims 2006 Bouts Fought WITH ONLY TWO DEFEATS?! He Claimed Referee 'Bias' for these 2 Losses-so maybe in the JOYCE Match. The REF Counted to 10 Mega-Fast?-We don't know if he had to Unmask after this Loss either do We?-He could have Legged it to the Dressing Room?!

It's the High-Profile MASK vs MASK Contests where a Loser Unmasks is Mandatory usually-but as We know 'Rules' varied and had somewhat 'Nebulous' Requirements!

Anglo Italian

Oh for a Time Machine to go back and see what was going on!

Doctor Death flitted about the weights in terms of opponents: Joyce, Capelli ... to Ray Hunter and Don Steadman. Seems to have avoided the extremes of Kidd and Bruno, though.

It seems that he wrestled lighter weights until spring 1960, and perceived that he had to stay down the bill, as heavies like Demetral "had to" go top. He got himself top of the bill by taking on heavyweights. I wonder if this coincided with a (deliberate) rapid weight rise?

Good point, Ron, that Lincoln probably did not envisage the success of Dr Death, billing him at the bottom even as late as March 1960. Your newspaper snippet is from October so maybe he went whoosh that summer? Sloppy writing to claim undefeated meant he won every bout. But I love the trilby photo. So furtive.

DEFEAT FOR THE DOCTOR

The masked Doctor Death, a favourite on American T.V., relies on one hold to beat his opponent. "It is a vice-like grip" he said "which I call the death hold. I use it on my opponent when he is in a weakened condition. I dig my fingers into his neck in such a way that it stops the flow of blood to the brain. It's most effective, you know . . ."

But it had no effect on Ken Joyce. He beat the Doctor by kicking him out of the ring.

williamr

Absolutely first class Ron. Very enjoyable indeed. Thanks.

Hack

adrianpollard.shangri-la:

"Big Task that ANGLO!-In Early 1962-DOCTOR DEATH 'Stated' that he had Fought 2006 Matches!!"

Forget the pinch of salt, fetch on the pound size packet of SAXA. We know we can't believe a word of what we read or were told, and this is obviously utter nonsense.

If Dr Death had fought 2006 matches by early 1962 he would have had to wrestle three times a day, every day of the year since the beginning of 1960.

RON HISTORYO....Time Cop

I think Paul Lincoln might have had 2000 matches in ten years.

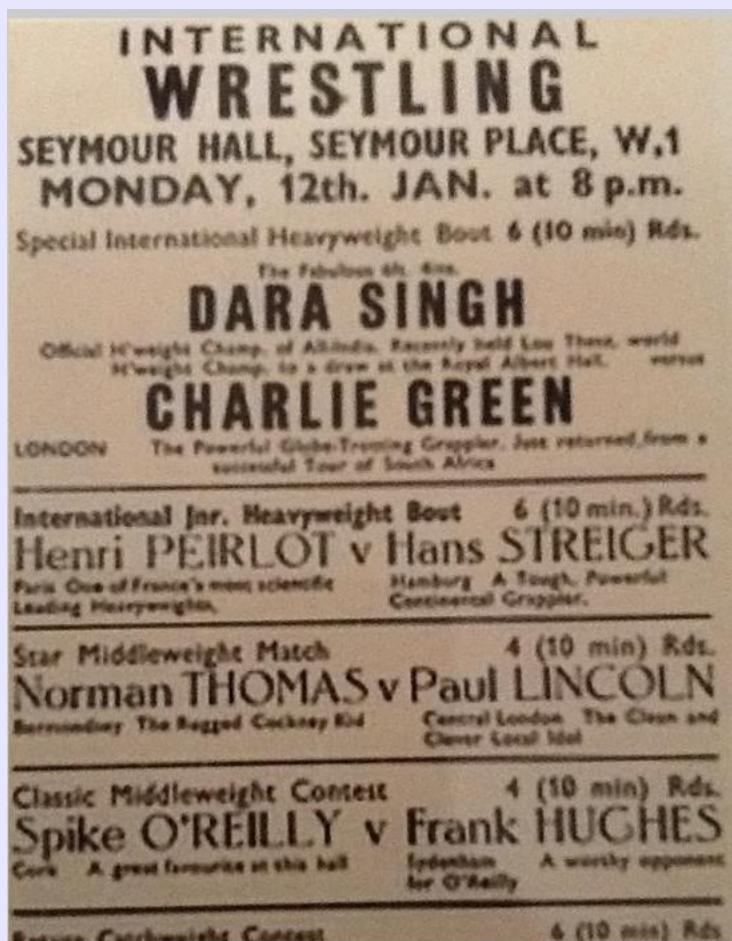
I also now think that he did not have his own promotion when Dr Death was invented.

