

## Johnny Staccato

The character Johnny Staccato, played by John Cassavetes, is a jazz pianist/private detective.

The setting for many episodes is a Greenwich Village jazz club belonging to his friend, Waldo, played by Eduardo Ciannelli. The show featured many musicians, such as Barney Kessel, Shelly Manne, Milt Holland, Red Mitchell, Red Norvo, and Johnny Williams. (Although the show was set in New York City, all of these men were closely identified with the West Coast jazz scene, and it was filmed largely in Los Angeles.)

Elmer Bernstein composed both of the main theme tunes used and Stanley Wilson was music supervisor. John Cassavetes also directed five episodes. The show lasted for one season with 27 episodes.

*Johnny Staccato* aired at 8:30PM Eastern on Thursdays opposite ABC's sitcom, *The Real McCoys*, created by Irving Pincus and starring Walter Brennan, Richard Crenna, and Kathleen Nolan and CBS's western series, *Johnny Ringo*, starring Don Durant and Mark Goddard.

After its initial airing on NBC, ABC presented reruns of the series from March 27 to September 25, 1960.

Episode for class:

**The Man In The Pit** - Episode aired January 7, 1960 (Disk 2)

Filmed on Stage 28 at Universal Studios, the same stage that Lon Chaney used in *The Phantom Of the Opera* in 1925.

In 1924, Universal Studios was preparing to film the Phantom Of The Opera and needed a new stage to house the massive sets of the Paris Opera. It was inside Stage 28 that Lon Chaney would portray the Phantom. For almost 90 years, parts of the opera house set withstood the test of time. The stage was used in many movies through the years including the 1925 and 1943 versions of *The Phantom Of The Opera*, *The Bride Of Frankenstein*, *Dracula*, *One Hundred Men And A Girl* with Deanna Durbin, Abbott and Costello's *Here Come The Co-Eds*, *Man Of A Thousand Faces* in 1957, interior scenes of the Bates Motel from *Psycho*, *Charade*, *The Birds*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Airport*, *The Sting*, *Jurassic Park*, *How The Grinch Stole Christmas* and *The Muppets*. The stage was demolished in September of 2014. The Opera House facades were put into storage and the rest of the stage was completely demolished.

**John Cassavetes** (Johnny Staccato) - first notable film role was that of Robert Batsford, one of the three villains (along with Vince Edwards and David Cross) in *The Night Holds Terror* from 1955. Cassavetes also starred in *Edge of the City*, *The Dirty Dozen* and *Rosemary's Baby*. For his role in *The Dirty Dozen*, he received an Academy Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor.

As a filmmaker, he was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay for *Faces* and the Academy Award for Best Director for *A Woman Under the Influence*.

He and his wife Gena Rowlands made ten movies together. He directed his wife to a Best Actress Oscar nomination in *A Woman*

*Under the Influence* from 1974 and *Gloria* in 1980. They Were married for 35 years.

As of 2007, he is one of only eight filmmakers to be nominated for best directing, writing and acting Academy Awards over the course of their lifetime.

**Eduardo Ciannelli** (Waldo) - first performed on Broadway in the short-lived play *Always You* in 1920 and then had better roles in *Rose-Marie* from 1924 to 1926 and *The Front Page* from 1928 to 1929. He was nominated for Broadway's 1961 Tony Award as Best Supporting or Featured Actor for *The Devil's Advocate*.

With his heavily-lined face, piercing eyes and Italian-accented manners, Ciannelli was soon cast as Italian gangsters. He also appeared as the jovial speakeasy proprietor Giono in *Kitty Foyle* from 1940.

Among his last roles was *Houseboat* in 1958 and a recurring character part, jazz club owner Waldo, in the television series *Johnny Staccato* from 1959.

**Nita Talbot** (Narcissa) - was born Anita Sokol in 1930. She began her acting career appearing as a model in the 1949 film *It's A Great Feeling*.

Between 1966 and 1971, she appeared in seven episodes of *Hogan's Heroes* as the spy Marya. For this effort, Talbot received a Primetime Emmy Award nomination for Best Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series in 1968.

She also had long-running roles in the soap operas *Search For Tomorrow* and *General Hospital*. Ending a 48 year career, her last acting role was in 1997, when she voiced the character of Anastasia Hardy in the animated series *Spider-Man*.

**Buzz Martin** (David Millikan) - In his 13 year acting career, he made several guest appearances on television programs such as *Have Gun - Will Travel*, *77 Sunset Strip*, *Bachelor Father* and *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*.

