

Mission: Impossible Notes

Mission: Impossible aired on CBS from September 17, 1966 to March 30, 1973. There were a total of 171 episodes filmed in this series. The show was created by Bruce Geller.

Geller's inspiration for *Mission: Impossible* was the film *Topkapı*, the story about an elaborate heist. The audio tape recording scenes are reminiscent of the novel *Saigon* by Nick Carter-Killmaster. In the novel, a secret agent receives a package from his superior which, when activated, plays a tape recorded message that self destructs after playing once.

The series had many cast changes over the years:

Season 1 - Steven Hill, Barbara Bain, Greg Morris, Peter Lupus with Martin Landau in a recurring role.

Season 2 - Peter Graves, Barbara Bain, Martin Landau, Greg Morris and Peter Lupus.

Season 3 - Peter Graves, Barbara Bain, Martin Landau, Greg Morris and Peter Lupus. Lee Meriwether made guest appearances during Season 3.

Season 4 - Peter Graves, Greg Morris, Peter Lupus and Leonard Nimoy. Dina Merrill, Lee Meriwether, Anne Francis, Sally Ann Howes and Jessica Walter made guest appearances throughout Season 4.

Season 5 - Peter Graves, Greg Morris, Peter Lupus, Lesley Ann Warren (as Lesley Warren), Sam Elliott and Leonard Nimoy.

Season 6 - Peter Graves, Greg Morris, Peter Lupus, Lynda Day George.

Season 7 - Peter Graves, Greg Morris, Peter Lupus and Lynda Day George. Barbara Anderson made guest appearances during Season 7.

Mission: Impossible - 1988 - 1990

Thao Penghlis, Phil Morris, Peter Graves, Antony Hamilton and Jane Badler. Greg Morris recreated his role of Barney Collier in three episodes of this series.

This series was filmed in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

Episode for class:

The System - Aired January 26, 1969

Peter Graves (Jim Phelps) - was born Peter Duesler Aurness in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He used the stage name Graves to honor his mother's family and also not be confused with the stage name of his older brother James Arness.

Graves made 140 appearances in films and television during his career. He was featured in a key role in the 1953 film, *Stalag 17*. In 1955, he joined the cast of *Fury*, as the adoptive single father, Jim Newton.

Grave also had guest roles in series such as *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*, *Cimarron City*, *Route 66* and *The Invaders*. In 1967, Graves was hired by Desilu Studios to replace Steven Hill as the lead actor on *Mission: Impossible*, playing the character of Jim Phelps.

After *Mission: Impossible*, he was cast in miniseries *The Winds of War* and *War and Remembrance*. Additionally, he appeared as Captain Clarence Oveur in the 1980's comedies *Airplane!* and *Airplane II: The Sequel*.

During the 1990's, he hosted and narrated the documentary series *Biography* on A&E along with performing in several films featured on *Mystery Science Theater 3000*.

He was awarded a Golden Globe Award in 1971 for his role as Jim Phelps in *Mission: Impossible*. Graves also won a Primetime Emmy Award for outstanding informational series in 1997 as host of *Biography*. On October 30, 2009, Graves was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at 6667 Hollywood Blvd.

Martin Landau (Rollin Hand) - After attending high school, he went to work at the New York Daily News. He spent the next five years as an editorial cartoonist and worked alongside Gus Edson to produce the comic strip *The Gumps*.

Landau pursued an acting career while at the Actors Studio. There he became good friends with James Dean. In 1957, he made his Broadway debut in *Middle Of The Night*. Two years later, he made his first major film appearance in Alfred Hitchcock's *North By Northwest* with Cary Grant and Eva Marie Saint.

Roles in *Pork Chop Hill*, *The Gazebo*, *Cleopatra*, *The Greatest Story Ever Told* and *Nevada Smith* followed.

Landau received an Academy Award nomination for his role in *Tucker: The Man and His Dream* in 1988. He also received an Academy Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor in Woody Allen's *Crimes and Misdemeanors* in 1989. He won an Academy Award in 1995 for Best Supporting Actor for his performance in *Ed Wood* playing the part of Bela Lugosi. Landau was nominated six times for Emmy Awards (three for *Mission: Impossible*), but never won.

Landau was married to actress Barbara Bain from 1957 to 1993. For his work the motion picture industry, Landau has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at 6841 Hollywood Boulevard.

Barbara Bain (Cinnamon Carter) - was born Mildred Fogel in Chicago, Illinois. She graduated from the University of Illinois with a bachelor's degree in sociology.

Bain's first acting role was in the play *Middle Of The Night* on a national tour in October of 1957. With her was fellow actor and new husband Martin Landau.