I also think he must have started in 1959 as the papers would be picking him up like I did with Von Braun which I had no idea about so many thanks to Ost and would love to know how he knows this.

Finding the Doc being beaten by Ken Joyce for me is massive.

Remember I proved that Portz beat Kendo in Stampede in order for Nagasaki to give the belt back to come home.

Always these things are kept quiet.



Going back to the Metropolitan, I do feel a bit unsure if Lincoln was the promoter right in the middle of 1960. It could be an illusion as so many of his mates were not there then but soon were to join him. But did he need those mates to actually take over the Metropolitan, did he need their financial back up.

There is time yet for someone to come up with some extra angles to untangle this.

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Well RON-I Believe DOCTOR DEATH began in 1959! However just to 'Stir the Mix' further AND to Cross Threads somewhat-PAUL LINCOLN was still Wrestling as Himself in MARCH 1959!!....

SEYMOUR HALL!!

A Show from MONDAY 12TH JANUARY!
GEORGE KIDD also on this Bill too!!-against PAT KLOKE!

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And a Show at SEYMOUR HALL on MONDAY MARCH 9TH!

EDDIE CAPELLI on this Bill too against KEN JOYCE!!



Hack

2,000 in ten years sound more like it Ron, but not as Dr Death. He arrived in England in 1952. I find him first working for the opposition in March, 1958, not necessarily one of his own shows. As Main Mask has shown he continued using the Paul Lincoln name when he first went across. That Liverpool bill of Ron's seems the earliest evidenced sighting so far. Ray has the Doctor two weeks earlier, Hull (12th), with Kidd, Capelli and D'Orazio on the bill. Remember I said Lincoln credited Kidd with the DD idea and that his earliest masked appearances were on Matsport (Kidd, Capelli, D'Orazio). I don't think we can rule out Matsport as promoters at the Metropolitan.

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Here's another very interesting Item-PAUL LINCOLN Wrestling for DALE MARTIN in SEPTEMBER 1957!!

++ RAY HUNTER on the Same Show++ KEN JOYCE!

NOTE-Interesting Info. at the foot of the Programme regarding...HARRINGAY ARENA!!

WRESTLING

It's A Dale-Martin Promotion

PROGRAMME



TOWN HALL, HIGH WYCOMBE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th, 1957

No. 021

A Welterweight Contest	Four 10min. rd's. Two falls, sub. or K.O.
FALL TED HANNAN Dundee	DRAW FALL PETER RANN London
A Light-heavyweight Contest	Four 10min. rd's. Two falls, sub. or K.O.
SUB PAUL LINCOLN Sydney, Australia	V SPENCER CHURCHILL London
Grand Catchweight Contest	Four 10min. rd's. Two falls, sub. or K.O.
KO CHIC PURVEY Dundee. Scottish Champion	V SUB KEN JOYCE Canada
Tonight's Main Contest	
SUB WELL RAY HUNTER Hobart, Tasmania	Six 10min. rd's. Two falls sub. or K.O. SUB MILO POPOCOPOLIS V Junior Heavyweight Champion of Greece

Ref: Stan Stone

M.C.: George Lawson-Peske

PLEASE NOTE
HARRINGAY ARENA (London)
Dale Martin Promotions Ltd. and Norman Morrell and Ted Beresford Promotions
Present
ALL STAR INTERNATIONAL WRESTLING ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th, at 7.45 p.m.
Tickets obtainable from the Arena, phone STA 8221 or from 62a, Piccadilly, London, phone HYD 2851
11,000 Seats between 3/6 and 30.
TICKETS NOW ON SALE

