

# Jonathan Harris

## BIOGRAPHY

### Dr. Zachary Smith in LOST IN SPACE

The fact that Jonathan Harris has been described by a critic as "the complete man of the theatrical world," should surprise no one who knows the versatile performer as a person who has learned his craft well - and is undeniably proud of it.

The articulate, urbane New Yorker has equipped himself to produce and deliver any role - be it comedy or tragedy - and can call on a multitude of characterizations.

He is equally adept on camera or stage whether it be the portrayal of an English bon vivant, a Polish RAF pilot, Hindustani jewel thief, Chinese villain, Jewish patriarch, French roue or the bigger-than-life outer space spy he currently is enacting in producer Irwin Allen's 20th Century-Fox Television science fact/science fiction series, LOST IN SPACE.

Declared producer Allen, "Jonathan is the United Nations of the show world. He can portray any nationality and make you think he is a native of the country in question.

Before signing for the role of Dr. Zachary Smith in the exciting hour-long space series, in which he ably complements a blue-ribbon cast composed of Guy Williams, June Lockhart, Mark Goddard, Marta Kristen, Angela Cartwright and Billy Mumy, Harris was perhaps best known to an enormous television audience for his co-starring roles in two popular series - "The Third Man" with Michael Rennie, and his more recent offering, "The Bill Dana Show" in which he played the hilarious hotel manager forever harrassed by a frustrating bell boy named "Jose Jimenez." Movie-wise, he had outstanding roles in Universal-International's "The Big Fisherman," and in Paramount's "Botany Bay."

A graduate of Fordham University in New York, Harris became engrossed with the Broadway Theatre as a student.

"I completed my formal education knowing full well it would be all for nothing" he stated. "I was in love with the theatre and I wanted to be an actor. Unlike many young men worried about their future, I had mine all planned. There was never any decision to make. It was already decided."

Sheepskin in hand, Harris joined the Millpond Playhouse - a stock company formed by Richard Brooks, who today is one of Hollywood's finest motion picture producer-writer-directors. From there he joined a stock company headed by Morton Da Costa of "The Music Man" fame in Dayton, Ohio - and this led back to Broadway and eventually to Hollywood.

While in his touring days, Harris appeared in 125 plays in various cities. "We played in barns, empty stores, tents and theaters of all shapes and sizes," he said. "But it didn't matter to me because I was acting. I was learning my trade."

In 1942, Gilbert Miller produced "The Heart of the City" on Broadway and the famed impresario cast Harris in a feature part. This lead to his next play "Right Next to Broadway."

During World War II, when the American Theater Wing came up with a plan to use actors for war work, Harris volunteered and to his dismay was soon operating "a dozen or more horrendous machines." He escaped into the USO and happily went off to the South Pacific and with such lighthearted romps as "Petticoat Fever" and "Personal Appearance," he helped bring needed laughter to hard-fighting jungle troops.

World War II ended, Harris returned to Broadway and joined Paul Muni and Marlon Brando in Ben Hecht's stirring play about Israel, "A Flag Is Born." From one New York success to another was his creative pattern after that, including "The Madwoman of Chaillot," "The Man Who