**Norman Fell** (Bill Lentz) - The feud he supposedly had with actor Jack Klugman that lasted over 40 years turned out to be a hoax. The two actors were really friends who grew up in the Philadelphia area.

He played minor character roles in several films, including the original *Ocean's 11*, *It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World* and *PT 109*.

Fell is best remembered for the role of Stanley Roper, the landlord in *Three's Company* and its short lived spin-off *The Ropers*. He won a Golden Globe Award for Best TV Actor in a Supporting Role in 1979 for *Three's Company*.

**Linda Watkins** (Vivian Burke) - was a voice-over regular on the popular 1930's radio series *Gangbusters*.

She debuted in 1931's movie *Sob Sister*. Watkins can be seen as Scarlett O'Hara opposite Frances Fuller as Melanie Wilkes in George Cukor's filmed screen test on June 3, 1937 for *Gone With The Wind*. However, it is believed she was reading to test actresses for Melanie rather than auditioning for Scarlett herself.

Some of her other film credits include *Cash McCall*, *The Parent Trap*, *Good Neighbor Sam* and *Huckleberry Finn*. Television show appearances include *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*, *Bonanza*, *Gunsmoke*, *Hazel*, *The Munsters*, *Perry Mason* and *Wagon Train*. One of her last television roles as a guest star was in *The Waltons*.

**Billy M. Greene** (Shank Millikan) - made many appearances on television programs beginning in 1950's. Some of his credits include *The United States Steel Hour*, *Maverick*, *Bachelor Father*, *The Roaring 20's* and *My Favorite Martian*.

**Pete Candoli** (Pete) - was a leading studio musician and arranger for Judy Garland, Peggy Lee, Ella Fitzgerald and many others. He played with the big bands of Woody Herman and Stan Kenton. Plus, he worked in the studios of the recording and television industries.

Candoli appeared with *The Tonight Show Band* and acted in *The Adventures Of Ozzie and Harriet*, *Kings Go Forth*, *Touch Of Evil*, and was 'Pete', in three episodes of *Johnny Staccato*.

He was inducted into the International Jazz Hall of Fame in 1997 and the Big Band Hall of Fame in 2003.

**Elmer Bernstein** (composer) - was not related to the celebrated composer and conductor Leonard Bernstein, though they were friends. Elmer pronounced his name "BERN-steen" and Leonard used "BERN-styne".

He wrote the theme songs or other music for more than 200 films and television shows, including *The Magnificent Seven*, *The Great Escape*, *The Ten Commandments*, *True Grit*, *The Man With The Golden Arm*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Robot Monster*, *Ghostbusters*, *Baby the Rain Must Fall* and the fanfare used in the National Geographic television specials.

In addition to his film music, Bernstein wrote the scores for two Broadway musicals, *How Now, Dow Jones*, with lyricist Carolyn Leigh in 1967 and *Merlin*, with lyricist Don Black in 1983.

Bernstein also performed as a concert pianist between 1939 and 1950 and wrote numerous classical compositions, including three orchestral suites, two song cycles, various compositions for viola and piano and for solo piano and a string quartet.

Over the course of his career, Bernstein won an Academy Award (*Thoroughly Modern Millie*), an Emmy Award (*The Making Of The President 1960*) and two Golden Globe Awards (*To Kill A Mockingbird* and *Hawaii*). He was nominated for the Tony Award 3 times, 14 times for the Academy Award and a Grammy Award 5 times.

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## Man With A Camera

**Episode for class:** Hot Ice Cream - Aired on ABC at 10:30PM on Monday evening, January 25, 1960. Two seasons - 29 episodes

**Charles Bronson** (Mike Kovac) - was born Charles Buchinsky in 1921 as one of 15 children in Ehrenfeld, Pennsylvania.

He enrolled at the Pasadena Playhouse in California. One of his teachers recommended him to director Henry Hathaway, resulting in Bronson making his film debut in *You're In The Navy Now* in 1951. He made an impact on audiences as the evil assistant to Vincent Price in *House Of Wax* from 1953. In 1960, he co-starred in John Sturges' *The Magnificent Seven* and received \$50,000 for this role. Sturges also cast Bronson for *The Great Escape*.

In 1961, Bronson was nominated for an Emmy Award for his supporting role in an episode of CBS's *General Electric Theater*. also on television, he played a naval intelligence officer in two episodes of *Hennessey* starring Jackie Cooper.