RON HISTORYO....Time Cop

July 9th was for sure when the Metropolitan started. I have found a feature. It did not say who the promoter was and the article pushed two wrestlers in particular with statements. George Kidd had a big part in the feature and the other was Cyril Peters. Kidd then was on the 9th and 16th July shows Capelli was on the next two shows. Cyril Peters was on once in July and again in August (I take it he is Cyril Knowles) Dr Death was on the third show.

bjh99

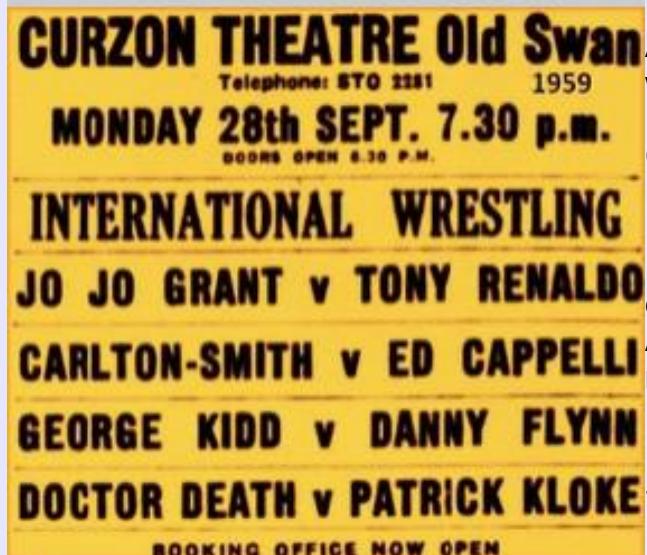
Hi Ron, I think that your idea on Cyril Peters was right. At Newcastle he was normally billed as Knowles Peters.

The Ost

I have a handbill from the Curzon from this timeframe with Doctor Death on it. I think when I first posted, it was suggested DD might have been Buddy Ward. But now it looks like it might have been Lincoln. I'll dig it out again when I get a chance.

The Ost

The Carl Von Braun tip came from Jim Craig. I thought it must have been important enough to have been noted on an otherwise run-of-the-mill independent card.



RON HISTORYO....Time Cop

And if we look again at the earliest Dr Death Bill. Here we go again the initial Metropolitan regulars are here.

George Kidd and Eddie Capelli are here up north in Liverpool.

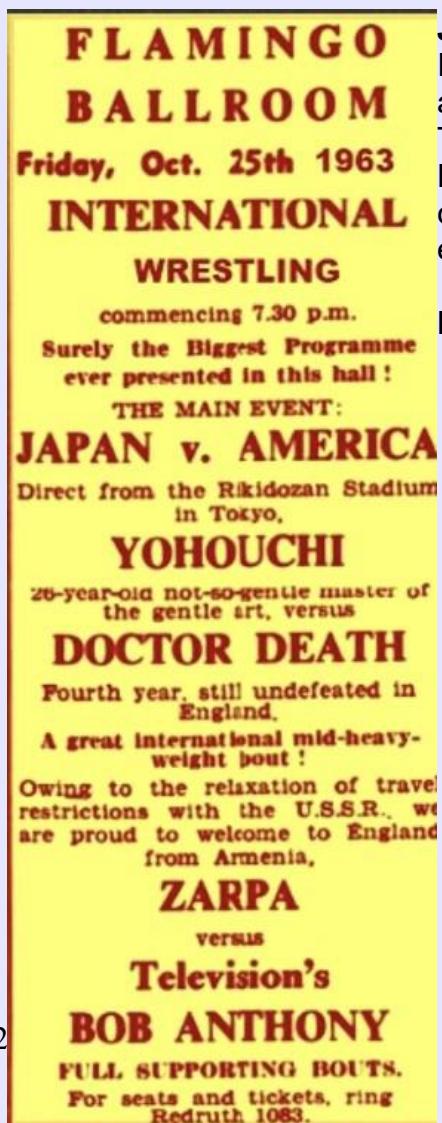
It is as though whoever promoted this show went on to open up the Metropolitan.

And it leads me again to think that maybe Shirley did not work for Lincoln and so went missing from the Metropolitan after Lincoln took over.

Speculation of course.

The Ost

The 1959 programme I have from this venue is presented by "World Sports Promotions".



