

Going My Way

Episode For Class

Don't Forget To Say Good-Bye

This program was Gene Kelly's first and only attempt at a weekly television series. The series was cancelled after one season of 30 episodes.

Gene Kelly (Father Chuck O'Malley) - His first Broadway role was in November of 1938. Kelly was a dancer in Cole Porter's *Leave It To Me!* His breakthrough part was in *The Time Of Your Life*. It premiered on October 25, 1939. For the first time on Broadway, Kelly danced to his own choreography.

Producer David O. Selznick signed Kelly to his first Hollywood contract after seeing him star on Broadway in *Pal Joey* in 1940. Kelly had offers from other studios, however he chose to sign with Selznick mostly because his was the only studio that did not insist on a screen test. Selznick then sold half of Kelly's contract to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer for his first motion picture: *For Me and My Gal* starring Judy Garland in 1942. Arthur Freed, also of MGM picked up the other half of Kelly's contract. The rest is history.

As a dancer, actor, choreographer, writer, filmmaker and director, Gene Kelly had enormous success in a career that spanned nearly 60 years. *Singing In The Rain* and *An American In Paris* are always the films one thinks of first when the name Gene Kelly is spoken.

Dick York (Tom Colwell) began his career at the age of 15 as the star of the CBS radio program *That Brewster Boy*. He was in numerous other radio shows and films before going to New York City, where he performed on Broadway in *Tea and Sympathy* and *Bus Stop*. From there, he worked in LIVE television programs and films.

While making the film, *They Came to Cordura* in 1959, York suffered a permanent, disabling back injury.

York had parts in several episodes of television series such as *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*, *The Untouchables*, *Rawhide*, *Wagon Train*, *Father Knows Best*, *The Twilight Zone* and *Route 66*. Dick York will always be best remembered as the first Darrin Stephens in the sitcom *Bewitched*.

His autobiography, *The Seesaw Girl and Me* was released in 2004, several years after his death.

Leo G. Carroll (Father Fitzgibbon) was born in Weedon Bec, Northamptonshire, England, United Kingdom. His film career began in 1934 where he was cast in small roles in films such as *The Barretts of Wimpole Street* and *Wuthering Heights*. Alfred Hitchcock liked him so much, that he preferred him to any American actor to play the part of a U.S. senator in *Strangers On A Train* in 1951. Hitchcock brought back again in *Spellbound* and *North By Northwest*. Carroll has played in more Alfred Hitchcock films such as *Rebecca*, *Suspicion*, *Spellbound*, *The Paradine Case*, *Strangers On A Train* and *North By Northwest* than any other actor except Hitchcock himself in cameos.

On television he is most memorable as Cosmo Topper in *Topper* and as Alexander Waverley in *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.* He was also in the same role in the spin-off, *The Girl From U.N.C.L.E.*

Nydia Westman (Mrs. Featherstone) usually played characters that were older than she really was. She made her Broadway debut in 1924 and was a mainstay throughout the late 1920s, in other prominent New York theater roles.

She began her movie career in 1932 featured in two dramas, *Strange Justice* and *Manhattan Tower*. Westman was also seen in comedies such as *Ladies Should Listen* with Cary Grant, *The Cat and The Canary* with Bob Hope, *The Remarkable Andrew* with William Holden and *The Late George Apley* with Ronald Colman.

On television, she was featured in dramas and comedies in such programs as *The Donna Reed Show*, *Perry Mason*, *The Addams Family*, *The Munsters*, *F Troop*, *Family Affair* and *Bewitched*.

Jane Wyatt (Kitty McMullen) will forever be remembered as Margaret Anderson, the loving wife and mother in *Father Knows Best* where she won three consecutive Emmy Awards.

One of her first jobs on Broadway was as understudy to Rose Hobart in a production of *Trade Winds*.

Wyatt made her film debut in 1934 in *One More River*. However, her most famous film role was as co-star in Frank Capra's film *Lost Horizon* in 1937.

Wyatt turned down the role of Old Rose in the 1997 film, *Titanic* because she wanted to remain in retirement. The role went to Gloria Stuart.

She initially turned down the role of Margaret on *Father Knows Best* stating, "I'd been doing a lot of live TV drama in which I was the star. I didn't want to be just a mother."

