

NO BRAG PURE FACT: THE ART OF GRACELAND TOO

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Special thanks

The Friends of Graceland Too

Filmmakers Jeffrey Jensen and Geoffrey Shrewsbury, *The Rise and Fall of Graceland Too*

Marie Claire Underwood

Video footage appears courtesy of *The Rise and Fall of Graceland Too*

Artifacts, unless otherwise attributed, appear courtesy of The Friends of Graceland Too

Exhibition presented by Goner Records and Crosstown Arts

Counterclockwise from window

1. Graceland Too Elvis Shrine

This item was in many ways the heart of Graceland Too. For nearly 25 years, tens of thousands of visitors to Paul MacLeod's home would have taken their picture in front of this shrine. The shrine consists of a large Elvis Presley poster, secured behind a plexiglass front and attached to a plastic picture frame. The shrine first appears in a local newspaper in 1987, completely unadorned. By the time Graceland Too opened in 1991, Paul and Elvis MacLeod began adding mailbox letters and numbers to the shrine, commemorating the date of Elvis Presley's death. The MacLeods would change the numbers every year during Elvis Week. The Friends of Graceland Too have continued this tradition in Paul MacLeod's memory. Over the next two decades, Paul added various items and additional numbers and letters to the shrine, resulting in its' current condition.

2. Graceland Too Memorial Event Coca-Cola Bottle Candles

These glass Coca-Cola bottles were left at Graceland Too after the passing of Paul MacLeod in 2014. They were used as candles during the memorial events.

3. Elvis Aaron Presley MacLeod Guitar and Case

One of the many guitars and cases originally found in the Record Room of Graceland Too. This guitar is from the Tupelo Hardware Store, where Elvis Presley bought his first guitar. The case has been decorated with mailbox letters and numbers, a Graceland Too trademark.

4. Elvis Presley Record

This record was one of the many records that decorated the walls of the Record Room, at Graceland Too.

5. Mr. Microphone

One of the great Paul MacLeod trademarks was his serenades of women on his tours of Graceland Too. Paul used several different kinds of microphones and sound systems. This microphone was called "Mr. Microphone".

6. Shrine – Photo of the centerpiece of Graceland Too. This is what is often called “The Shrine” though Paul never referred to it as such. Like most of Graceland Too there was a method to the seeming madness. One example is the “21 YEARS IS FOREVER” text. This was a reference to the number of years since Elvis died in 1977. Paul ceremoniously added the new sticker every year on Aug 16, the anniversary of Presley’s death. Note the portrait of Paul’s son, Elvis. Courtesy of *The Rise and Fall of Graceland Too* / Jeffrey Jensen and Geoffrey Shrewsbury.

7. Gold Lame Suit

This gold lame suit was owned by Paul MacLeod for many years. There are numerous pictures of Paul in this suit throughout the Graceland Too archives, including the prominent portrait which was located in the Portrait Room in Graceland Too. Paul wanted to be buried in this suit, but was cremated instead.

8. Universe, Galaxy, Planet Poster Board

This poster board declares Paul and Elvis MacLeod to be the Universes, Galaxys, Planets, Worlds Ultimate Elvis Fans. It was created by Paul and Elvis for display at the First International Conference on Elvis, held at the University of Mississippi in 1995 and hosted by Dr. Vernon Chadwick. The original poster contained the original message written in mailbox letters and numbers, but like many of Paul MacLeod’s “outsider” art pieces, he added to it over the years. It is one of the most iconic pieces from Graceland Too.

9. Paul MacLeod Portrait

This portrait is of Paul MacLeod, wearing his gold lame suit. It was located on the wall in the Portrait Room of Graceland Too.

10. This is Elvis Land Display

These mailbox letters and numbers, which would have been one of the first things visitors to Graceland Too would have seen, were attached to the bottom of the second floor balcony at Graceland Too, in the entryhall of the home. They were purchased by the Friends of Graceland Too at the Graceland Too auction, removed from the wall, and placed in this display.

11. Sun Studio Poster

This styrofoam poster of Elvis Presley is signed by many employees of Sun Studio, in Memphis, Tennessee, where Elvis Presley’s legend began. Paul MacLeod obtained this item at some point in the past, and it was purchased at the Graceland Too auction in 2015 and donated to the Graceland Too archives.

12. Helen MacLeod Portrait

This portrait is of Helen MacLeod, the mother of Paul MacLeod, who was a fixture at Graceland Too and participated in Paul and Elvis’s tours during the early 1990s.

13. 59 Years of Rock n Roll Poster

This plywood poster board was created around 1994, 59 years after the birth of Elvis Presley. It contains a picture of what Paul MacLeod claimed was a ghost at Graceland Too. This poster was located in the Portrait Room of Graceland Too.

14. Graceland Too Visitor Picture Poster

This plywood poster board contains many pictures of visitors to Graceland Too. It is marked “Property of Graceland Too”. It was located in the long hallway where Paul MacLeod displayed pictures of all of his visitor photos.

15-21. Courtesy of *The Rise and Fall of Graceland Too*; text by Jeffrey Jensen

15. Paul Moody Blue—Often overlooked is Paul’s unbelievable gift for interior design. Southern grotesque Feng Shui.

16. Baby Swing—Elvis Aaron Presley MacLeod was born in 1973. Called by Paul “the most prized possession in the collection”. After decades of devotion to his father’s unnatural obsession, Elvis would eventually leave the collection forever in November of 1997.

17. Gold Caddy—Paul was a very paranoid man... on a good day. He claimed that vandals (he used a less polite term) were coming onto the premises and making tiny scratches on the sides of his Gold Cadillac (among other very slight transgressions). I can attest that THERE WERE very odd scratches on Paul’s car that did not seem to be the result of normal wear and tear. Like the Carl Spackler character in Caddyshack, Paul was being driven completely bonkers by these barely noticeable alterations. He went to incredible lengths to secure the property and wondered aloud if the sonuvabi*#@es weren’t “tunneling in”. Photo taken ca. ’03.