James Morton

I think we are forgetting Lincoln's other life as a jazz promoter arranging cross-channel ferries and riverboat trips and running the Two IIs. As for seeking finance from his friends he, Hunter and Hayes and, I think, Bob Anthony owned the Cromwellian gambling club at which Wayne Bridges worked. Which came first chicken or egg?

RON HISTORYO....Time Cop

A new management in this field, Paul Lincoln Managements, has risen in just over two years and now presents over a hundred wrestling shows each month throughout the country in Granada, Rank and Essoldo Cinemas, as well as independent cinemas, theatres and corporation halls. March 1963

Got a few other things on Lincoln. Although we don't normally take much notice of info on bills, I have one that seems to be bang on. 1963 and four years as Doctor Death. His company it seems was started early in 1961.

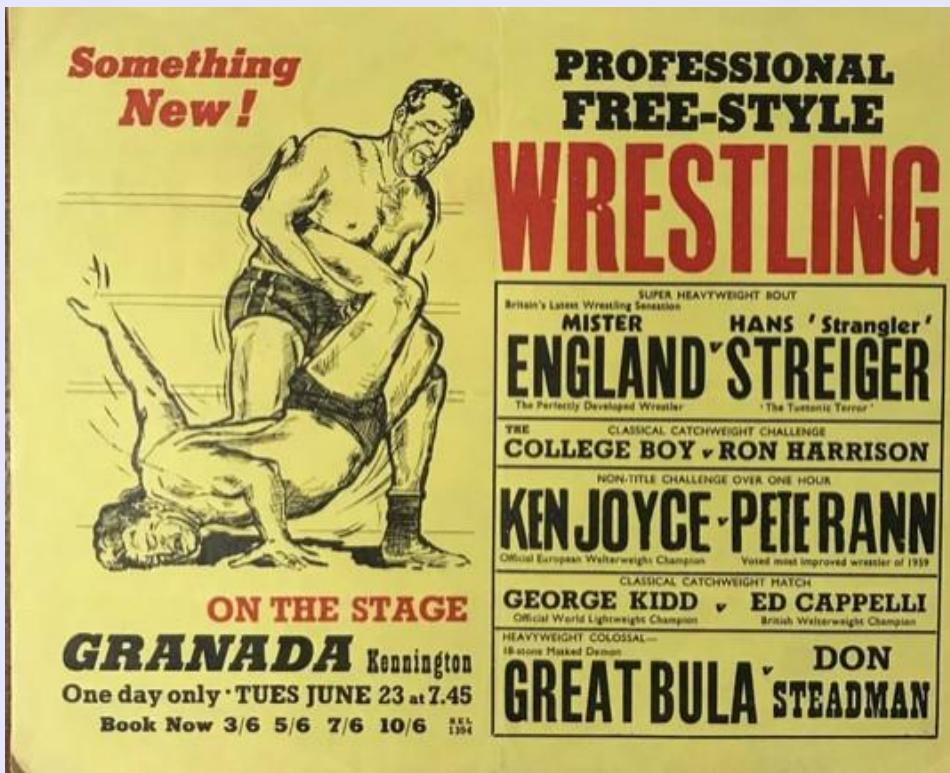


The Ost

In 1961, Lincoln also presented shows at the Granada Dartford & Granada Kennington. I don't have much from either location.

The Ost

Two handbills from 1959. They look very similar, but only one mentions Paul Lincoln:



The Ost

Also, here's the August 13, 1960 handbill I mentioned previously. Having looked through Ron's 1960 gallery there are quite a few earlier cards. But you can see Lincoln's name is used:

TODAY'S PROGRAM	
1. Lightweight Contest	eight five minute rounds
JON CORTEZ (Anglo-Spanish)	v. CHIC LINTON (Scotland)
2. Catchweight Contest	ten five minute rounds
CYRIL KNOWLES	v. KEN JOYCE (European Welterweight Champion)
INTERVAL	
M.C. Gag Gathering	
<small>1. The public may leave at the end of the performance or exhibition for all acts shown but must return before the start time to open. 2. All refreshments, cocktails, cigarettes and similar products may be sold at the entrance free from commission whatever percentage or remuneration. 3. Refreshments shall not be permitted to stand in any of the entrance areas, the platform or the backstage areas, or in or on any of the outer passages. It shall be permitted to stand in one of the entrance areas, the platform or the backstage areas, or in or on any of the outer passages. It shall be limited to the number indicated in the license issued in those premises. 4. Sales Clerks must be removed and cleared of the premises at the close of the entertainment. 5. The grant by the London County Council of a wrestling entertainment license in no way indicates that the Council approves or approves of any particular entertainment to be given at the premises.</small>	

