# CAST BIOS CBS RADIO WORKSHOP

By Dave White

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Although the show did not have a regular cast in the usual sense, it had a core of performers who made frequent appearances. Here are brief bios of those who were in five or more episodes:

## Parley Baer (1914-2002)



Born in Salt Lake City, Utah, he was one of the most prolific voice actors in radio (later a character actor in films and on television) working on literally thousands of broadcasts. Baer worked nearly nonstop from 1940 until suffering a stroke in 1997. On radio, he was Chester to William Conrad's Matt Dillon on *Gunsmoke*, and played various roles in a long list of series that included *The Whistler*, *Suspense*, *Tales Of The Texas Rangers* and *The Harold Peary Show*. Among his TV roles were the mayor on the *Andy Griffith Show* and the

neighbor on *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet*. He was a frequent performer on *Lux Radio Theater* and made seven appearances on *CBS Radio Workshop*:

- "Brave New World, Part #1" (01/27/56) actor
- "Brave New World, Part #2" (02/03/56) played Soma Distributor
- "Jacob's Hands" (04/13/56) played Dr. Maller
- "A Matter of Logic" (06/01/56) played himself and Lead Nobody
- "Colloquy #3: An Analysis of Satire" (08/31/56) played Censor and Minnesota Delegate
- "Epitaphs" (06/02/57) actor
- "Sweet Cherries in Charleston" (08/25/57) actor

#### Dick Beals (born 1927)



Detroit native Beals has a boyish voice that made him the perfect choice for ongoing roles like the title character in *Peter Absolute on the Erie Canal* and the *Lone Ranger*'s nephew, Dan Reid. He achieved pop culture immortality as the voice of animated commercial spokesman Speedy Alka-Seltzer. He was also the voice of claymation characters Gumby, and Davey of *Davey and Goliath*. Beals still does occasional voice work, and has attended many OTR conventions. His credits include five appearances on *CBS Radio* 

#### Workshop:

<sup>&</sup>quot;Season Of Disbelief" & "Hail and Farewell" (02/17/56) - played Willie

<sup>&</sup>quot;The Little Prince" (05/25/56) - played The Little Prince

<sup>&</sup>quot;Air Raid" (03/10/57) - played Boy

<sup>&</sup>quot;The Endless Road" (03/17/57) - actor

"Never Bet the Devil Your Head" (07/28/57) - played Young Toby

#### **Jackson Beck** (1912-2004)



Beck was born in New York City, the son of silent film actor Max Beck. His versatility allowed him to play roles ranging from Bluto in the *Popeye* cartoons to the narrator of the *Superman* radio series. He also played the title characters in the radio series *The Cisco Kid* and *Philo Vance*. He was heard in eight episodes of *CBS Radio Workshop*:

- "Bring on the Angels" (06/08/56) played Prosecutor
- "Only Johnny Knows" (08/10/56) played The Observer\
- "When the Mountain Fell" (10/26/56) actor
- "The Day the Roof Fell In" (12/02/56) actor
- "The Space Merchants Pt. 1" (02/17/57) announcer
- "The Space Merchants Pt. 2" (02/24/57) announcer and played Senator for Yummy Cola
- "I Have Three Heads" (05/26/57) played Howard Ampex
- "The Green Hills of Earth" (07/21/57) actor

## **Ralph Bell** (1915-1998)



Born in New York City in 1915, he was known for his offbeat singsong vocal delivery. He was married to stage, radio and television actress Pert Kelton. Bell was a regular on several radio series including *This Is Nora Drake*, *Dimension X*, *Big Sister*, *Mysterious Traveler*, *CBS Mystery Theater* and *CBS Radio Workshop* (nine episodes):

