

DAMERON

1972 - 1973

By: Stewart Wright
Initial Compilation: 08/01/2001
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First Show: 09/26/1972
Last Show: 09/18/1973
Number of Shows: 049
Audition Show: See **NOTE: Audition/Pilot Show in SERIES BACKGROUND:**

SERIES BACKGROUND & DESCRIPTION:

DAMERON was the second radio series created, written, and produced by Jim French for radio station KVI in Seattle, WA. The first series was the short-run *TOWER PLAYHOUSE*; the third was *CRISIS*. 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.

Roy Dameron, played by Robert E. Lee Hardwick, was a high-priced, globe-trotting troubleshooter. Emile St. Clair, played by Douglas Young, was Dameron's partner. He was variously described as a cook or chef, chemist, and general factotum.

The basic opening tag line for the series was:
"KVI and the Golden West Radio Network present the new audio adventures of *DAMERON*. Dameron: his home - the world; his profession - the jobs nobody else can do. Dameron goes anywhere, solves any problem - for a price."

Most *DAMERON* episodes follow typical detective show plots - masquerading as someone else or solving or preventing a crime. However, the plot lines usually have interesting and unusual twists. In one episode, Dameron must stop the bombing of the Vietnam War Peace Talks in Paris with the help of several persons possessing exceptional Extra Sensory Perception powers who are portraying their favorite movie stars from the 1940's.

Dameron used his wits to solve his cases, he didn't carry or even own a gun. He did carry something that was very unusual for the early 1970's: a portable wireless telephone in a briefcase.

Less than three years after the end of *DAMERON*, Jim French went on to create another detective series: the long-running *THE ADVENTURES OF HARRY NILE*.

NOTE:**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 *DAMERON* became a series.

THE STARS:

Roy Dameron was played by Robert E. Lee Hardwick, a Seattle radio personality from the late 1950's until the early-1990's. He was perhaps best known to decades of Seattle listeners for such stunts as riding a bronco at a rodeo, climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa, swimming across Puget Sound, and riding a jet ski over 700 miles from southern Alaska to Seattle. Hardwick was named *Billboard Magazine's* Radio Personality of the Year in 1979. Robert E. Lee Hardwick died on June 5, 1992.

Douglas Young is an actor who appeared on many series during the Golden Age of Radio including *AUNT MARY*, *CISCO KID*, *LUX RADIO THEATRE*, *DR. CHRISTIAN*, *RED RYDER*, *SHERLOCK HOLMES*, *STARS OVER HOLLYWOOD*, and *THE WHISTLER*. He has had roles in nearly 150 Jim French productions. Doug has a great facility for doing accents and dialects. In *DAMERON*, Doug usually played other roles in addition to his co-starring role as Emile.

Before moving to Seattle, Doug also did a great deal of cartoon voice work for Hanna-Barbera Studios. He modeled some of his cartoon voices after his favorite character actors. His voice for the character of Doggie Daddy in the *Augie Doggie* cartoons was patterned after Jimmy Durante. In the *Hokey Wolf* cartoons, Doug did a character called Ding-A-Ling whose voice emulated Buddy Hackett's.

SPONSORS:

Mainly the defunct Seattle-based retail chains Ernst (hardware) and Tradewell Stores (supermarkets.) At least one episode (025) had multiple sponsors: Bank of California, Isabel Rose Wine, and First Lease from First Bank.

CREW:

Creator: Jim French
Director: Jim French
Writer: Jim French
Music: "City of Glass" by Robert Graettinger
Announcer: Jack Spencer? and Jim French

CAST:**Starring:**

Robert E. Lee Hardwick as ROY DAMERON

Douglas Young as EMILE ST. CLAIR

and

Jane Aldren as LETICIA, Dameron's answering service in the early episodes.

Guest Stars:

John Amendola, Greg Aust, Griff Cavenier, Pearl Castle, Ray Court, Ted D'Arms, Roger Dowdy, Jim French, Pat French, Cecilia Hardwick, John B. Hughes, Tony Karloff, Merrill Mael, Ray McMackin, Terry McManus, Jack Morton, Joan Norton, Lee Paasch, Colleen Patrick, Mike Reynolds, John Roeder, Phil Royal, Leah Sluis, Rick Thomas, Mark Wayne, Veronica Weikle, Irving Zimmer, and others.

LOG:

All dates are the date of original airing on Seattle radio. The episode number (Num) indicates the order in which they were aired.

ALTERNATE TITLES:

Alternate titles are shown in parentheses () in a separate line immediately following the primary show title entry.

