

## **The Fugitive - Series History**

Robert Lansing, James Franciscus and Anthony Franciosa were all considered for the role of Richard Kimble.

There are those who say this show was based on the Samuel Sheppard murder case of 1954. While the show does feature some similarities to the case, Roy Huggins consistently denied that he based Richard Kimble on Sheppard, or the fictional murder on the real one. Claiming that he was unfamiliar with the Sheppard case until the series began.

The show presents a popular plot device of an innocent man on the run from the police for a murder he did not commit while simultaneously pursuing the real killer. It had its antecedents in the Alfred Hitchcock movies *The 39 Steps*, *Saboteur*, and *North By Northwest*. The theme of a doctor in hiding for committing a major crime had also been depicted by James Stewart as the mysterious "Buttons the Clown", who never removed his makeup, in *The Greatest Show on Earth*.

Writer David Goodis claimed that the series was inspired by his 1946 novel *Dark Passage*, about a man who escapes from prison after being wrongly convicted of killing his wife. Goodis' litigation over the issue continued for some time after his 1967 death.

45.9 million viewers watched the series finale in 1967. Until the "Who Shot J.R.?" episode of "*Dallas* (1978)," the finale of this series where Kimball finally catches the "One Armed Man" was the highest-rated episode in the history of television.

The first three seasons were filmed in black and white. The fourth season was filmed in color.

Some sources incorrectly state that an alternate ending for the series was planned in which Kimble would be seen removing a false arm, revealing him as the true killer.

In the book "The Fugitive Recaptured" (and its later audio adaptation) Barry Morse reveals that this rumor may have started with a never-realized plan that he and David Janssen had for pulling a "false arm" gag at public appearances.

Janssen also often joked that Kimble killed his wife because "she talked too much".

Morse also said that he and Janssen conceived for fun an alternate epilogue to the series finale, in which Kimble awakens in bed with his wife Helen, and reveals to her that he "just had the most horrible nightmare".

Janssen also gave an interview to TV Guide at the time of the finale in which he said that his idea for resolving the show was to have a final scene in which Kimble is seen on a beach reading a newspaper account of how the one-armed man has just been executed for the murder. Then, with his trademark half-grin, Kimble would stand up, detach his prosthetic arm and walk off into the surf. It's not known whether he was serious, or just kidding.

Scenes for *The Fugitive* finale were filmed at Pacific Ocean Park in Santa Monica, California. The property was purchased in 1956 by CBS and Los Angeles Turf Club, Ocean Park Pier underwent two years of renovations before re-opening as the sea-themed Pacific Ocean Park.

When it finally opened to the public on Saturday, July 28, 1958, POP drew a crowd of almost 20,000 people and many Hollywood celebrities. On the second day, the attendance nearly doubled with 37,262 guests. POP outperformed Disneyland in visitor numbers during its first week. Getting into the Park cost ninety cents for adults and a slightly discounted rate for children.

By the 1960's, rides were left in disrepair and there was a decline in the safety of the surrounding neighborhood. In 1967, POP's creditors acted on several months of non-payments, forcing it into involuntary bankruptcy. The park finally closed on October 6, 1967. Pacific Ocean Park later suffered six fires over a five year period, leaving much of the Park in ashes. The remains of the park were demolished in the winter of 1974.

Other television episodes filmed at this location were *77 Sunset Strip*, *The Twilight Zone*, *Route 66*, *I Spy*, *Get Smart* and *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.*.

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## **The Fugitive - Series Finale**

### **The Judgement - Part 2**

Aired Tuesday, August 29, 1967 at 10:00PM on ABC

**David Janssen** (Dr. Richard Kimble) - worked at Universal Studios, where he signed on in the early 1950s and became a supporting player in 32 films before appearing as the star of *Richard Diamond, Private Detective* in 1957. He resumed his movie career in 1961, a year after the series ended. His biggest

success came from his lead role in *The Fugitive* in 1963, playing the haunted and hunted Dr. Richard Kimble on the run for a murder he didn't commit. When the series ended, Janssen launched himself into a hectic schedule by appearing in lead and supporting roles in movies, but he had better luck with made-for-television-movie roles and a short-lived series, *O'Hara, U.S. Treasury* in 1971. Janssen had another hit series with the popular *Harry O* in 1973.

**Barry Morse** (Lt. Philip Gerard) - was born in London's East End. His career began when he won a full scholarship to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art at the age of 15. Upon graduation, he had successful stage runs in London's West End and in theatrical productions throughout the United Kingdom. He also appeared on the BBC's earliest live television broadcasts in the late 1930's. Morse relocated to Canada in the early 1950's and began working in live theatre on CBC Radio and in the premiere CBC-TV broadcasts. He is probably best known for his roles as Lt. Philip Gerard in *The Fugitive* and as Prof. Victor Bergman in *Space: 1999*. It was once determined that Barry Morse had played more than 3,000 roles on the stage, screen, and radio in a career spanning eight decades.

### **Added memories from Barry Morse:**

Barry Morse (Lieutenant Philip Gerard) recalls that he was in a London restaurant when a waiter handed him a note. It read, "Kimble is in the kitchen."

Barry Morse had said that on more than one occasion, he was accosted by elderly ladies in supermarkets, telling him to "leave that nice Dr. Kimble alone", telling him that a one-armed man is the true killer.

