

February 10, 2020

Dangerous Assignment - The Piece Of String Story - Aired in syndication on various television stations at different times during the winter of 1952.

Brian Donlevy starred in and produced this TV series in which he had performed on radio from 1949 to 1954.

Brian Donlevy - Waldo Brian Donlevy began his career in New York City in the early 1920s, appearing in many theater productions and silent films. His break came in 1935, when he was cast in the Edward G. Robinson film *Barbary Coast*.

According to director William Wellman, Donlevy was said to always have gone through this necessary morning ritual before arriving on the movie set: **(1)** insert his dentures **(2)** put on his hairpiece **(3)** strap on his corset **(4)** lace up "elevator" shoes.

He was William Holden's best man at his 1941 wedding to Brenda Marshall. He was wounded twice while serving as a fighter pilot in France during World War I. In 1939, he received an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of Sgt. Markoff in Paramount's *Beau Geste* (1939). The winner that year was Thomas Mitchell for his performance as Doc Josiah Boone in *Stagecoach*. He was married three times. His last wife was Lillian Arch Lugosi, the former wife of Bela Lugosi.

Hugh Beaumont - Born Eugene Hugh Beaumont was a devout Methodist who originally studied for the clergy, but eventually switched to acting. He remained busy as a lay minister throughout his acting career. From 1950 to 1953, Beaumont was

the narrator of the Reed Hadley series *Racket Squad*. He wrote and directed several episodes of *Leave It to Beaver* (1957), including the final episode, *Leave It to Beaver: Family Scrapbook* (1963). After his days as Ward Cleaver ended, he had guest roles in various programs including *Wagon Train*, *Lassie*, *Petticoat Junction* and *Mannix*. Beaumont spent most of his later years growing Christmas trees on Balgillo Island, which he owned, in northern Minnesota.

Robert Williams - with well over 300 film and television credits to his name, he played the role of Barney on *Hazel* from 1961 to 1965 as well as Garth Gimble Sr. on *Fernwood Tonight*.

Lynne Roberts - was billed early in her career as Mary Hart and Lynn Roberts (minus the "e" in Lynne) while appearing in seven films with Roy Rogers. Since she was 14 years old when she worked in her first film, her birth year was changed by Republic Studios from 1922 to 1919 to avoid any controversy. She is best remembered for her many parts in western films. Her final television appearance was on *The Merv Griffin Show* in September of 1965.

Dan Seymour - made four other appearances in this series as different characters. Seymour played the part of Ferrari on the television series *Casablanca* in 1955 and made two appearances on *Batman* in 1966. He is not the same Dan Seymour who was a well known radio and television announcer who hosted some game shows in the early days of television.

Guy Kingsford - had a 25 year career in films and television which included roles on *Highway Patrol*, *The Millionaire* and *One Step Beyond*.

Ralph Smiley - His 26 year acting career began in 1951 appearing on television programs such as *The Gale Storm Show: Oh, Susanna!*, *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* and *Rawhide*.

Steve Pendleton - had appearances on *The Adventures Of Wild Bill Hickok*, *The Roy Rogers Show* and *The George Burns and Gracie Allen Show*. He was a semi regular on television programs such as *The Life and Legend Of Wyatt Earp* and *Julia*.

The Difficult Age - Aired Thursday evening at 9:30PM on January 21, 1956 on CBS.

Filmed at Republic Studios the former site of the Mack Sennett Studios in Studio City.

In this story, 62 year old Charles Coburn was actually 78 years old when this story went on the air. Elizabeth Patterson, his 59 year old sister was really 80 years old.

Charles Coburn - Three time Academy Award nominee won for Best Supporting Actor for his role as Benjamin Dingle in *The More The Merrier* with Jean Arthur and Joel McCrea in 1943. His other two Academy Award nominations were for *The Devil And Miss Jones* and *The Green Years*. He appeared in five Academy Award Best Picture nominees: *Kings Row* (1942), *The More the Merrier* (1943), *Heaven Can Wait* (1943), *Wilson* (1944) and *Around the World in 80 Days* (1956), the only film in this group to win. He wore his trademark monocle to correct an eye deficiency. When asked by a reporter why he did not wear his monocle while eating, he replied, "I once lost one in a bowl of soup." He was

one of the few Hollywood actors who actually lived on Hollywood Boulevard.

