

Lugosi Béla

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Associated Press

Remember Dracula?

Former actor Bela Lugosi, 71, famed for his horror roles, is shown in Los Angeles at a hearing at which he was committed to a state hospital for treatment as a chronic user of narcotics for sedation. He said he had been using a drug for medication purposes over a period of years. Lugosi's most famous role was in "Dracula."

Lugosi Hearing Set on Drug Use

LOS ANGELES, April 22 (AP).—Bela Lugosi, who won fame in the role of "Dracula" on the stage and screen, was scheduled for a hearing today in Psychopathic Court on his application for commitment to a State hospital.

The 71-year-old Hungarian actor, who ranked with Boris Karloff as the foremost purveyor of horror in movies, voluntarily signed himself into Los Angeles General Hospital yesterday as a drug user.

Psychiatrists at the hospital said Mr. Lugosi is not a narcotic addict, however, and that he has been using a narcotic off and on over a period of perhaps 20 years as medication.

Mr. Lugosi, if his papers are approved today, can be admitted to a State hospital, ostensibly for the purpose of breaking the drug habit. A mental hygiene counselor at General Hospital said, however, the former actor told him he had not followed his profession for years and that the private sanitarium where he had been informed that he should go to the county institution for free help.

Mr. Lugosi began his movie career in Hollywood in 1931.

One television station showed him in the hospital room, a toothless, wizened old man ("72 yrs old") and "penniless."