- "The Big Event" (12/16/56) actor
- "The Space Merchants Pt. 1" (02/17/57) actor
- "The Space Merchants Pt. 2" (02/24/57) actor
- "The Endless Road" (03/17/57) actor
- "Adopting a Dog" (03/31/57) actor
- "Lightship" (04/28/57) actor
- "I Have Three Heads" (05/26/57) actor
- "You Could Look it Up" (07/07/57) actor
- "Grief Drives a Black Sedan" (09/01/57) actor

#### **Raymond Burr** (1917-1993)

Before he became famous as *Perry Mason* and *Ironside* on television, the Canadian born Burr worked steadily on network radio, notably in series like *Pat Novak For Hire*, *Dragnet* and *Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar*. He performed in five episodes of *CBS Radio Workshop* including one as narrator and one in which his was the only voice heard:

- "Report On E..S.P." (03/09/56) actor
- "The Little Prince" (05/25/56) actor
- "The Son Of Man" (04/21/57) narrator
- "Gettysburg" (06/30/57) actor
- "The Silent Witness" (07-14-57) actor, one man show

### **Daws Butler** (1916-1988)

Butler, a Toledo, Ohio native, achieved voice actor immortality as the voice of animated cartoon characters like Yogi Bear, Huckleberry Hound and Quick Draw McGraw. He was the voice of Wimpy on the *Popeye* cartoons, Elroy on *The Jetsons*, and animated commercial spokesman Cap'n Crunch. He was a particular favorite of *CBS Radio Workshop* producers, racking up roles in 10 episodes, often playing several characters in a show:

- "Colloquy #3: An Analysis Of Satire" (08/31/56) played Announcer for Arthur Godfrey, Dachron Brillcloth, Fred Allen, Listener #1, Missouri Delegate, Montana Delegate
- "A Pride Of Carrots" (09/14/56) played Fido the Griffin, Spindlespear
- "Roughing It" (10/05/56) played George Beamis, Mr.Ollendorf
- "Colloquy 4: The Joe Miller Joke Book" (11/04/56) played After Dinner Speaker and John Gay
- "Reports On The Weans" (11/11/56) played D'nar Gebb, Southern Voice, Yush El'tebee
- "No Time For Heartaches" (01/13/57) played Chris Brown and Messenger Boy
- "The Ballad Of The Iron Horse" (03/03/57) played Mr. Hemmel and Train Ride Conductor
- "Housing Problem (06/16/57) played Mike, Moriarity, Mr. Henchard
- "Gettysburg" (06/30/57) played Theodore Derricks
- "Never Bet The Devil Your Head" (07/28/57) played Toby Dammit

#### **Herb Butterfield** (1895-1957)

Butterfield, who was born in Rhode Island, had regular roles on *Dangerous Assignment* (the Commissioner) in 1949-53 and *The Halls of Ivy* (Clarence Wellman) in 1950-52. He also made several appearances on *Crime Classics*, 1953-54. Just before his death in 1957, he acted in seven episodes of *CBS Radio Workshop*:

- "Brave New World, Part #1" (01/27/56) actor
- "Brave New World, Part #2" (02/03/56) played Resident Controller
- "Storm" (02/10/56) actor
- "Season of Disbelief" & "Hail and Farewell" (02/17/56) played John Bentley
- "Jacob's Hands" (04/13/56) actor
- "The Enormous Radio" (05/11/56) actor
- "Nightmare" (05/05/57) played Father Scott

#### **Ralph Camargo** (1912-1992)

Born in California, of Mexican-American descent, Camargo's primary work was in the

theater, and on television. His daughter, actress Victoria Wyndham followed in her father's footsteps as a TV soap opera actor. Actor Christian Camargo is his grandson.. His radio credits included a recurring role in the daytime drama, *The Road of Life*. He performed in several episodes of *You Are There*, and acted in five episodes of *CBS Radio Workshop*:

- "The Space Merchants Pt. 1" (02/17/57) narrator
- "The Space Merchants Pt. 2" (02/24/57) narrator
- "The Endless Road" (03/17/57) actor
- "The Seven Hills" (06/09/57) actor
- "The Heart of Man" (08/04/57) actor

## **William Conrad** (1920-1994)



He started as a newspaper reporter in his hometown of Louisville, Kentucky. After moving to Los Angeles, Conrad had made a name for himself on radio as Matt Dillon on *Gunsmoke* and with frequent work on series like *Crime Classics* and *Escape*. *CBS Radio Workshop* was the last radio series on which he worked regularly before making the move to a successful career in television. Conrad appeared in 16 episodes. He also directed an episode, and co-wrote another.

