

What is a *luchador*?

The modern tradition of the masked luchador was begun in Mexico by El Santo - the Man in the Silver Mask.

He was a wrestler who resurrected the ancient Aztec tradition of the mask and assumed a new identity.

"El Santo" was not a fictional character he played - it was his new real-life identity.



Santo, Blue Demon, and Mil Mascaras are regarded as *The Big 3* of the tradition



Blue Demon



Mil Mascaras

The most fascinating aspect of the tradition is that the luchador wears his mask all the time in public. It becomes his new identity:

"When a luchador chooses to give up his own identity and adopt a mask he will begin to see how much of his previous life was driven by selfish interests [such as] trying to earn the respect of others instead of just doing what's right."

- Mil Mascaras



El Santo

Santo became a legend. When he died in 1984, tens of thousands of people filled the streets to mourn his passing.



Santo was buried in his silver mask and cape.

Statues were erected in his honor throughout Mexico.

When Blue Demon died in 2000, he was honored with his picture on the Twenty Pesos note.

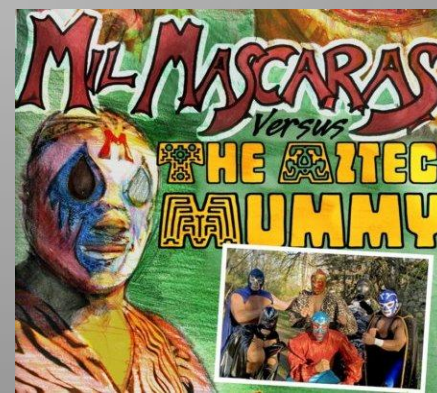
Like Santo, Blue Demon's iconic mask was passed to his son, Blue Demon Jr.



*Blue Demon Jr arrives at the National Assembly Hall for President Calderon's State of the Nation address in Mexico City.
(Wall Street Journal / Associated Press)*

(The photo to the left shows Blue Demon Jr at a state function.)

The sons of Santo and Blue Demon appeared with Mil Mascaras in the film "Mil Mascaras vs. the Aztec Mummy" in 2008.



It is important to understand that luchadores such as Santo, Mil Mascaras, and Blue Demon always wear their masks.

Their masks represent their true identities.



"[*On Mexican culture*] ...the most fascinating is the enduring role of the mask. Masks were part of Mexican life for centuries before the arrival of the first European. Any good correspondent must try to understand the role played in the Mexican imagination by such characters as El Santo and Mil Mascaras."

From the keynote address by famed journalist Pete Hamill at the *Images of Mexico in the US Media Symposium*, Feb. 2000.

Lucha Films

Santo, Mil Mascaras, and Blue Demon starred together or separately in over 80 films.



These films acquired a huge international cult following because of their surreal sensibilities.

Lucha Films

The appeal of the lucha film is that it stars super-hero characters *who actually exist*.

The typical plot of a lucha film may seem absurd by conventional standards, but it is produced as serious cinema.

Some featured prominent Hollywood actors such as John Carradine.



Lucha Films

Kids in Mexico develop great affection for lucha films because they grow up watching them. As they get older, however, they sometimes come to believe that the genre is second-rate because it is ignored by Hollywood.



Outside of Mexico, film aficionados often regard lucha films as being more interesting and entertaining than Hollywood superhero films.

Who is Mil Mascaras?

Mil Mascaras - *the Man of a Thousand Masks* - is the last of the Big 3.

He is a scholar, wrestler, and accomplished artist.



Mil Mascaras revolutionized the tradition with his many mask designs.

He is an international star and has served as Mexico's most famous cultural ambassador.



Mil Mascaras - Cultural Icon

Mil Mascaras was a red-carpet special guest at the 2007 Imagen Awards (analogous to the NAACP image awards) ceremony at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, CA.



Although he comes from Mexico, his iconic status is not limited to the Hispanic community and Spanish-speaking countries. This can be seen from the following slide showing a poster for the 2000 Chiller Convention & Expo at which Mil was a special guest.