Date	Num	Title
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09/26/1972	001	The Short Sweet Life of Lee Chow Soon
10/03/1972	002	Don't Point at Me, You're Loaded
10/10/1972	003	The Siamese Cat Affair
10/17/1972	004	The Sweet Job
10/24/1972	005	If You Eat Bananas You Gotta Expect Spiders
10/31/1972	006	A Guy Could Die Of Thirst In The Middle Of A Brewery
11/07/1972	007	The Girl With the Aquiline Nose
11/21/1972	008	Take Another Chorus, They're Small
11/28/1972	009	Uncle Albert
12/05/1972	010	Why Would Anyone Want To Kill A Nice Guy Like Pete? (Who Would Want to Kill a Nice Guy Like Pete?)
12/12/1972	011	There's A Broken Broad For Every Light On Hardway
12/19/1972	012	The Lady Says Die
12/26/1972	013	The Sweetheart Of Sydney Fry
01/02/1973	014	The Ground Glass Incident
01/09/1973	015	Guaranteed Not To Rip, Rust, Or Collect Dust (The Tapes of Bobby Dee)
01/16/1973	016	Some Days You Get The Bear (Somedays You Get the Bear, Other Days the Bear Gets You) (Somedays You Get the Bear, Somedays the Bear Gets You)
01/23/1973	017	The Private War Of Ambrose Cain
01/30/1973	018	The Rapture Of Mrs. Parrington
02/06/1973	019	The Outsider

02/13/1973	020	Pursuit Of A Ghost
02/20/1973	021	The Tin Ghost Of Kuala Lumpur
02/27/1973	022	The Crossword Puzzle
03/06/1973	023	Who Is Buried In Grant's Tomb?
03/13/1973	024	The Lemming Syndrome
03/27/1973	025	Flashback
04/03/1973	026	The Van Hoolen Curse
04/10/1973	027	Run, Tony, Run
04/17/1973	028	Come Home John Doe
04/24/1973	029	Ransom
05/01/1973	030	The Tunnel
05/08/1973	031	To Wake The Dead
05/22/1973	032	The Door That Wouldn't Close
05/29/1973	033	How Does Your Garden Grow?
06/05/1973	034	Find A Tall Stranger Part 1
06/12/1973	035	Find A Tall Stranger Part 2
06/19/1973	036	The Transpacific Misfortune
06/26/1973	037	The Berryman Chamber
07/03/1973	038	The Last Commando
07/10/1973	039	Pipedream
07/17/1973	040	Seeds Of Kathmandu
07/24/1973	041	Baked Alaska
07/31/1973	042	The Chinese Checkers Murders
08/07/1973	043	The Son I Never Had
08/14/1973	044	In His Own Image
08/21/1973	045	The Man Who Was Beside Himself
08/28/1973	046	The Mind Changes
09/04/1973	047	The World Series Caper
09/11/1973	048	Earth Is Ours!
09/18/1973	049	Roostertail

NEW PRODUCTIONS OF PREVIOUS SCRIPTS:

Several *DAMERON* scripts have provided the basis for episodes of other Jim French series.

"The Short Sweet Life of Lee Chow Soon" was extensively reworked for the first episode of the series *CALL SIMON WALKER*, "You Should Live So Long," which initially aired on *IMAGINATION THEATRE* 05/19/2002. The script has some plot line similarities to the *DAMERON* script, but had different characters.

"Why Would Anyone Want to Kill a Nice Guy Like Pete?" was reworked for *THE ADVENTURES OF HARRY NILE* episode "The Pete Lambert Case" which first aired on *IMAGINATION THEATRE* 01/20/2002.

"The Rapture of Mrs. Parrington" served as the foundation for the second episode of the series *CALL SIMON WALKER*, "Heaven Doesn't Take Plastic," which initially aired on *IMAGINATION THEATRE* 11/24/2002. The script has some plot line similarities to the *DAMERON* script, but had different characters.

"The Berryman Chamber"
was modified for the *KINCAID, THE STRANGE-SEEKER* episode "Gravity"
which first aired on *IMAGINATION THEATRE* 07/13/2003. The plot line is
quite similar to the *DAMERON* script, but had different characters and
a modified plot line.

AVAILABILITY:

THESE SHOWS ARE STILL PROTECTED UNDER COPYRIGHT LAW.

At least some of the *DAMERON* episodes were released on cassette in the
early 1970's by the defunct Nostalgia Broadcasting Corporation.

A few episodes of *DAMERON* (002, 003, 017, 034, 035, and 037) have been
aired on *IMAGINATION THEATRE* and are available from the syndicator

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or

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

The above address is provided for informational purposes only and does
not constitute an endorsement.

INFORMATION SOURCES:

Interviews with Jim French conducted by Stewart Wright in 1998.

1998 *DAMERON* article by Stewart Wright on

www.thrillingdetective.com

Conversations with Jim French 1999 - 2004.

Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound Doug Young interview, February, 1992.

Conversation with Doug Young 1998.

Radio Historical Association of Colorado newsletter article on Doug
Young, February, 2003.

Correspondence with Larry Albert of Jim French Productions 2001 -
2009.

WSU Media Materials Services

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

Seattle Post-Intelligencer - Various Dates.

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