- "Brave New World, Part #1" (01/27/56) announcer
- "Brave New World, Part #2" (02/03/56) announcer, actor played Helmholz Watson
- "Storm" (02/10/56) narrator
- "Colloguy #1: An Interview With Shakespeare" (02/24/56) played Richard Burbage
- "The Legend of Jimmy Blue-Eyes" (03/23/56) narrator
- "Jacob's Hands" (04/13/56) played Lou Zukoni
- "The Enormous Radio" (05/11/56) narrator
- "A Matter of Logic" (06/01/56) actor
- "Another Point of View, or Hamlet Revisited" (06/22/56) narrator, co-author
- "A Writer At Work" (10/12/56) narrator
- "The Legend of Annie Christmas" (10/19/56) narrator
- "Fire At Malibu" (01/20/57) actor
- "1489 Words" (02/10/57) actor
- "The Ballad of the Iron Horse" (03/03/57) narrator
- "Noh Plays of Japan" (04/07/57) actor
- "Epitaphs" (06/02/57) actor, director

## **Hans Conried** (1917-1982)

He was born in Baltimore, Maryland and had an ear for dialects and the ability to work in either serious or comical roles. Conried was much in demand as a voice actor throughout the '40s and '50s, including recurring roles on *Burns & Allen, The Great Gildersleeve*, *My Friend Irma* and the *Judy Canova Show*. He also did extensive work on stage, film and television. Conried acted in seven episodes of *CBS Radio Workshop*:

- "Colloquy #1: An Interview With Shakespeare" (02/24/56) played Christopher Marlowe
- "Jacob's Hands" (04/13/56) played Doc Waldo
- "The Enormous Radio" (05/11/56) played Kathy's Husband and Mr. Johnson
- "The Little Prince" (05/25/56) played Businessman
- "Report On The Weans" (11/11/56) actor
- "No Time For Heartaches" (01/13/57) actor
- "Noh Plays of Japan" (04/07/57) actor

## **John Dehner** (1915-1992)



A native of Staten Island, New York, Dehner was an animator for Walt Disney and a professional musician before moving into radio, TV and films. He made more than two dozen appearances in various roles on *Escape* and *Gunsmoke* in the late '40s and early '50s. In the late '50s he had starring roles in *Frontier Gentleman* and *Have Gun, Will Travel*. He also had a long and successful television and film career. He appeared in 12 *CBS Radio Workshop* episodes.:

- "Season of Disbelief" & "Hail and Farewell" (02/17/56) narrator
- "Jacob's Hands" (04/13/56) played Dr. Carruthers, Theater Owner
- "The Record Collectors" (04/27/56) plays Interviewer
- "The Ballad Of The Iron Horse" (03/03/57) played Colonel
- "Air Raid" (03/10/57) announcer and plays Sargeant
- "Harmonica Solo" (03/24/57) plays Sgt. Stone
- "Noh Plays of Japan" (04/07/57) plays Lord Tokiyori Hojo
- "Epitaphs" (06/02/57) plays Knowlt Hoeheimer
- "Gettysburg" (06/30/57) narrator
- "Never Bet The Devil Your Head" (07/28/57) played Edgar Allan Poe
- "People Are No Good" (09/08/57) narrator
- "Young Man Axelbrod" (09/22/57) announcer, and played Dean of Yale

