

## The Girl From U.N.C.L.E. Notes

*The Girl From U.N.C.L.E.* was a spy fiction television series starring Stefanie Powers as American U.N.C.L.E. agent April Dancer that aired on NBC for one season from September 13, 1966, to April 11, 1967. There were a total of 29 episodes. The series was a spin-off from *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.*

Noel Harrison was her British partner, Mark Slate. Leo G. Carroll played their superior, Alexander Waverly. U.N.C.L.E. was an acronym for the United Network Command for Law and Enforcement.

April Dancer was originally to have been named Cookie Fortune. The character name April Dancer was suggested by James Bond creator Ian Fleming who was a consultant in the creation of the program shortly before his death.

The pilot for this series aired as a *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.* episode *The Moonglow Affair* on February 25, 1966. Mary Ann Mobley was April Dancer along with Norman Fell who was a much older and non-British Mark Slate. NBC gave the new series the 7:30-8:30PM time slot on Tuesday evenings which began on September 13, 1966. Its competition was with ABC's *Combat* and CBS's *Daktari*.

Guest stars over the course of the season included Pernell Roberts, Leslie Uggams, Patricia Barry, Peggy Lee, Nanette Fabray, Dom DeLuise, Sorrell Booke, Tom Bosley, Ed Asner, Victor Buono and Ann Sothorn. The subsequent series was not as successful as *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.* program and was cancelled after 29 episodes due to low ratings.

There were some attempts at cross-promotion with *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.* Noel Harrison appeared as Mark Slate in an episode of *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.* while Robert Vaughn appeared as Napoleon Solo in an episode of *The Girl From U.N.C.L.E.* Unfortunately, the show failed to attract a steady audience.

Leo G. Carroll, by appearing as Waverly in both U.N.C.L.E. shows, became one of the first actors in the history of television to play the same continuing character in more than one series.

**Episode for class:** The Mother Muffin Affair

**Stefanie Powers** (April Dancer) - was born in Hollywood as Stefania Zofya Paul, however her surname often was cited as Federkiewicz.

In 1961, using the stage name Taffy Paul, she appeared in the independent film *The Young Sinner* which was released in 1965. This was followed by roles in *Experiment in Terror*, *If A Man Answers*, *McLintock!*, *Tammy Tell Me True*, *Palm Springs Weekend*, *The Interns* and *Die! Die! My Darling*.

After *The Girl From U.N.C.L.E.* ended, Powers appeared in more films and television guest roles on *Lancer*, *McCloud*, *The Mod Squad*, *Banacek*, *Kung Fu*, *The Rockford Files*, *Three For The Road*, *The Six Million Dollar Man*, *The Bionic Woman* and *McMillan & Wife*.

Powers is best remembered as Jennifer Hart in the series *Hart To Hart* with Robert Wagner. Powers guest appearance on *It Takes A Thief* with Robert Wagner led him to recommend her to play his wife on *Hart To Hart* when the series was being cast. *Hart To Hart* aired for five seasons from 1979 to 1984. Powers and

Wagner later reunited for eight *Hart To Hart* TV movies in the 1990's. For her role as Jennifer Hart, Powers received two Emmy Best Television Actress nominations and five Golden Globe Award Best Television Actress nominations.

In 1992, Powers received a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at 6776 Hollywood Boulevard presented by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce.

**Leo G. Carroll** (Alexander Waverly) - Leo Gratten Carroll's career spanned more than 40 years. He appeared in six Alfred Hitchcock films including *Spellbound*, *Rebecca*, *Suspicion*, *The Paradine Case*, *Strangers On A Train* and *North By Northwest*. He also starred in three television series: *Topper*, *Going My Way* and *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.*.

Carroll made his stage debut in 1912. During the First World War, he served in the British Army. He took up acting once again in December of 1919. After he moved to Hollywood, Carroll made his film debut in *Sadie McKee* from 1934.

Carroll is best remembered for his role as the frustrated banker haunted by the ghosts of George and Marion Kerby in *Topper* for two seasons.