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TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets are available at the door for
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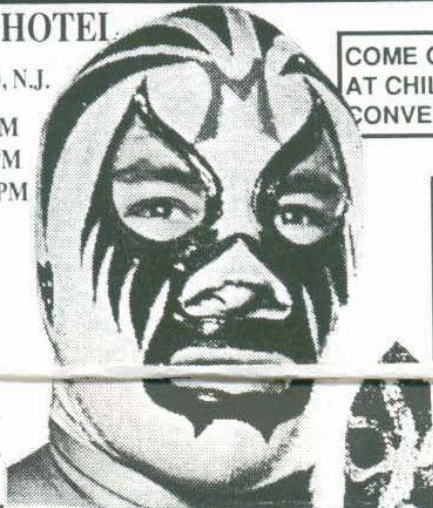
RUTHERFORD, NJ 07070

(Advance ticket orders must be received by 10/1/2000)

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Call (201) 896-0500 for reservations and
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Mexican Wrestling Legend

Mil Mascaras

Mexican Wrestling Legend

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Star Trek's "Scotty"

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Rob Zombie

"ONE OF MY FAVORITE CONVENTIONS TO
ATTEND IN THE WORLD, YES INDEED!!!"

Jonathan Harris

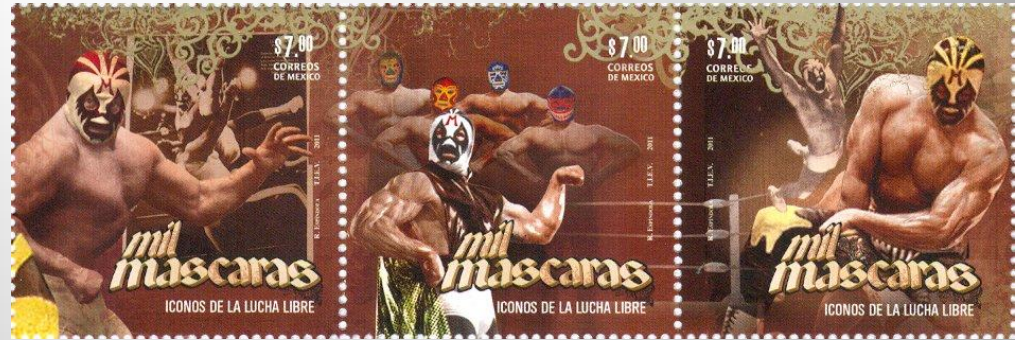
"THE BEST RUN CONVENTION OF IT'S KIND"

Note that Mil is
featured in the
photo and is
credited (with
the son of El
Santo) above
Scotty from
Star Trek, Billy
Dee Williams
from Star Wars,
and Oscar-
winner Patricia
Neal.

This shows how
significant the
"cool" factor of
lucha is and the
organizers' view
of its appeal to a
large audience.

Recent News

Mexico recently honored Mil Mascaras with three postage stamps bearing images from his legendary career.