Some of her early appearances on television include *Tightrope*, *The Law and Mr. Jones*, *Adventures In Paradise*, *Straightaway*, *Richard Diamond, Private Detective*, *The Dick Van Dyke Show*, *The Many Loves Of Dobie Gillis*, *Get Smart* and *Perry Mason*.

After *Mission: Impossible*, she co-starred with Martin Landau again in *Space: 1999* from 1975 to 1977. During the 1980's and 1990's, Bain could be seen guest starring on *The Harlem Globetrotters*, *Gilligan's Island*, *Moonlighting*, *My So-Called Life*; *Walker, Texas Ranger* and *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*.

Barbara Bain won three consecutive Emmy Awards for her work on *Mission: Impossible* as Best Dramatic Actress for her performances in 1967, 1968, and 1969. She also received a Golden Globe Award nomination in 1968. On April 28, 2016, Bain was awarded with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame located at 6767 Hollywood Boulevard.

Greg Morris (Barney Collier) - was born Francis Gregory Alan Morris in Cleveland, Ohio. He began his television acting career during the 1960's on numerous television programs such as *The Alfred Hitchcock Hour*, *The Twilight Zone*, *Branded* and *Ben Casey*. His cameo appearance on *The Dick Van Dyke Show* in the 1963 episode "That's My Boy?" created a record setting amount of laughter from the studio audience.

After his days on *Mission: Impossible*, Morris could be seen on *The Six Million Dollar Man*, *What's Happening!!*, *The Jeffersons* (he reprised his "Barney Collier" character in a spy spoof called "Mission Incredible"), *Password*, *Tattletales*, and *Password Plus*.

He co-starred in 57 episodes of the television series *Vega\$*. After his appearances on *Vega\$*, he enjoyed the city of Las Vegas so much to the point that he and his wife decided to move there.

Greg Morris was nominated three times for an Emmy Award for his role as Barney Collier on *Mission: Impossible*.

Peter Lupus (Willie Armitage) - attended the Jordan College of Fine Arts at Butler University. He also played football and basketball while attending there. At 6 feet 4 inches and a well developed physique, Lupus began his career by earning the titles of Mr. Indianapolis, Mr. Indiana, Mr. Hercules and Mr. International Health Physique.

As "Rock Stevens", he appeared in films such as *Hercules and the Tyrants of Babylon*, *Challenge of the Gladiator* and *Muscle Beach Party*.

During season five of *Mission: Impossible*, the producers decided that Peter's "Willy Armitage" character was excessive and unnecessary. He was dropped to recurring status and was replaced by Sam Elliott. Outcry from fans resulted in his return to regular status the following season.

After *Mission: Impossible*, Lupus has a recurring role of Detective Norberg on the sitcom *Police Squad!*

On July 19, 2007 at age 75, Lupus set a world weightlifting endurance record by lifting 77,560 pounds over the course of 24 minutes and 50 seconds at the Spectrum Club in El Segundo, California. He is quoted as saying, "I want everyone to get fit and stay healthy, the second half of your life starts at 50. Will you be prepared to have the best time of your life like I'm having?"

Today in 2024, Peter Lupus is 92 years old and still working out. He and his wife, Sharon have been married for 64 years.

James Patterson (Johnny Costa) - Early on, he was a painter and later studied acting at the Carnegie Institute of Technology. He met his future wife, actress, Rochelle Oliver on the set of the off-Broadway production of *The Brothers Karamazov*. Patterson won a Tony Award for his role in *The Birthday Party*, a 1968 play by Harold Pinter.

Among his television appearances were roles on *Route 66*, *Naked City*, *The Defenders*, *Slattery's People*, *Bonanza* and *Hawaii Five-O*.

Val Avery (Constantine Victor) - was born Sebouh Der Abrahamian in Philadelphia. Throughout his 55 year career, Avery appeared in over 175 television and film roles.

He made his film debut with an uncredited role in Humphrey Bogart's final film, *The Harder They Fall* in 1956. His numerous film credits include *The Long*, *Hot Summer*, *The Magnificent Seven*, *Requiem for a Heavyweight*, *Hud*, *Papillon* and *Donnie Brasco*. He also appeared in five films that were directed by John Cassavetes.

On television, Avery could be seen in *The Untouchables*, *The Fugitive*, *Gunsmoke*, *Bonanza*, *Daniel Boone*, *The Munsters*, *Mannix*, *The Odd Couple*, *Kojak*, *Quincy, M.E.*, *Law & Order* and *Cannon*.

REFERENCES

Internet Movie Data Base

Wikipedia

Gary Westfahl's Biographical Encyclopedia of Science Fiction Film