After almost 25 years as a working actor, he became an overnight sensation. The film that proved to be a breakthrough for Bronson came in 1974 with the release of *Death Wish*. He was 53 years old when this film premiered.

Bronson's last starring role in a theatrically released film was in *Death Wish V: The Face of Death* in 1994.

**Yvonne Craig** (Jo Stokes) - She moved to Los Angeles hoping to be a dancer, but was soon cast in movies. Craig had small roles in movies such as *Gidget* and *The Gene Krupa Story*, both in 1959. While she was dating Elvis Presley, Craig had a supporting role in the two Elvis movies, *It Happened At The World's Fair* and *Kissin' Cousins*.

During the 1960s, Craig regularly appeared in many television series. She appeared five times on *The Many Loves Of Dobie Gillis*, playing five separate girlfriends between 1959 and 1962. She could also be seen on *McHale's Navy*, *The Big Valley*, *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.*, *The Wild Wild West* and *The Ghost & Mrs. Muir*.

From September 1967 until March 1968, Craig appeared in her most memorable role as Batgirl/Barbara Gordon for the third and final season of *Batman*. After *Batman*, Craig appeared in other guest roles on *It Takes A Thief*, *The Mod Squad*, *Mannix* and *Emergency!*.

When her Hollywood career was over, she went into private business and was briefly a co-producer of industrial shows, before beginning a new career as a real estate broker.

**Roscoe Ates** (Fenton) - was a comedy actor who began performing on stage in 1915. He was best known for his humorous face and nervous stutter.

Ates played violin to accompany silent films at a local theater in Oklahoma. He went on to become an entertainer as a concert violinist. Soon after, he found much greater opportunities as a vaudeville comedian.

His first film role was a ship's cook in *South Sea Rose*. Ates' other film credits include *Freaks*, *Alice In Wonderland*, *Gone With The Wind*, *Sullivan's Travels* and *The Palm Beach Story*.



Additionally, Ates appeared on television in numerous roles such as *My Little Margie*, *Boston Blackie*, *Wagon Train*, *Bourbon Street Beat* and *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*.

His final screen appearance was uncredited in Jerry Lewis's 1961 film *The Errand Boy*.

**Howard McNear** (George) - will always be remembered for his memorable portrayal of Floyd the Barber in *The Andy Griffith Show*. In 1963, he suffered a stroke that rendered most of the left side of his body paralyzed. He left the series for nearly a year and a half to recover. Andy Griffith asked McNear to return to the series, to which McNear agreed despite being unable to walk or stand. The production crew accommodated him accordingly. Floyd was usually seen onscreen either seated or standing with support.

During his career, he appeared in over one hundred film and television guest spots. In one of those guest roles, he played Andy the Barber on an episode of *Leave It To Beaver* titled "The Shave" on November 20, 1958.

McNear began his career in vaudeville and then went into radio, where he created the role of Doc Adams in *Gunsmoke* for many years.

**Lawrence Tierney** (Barney) - is best remembered as the title character in *Dillinger* in 1945 and as the brutal lover of Claire Trevor in *Born To Kill* in 1947.

Tierney had many guest roles in many television series such as *Naked City*, *Man With A Camera*, *Adventures In Paradise*, *Peter Gunn*, *Follow The Sun* and *The Alfred Hitchcock Hour*. In 1984, Tierney appeared in an Excedrin television commercial playing a construction worker.

He was known for being very difficult and intimidating with those he worked. Tierney was a brawler up until the end of his career. He provoked most of the younger actors he worked with on *Reservoir Dogs* in 1992 and actually nearly came to blows with director Quentin Tarantino.

When he guest-starred on *Seinfeld* in 1991 as Elaine's father, he scared the cast so badly that they never had him back on the show. He was one of a handful of Hollywood stars to make a guest appearance on *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. His final acting role was a small part in the 1999 independent film *Evicted*. Lawrence Tierney, then age 80, retired from acting altogether.

**Paul Bryar** (Stokes) - appeared in nearly 220 films between 1938 and 1983. in 1938, he made his film debut in the Harold Lloyd comedy *Professor Beware*.

Bryar appeared in three movies directed by Alfred Hitchcock: *Vertigo*, *Notorious* and *The Wrong Man*. He also appeared in a 1955 episode of *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*.