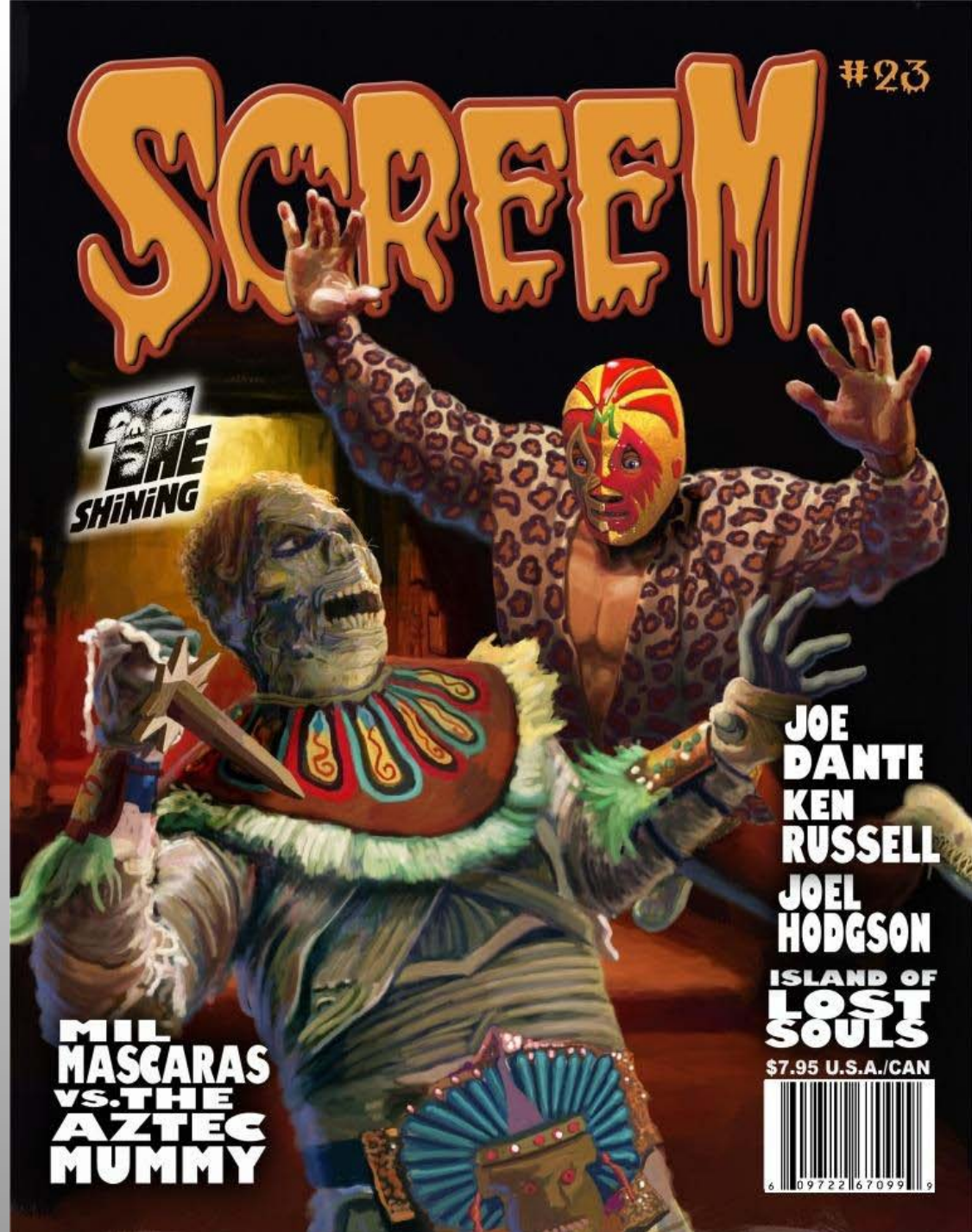


No living person has ever received such an honor.

Mil Mascaras vs. the Aztec Mummy premiered in 2008 at a film festival in Rio de Janeiro and proceeded to become a hit with critics and fans at festivals around the world.

Since then it has become an undisputed classic that continues to attract festival invitations and magazine cover articles.

There is no question that the lucha genre is more popular than ever.



What the critics say
about *Mil Mascaras vs.
the Aztec Mummy*.

"Amazing movie entertainment...
Rivals any super hero film made
in the mainstream."

- Bill Gibron (PopMatters)

"Deliriously entertaining."
Rating: 'A'

- MJ Simpson

"Near perfect!" - John Porter
(FANGORIA)

"Thank God for Mil Mascaras!"

- Richard Harland Smith
(Turner Classic Movies)



Life with H.P. LOVECRAFT ◊ Writing for BELA LUGOSI at Monogram ◊ CANDY CLARK in AMERICAN GRAFFITI ◊ ANN CARTER on THE CURSE OF THE CAT PEOPLE AMANDA PAYS & JOHN WESLEY SHIPP Revisit THE FLASH ◊ ROBERT DUNHAM in THE GREEN SLIME ◊ PULP & DOUBLE NOVEL Revival ◊ DC Superhero Figures

MMvsAM Luchadores



Blue Demon Jr

Dos Caras

Neutron

Argozan

El Medico Angel

Trench Fighter

El Cardo

MMvsAM Luchadores



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Blue Demon Jr
Neutron

Mil Mascaras
Dos Caras

Trench Fighter
Huracan Ramirez Jr

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The Magister vs Mil Mascaras

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Mil Mascaras & Hijo del Santo



Luctor

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Argozan



La Torcha

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El Medico Angel, Mil Mascaras, La Torcha