

Irwin Allen

BIOGRAPHY

Executive Producer of LOST IN SPACE

For his second high-adventure series for television, Irwin Allen, the man who created the first celebrity panel show and the mystery guest for the video medium, has chosen another ambitious project: LOST IN SPACE.

Like his other successful, current series, "Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea," Allen has given LOST IN SPACE the production values, know-how and meticulous care of all of his productions to make it a series of tremendous proportions.

The new series has the Allen hallmark; he is creator, writer, director and producer and has cast the production with some of Hollywood's brightest and most attractive actors including Guy Williams, June Lockhart, Mark Goddard, Marta Kristen, Angela Cartwright and Billy Mumy.

This, however, is Irwin Allen's style and forte.

In an era when many of the motion picture industry's critics have accused Hollywood of "mass production" techniques. Irwin Allen has consistently produced highly exploitable and successful pictures in the best tradition of men like Cecil B. DeMille, Walt Disney and George Stevens.

Producer, director and writer on all of his projects, Allen has wedded a flair for imaginative, flamboyant and highly exploitable spectacle with a meticulous personal attention to detail which had produced box office magic that is the talk of the industry.

Allen's career reads like one of the Horatio Alger stories which he insists would be better fare for our teen-age audiences than most of the violent, psychological melodrama they are getting. He was born in New York, June 12, 1916, attended public schools and later Columbia University where he majored in journalism and advertising. He came to Hollywood in 1938 as editor of "KEY" magazine. Less than a year after his arrival he was invited by radio station KLAC to produce a one hour show. He wrote, produced, directed and narrated a program that shortly enjoyed 22 sponsors and ran continuously for the next 11 years.

The success of his radio show promoted the Atlas Feature Syndicate to offer him a Hollywood news column. Allen took on the role of news pillarist, and his "Hollywood Merry-Go-Round" was soon appearing daily in 73 newspapers around the world.

With the advent of television, Allen created the first celebrity panel show ever produced in the United States. Through the show's four-year history over 1,000 film stars and Hollywood celebrities made their TV debuts on his "Hollywood Merry-Go-Round."

But Allen, whose reserve of energy, like his interests, is boundless, continues to add to his fields of operation. In 1944, while juggling his radio show and newspaper column, he opened a literary agency representing writers and literary material for radio and the motion picture industry. He obtained the motion picture rights to Rex Beach's "The World in His Arms" which he sold to Universal-International. He was subsequently granted the franchise to represent all of the Rex Beach material. He also represented such important literary figures as Fanny Hurst, P.L. Wodehouse, Ben Hecht and Louis Joseph Vance as well as the Duel, Sloan and Pearce, Harcourt-Brace and Putnam publishing houses.

Allen eventually became one of Hollywood's outstanding "packagers" of motion picture deals. Inevitably he was drawn into production himself. His first production partnership was with RKO for the Groucho Marx - Jane Russell - Frank Sinatra starrer "Double Dynamite." He followed "Dynamite" with "Where Danger Lives" with Robert Mitchum and Claude Rains, and "A Girl in