

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", starring Robert Mitchum and Claude Rains and "A Girl in Every Port", starring Groucho Marx, William Bendix, and Marie Wilson.

While still with RKO, Allen launched a project still talked of throughout the motion picture industry of the world as one of the finest artistic achievements ever recorded on film, his production of Rachel Carson's "The Sea Around Us". Allen wrote the screenplay and produced the magnificently successful film for which he won an Academy Award.

By this time, Allen had dropped all of his other projects, and concentrating full time on film production, formed Windsor Productions through which he produced and directed "The Animal World" and "The Story of Mankind" for Warner Brothers.

In 1959, Allen co-wrote and produced his gigantic story of the big top, "The Big Circus", with Victor Maure, Rhonda Fleming, Kathryn Grant, Peter Lorre, Red Buttons, and David Nelson. One of the biggest moneymakers of the year, the film was shot at MGM and released by Allied Artists.

In 1960, Allen moved to 20th Century-Fox studios where his first film, "The Lost World", with Michael Rennie, David Hedison, Jill St. John, Fernando Lamas, Claude Rains and Ray Stricklyn, was one of the studio's biggest box office hits of the year.

In 1961, he wrote "Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea", as a motion picture, then produced and directed it with Walter Pidgeon, Joan Fontaine, Peter Lorre, Frankie Avalon, Barbara Eden and Robert Sterling in the starring roles.

This was the basis for his 1964 television series of the same name, starring Richard Basehart, David Hedison and Bob Dowdell.

In 1962, he wrote, produced and directed "Five Weeks in a Balloon", also with an all-star cast including Red Buttons, Fabian, Sir Cedric Hardwick, Barbara Eden, Peter Lorre, Richard Haydon and Herbert Marshall.

In 1964, Allen conceived the idea for a fantastic adventure series about a family sent to the far end of the universe. Titled "Lost in Space", the series stars Guy Williams, June Lockhart, Jonathan Harris, Mark Goddard, Marta Kristen, Billy Mumy and Angela Cartwright. Like the previous season's "Voyage", "Lost in Space" proved to be one of the top series of its initial season.

By far, according to industry experts, "The Time Tunnel" is Irwin Allen's most ambitious project — to date. It stars James Darren and Robert Colbert in the incredible journeys of two physicists who have perfected a massive device which can transport them to another time, another place.

Allen's key to success is basically his modernized version of the "one-man show". He surrounds himself with the most able and experienced technicians and artists in the motion picture industry to work under his guidance and supervision. Allen's incredible capacity for work, his almost frighteningly accurate memory and his scrupulous attention to detail in every phase of production have won him the respect and admiration of his co-workers. His results on the screen have made him one of the most talked-about young men in Hollywood and his effect at the box office has made him one of the most sought-after producer/directors in the industry.

Picture Credits

1951 - DOUBLE DYNAMITE - RKO

WHERE DANGER LIVES - RKO

1952 - GIRL IN EVERY PORT - RKO

1953 - THE SEA AROUND US - RKO