George N. Neise - Among his 150 plus credits, he is known for his role as Capitan Felipe Arrellano on *Zorro* with Guy Williams along with numerous appearances on *Perry Mason*, *The Untouchables* and *Death Valley Days*. He also had parts in two films with *The Three Stooges* in the 1960's.

Joi Lansing - In her career, she had multiple appearances on television programs such as *The Bob Cummings Show* in a recurring role as Shirley Swanson and as Gladys Flatt, the wife of Lester Flatt on *The Beverly Hillbillies* plus various roles on *The Adventures Of Ozzie and Harriet*. She was considered for the role of Miss Casswell in *All About Eve* (1950), which eventually went to Marilyn Monroe. Hired by Burt Lancaster for what she thought would be a role in *Elmer Gantry*. Sadly, he just wanted her "around for company and amusement". She declined this offer. After her appearance on *I Love Lucy*, Lucille Ball wanted to put her under contract. Joi's husband at the time objected by telling her "you're way too good for them" and put an end to this career move. She was also considered for a regular continuing character role in "*The Adventures of Superman*" (1952-1958) after the success of her role as 'Superman's Wife' episode in the final season, filmed in the fall of 1957, but the series was canceled upon the death of actor George Reeves, who played the title role. Joi also performed in nightclubs as a singer. Judy Garland was one of Joi's most enthusiastic followers.

Elizabeth Patterson - is best remembered as the neighbor, Mrs. Trumbull and baby sitter for Little Ricky in *I Love Lucy* in the 1950's. Born in Tennessee, she did not enter films until 1926

when she was 51 years old. During her 35 year film and television career, she lived at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel just across the street from the famous Grauman's Chinese Theater.

One Way Out - Aired Thursday evening at 9:30PM on December 15, 1955 on CBS.

This program too was filmed at Republic Studios the former site of the Mack Sennett Studios in Studio City.

Ida Lupino - was born in London, England and arrived in Hollywood in 1933. She was the second woman to be admitted to the Director's Guild after Dorothy Arzner. She was the only person to both appear in and direct episodes of *The Twilight Zone: The Sixteen-Millimeter Shrine* (1959) and *The Masks* (1964). She was also the only woman to have directed an episode of this series. She was married three times; her longest to Howard Duff which lasted for 33 years. From January 1957 to September 1958, she starred with him in the sitcom *Mr. Adams and Eve*. The two also co-starred as themselves in 1959 in an episode of *The Lucy-Desi Comedy Hour* and an episode of *The Dinah Shore Chevy Show* in 1960. She retired from show business in 1978 at the age of 60.

- **Personal quote:** "My agent had told me that he was going to make me the Janet Gaynor of England - I was going to play all the sweet roles. Whereupon, at the tender age of thirteen, I set upon the path of playing nothing but hookers."

Scott Forbes - Born in England, he worked for the Ministry of Defence in the United Kingdom before turning to acting with the

stage name of Julian Dallas. He is best remembered for starring as Jim Bowie in *The Adventures Of Jim Bowie* from 1956 to 1958. After this series ended, he returned to England where he performed in television series as Captain Smollett on *Treasure Island* (1968), as Guy Lamartine in *Compact* (1965) and as Donald Tyson in *Emergency - Ward 10* (1966).

Frances Robinson - Her career began in the silent film era as a child performer in uncredited roles. She played the role of Marcia in the 1941 version of *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* with Spencer Tracy and Ingrid Bergman. Among her television performances included roles on *The Donna Reed Show*, *The Ford Television Theater* and *The Jack Benny Program*. She was also a very close friend of Ida Lupino in real life.

Gayle Kellogg (The Cab Driver) - played small credited and uncredited parts in various television programs throughout the 1950's.

REFERENCES

TCM Diary by Steven Mears

Joi Lansing - *A Body To Die For* by Alexis Hunter

Alexis Hunter on WFDU FM's "The Vintage Rock & Pop Shop"

Internet Movie Database

Wikipedia