Another quote from Jane Wyatt - "I never vacuumed at home wearing my pearls. In fact, I never vacuumed at all. I was always working at the studio. I would have gone crazy staying at home like Margaret Anderson and my family knew that."

Jane Wyatt was awarded a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at 6350 Hollywood Blvd. on February 8, 1960.

Richard Denning (Larry McMullen) was born Louis Albert Heindrich Denninger Jr. He entered a radio contest called "Do You Want to Be an Actor?". Denninger won a screen test at Warner Brothers who passed on his performance. Soon after, he was signed by Paramount, who insisted on changing his name to Richard Denning.

Denning was hired to star opposite Lucille Ball in *My Favorite Husband*. The CBS Radio sitcom ran for 124 episodes from July 23, 1948 through March 31, 1951. When *I Love Lucy* went to television, CBS wanted Denning to continue as the husband, but Lucille Ball insisted that her real life husband, Desi Arnaz, play the part.

On television, he starred in *Ding Howe* and *The Flying Tigers*. He also starred as the title character in the detective series *Michael Shayne* and shared title billing with Barbara Britton in the detective series *Mr. and Mrs. North*.

Denning had a recurring role in 74 episodes of *Hawaii Five-O* from 1968 to 1980.

Richard Denning has a star at 6932 Hollywood Boulevard on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. It was dedicated on February 8, 1960.

Joanna Moore (Jerry) - was born Dorothy Joan Cook in Americus, Georgia. After the death of her parents and inability of her grandmother to provide care for Joanna, she was adopted locally by a well to do family who changed her name from Dorothy to Joanna. When she was 16 years old, she married Willis Moore, but divorced him within the year.

Her television career began on such anthologies as *Lux Video Theatre*, *Goodyear Theatre*, *Studio One in Hollywood* and *Kraft Theatre*.

In motion pictures, Moore was in *Touch Of Evil*, *Ride A Crooked Trail*, the sci-fi horror *Monster On The Campus* and *The Last Angry Man*.

By the 1960's, Moore was regularly cast in television programs such as *Bourbon Street Beat*, *Maverick*, *The Rifleman*, *Bat Masterson*, *Tales Of Wells Fargo*, *The Rebel*, *Adventures In Paradise*, *The Untouchables*, *Bachelor Father*, *The Andy Griffith Show* and *The Real McCoys*.

Joanna married actor Ryan O'Neal in 1963. They had two children who also became actors: Tatum O'Neal and Griffin O'Neal. Joanna's marriage to O'Neal ended in divorce in February of 1967.

During the 1970's, Moore had guest roles on *Nanny and The Professor*, *The Governor J.J.*, and *McCloud*. However, by the late 1970s, Moore was living in the Palm Springs area, Indian Wells, involving herself in small theater projects.

Her last two on-screen appearances after 1976 were in a supporting role in the 1980 television film *Scout's Honor* and a very small part in the 1986 Australian film *Run Chrissie Run!*

Noreen Corcoran (Sally McMullen) - is best remembered as Kelly Gregg, the niece of John Forsythe's "Uncle Bentley" in *Bachelor Father*. She was the third of eight children. Her siblings, Bill Jr., Donna, Kerry, Hugh, Kevin, Brian and Kelly, were all actors as children.

Noreen's career began in 1951 with film and television appearances in *Dr. Kildare*, *Hans Christian Andersen*, *Channing*, *Gidget Goes to Rome*, *Cavalcade of America* and *Mr. Novak*. Corcoran's final role was in *The Big Valley*. She retired from acting in 1965 and worked at the Lewitzky Dance Company for many years.

Charles Robinson (Jeff Winters) worked before with Noreen Corcoran earlier in a 1961 episode of *Bachelor Father*. His first film was *Splendor in the Grass*, followed by *The Singing Nun*, *Shenandoah* and *Take Her, She's Mine*.

On television, he was seen on ~~77~~ *Sunset Strip*, *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*, *Stoney Burke*, *Laramie*, *Wagon Train*, *Gunsmoke*, *The Virginian*, *The High Chaparral*, *Ben Casey*, *The Munsters* and *My Three Sons*. He left television and film acting in 1987 but returned for one more film as a lawyer in *The Cable Guy*.