From the 1950's until the early 1980's, Bryar appeared in roughly 150 television shows such as *The Twilight Zone*, *Bonanza*, *Batman*, *Bewitched*, *The Andy Griffith Show*, *The Beverly Hillbillies* and *Leave It To Beaver*. He was married to actress Claudia Bryar for 45 years.

## The Great Gildersleeve

*The Great Gildersleeve* was a radio situation comedy broadcast on NBC from August 31, 1941 to 1958. The series was built around Throckmorton Philharmonic Gildersleeve, a regular character from the radio comedy *Fibber McGee and Molly*. The character was introduced on October 3, 1939.

Harold Peary had played the title character. In 1950, Harold Peary was persuaded to move *The Great Gildersleeve* to CBS, but sponsor Kraft refused to sanction the move. Peary, now contracted to CBS, was legally unable to appear on NBC as a star performer, but *Gildersleeve* was still an NBC series. As a result, Willard Waterman became Peary's replacement as Gildersleeve. The series ended its run in 1958.

A televised version of the series, produced and syndicated by NBC, also starring Waterman, premiered in 1955, but lasted only 39 episodes. During that year, both the 15-minute radio show and the television show were being produced simultaneously.

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**Episode for class:** One Too Many Secretaries - Aired on Friday, January 20, 1956.

Filmed at the Hal Roach Studios in Culver City.

**Willard Waterman** (Throckmorton P. Gildersleeve) - His interest in theater put an end to his original plan to be an engineer.

Waterman began his radio career at WIBA in Madison, Wisconsin singing in a quartet that performed "musical interludes between programs". He came to NBC in Chicago in early 1936. Although Waterman replaced Harold Peary as Gildersleeve, the two men became longtime friends.

In motion pictures, he is remembered for his role as Claude Upson in the 1958 film *Auntie Mame*. He was also seen in *Riding High*, *Three Coins in the Fountain* and *The Apartment*.

On the stage, he was in two Broadway productions of the musical *Mame* (the 1966 original and the 1983 revival) and the 1973 Broadway revival of *The Pajama Game*. He also toured in the national companies of *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*.

Waterman's later career included a variety of supporting roles on the shows *My Favorite Martian*, *Bat Masterson*, *The Eve Arden Show*, *77 Sunset Strip*, *Bonanza* and *The Dick Van Dyke Show*.

Willard Waterman has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

**Jean Willes** (Eva Jane Wingate) - is familiar to modern viewers for her roles in several Three Stooges comedies. She was also a comic foil to other comics such as Harry Langdon, Andy Clyde, Sterling Holloway and Hugh Herbert. In 1947, she changed her billing from her married name Jean Donahue, to her maiden name, Jean Willes.

In motion pictures, seen can be seen in *Son Of Paleface*, *From Here To Eternity*, *Ocean's Eleven* and *Invasion Of The Body Snatchers*.

She made the transition to television, appearing in dozens of series such as *Richard Diamond - Private Detective* plus several episodes of the *The George Burns and Gracie Allen Show*, *The Twilight Zone* and four episodes of *Bonanza*.

Her last feature films roles were in *McHale's Navy*, *The Cheyenne Social Club* and *Bite The Bullet*. After a few more roles in television, she retired in 1976.

**Willis Bouchey** (Mayor Terwilliger) - In his days on radio, Bouchey played the title role in *Captain Midnight*. On television, he was a member of Jack Webb's *Dragnet* stock company. He also played a judge in 23 episodes of *Perry Mason*.

He appeared in almost 150 movies and television shows over the period from 1951 to 1979. He appeared in twelve different productions of John Ford's movies as well as motion pictures with James Stewart.

In *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*, he delivered the last line: "Nothing's too good for the man who shot Liberty Valance."

**Stephanie Griffin** (Marjorie Forrester) - NBC produced the first nationally televised color broadcast of *The Tournament of Roses Parade* on January 1, 1954. In the parade, Stephanie Griffin was aboard a float as Snow White.

Following her first television appearance in 1954 as Claire on *The Ford Television Theater* episode, "Sister Veronica," she appeared in 1955 as Marjorie Forrester in fourteen episodes of *The Great Gildersleeve*. Her only film role was in *The Last Wagon* from 1956. Thirty-three years later in 1989, she acted as Dr. Brooks in her final role in the television movie, *The Karen Carpenter Story*.

**Ronald Keith** (Leroy Forrester) - had a brief 10 year career in television appearing in the programs *Fury*, *The Millionaire*, *The Great Gildersleeve* and *The Lucy Show*.