TODAY'S PROGRAM	
3. Heavyweight Contest	ten five minute rounds
MILIO (Athens, Greece)	v. DON STEADMAN (Bermudian, London)
4. Welterweight Contest	eight five minute rounds
PAT KLOKE (Dublin)	v. ED CAPPELLI (British Welterweight Champion)
Referee: Billy Barber	

Thirsty?
... take the necessary
Schweppes

JON CORTEZ v. CHIC LINTON

Chic Linton, the well-known Scottish ring personality, makes his debut tonight as a wrestler in our ring. Chic has also been seen as a very efficient third man at many big events around London and is probably better known as a referee. However, his wrestling ability is by no means the lesser of his opponent tonight—that handsome young star from Lewisham—the Anglo-Spanish wonder boy, Jon Cortez.

METROPOLITAN
EDGWARE ROAD
PROFESSIONAL
WRESTLING
presented by RAY LINCOLN

SAT AUG 13 1960

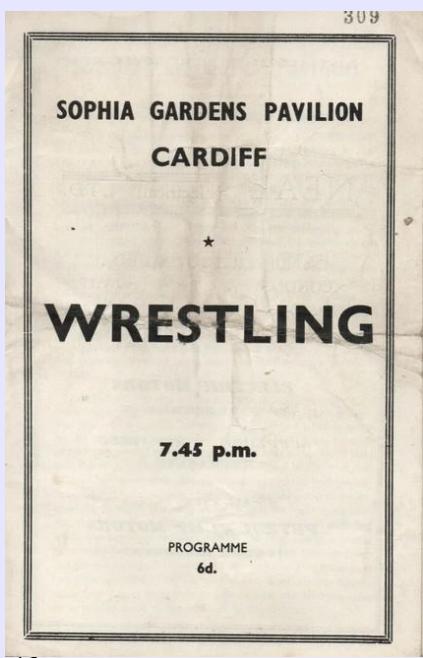


program slipprice

Cover show
British Welterweight Champion
Ed Cappelli

RON HISTORYO....Time Cop

You have probably cracked it Ost. The bill above is the sixth show since the opening so it looks open and shut. He could of course have had partners, but I concede he must have been there to start it all at the Metropolitan. He gained real momentum that year.



RON HISTORYO....Time Cop

You have probably cracked it

Yep, as that was the only the sixth show Ron tells us it looks like Lincoln was in at the start. From what I've heard there was good co-operation between Lincoln, Kidd et al, and DeMarto, so he may have had help but looks like this was Lincoln from the start.

Picking up on James comment. I'd always believed Lincoln left Joint and started up in opposition just because he was fed up with the way he and others were treated. That could have been the case but looking at newspapers for 1957/8 mentions of Paul Lincoln are mostly regarding his musical connections. One says he is an "ex wrestler." Maybe his motivation for leaving Joint was that music was more important at the time and once he'd set up that business he returned to wrestling as an independent. Just a thought that the transition to the opposition may not have been quite as simple as previously thought.

RON HISTORYO....Time Cop

Yes, I think because he was in the world of entertainment he came to the conclusion that there was a place in it for wrestling. There was money to be made.

We have pushed on and learned more about Doctor Death than ever before. Probably no earlier than summer 1959 (end of summer even) and pretty much finished into 1966.