In 2001, he was appearing at the Palm Canyon Theatre in productions of *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. During his career, he appeared in over 80 films and television series.

Donald Kerr (Elevator Operator) - In his 33 year career, Kerr made over 500 appearances in films and television programs. He is probably best remembered as Happy Hapgood in the 1938 film, *Flash Gordon's Trip To Mars*. He was usually typecast in a variety of characters ranging from husbands to detectives to bellhops.

Following his retirement in 1966, Kerr spent the remainder of his life being a generous benefactor for several public libraries and schools, as well as being involved in charitable and religious causes.

REFERENCES

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Occasional Wife Notes

Episode for class: The Rivalry

Michael Callan starred in *Occasional Wife* as Peter Christopher, a young businessman trying to get ahead at the Brahms Baby Food Company. Because his boss won't promote unmarried men, Peter was stuck. So, he made a deal with a pretty young woman named Greta Patterson (played by Patricia Harty), who wanted to be an artist, but could only find work as a hat check girl.

If Greta would pretend to be Peter's wife for business purposes, in return Peter would pay for her art lessons and set her up in an

apartment two floors above his. When needed, she could pretend to be living with him in his apartment. The two were constantly running up and down the fire escape outside their apartment building which gave the unnamed man (Bryan O'Byrne) who lived in the apartment on the floor between the two (credited as Man-in-Middle) a lot to watch. An uncredited Vin Scully narrated the series.

As might be expected, the series revolved around Peter and Greta trying to hide the fact that they weren't married from family, friends, co-workers and most importantly, Peter's boss. Episodes involve someone seeing Greta kiss another man; Peter and Greta having to fake a church wedding to appease Peter's mother; Peter taking a job with another company and sending a letter to his boss exposing the scam only to wind up not getting the job; Peter's boss insisting the two attend marriage counseling and Peter quitting his job and firing Greta only to learn his new boss wants to meet his wife.

Occasional Wife was given the Thursday 8:30-9:00PM time slot where it would compete with *The Rounders* on ABC and the first half of *The Red Skelton Hour* on CBS. A total of 30 episodes were produced, the last of which aired on May 9th, 1967. For the 1966-1967 season as a whole, the series ranked 65th.

Michael Callan (Peter Christopher) - His first big break came when he was in *The Boy Friend* and *Catch A Star*. He and his dance partner, Grace Genteel, appeared on *The Ed Sullivan Show* and *Chance Of A Lifetime*.

When he was 21, he auditioned and got the role of "Riff" in the original Broadway production of *West Side Story*. Not too long after, Columbia Pictures signed Callan to a seven year deal in June of 1958. Up to that time, he had been using the name Mickey Calin, but then changed his name to Michael Callan.

He was unable to reprise his *West Side Story* role of Riff in the film version due to his contract with Columbia, but he did dance in the film *Gidget Goes Hawaiian*. After eight years and 13 films with Columbia Pictures, Callan got the lead role of Peter Christopher on the sitcom *Occasional Wife* which was made by Columbia's Screen Gems.

Callan's other films included *The Magnificent Seven Ride!*, *Lepke* and *The Cat and The Canary*. Some of his additional television credits include *Hazel*, *That Girl*, *The Name of the Game*, *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, *Marcus Welby, M.D.*, *Barnaby Jones*, *Charlie's Angels*, *The Love Boat*, *The Bionic Woman*, four episodes of *Murder, She Wrote*, and eight episodes of *Love, American Style*. After more television, stage and film roles, Callan retired from show business in 2006.

Patricia Harty (Greta Patterson) - Before entering show business, she worked for a lawyer, took secretarial classes and majored in English at Columbia University.

On Broadway, Harty appeared in *Fiorello!* as a dancer and in the role of Dora (replacement and understudy) plus *Sail Away* in the role of Nancy Foyle.

Her television debut was as a dancer on Pat Boone's ABC Chevy Show program and Perry Como's NBC Kraft Music Hall. Harty was also a featured dancer on The Garry Moore Show, where additionally, she performed in comedy skits with Carol Burnett. She co-starred with Will Hutchins in the short-lived sitcom re-boot of *Blondie* in 1968. Harty also co-starred with Dean Jones in another short-lived sitcom, *Herbie The Love Bug* in 1982.