## **Joe DeSantis** (1909-1989)



DeSantis was born in New York City, where his parents had immigrated from Italy. He mastered a number of dialects and played good guys, bad guys, comedy and drama with equal skill. He was a regular on a long list of shows including *Gangbusters*, *The Brighter Day*, *Studio One*, *You Are There*, and *Under Arrest*. He made seven appearances on *CBS Radio Workshop*:

- "Report on the Weans" (11/11/56) actor
- "Fire at Malibu" (01/20/57) actor
- "The Ballad of the Iron Horse" (03/03/57) actor
- "Harmonica Solo" (03/24/57) actor

- "Noh Plays of Japan" (04/07/57) actor
- "Malahini Magic" (08/11/57) actor
- "People Are No Good" (09/08/57) played Joe

### **Robert Dryden** (1917-2003)

From the '30s through '50s Dryden, a native New Yorker, was a regular on shows like *Gangbusters, Studio One, Molle Mystery Theater* and *Casey, Crime Photographer*. In the '70s and '80s he acted in more than 240 episodes of *CBS Radio Mystery Theater*. He made seven appearances on *CBS Radio Workshop*, in a variety of roles.

- "The Eternal Joan" (06/29/56) actor
- "The Billion Dollar Failure of Figure Fallop" (08/24/56) actor
- "The Oedipus Story" (09/21/56) actor
- "The Space Merchants" Pt. 1 (02/17/57) actor
- "The Space Merchants" Pt. 2 (02/24/57) actor
- "The Endless Road" (03/17/57) actor
- "The Seven Hills" (06/09/57) actor

## **Sam Edwards** (1915-2004)



His radio career began in his hometown, San Antonio, Texas. Edwards' best known role was as the banker on the *Little House on the Prairie*, just one of dozens of TV shows in which he appeared. After he retired, he was a fixture at OTR conventions where he helped recreate original shows from his time as a radio actor. He had regular roles in shows like *Gunsmoke*, *Dragnet*, *Crime Classics*, *Escape*, *Suspense*, *Fort Laramie* and *This is Your FBI*. He performed in five episodes of *CBS Radio Workshop*:

- "Brave New World, Part #1" (01/27/56) played Student #2
- "Brave New World, Part #2" (02/03/56) actor
- "Report on E..S.P." (03/09/56) played Samuel Clemens
- "The Legend of Jimmy Blue-Eyes" (03/23/56) played Bystander #1, Heckling Voice, New Orleans Better
- "Speaking of Cinderella, or If the Shoe Fits ..." (04/06/56) actor

## **Elspeth Eric** (1906-1993)



On radio, Eric, who hailed from Chicago, was usually cast as a criminal or a criminal's girlfriend. She was heard frequently on *Molle Mystery Theater*, *Gangbusters* and *Murder at Midnight*. She wrote more than 100 episodes of *CBS Radio Mystery Theater* and acted in about a dozen episodes. She made five appearances on *CBS Radio Workshop*:

- "Cops and Robbers" (03/16/56) actor
- "The Eternal Joan" (06/29/56) actor

- "The Oedipus Story" (09/21/56) actor
- "The Crazy Life" (01/27/57) actor
- "Carlotta's Serape" (04/14/57) actor

# **Virginia Gregg** (1916-1986)



This small town (Harrisburg, Illinois) girl eventually became one of the best (and busiest) radio performers. The list of radio shows Gregg didn't appear on would be much shorter than the list of the dozens on which she performed. Her most enduring role may be as the voice of Norman Bates' mother in the Alfred Hitchcock film, *Psycho*. In addition to working on radio series like *Dragnet*, *Gunsmoke*, *One Man's Family* and *Let George Do It*, Gregg performed in nine *CBS Radio Workshop* episodes:

- "Season of Disbelief" & "Hail and Farewell" (02/17/56) played Mrs. Helen Bentley
- "Speaking of Cinderella, or If the Shoe Fits ..." (04/06/56) actor
- "Jacob's Hands" (04/13/56) played Sharon
- "The Enormous Radio" (05/11/56) played Irene Wescott
- "Colloguy #4: The Joe Miller Joke Book" (11/04/56) played Wife
- "Air Raid" (03/10/57) played Old Woman and Woman #2
- "Noh Plays of Japan" (04/07/57) played Queen
- "Epitaphs" (06/02/57) played Nancy Knapp
- "Malahini Magic" (08/11/57) played Salesgirl

#### Leon Janney (1917-1980)



Born in Ogden, Utah, he was a child actor who played the title role in the *Penrod* series of films in the early '30s. He had recurring radio roles on *Chick Carter, Boy Detective* (title role); *Pepper Young's Family* (Jerry Feldman); *Charlie Chan* (#1 Son); and *The Parker Family* (Richard Parker). He made 80 appearances on *CBS Radio Mystery Theater*, and six on *CBS Radio Workshop*:

- "Sounds of a Nation" (11/18/56) actor
- "The Day the Roof Fell In" (12/02/56) actor
- "The Space Merchants Pt. 1" (02/17/57) actor
- "The Space Merchants Pt. 2" (02/24/57) actor
- "The Long Way Home" (05/12/57) actor
- "The Seven Hills" (06/09/57) actor

#### **Joe Julian** (1910-1982)



Julian, a New York City native, performed in literally thousands of radio broadcasts, beginning in the early '30s. He also wrote a number of radio, television and stage plays, and broadcast from Japan at the end of World War II. He acted in virtually every radio

series produced in the '30s and '40s. In his book, *This Was Radio*, he writes that during the late '40s he was working in more than two dozen shows each month in addition to recurring roles like Archie on *Nero Wolfe* and Sandy Matson on *Lorenzo Jones*. He was a frequent performer on *CBS Radio Workshop*, appearing in nine episodes:

- "Only Johnny Knows" (08/10/56) narrator
- "The Billion Dollar Failure of Figure Fallop" (08/24/56) actor
- "The Oedipus Story (09/21/56) actor
- "When the Mountain Fell" (10/26/56) actor
- "The Day the Roof Fell In" (12/02/56) actor
- "All is Bright" (12/23/56) actor
- "The Space Merchants" (02/17/57) actor
- "The Long Way Home" (05/12/57) actor
- "You Could Look It Up" (07/07/57) actor

## **Byron Kane** (1923-1984)



Born in Vermont, Kane's radio credits included *Escape*, *Crime Classics* and *On Stage*. He was the comic foil for Joan Gerber in the vignette series *The Story Lady*.. He appeared frequently with Stan Freberg on television, recordings, and commercials.. He was associate producer of the *Peter Gunn* television series in the 1959 season and had several dozen roles (many of them uncredited) in various TV series from the late '40s through the early '80s. He acted in nine episodes of *CBS Radio Workshop*:

- "Brave New World, Part #1" (01/27/56) played Henry Foster
- "Brave New World, Part #2" (02/03/56) played Henry Foster
- "Storm" (02/10/56) played City Man, Harry, Older Man
- "Speaking of Cinderella, or If the Shoe Fits ..." (04/06/46) played Dirty Joe, J. Walter King
- "Subways are for Sleeping" (08/03/56) played Henry Shelby
- "Report on the Weans" (11/11/56) played Excavation Worker and Radio Rhodesia Announcer
- "The King of the Cats" (11/25/56) played Tommy Culvern
- "No Time For Heartaches" (01/13/57) played Ted Shapiro
- "Gettysburg" (06/30/57) played Col. Perry, General Pickett

## **Joseph Kearns** (1907-1962)



Born in Salt Lake City, Utah, he began his radio career as an organist. Of the hundreds of roles Kearns played, the most memorable are as Ed, who guarded Jack Benny's vault on radio from 1945-56 and as George Wilson, *Dennis the Menace*'s neighbor on television. He hosted the *Suspense* radio series, in addition to performing in many episodes. It is estimated that at the height of his career, he performed on as many as 50 different shows in a single week. He performed eight times on *CBS Radio* 