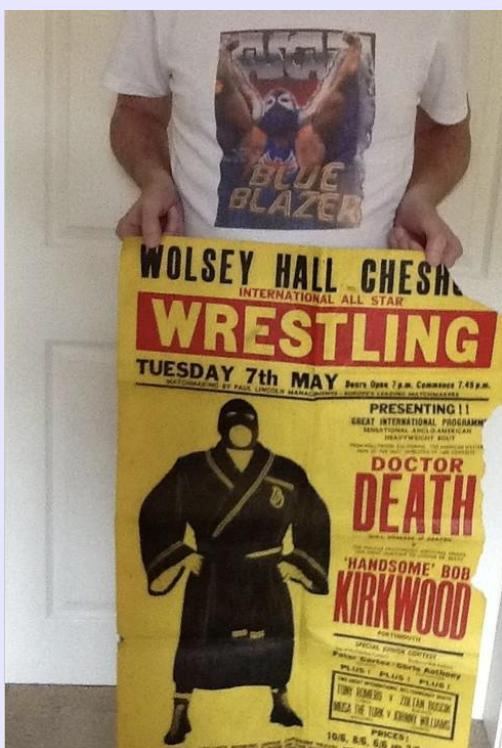
I often wondered what all the fuss was about but he clearly enchanted many, some so much so that his shows were wrestling at it's best and not Dale Martins.

I have about 20,000 bills collected now, some great collections and it's been a very good year for new stuff. The Metropolitan stands out as almost definitive with only an odd bill missing.

What worked really well for Lincoln is that the timing was "Peak Golden Age"

adrianpollard.shangri-la

Incidentally RON-in a long Chat at the 2019 KENT Reunion-BOB KIRKWOOD. He told Me that PAUL LINCOLN went back Home to AUSTRALIA around SEPTEMBER 1966-for at least 2 Years!-DD was by now-after the 'Merger' with JOINT- a Millionaire, leastways on paper anyway!-He also said that LINCOLN 'Saved his Life-meaning his Career-by Taking him onboard into his Stable'!!-In My View he's the Best Wrestler left from Whom We can find out much more!-My Friend TONY CASSIO's Daughter knows him Well!-His Time is taken up looking after his Wife Who is Poorly!!



RON HISTORYO....Time Cop

Yes MM, Bob had a decent career. A smaller roster works well for some. Here is a bit of fun.....Doctor Death met Bartelli.

TOWER THEATRE, New Brighton (phone Wallasey 276).—Free Style Wrestling.
Saturday, 18th July, at 7.30 p.m.; prices 5/- to 2/6: COUNT BARTELLI v. PAUL LINCOLN, FARMER JON ALLEN v. AMEDI PETERS; MYSTERY MATCH (the identity of these wrestlers will be revealed only when they step into the ring); BIG BILL BENNY v. DAVE ARMSTRONG.
18th July 1953

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First Time I've seen THAT Match RON!-I was thinking that when DD 'Stated' that he'd had 2006 Bouts-whether he actually meant in his WHOLE Career to date-including OUTSIDE of DOCTOR DEATH too?-So then 'til 1962-when this 'Quote' Appeared-THAT would make ANGLO's '10 Years'??-Of course the 'Reader' is LED to Believe 2006 Applies to DOCTOR DEATH Alone!!-Just a Notion!

By the way-BOB KIRKWOOD-What a Really Nice Guy!!

Anglo Italian

And Bob is Robert. Bob only for wrestling. Funny old world.
What a magnificent dressing gown the Doctor had.

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Yes!-ANGLO...AND He also wore a Really Cool-for the Times-Splendid COACHMAN's CLOAK on his way to The Ring!-I Believe it was a Deep Dark BROWN in Colour!-Like the Monogrammed Dressing Gown-obviously made Specially for him!!