It was during her time on *Occasional Wife* she met and married her co-star, Michael Callan in 1968. Their union ended in divorce in 1970. Harty married again in 1974, this time to producer and director, Les Sheldon. As of 2023, they have been together for almost 49 years.

After her days on *Occasional Wife*, Harty played a real wife to Bob Crane's character Bob Wilcox on *The Bob Crane Show* in 1975. She could also be seen on episodes of *The Odd Couple*, *Bonanza*, *St. Elsewhere*, *Who's The Boss?* and *Charmed*. She retired from acting in 2003 after her role on *The District*.

Jack Collins (Max Brahms) - In addition to playing the boss, Max Brahms on *Occasional Wife*, Collins could be seen as a client for McMahon and Tate on *Bewitched* 8 times and as Mike Brady's boss, Mr. Phillips, in *The Brady Bunch*.

His numerous other television appearances include, *The Phil Silvers Show*, *Mission Impossible*, *The Addams Family*, *Gunsmoke*, *The Phil Silvers Show*, *Mission Impossible*, *Dallas*,

My Favorite Martian, *I Dream Of Jeannie*, *The Odd Couple*, *Adam-12*, *Ironside*, *The Partridge Family*, *The Rockford Files*, *Matt Houston*.

Jack Riley (Wally Frick) - He was a semi-regular on *Occasional Wife*, but had his greatest success as the self-centered patient on *The Bob Newhart Show*. Riley was also seen on *Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In*, *M*A*S*H*, *Barney Miller*, *Hogan's Heroes*, *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, *One Day At A Time*, *Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.*, *Diff'rent Strokes*, and *Night Court*.

He also appeared in several of Mel Brooks films such as *High Anxiety*, *History of the World: Part 1* and *To Be or Not To Be*. Riley also performed many voiceover roles in radio commercials and television. His final acting role was a cameo appearance on *Saturday Night Live*, as a subway passenger in 2013.

Joan Tompkins (Mrs. Brahms) - became well known on radio in the role of Nora Drake. On Broadway, she performed in *Pride and Prejudice* and *My Sister Eileen*. Her longest running roles on television were in *Valiant Lady*, *Sam Benedict*, *Occasional Wife* and *My Three Sons*. After her days in acting had ended, she established a writing group and wrote several books herself.

Susan Silo (Vera Frick) - Her acting career began in television on *The Jack Benny Program*. Silo made guest appearances in many television series from the 1960's to the 1990's on programs such as *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*, *Hawaiian Eye*, *Mottale's Navy*, *Route 66*, *Wagon Train*, *The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis*, *L.A. Law*, *Sea Hunt*, *Hazel*, *Batman*, *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.*, *The Love Boat* and *The Wild Wild West*.

Additionally, she is a voice actress and has taught workshops in this field and lectured across the USA. Her most recent work was in 2022 as the voice of Nettie Pisghetti in the animated series *Curious George*.

Stuart Margolin (Bernie) - made his debut in *The Gertrude Berg Show* before becoming a series regular on *Ensign O'Toole*. Margolin has won two Best Supporting Actor Emmy Awards by playing James Garner's former cell-mate "Angel" Martin in *The Rockford Files*. He directed episodic television and made-for-TV movies for 37 years. Some of his directing credits include *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, *Magnum, P.I.* and *The Love Boat*. His career as an actor, director and screenwriter lasted for over 60 years.

Bryan O'Byrne (*The Man In The Middle*) - His acting portrayals were usually those of a mild, meek and quiet type of character. He appeared in more than 200 television commercials.

In addition to being "the man in the middle" on *Occasional Wife*, O'Byrne appeared regularly as a mortician in *The Munsters*. Some of his other television guest appearances include *My Three Sons*, *The Cara Williams Show*, *Murder, She Wrote*, *The Bob Newhart Show* and *Happy Days*.

He was a very successful Los Angeles based acting teacher and coach in his later years. Some of his students included Nick Nolte, Forest Whitaker, Jimmy Smits, Lou Diamond Phillips, Pam Dawber and Christopher McDonald. O'Byrne retired from show business and teaching in 1990.

REFERENCES

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