**Robert Vaughn** (Napoleon Solo) - After high school, he enrolled in the University of Minnesota as a journalism major, but dropped out after a year and moved to Los Angeles with his mother. He studied theater arts at Los Angeles City College in 1956 and transferred to Los Angeles State College of Applied Arts and Sciences earning a master's degree in theater in 1960.

His first appearance in motion pictures was as an extra in *The Ten Commandments* from 1956. His breakthrough role was in *The Young Philadelphians*. Vaughn credited Paul Newman with

helping him get this first major film role. This earned him a 1960 Academy Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor.

Vaughn made his television debut on the November 21, 1955 in the television series *Medic* with Richard Boone. Some of his other numerous television credits include *The Dick Powell Show*, *The Dick Van Dyke Show*, *Follow the Sun*, *Father Knows Best*, *Checkmate*, *Bonanza* and *The Untouchables*. After his days on *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.*, he was a featured player in the films *Bullitt* and *Superman III*. He continued to make many appearances in television and films over the following years. His final film was in an independent production titled *Gold Star*. The film was released in November of 2017, one year after Vaughn's passing the previous November.

He won an Emmy Award in 1978 for Outstanding Continuing Performance by a Supporting Actor in the television mini-series *Washington: Behind Closed Doors*. Vaughn was also awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on July 27, 1998. His star is located at 6633 Hollywood Boulevard.

**Bernard Fox** (Rodney Babcock) - He had the distinction of appearing in both *Titanic* from 1997 and the earlier film version of that tragedy in *A Night To Remember* in 1958. Fox also made three guest appearances on *The Andy Griffith Show* as the lovable Mr. Malcolm Merriwether. However, Bernard Fox is best remembered as Dr. Bombay the warlock physician on *Bewitched*.

**Bruce Gordon** (Vito Pomade) As Boris Benjamin Grabowsky, he was born in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. His first appearance on Broadway was in 1937 in the musical drama *The Fireman's Flame*. From 1941 to 1945, he played alongside Boris Karloff in the original cast of *Arsenic and Old Lace* on Broadway.

On television, he appeared in several episodes of early programs such as *The Goldbergs*, *Studio One*, *Kraft Television Theatre*, *Robert Montgomery Presents*, *Whirlybirds* and the premiere episode of *Decoy*.

His frequent performances as Frank "The Enforcer" Nitti in *The Untouchables* led to his being typecast as a heavy for the rest of his career. In 1966, he and Robert Stack appeared together in an episode of *The Lucy Show* spoofing their roles from *The Untouchables*.

Gordon's other television appearances include episodes of *Perry Mason*, *Bat Masterson*, *Adventures In Paradise*, *One Step Beyond*, *It Takes A Thief* and *Adam-12*.

Gordon retired from acting after playing himself in the 1989 film *Ernest Goes To Splash Mountain*.

**Monty O'Grady** - (passenger uncredited) began his film career in the silent movie era as a child actor who is best known as a member of the early *Our Gang* comedies plus roles with Laurel & Hardy and Mary Pickford. As an adult, O'Grady became a well known extra with 464 appearances who can be spotted in many films and television shows in uncredited roles such as reporters, waiters, party guests, passengers on ocean liners, or patrons in nightclubs or restaurants.

**Mitzie Evans** aka Jennifer Kaye Evans - (Lisa Calvert) - Her appearance in this episode of *The Girl From U.N.C.L.E.* was her television debut. Some of Evans other television and films roles include *The Wild Wild West*, *Boston Public*, *Boston Legal* and *The Artist*.

**Boris Karloff** (*Mother Muffin*) - was born William Henry Pratt. In 1911, he chose Boris Karloff as his stage name. Karloff always

said he chose the first name "Boris" because it sounded foreign and exotic. According to him, "Karloff" was a family name. However, Karloff's daughter, Sara, publicly denied any knowledge of Slavic forebears, "Karloff" or otherwise. One reason for the name change was to prevent embarrassment to the Pratt family.