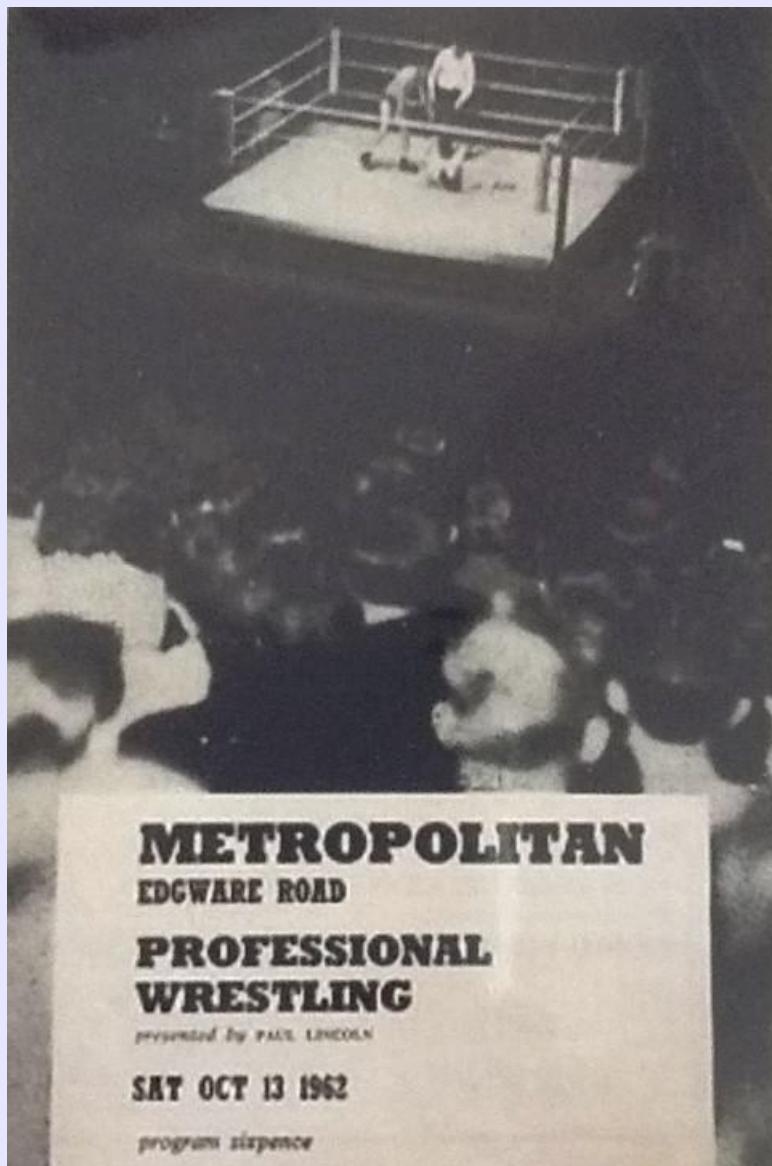
**The Ost**

I noticed that on the July 29, 1961 bill, Doctor Death claims to be undefeated in 1,000 contests. MM you'll have to count another 1,006 from there on.

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Hey RON!-Here's a Bonus for your Files!-INSIDE The METROPOLITAN...

Ring/Crowd Photo-1962!!



RON HISTORYO....Time Cop

Agree, a very special piece of history and maybe this thread is another example of one that could sit in the archives here for future reference.

Tons of content and contributions.

Anglo Italian

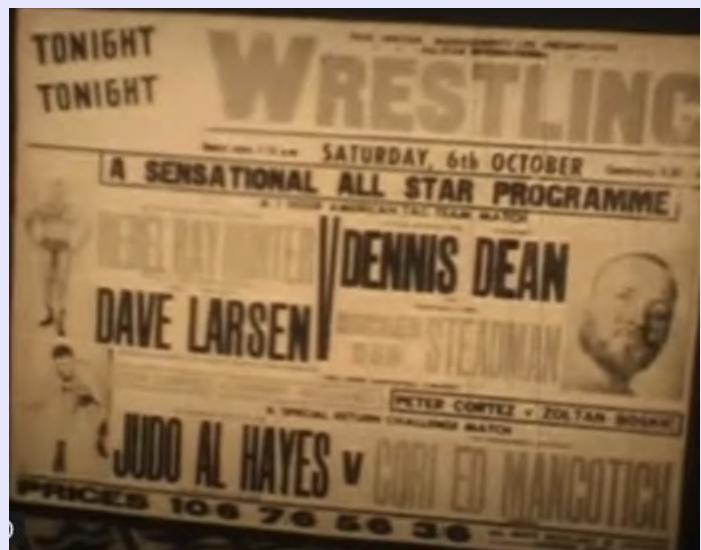
What about film of the unmasked Doctor Death?

What about a full 1962 PLM bill on video:

complete with Zollie taking his idiosyncratic thows on his feet.

The show is the one featured on The Wrestling Game.

The one fly in the ointment is that it is not The Met but the ABC Harrow. Nevertheless, with the usual Lincoln names and an enthusiastic packed house, we can imagine the same atmosphere at The Met.



10/6.