

The Tower Playhouse

1972

A Radio Series Broadcast Log By:
Stewart Wright

Initial Compilation: 01/30/2012.

Last Update: 04/30/2017.

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First Show: 07/25/1972
Last Show: 10/31/1972
Number of Shows: 10.

STATUS NOTE:

Effective Friday, March 31, 2017 Jim French Productions has ceased producing new shows.

SERIES BACKGROUND:

The initial Jim French Seattle radio series was a short-run anthology series called *The Tower Playhouse*. The series name came from the fact that the KVI studios were in the Smith Tower Building.

The 1972 through 1978 Jim French radio programs were the major contemporary component of a mix of radio programs that also included mainly shows from the Golden Age of Radio that were aired on KVI during much of the 1970's. These Radio shows were aired nightly under an "umbrella title" that was called *The KVI Theater Of The Mind*. Jim's shows were generally aired on Thursday nights. At the time, KVI was part of the Golden West Radio Network: KMPC - Los Angeles, KSFO - San Francisco, KEX - Portland, and KVI - Seattle. The Golden West Radio Network was owned by radio's singing cowboy, Gene Autry

SERIES DESCRIPTION:

The shows in this anthology series covered a wide-range of genres: science

fiction, the supernatural, espionage, crime and even a western. In general, *The Tower Playhouse* was similar to French's later series: *Crisis*.

Most of the performers in the series were staff members of KVI and not professional actors. In addition to being the director, producer, and writer for the series, Jim French also acted and functioned as the announcer/narrator.

CREW:

Creator: Jim French.
Writers: Jim French.
Directors: Jim French and Pat French.
Producer: Jim French.
Music:
Sound Effects: Jim French and others.
Announcer: Jim French, John Pricer, and others.

CAST:

Guest Stars:

Ray Court, Dick Cross, Roall Erickson, Jim French, Pat French, Robert E. Lee Hardwick, Merrill Mae, R. L. McMasters, Mike Moran, Joan Norton, Johnny Novak, Don Riley, Bob Roberts, Phil Royal, Fred Sanchez, Doug Setterberg, Jack Spencer, Dick Stokke, Bill Taylor, Don Vernon, Veronica Weikel, Doug Young and others.

EPISODE NOTES:

Audition/Pilot Show

The initial appearance of the Dameron and Emile characters was in the episode 002, "A Spark of the Sun," of the *Tower Playhouse* series. In that episode, which aired on 08/01/1972, Dameron was a sailor/soldier of fortune; Emile was a cafe owner who was involved in espionage. Just a few weeks later *The Adventures Of Dameron* became a series.

Reuse and Later Use

"Rembrandt"

There are 3 different versions of this show.

"Rembrandt" - 1st Version.

Initial airing on KIRO in January, 1965.

The first version was broadcast on KIRO sometime in January, 1965 and was about 30 minutes long.

"Rembrandt" - 2nd Version.

Initial airing on KVI - 09/05/1972.

This version of "Rembrandt" was broadcast as part of the *Tower Playhouse* and was an edited version of the 1965 KIRO version. It was approximately 25 minutes in length. Neither the 1965 nor the *Tower*

Playhouse version of "Rembrandt" will be aired again.

"Rembrandt" - 3rd Version.

Initial airing on *KIRO Mystery Playhouse* - 07/14/1996 and has been re-aired on *Imagination Theatre* multiple times.

This is a new *KIRO Mystery Playhouse* production of "Rembrandt" with a new ending. This production featured a new cast with several veteran Old-Time Radio actors from the *1996 Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound Showcase* including Herb Ellis, Fred Foy, Tyler McVey, Rhoda Williams, Merrill Mael, Parley Baer, and Art Gilmore.

New Productions of Tower Playhouse Scripts:

Two scripts from *The Tower Playhouse* would later be used as the basis for new productions. The new productions normally featured new casts and script modifications ranging from slight to extensive.

"BEacon 3699"

There are 2 different versions of this show.

"BEacon 3699" - 1st Version.

Initial airing on KVI - 07/25/1972.

This show was the first episode of *The Tower Playhouse* series. This version will not be aired again.

"BEacon 3699" - 2nd Version.

Initial airing on *KIRO Mystery Playhouse* - 09/08/1991 and has been re-aired on *Imagination Theatre* three times.

The second version of this show aired on *THE KIRO Mystery Playhouse* with few script changes, but featured several new cast members.