His first confirmed on-screen roles were in the film serials, *The Lightning Raider* and *The Masked Rider* both in 1919. Karloff's first major role came in a film serial, *The Hope Diamond Mystery*.

While one day sitting at the bus stop in the pouring rain, Lon Chaney Sr., 'The Man of a Thousand Faces', spotted Karloff and offered him a ride. Chaney told him "to find something different that will set you apart and is different from anything someone else has done or is willing to do and do it better".

Karloff acted in 81 films before being discovered by James Whale and cast in *Frankenstein*. In time, horror had become Karloff's primary work. He was featured in many of Universal's horror films, including eight with Bela Lugosi. Throughout his career, Karl appeared in over 200 films and television programs.

Karloff was one of the 12 original founders of the Screen Actors Guild and held SAG card #9. He was awarded two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame: One for Motion Pictures at located at 1737 Vine Street and another for television at 6664 Hollywood Boulevard in Hollywood, California.

---

## **I'm Dickens, He's Fenster Notes**

### **Episode for class:** A Small Matter Of Being Fired

In the Episode titled The Carpenters Four which aired on January 18, 1963, Jim Nabors (billed as James Nabors) made his television debut. Emmaline Henry (Kate) also sings briefly at the beginning of this episode.

*I'm Dickens, He's Fenster* was a sitcom starring John Astin and Marty Ingels that aired on ABC from September 28, 1962 to May 10, 1963. The series was created and produced by Leonard Stern and filmed at Desilu. The series ran for 32 episodes.

In 1961, TV producer Leonard Stern was having his house remodeled. As he observed the construction workers building a hood over his fireplace, he noticed they had sealed their steel ladder inside. It took hours for the workers to deconstruct the fireplace to retrieve the ladder. While watching otherwise intelligent and talented men endeavor to hastily rectify their incompetence, a light bulb lit up inside Stern's head.

With this incident in mind, Leonard Stern approached the ABC television network. Stern's new show was not a hard sell. *I'm Dickens He's Fenster*, starring John Astin and Marty Ingels was ultimately given the green light for the 1962-1963 television season. Even though the show won positive raves, it was programmed opposite two major hits: *Sing Along With Mitch* starring Mitch Miller and *Route 66*. Sadly, just as *I'm Dickens, He's Fenster* was gaining popularity and winning its time slot, ABC cancelled the series after only one season of 32 episodes. Without enough episodes for syndication, this comedy quickly faded from the public's memory.

The series starred John Astin as Harry Dickens and Marty Ingels as Arch Fenster. Emmaline Henry played Harry's wife, Kate. Also appearing regularly at Dickens and Fenster's workplace were Frank DeVol as their boss Myron Bannister, David Ketchum as Mel Warshaw, Henry Beckman as Bob Mulligan and Noam Pitlik as Bentley.

*I'm Dickens, He's Fenster* was filmed in front of a live audience which. The scripts were written by such veteran comedy writers as creator-producer Leonard Stern, Mel Tolkin, Don Hinkley, Danny Simon and Barry Blitzer. The show was well received by the audience as laughter sometimes drowned some of the dialogue.

Three years later, John Astin and Marty Ingels were reunited in an episode of *The Addams Family*. In the episode "Cat Addams", Ingels played the role of veterinarian Marvin P. Gunderson, called by the Addams to treat Kitty Cat.

This show caught the attention of one particular classic comedy legend: Stan Laurel of Laurel & Hardy fame. Gratified that *I'm Dickens He's Fenster* was one of the few TV comedies following in the tradition of Laurel & Hardy, Stan became a loyal fan of the show and started writing letters of appreciation to Leonard Stern. However, Stern couldn't believe the comedy icon Stan Laurel was actually a fan of his show and thought the letters were fakes, most likely perpetrated by his good friend Steve Allen.



Finally, one day while Leonard and Steve were having lunch, Steve Allen asked Leonard, 'have you received any letters from Stan Laurel?' Leonard was now convinced it was Steve behind this practical joke and said to him, 'how would YOU know I was receiving letters from Stan Laurel, unless YOU were writing them?' Steve answered simply, 'Well, Stan contacted me and was wondering why you haven't answered any of his letters!' After that, Leonard Stern was just a little more careful when it came to reading his fan mail, especially when it was signed, "Stan."