## Workshop:

- "Brave New World, Part #1" (01/27/56) played Director of Hatcheries
- "Brave New World, Part #2" (02/03/56) played Director of Hatcheries
- "The Enormous Radio" (05/11/56) played Apple Core Man, Ring Husband
- "The Little Prince" (05/25/56) played Conceited Man
- "Colloquy #4: The Joe Miller Joke Book" (11/04/56) played Life of the Party, Roman Joke Teller
- "Report on the Weans" (11/11/56) played Kowl'Ee Dee and Straw Hans Schwee
- "The King of the Cats" (11/25/56) played Ludwig Vallons
- "Gettysburg" (06/30/57) played General Longstreet

## **Berry Kroeger** (1912-1991)



On radio, Texan Kroeger (born in San Antonio) was the first voice of *The Falcon*, occasionally supplied the voice of Lamont Cranston in *The Shadow*, and appeared in several episodes of *Escape*. He played a variety of movie roles, almost always portraying the unlikable bad guy. He made five appearances on *CBS Radio Workshop*:

- "The Case of the White Kitten" (07/13/56) - actor

- "When the Mountain Fell" (10/26/56) actor
- "The Day the Roof Fell In" (12/02/56) actor
- "The Green Hills of Earth" (07/21/57) actor
- "The Heart of Man" (08/04/57) actor

#### **Jack Kruschen** (1922-2002)



Born in Canada, Kruschen migrated to Los Angeles in the '40s, where he became a regular on *Pete Kelly's Blues* as Red, and as Sgt. Muggavan on *Broadway Is My Beat*. As a film actor, he received an Academy Award nomination for his role in *The Apartment*. On television, he was a regular in *Webster* as Grandpa Papadopolis.. He frequently appeared in various radio anthology series, including eight performances on *CBS Radio Workshop*:

- "Brave New World, Part #1" (01/27/56) actor
- "Brave New World, Part #2" (02/03/56) actor
- "Storm" (02/10/56) actor
- "Speaking of Cinderella, or If the Shoe Fits ..." (04/06/56) actor
- "Roughing It" (10/05/56) actor
- "Harmonica Solo" (03/24/57) actor
- "Malahini Magic" (08/11/57) actor
- "People Are No Good" (09/08/57) actor

## **Peter Leeds** (1917-1996)

Born in Bayonne, New Jersey he was known primarily for his movie and television roles,

where he was often cast as straight man for the likes of Bob Hope (with whom he performed on 14 USO shows around the world,) Jack Benny and Red Skelton. He performed in several radio series, including *Gunsmoke*, *Escape* and *Yours Truly*, *Johnny Dollar*. He performed on *CBS Radio Workshop* five times:

- "Speaking of Cinderella, or If the Shoe Fits" (04/06/56) actor
- "Colloquy #2: Dissertation on Love, or Boy Meets Girl" (08/17/56) played Tack Flynt
- "Roughing It" (10/05/56) played Mr. Harris
- "Colloguy #4: The Joe Miller Joke Book" (11/04/56) played Cicero and Comedian
- "People are No Good" (09/08/57) played Pete

## Ian Martin (1912-1981)

Martin, a Scotsman, was an accomplished actor (radio, television, stage and film) and writer. According to his obituary in the *New York Times*, he appeared in seven Broadway shows and 700 television shows. He performed in nearly 200 episodes of *CBS Radio Mystery Theater* and in six episodes of *CBS Radio Workshop*:

- "Bring On the Angels" (06/08/56) actor
- "Only Johnny Knows" (08/10/56) actor
- "The Space Merchants Pt. 1" (02/17/57) actor
- "The Space Merchants Pt. 2" (02/24/57) actor
- "I Have Three Heads" (05/26/57) played Gerald
- "The Green Hills of Earth" (07/21/57) actor