**Lillian Randolph** (Birdie Lee Coggins) - was an actress and singer in radio, film and television. She was the younger sister of actress Amanda Randolph.

Lillian Randolph worked in entertainment from the 1930's until 1980. She is remembered for appearing in *It's A Wonderful Life*, *The Bachelor and the Bobby-Soxer* and her final onscreen project, *The Onion Field*.

She moved on to Los Angeles in 1936 to work on Al Jolson's radio show. Randolph is best known as the maid Birdie Lee Coggins from *The Great Gildersleeve* radio comedy. She also portrayed Birdie in the television version of *The Great Gildersleeve*.

In 1954, Randolph had her own daily radio show in Hollywood. By 1958, Lillian, who started out as a blues singer, returned to music with a nightclub act.

She later appeared in several featured roles on *Sanford and Son* and *The Jeffersons* in the 1970's.

**Burt Mustin** (Foley) - was a salesman most of his life, but got his first taste of show business as the host of a weekly radio variety show on KDKA Pittsburgh in 1921.

He appeared in his first film at the age of 67 in director William Wyler's 1951 film *Detective Story*. Mustin made his television debut in 1951 with a role in *The Adventures Of Kit Carson*.

Throughout the 1950's, he made guest appearances on *The Abbott and Costello Show*, *The Loretta Young Show*, *The Lone Ranger*, *Dragnet*, *Our Miss Brooks*, *It's A Great Life*, *The Gale Storm Show*, *Peter Gunn* and many others.

During the 1960' and 1970's, Mustin made one or more appearances on *Bonanza*, *Gunsmoke*, *The Many Loves Of Dobie Gillis*, *Dragnet*, *Get Smart*, *All In The Family*, *The Brady Bunch*, *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, *Love, American Style* and *Emergency!* He was also a frequent guest on *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson*.

Among his film appearances are *What A Way To Go!*, *Sex And The Single Girl*, *The Cincinnati Kid* and *Cat Ballou*.

Mustin is best remembered as as Gus the fireman on *Leave It To Beaver* where he appeared fourteen times. His last major role was as Arthur Lanson on the CBS sitcom *Phyllis*, appearing on the show into early 1977. Mustin and his wife, Frances were married for 54 years.

**Barbara Stuart** (Bessie, Gildy's Secretary) - got her first break when invited to join the touring company of Zero Mostel's comedy play, *Lunatics and Lovers*. In the early 1960's, she was performing as a showgirl in Las Vegas.

She had recurring roles on *The McLean Stevenson Show*, *The Queen and I*, *Pete and Gladys*, *The George Burns Show*, *The Great Gildersleeve* and *Our Family Honor*.

Stuart is best remembered for her role as Sergeant Carter's girlfriend "Bunny" on *Gomer Pyle: USMC*.

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## **The Hal Roach Studios**

The Hal Roach Studios were built in 1919 and were located at 8822 Washington Blvd. in Culver City, California. One of Hal Roach's first stars was Harold Lloyd. His silent short comedies and features made him very popular.

According to Hal Roach, one day he glanced out of his office window to the lumberyard across the street and noticed a group of kids playing in a world of their own. As he watched these kids, he observed them and saw something that was real, honest and truthful. From that observation, the *Our Gang Comedies* began in 1922. This series lasted for 22 years with 221 comedies.

The next big comedy success was the team of Laurel & Hardy who began as solo players with the studio until they were paired together in 1927. Their partnership at the Hal Roach Studios lasted until 1940.



In the early 1940's, Roach began producing "streamliner" features which were shorter films running 40–50 minutes, intended for exhibition as B movies.

With the television boom of the 1950's, Hal Roach Studios shifted to all-TV production and produced programs such as *Duffy's Tavern*, *My Little Margie*, *Racket Squad*, *Rocky Jones - Space Ranger*, *The Stu Erwin Show* (aka *Trouble With Father*; *Life With Father*), *Life Of Riley*, *It's A Great Life*, *Adventures Of Superman* (episodes "The Case Of The Talkative Dummy" and "The Mystery Of The Broken Statues") and *The Twilight Zone* episode titled "Two", one of the very last screen productions made there.

In April 1959, the studio was closed due to bankruptcy under the management of Hal Roach, Jr., Roach's son. Hal, Sr. returned to try to resurrect it. However, by December of 1962, the lot was permanently closed and demolished in August of 1963.

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## REFERENCES

Internet Movie Data Base  
Wikipedia  
TheStudioTour.com