18. Paul Hanging EP—Paul in his salad days as a curator/exhibitionist. Fun fact: long before videotape technology was available to consumers Paul would shoot 8mm films of EP films and television appearances from his TV or local drive-ins!! NO BRAG... PURE FACT kids.

19. Serita MacLeod—The true unsung heroine of Graceland Too would undoubtedly be Paul’s 2nd wife, the rakishly attired Serita MacLeod. She tirelessly assisted with every aspect of “the collection”. Long before Paul had hatched the idea of opening his collection to public view the couple compulsively photographed these treasures with the fastidiousness of a great archivists.

20. Red Satin Lamp—Elvis MacLeod was quite naturally given little choice as to how to dress as a young man. That lamp was later transformed into an Elvis commemorative lamp.

21. Paul With Rifle—Paul often alluded to his associations with organized crime in the 1960’s and 1970’s. The truthfulness of these claims might never be fully known. But he was at the very least, as you can see very good at dressing up like a hit man. I don’t know a lot about guns but that IS a silencer on the end of that rifle, no?

22. Graceland Too Electric Chair

This homemade electric chair was the centerpiece of Paul MacLeod’s outdoor “Jailhouse Rock” theme. Built at an undetermined time in the past 20 years, it is made of wood, wire, large metal chains and a kitchen colander designed to mimic the headpiece on a real electric chair. It would have been attached to an inactive car battery and covered with Christmas lights. According to Paul MacLeod, the horseshoe attached to the front of the chair meant that “your luck has run out, and it’s the end of the line!”

23. *The Rise and Fall of Graceland Too* HD sizzle reel

24. Graceland Too Memorial Box

This wood box was used at the Graceland Too memorial event held in August 2014. It is one of four boxes designed and created by Kevin Clanton for the event. During the memorial events, the box was signed by many of Paul and Graceland Too’s fans.

25. Graceland Too Leather Jacket

This is a leather jacket owned by Paul MacLeod. When a visitor to Graceland Too visited the home at least three times, they would become a lifetime member of Graceland Too and have a picture taken of them in front of the Shrine portrait, wearing this leather jacket. Tens of thousands of visitors to Graceland Too have worn this jacket.

26. Graceland Too – From the late 1980’s. If Paul MacLeod was an artist, and Graceland Too was his masterpiece, this was essentially the blank canvas he was working with in the mid-1980’s when he purchased the house. A classic southern antebellum home known as The Bryant house, built in 1853. Paul would often

boast that his Graceland was older than the one in Memphis!! Courtesy of The Rise and Fall of Graceland Too / Jeffrey Jensen and Geoffrey Shrewsbury.

27. Graceland Too – Paul had the house painted what neighbors referred to as “Pepto-Bismol pink” in the Summer of 2004 to commemorate the “Fiftieth Anniversary of Rock ‘n’ Roll”. According to Paul pink was Elvis’ favorite color. Of the many colors he painted the Graceland Too, this was easily the most outlandish and garish. Courtesy of The Rise and Fall of Graceland Too / Jeffrey Jensen and Geoffrey Shrewsbury.

28-37. Photo/boards from Graceland Too, collection of Marie Claire Underwood.

Pedestals

38. Deer Head

This deer head, attached to a red bucket, would have originally had a red Christmas hat and a bright red lightbulb on its nose. It was meant to symbolize Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, and was located in the Shrine Room of Graceland Too.

39-40. Graceland Jungle Room Carpet Pieces

These two squares of red carpet are originally from Elvis Presley’s Jungle Room, in Graceland. The carpet was removed during renovations at Graceland in the late 1970s. The carpet was owned by Tom Stewart Sr., who sold the carpet to Paul MacLeod in the 1980s. Paul and Elvis MacLeod cut up many pieces of the carpet for sale at Graceland Too.

41. Elvis Globe

This globe has been attached to a red bucket, with cardboard cutouts of Paul MacLeod and Elvis MacLeod stuck in the globe. It symbolized the worldwide notoriety of Graceland Too. It was located in the Shrine Room of Graceland Too, next to the Deer Head.

42. Case of Graceland Too Buttons

This glass case was created by Marie Underwood to display many of the buttons created by Paul MacLeod over the years.

43. Paul MacLeod’s Final Can of Coke

This slightly-crumpled can of Coca-Cola was Paul’s final can of Coke, before he passed away in 2014. Appropriately enough, the can is marked “Share a Coke with a Legend”. It was saved by the Friends of Graceland Too at the Graceland Too auction.

44. Elvis Bell-This bell was one of many items located in the display cabinet of the Graceland Too Portrait Room.

The Lounge

45. Elvis Presley Cloth—This cloth hung from the door in the Record Room of Graceland Too.

46-48. Archival news clips; Home Movies; Paul talking and giving tours; courtesy of *The Rise and Fall of Graceland Too* / Jeffrey Jensen and Geoffrey Shrewsbury.

Graceland Too Archives: 1976-1991: Binder containing many important documents from the history of Graceland Too, dating from 1976 to August 1991, when Graceland Too was opened to the public.

Graceland Too Archives: 1991-1999: Binder containing many important documents from the history of Graceland Too, dating from August 1991 to 1999.

Graceland Too Archives: 2000-2014: Binder containing many important documents from the history of Graceland Too, dating from 1999 to 2014.

Graceland Too Visitor Comments Binders (4): Four binders containing comments left by visitors to Graceland Too. These comments were collected by Elvis MacLeod and recreated.