## **Howard McNear** (1905-1969)



McNear, who was born in Los Angeles, began his radio career in the late '30s. He is most often remembered for his role as Floyd Lawson, the barber on television's *Andy Griffith Show*. On radio, he was Doc Adams on *Gunsmoke*, Clint Barlow on *Speed Gibson of the International Secret Police*, and played a variety of oddball characters on *Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar*. He can be heard in six episodes of *CBS Radio Workshop*:

- "The Record Collectors" (04/27/56) played Dr. Arbogast
- "Roughing It" (10/05/56) played Auction Man
- "Colloguy #4: The Joe Miller Joke Book" (11/04/56) played John Motley
- "Epitaphs" (06/02/57) played Doc Meyers
- "Gettysburg" (06/30/57) played Gen. Abner Doubleday
- "Never Bet the Devil Your Head" (07/28/57) played The Devil

#### **Dan Ocko** (1913-1991)

Ocko's radio credits included regular roles on *Buck Rogers in the 25<sup>th</sup> Century* (as Killer Kane) and *The Fat Man*. He appeared in six episodes of *CBS Radio Workshop*:

- "The Eternal Joan" (06/29/56) - actor

- "The Endless Road" (03/17/57) actor
- "Lightship" (04/28/57) actor
- "The Seven Hills" (06/09/57) actor
- "The Green Hills of Earth" (07/21/57) actor
- "The Heart of Man" (08/04/57) actor

## **Guy Repp** (1902-1986)

Repp was part of Orson Welles' *Mercury Theater of the Air* in the late '30s, and later had an uncredited role in the classic Welles film, *Citizen Kane*. He performed on stage, television, and on radio series such as *Under Arrest* and *Cloak and Dagger*. From his obituary in the *New York Times*: "Mr. Repp was known as much for being a late-night fixture at such establishments as Sardi's, P. J. Clarke's and the Players' Club as for his performing career." He is heard in six episodes of *CBS Radio Workshop*:

- "The Eternal Joan" (06/29/56) actor
- "The Oedipus Story" (09/21/56) actor
- "The Endless Road" (03/17/57) actor
- "The Long Way Home" (05/12/57) actor
- "The Seven Hills" (06/09/57) actor
- "The Heart of Man" (08/04/57) actor

#### **Lurene Tuttle** (1907-1986)



She was born in a place whose name could have come from a radio soap opera -- Pleasant Lake, Indiana -- the daughter of C.U. Tuttle, a performer in minstrel shows. She earned the nickname First Lady of Radio because of her ability to play a wide range of characters. She performed regularly, often on more than a dozen shows a week, on programs as diverse as *The Adventures of Sam Spade*, *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet*, *Dragnet*, *Duffy's Tavern* and *Suspense*. Her radio career began in the early '30s, and she later made a successful transition to television and films. She acted in

## six episodes of *CBS Radio Workshop*:

- "Brave New World, Part #1" (01/27/56) played Linda
- "Brave New World, Part #2" (02/03/56) played Linda
- "Speaking of Cinderella, or If the Shoe Fits ..." (04/06/56) played herself
- "Air Raid" 03/10/57) played Woman #1
- "Epitaphs" (06/02/57) played Lucinda Matlock
- "Malahini Magic" (08/11/57) played Alice Logan

#### **Luis van Rooten** (1906-1973)



Born in Mexico City, he was great at playing villains, so van Rooten got a lot of good "bad guy" movie roles in the '40s and '50s. On radio, he was the evil Roxor in *Chandu the Magician*, Dr. Ramey on *Stella Dallas*, John on *John's Other Wife* and Mr. Astrakham on *Pretty Kitty Kelly*.. The producers of *CBS Radio* 