"Hole In The Sky"

There are 2 different versions of this show.

"Hole In The Sky" - 1st Version.

Initial airing on KVI - 09/12/1972.

The first version aired on the *Tower Playhouse* series.

"Hole In The Sky" - 2nd Version.

Initial airing on *KIRO Mystery Playhouse* - 07/27/1997 and has been re-aired on *Imagination Theatre* multiple times.

This is a new *KIRO Mystery Playhouse* production with same title, but with extensive plot line and character changes and a different cast.

Several veteran Old-Time Radio actors from the *1997 Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound Showcase* were featured including Bob Hastings, Harry Bartell, Lawrence Dobkin, Tyler McVey, Gil Stratton Jr., Sandra Gould, Rhoda Williams, and Art Gilmore.

Special Halloween Broadcast With Listener Suggestions:

"Three For Halloween"

This special program aired over a month after *The Tower Playhouse* went off the air. *KVI Theater of the Mind* listeners submitted plots for three "true ghost

stories" were the basis of this Halloween special program.

"The Invisible Family"

"A Voice in the Storm"

"The Pinochle Game"

LOG:

Collector-assigned and alternate titles that have surfaced are shown in square brackets [] in a separate line immediately following the primary show title entry.

All dates are the date of original airing on Seattle radio.

Date	Title
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Tuesday – 10:30 PM	
07/25/1972	BEacon 3699
Tuesdays – 10:00 PM	
08/01/1972	A Spark of the Sun
08/08/1972	The Yesterday Machine
08/15/1972	The Mirror
08/22/1972	The Strong Man
08/29/1972	Confession Is Good for the Soul [Confession]
09/05/1972	Rembrandt
09/12/1972	Hole in the Sky
09/19/1972	Sleight of Hand
10/31/1972	Three For Halloween A trilogy of stories "The Invisible Family" "A Voice in the Storm" "The Pinochle Game"

Re-Runs:

After production of new episodes of *Tower Playhouse* ceased with the broadcast of "Sleight of Hand," re-runs of the first nine episodes of the series were aired on Saturdays from November 4, 1972 through January 6, 1973.

Most episodes of *The Tower Playhouse* have not been aired in many years. Only "The Mirror" and "Confession" have aired on *Imagination Theatre*.

AVAILABILITY:

As of 03/31/2017 Shows can no longer be purchased through Jim French Productions.

THESE SHOWS ARE STILL PROTECTED UNDER COPYRIGHT LAW and should be purchased only from authorized dealers.

SOURCES CONSULTED:

Radio Broadcasts:

Various tape and CD Sets from Jim French Productions and Topics Entertainment.

Imagination Theatre Compact Discs: 1996 - 2017.

Program Listings:

Imagination Theatre Episode Guides 1996 - 2006.

Imagination Theatre program information supplied by Jim French Productions 2002 - 2017.

Correspondence and Conversations:

Information supplied by Larry Albert 1998 - 2017.

Correspondence and conversations with Jim French and Larry Albert 1998 - 2017.

Interviews:

Interview with Jim French conducted by Stewart Wright in 1998.

Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound interviews of Jim French conducted in 1991 and 1996.

Books:

Schneider, John F. *Seattle Radio*. Charleston, SC, Arcadia Publishing, 2013.

Newspapers and Periodicals:

Radio Recall

(The Journal of The Metro Washington Old-Time Radio Club)

The End of An Era by Stewart Wright, April, 2017.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer - Various issues 1987 to 2009.

Seattle Times - Various issues 1972 to 1973 and 2006 to 2009.

Series Broadcast Logs:

Series Broadcast logs compiled by Stewart Wright:

Jim French Shows (Seattle)

Crisis,

The Adventures of Dameron,

The Adventures of Harry Nile,

The Classic Adventures of Sherlock Holmes,

The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes,

*The Hilary Caine Mysteries,
Raffles, the Gentleman Thief,
The Strangeseeker aka Kincaid the Strangeseeker,
Imagination Theatre
and
Kerides, The Thinker*

These broadcast logs are in Adobe Acrobat PDF format and can be found at:
<http://www.old-time.com/otrlogs2/index.html>

Internet:

Various Web pages at:

Jim French Productions

<http://www.jimfrenchproductions.com/>

WSU Media Materials Services

<http://www.wsulibs.wsu.edu>