**Leonard Stern** - was a television writer who wrote for series such as *The Honeymooners*, *The Phil Silvers Show*, *The Steve Allen Show*, *Tonight Starring Steve Allen* and *Get Smart*. During the 1970's, he produced and directed the television series *McMillan & Wife*, *Rosetti & Ryan* and *Operation Petticoat* among several others. He won two Emmy Awards for writing on *The Phil Silvers Show* and *Get Smart*.

Stern was born in New York City and began writing jokes for Milton Berle at the age of 16. He began writing for films in the early 1950's on features such as *Ma and Pa Kettle Go To Town* and *Abbott and Costello In The Foreign Legion*.

Stern launched his publishing career with *Mad Libs*, books whose pages offer brief stories with key words left blank. One player asks the other players to provide nouns, verbs, adjectives or adverbs. After doing so, as it says in the instructions: "Read the complete silly story back and roar with laughter."

**John Astin** (Harry Dickens) - started his performing career in theater, making his first Broadway appearance as an understudy in *Major Barbara* in 1954 and also did voice-over work for commercials. His first big break in motion pictures came with a small role in *West Side Story* in 1961.

Around this time, he began to guest star on television programs such as *Dennis The Menace*, *The Donna Reed Show*, *Harrigan and Son* and *The Asphalt Jungle*.

The following year after *I'm Dickens, He's Fenster*, Astin starred in what is his best remembered role as Gomez Addams in *The Addams Family*. He later reprised the role of Gomez in the 1977 made-for-television film *Halloween With The New Addams Family* and voiced the role of Gomez in the animated series *The Addams Family* from 1992 to 1993.

During his acting career, Astin made over 150 appearances in films and television.

Until his retirement, Astin was director of the Theater Arts and Studies Department and Homewood Professor of the Arts at Johns Hopkins University. He taught at Hopkins from 2001 until 2021.

**Marty Ingels** (Arch Fenster) - was born as Martin Ingerman in Brooklyn, New York.

Over the years, he has guest starred on *Pete and Gladys*, *The Ann Sothern Show*, *Hennesey*, *Bewitched*, *The Dick Van Dyke Show* and *The Love Boat*.

His motion picture credits include *Armored Command*, *The Horizontal Lieutenant*, *Wild and Wonderful*, *The Busy Body*, *A Guide for the Married Man*, *For Singles Only*, *The Picasso Summer* and *If It's Tuesday, This Must Be Belgium*.

**Emmaline Henry** (Kate Dickens) - began her career as a singer and appeared on local radio programs during her teen years. She went to Hollywood in the early 1950's and found her way into the choruses of several musicals. Producers noticed that her comedic

skills were overshadowing her singing. She toured in musicals like *Top Banana* and appeared in the film version of the show. She succeeded Carol Channing in the play *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*.

Henry made her television debut in a 1955 episode of *I Led Three Lives*. This was followed by an appearance as a gun moll robber in *Highway Patrol*. She also appeared on *The Red Skelton Show*, *The Farmer's Daughter*, *Bonanza*, *The Munsters* and *Petticoat Junction*. From 1964 to 1965, she appeared as Mickey Rooney's wife, Nora, in the sitcom *Mickey*.

She also made motion picture appearances in *Divorce American Style*, *Rosemary's Baby* and *Harrad Summer*.

Henry is best remembered as Amanda Bellows, the wife of Dr. Alfred Bellows on *I Dream of Jeannie*. She appeared during the first season of *I Dream of Jeannie* in the episode "Is There An Extra Genie In the House?" She then made 33 appearances as Amanda Bellows until the fifth and final season in 1970.

---

## REFERENCES

I'm Dickens, He's Fenster website  
Los Angeles Times - Leonard Stern Obituary  
Wikipedia  
Internet Movie Data Base  
Television Obscurities website