

Guy Williams

BIOGRAPHY

Professor John Robinson in LOST IN SPACE

Guy Williams has capped a career that has ranged from photographic modelling to emulating Douglas Fairbanks' swashbuckling heroics with his role of Professor John Robinson in 20th Century-Fox Television's new science fiction-adventure series, LOST IN SPACE.

Probably no other actor could give the part of the right blend of authority, attractiveness and masculinity. The new series, which is produced by 20th Century-Fox Television in association with Irwin Allen Productions and Van Bernard Productions, is destined to set video milestones and Williams is the ideal choice for the role.

Williams is the son of the late Attilio Catalano, New York insurance broker, and Claire Catalano, an Italian couple who came to America several years before Guy was born.

The Catalanos sought to give Guy the best education possible. He attended grade school in New York and later he went to George Washington High School. He received his advanced education at Peekskill Military Academy.

"I'm afraid I was a pretty indifferent student, though," said Williams. "The only subject I excelled in was mathematics."

Guy earned his first dollars when he was attending high school, working occasional hours in a soda fountain.

His schooling completed, Guy decided to tackle modeling in New York City. His father wanted him to pursue a brokerage career, but Guy had other ideas.

He met his future wife, the lovely Powers model Janice Cooper, on a modeling assignment.

"We had to look like we were going skiing and the big action of the ad came when I had to tighten my ski boots. The photographer shot this sequence about 50 times, and by the time he had finished, I had gotten to know Janice pretty well!"

After a whirlwind six-city courtship, Guy and Janice were married in New York, and as Guy puts it, "we consolidated our finances."

In 1952, Guy was interviewed in New York by Hollywood coach Sophie Rosenstein. Sophie tested him in New York and returned to Hollywood to recommend that Universal-International Studios place him under contract. Before coming to the coast and signing his U-I contract, Williams managed to find regular acting work in New York's Neighborhood Playhouse and in such television productions as Studio One.

He remained under his Universal contract for a year, but wasn't given any major assignment there. Shortly before winding up his work at U-I, he was badly injured in a fall from a horse. He bears a long scar on his left shoulder as a remembrance of the accident.

Somewhat discouraged by his first movie experience, Williams returned to New York to continue acting there and do occasional modeling. It wasn't until early 1957 that he decided to try again in Hollywood. This time, he brought with him another member of the family: Steve, a curly-haired blond, born in 1952. (The Williams' have since welcomed daughter Toni, born 1958.)

His second visit to Hollywood led to his long career as the swashbuckling "Zorro" in television for Walt Disney.

Guy resides in a three-level Spanish-type "hacienda" close to Hollywood Boulevard. The 15-room house, built in movie town's "golden era," has been modernized throughout. A swimming pool adds the latter day California touch.