## Workshop called on him for 11 episodes:

- "Bring On The Angels" (06/08/56) played H.L. Mencken
- "The Eternal Joan" (06/29/56) actor
- "Star Boy" (07/27/56) played Notasin the Medicine Man
- "Roughing It" (10/05/56) played Samuel Clemens
- "The Sounds of a Nation" (11/18/56) narrator
- "The Crazy Life" (01/27/57) actor
- "Carlotta's Serape" (04/14/57) played The Weaver
- "Lightship" (04/28/57) actor
- "The Seven Hills" (06/09/57) actor
- "The Heart of Man" (08/04/57) actor
- "The Celestial Omnibus" (08/18/57) played Mr. Bonds

## **Ben Wright** (1915-1989)

The very British Mr. Wright got most of his voice work not because of his native accent, but because of his ability to master virtually any dialect. He was the voice of the Chinese bell boy (Hey Boy) in *Have Gun, Will Travel*; the Indian servant (Tulku) in *The Green Lantern*; *Sherlock Holmes* in 1949-50; and Inspector Peter Black in *Pursuit* in 1951-52. His voice was heard in 10 episodes of *CBS Radio Workshop*, one of which he co-wrote with William Conrad:

- "Colloquy #1: An Interview with Shakespeare" (02/24/56) played William Shakespeare
- "The Little Prince" (05/25/56) played King
- "A Matter of Logic" (06/01/56) played Nobody
- "Another Point of View, or Hamlet Revisited" (06/22/56) co-writer and played Hamlet
- "Colloguy #3: Dissertation on Love" (08/17/56) played Monsieur Lucian Moran
- "Colloguy #4: The Joe Miller Joke Book" (11/04/56) played Joe Miller
- "Air Raid" (03/10/57) played Remote Announcer
- "Noh Plays of Japan" (04/07/57) played Merchant, Priest #1
- "Malahini Magic" (08/11/57) played Ah Fung
- "Young Man Axelbrod" (09/22/57) played Washburn

A number of other A-list radio voice actors of the day appeared less frequently, but more than once, including Edgar Banner, Harvey Bartell, Frank Baxter, Helene Burke, Staats Cotsworth, Richard Crenna, Roger DeKoven, June Foray, Virginia Kaye, Stacy Harris, Charlotte Lawrence, Jan Miner, Shirley Mitchell, Jeanette Nolan, Jay Novello, Santos Ortega, Vic Perrin, Ed Prentiss, Everett Sloane and Paula Winslowe.

Other well known performers from stage, film, television and other radio shows who were featured in single episodes included Ruby Dee, Stan Freberg, Victor Jory, Helen Hayes, Herbert Marshall, John McIntire, Henry Morgan, Edward R. Murrow, Harold Peary, Vincent Price, Alexander Scourby, Eric Sevareid and Robert Young.

Popular musical guests included Margaret Whiting and Sophie Tucker.

Non-performing celebrities making guest appearances included then U.S. Senator and future U.S. President John F. Kennedy, and Sarah Churchill, daughter of Sir Winston Churchill.

Several famous authors narrated episodes based on their works, including Ray Bradbury, Robert Heinlein, Aldous Huxley, Robert Nathan and H.L. Mencken. Poet Carl Sandburg appeared on an episode celebrating his 79<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The show used a number of announcers, but the two who were heard most often were Hugh Douglas and Bob Hite. Other included Dick Noel, Jackson Beck, Art Hannes, Frank Goss, Stuart Metz and Warren Sweeney.

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#### **SOURCES**

#### Online:

Audio Classics Archive Radio Broadcast Logs
Digital Deli Too
GOLDINdex database
Internet Movie Database (IMDB)
Jerry Haendiges Vintage Radio Logs
Voice Chasers

#### Print:

Big Broadcast, The by Frank Buxton and Bill Owen, Viking Press, 1972 Radio's Golden Years by Vincent Terrace, A.S. Barnes & Co., Inc, 1981 Remember Radio by Ron Lackmann, G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1970 Same Time ... Same Station by Ron Lackmann, Facts on File Inc., 1996 This Was Radio by Joseph Julian, Viking Press, 1975