**Bill Raisch** (Fred Johnson) - was noticed by a society girl looking for a dancing partner and he escorted her to various parties as her date and dancing partner. Raisch came to the attention of Marilyn Miller the star of Ziegfeld Follies who introduced him to Florenz Ziegfeld Jr. He signed Raisch up for his dance troupe.

In the late 1920's, Raisch danced for Ziegfeld at the New Amsterdam Roof Theater where he got to work with Maurice Chevalier making his first American stage appearance and he also appeared in the stage musical *whoopee* starring Eddie Cantor.

During World War II, Raisch served in the U.S. Merchant Marines where he was badly wounded in early 1945 fighting a shipboard fire in which he was so badly burned he lost his right arm.

In 1952, Raisch became a stand-in for Burt Lancaster where he appeared as a double for the famous actor and later appeared as a one-armed man in 1962's *Lonely Are the Brave*. It was here that Raisch was noticed and offered the recurring role on *The Fugitive* as Fred Johnson, the One-Armed Man.

After *The Fugitive* ended in 1967, Raisch rarely acted again. He worked as an acting teacher and coach in West Los Angeles from then on until his death in 1984 at the age of 79.

**Diane Baker** (Jean Carlisle - daughter of Kimble's deceased friend Ben Carlisle)\* - Her first film assignment was with legendary director George Stevens who cast her as Margot Frank,

the older sister of Anne, in *The Diary of Anne Frank* from 1959. Baker remained at 20th Century Fox as a contract player performing in films such as *Journey To The Center Of The Earth*, *The Best Of Everything* and *Nine Hours To Rama*. After her contract ended, she worked on the best remembered projects at Universal Studios: *Mirage* with Gregory Peck and *Marnie* for director Alfred Hitchcock.

**\*Jean and her family had been unfairly persecuted in Stafford when she and Richard were kids because her father had been arrested for embezzlement and only the Kimble family showed any sympathy, helping Jean and her mother cope.**

More recently, she performed in the role of Rose Kennedy in the CBS miniseries *Jackie Bouvier Kennedy Onassis* and also with Anthony Hopkins in *The Silence Of The Lambs* as Senator Ruth Martin. Additionally, Baker has worked with Jim Carrey and Matthew Broderick in *The Cable Guy*.

**Richard Anderson** (Leonard Taft) - did comedy scenes on a screen test type of television series called *Lights, Camera, Action!* in 1950. As a result, MGM, who offered him a contract. After leaving MGM, he continued to work in movies while at the same time becoming a regular performer on television.

In the high-rated last episode of *The Fugitive*, Anderson played Richard Kimble's brother-in-law and is briefly suspected of being the real killer of Kimble's wife. A series regular on *The Six Million Dollar Man*, Anderson also produced the reprises of that same series.

Anderson was one of the few actors to play the same regular character on two different series at the same time. From 1976 to 1978, he played Oscar Goldman on both *The Six Million Dollar Man* and *The Bionic Woman*.

**Jacqueline Scott** (Donna Taft) - began acting professionally from the age of 17 with a small St. Louis community theatre company. Next, she moved to New York, graduated from New York's Hunter College, did some administration work for David Sarnoff at RCA. Her break came when she was chosen by Louis Calhern to play the part of his granddaughter in *The Wooden Dish* on Broadway. Mentored by Calhern, Scott was cast opposite Paul Muni in *Inherit The Wind*, playing a young girl in love with the hapless teacher at the center of the infamous Scopes Monkey Trial.

Her debut big screen appearance was in 1958's *Macabre*. Scott was on the set of *Macabre* when she met her future husband, screenwriter and photographer Gene Lesser who also became her agent. Their marriage lasted for 62 years until Lesser's passing in 2020.

**J. D. Cannon** (Lloyd Chandler) - was born John Donovan Cannon in Salmon, Idaho. He had memorable roles in two films: as Society Red in *Cool Hand Luke* and as Calhoun in *Cotton Comes To Harlem*.

Cannon will be most fondly remembered for his portrayal of the exasperated, cigar-chewing NYPD Chief of Detectives, Peter B. Clifford in *McCloud* which starred Dennis Weaver.

**Louise Latham** (Betsy Chandler) - was a character actress who made her film debut as Tippi Hedren's neurotic, secretive mother in Alfred Hitchcock's *Marnie*. Latham was only seven years older than Hedren at the time. She went on to appear in hundreds of film and television roles playing a small-town wife, landlady or townsperson.

**Diane Brewster** (Helen Kimble) - was 24 years old when she began acting on television. She was in episodes of *Cheyenne* and *Zane Grey Theatre*. Most viewers remember her as the grade school teacher Miss Canfield on *Leave It To Beaver*. Her last big screen appearance was in *The Young Philadelphians*. In 1959, Brewster made one more appearance on *Family Affair* in 1966. Soon afterward, she retired from show business

**William Conrad** (Narrator) - In radio, his gravelly, voice was heard on numerous broadcasts from *Buck Rogers* to *The Bullwinkle Show* and as the voice of Marshall Matt Dillon on *Gunsmoke*. He also narrated the adventures of Richard Kimball in *The Fugitive* television series. In one episode of the anthology program *Suspense* in 1956, he voiced each and every part.

He produced and directed several films for Warner Brothers, including *Brainstorm* with Jeffrey Hunter and Anne Francis. In 1971, he returned to acting and became the star of the Quinn Martin production *cannon*, for which he is best remembered.

Conrad's popularity resulted in another starring role in *Jake and the Fatman* as District Attorney McCabe and a short stint as eccentric detective Nero Wolfe in 1981.

## **REFERENCES**

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