The Tower Playhouse

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1972

A Radio Series Broadcast Log By:
Stewart Wright
Initial Compilation: 01/30/2012.
Last Update: 04/30/2019.
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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.
Starting in July 2017, new episodes of The Adventures of Harry Nile and The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes are being produced on a less frequent basis. These episodes will only be broadcast on Seattle radio station KIXI and they will be available for listening on the Imagination Theatre YouTube channel.

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.
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.

"The Hole In The Sky"

There are 2 different versions of this show.

"The Hole In The Sky" - 1st Version.

Initial airing on KVI - 09/12/1972.

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

"The 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.

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<thead>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday – 10:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/25/1972</td>
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<tr>
<td>08/01/1972</td>
<td>A Spark of the Sun</td>
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<td>The Yesterday Machine</td>
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<td>08/15/1972</td>
<td>The Mirror</td>
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<td>08/22/1972</td>
<td>The Strong Man</td>
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<td>08/29/1972</td>
<td>Confession Is Good for the Soul [Confession]</td>
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<td>09/05/1972</td>
<td>Rembrandt</td>
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<td>The Hole in the Sky</td>
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<td>09/19/1972</td>
<td>Sleight of Hand</td>
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<td>Three For Halloween</td>
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<td></td>
<td>A trilogy of stories</td>
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<td>&quot;A Voice in the Storm&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;The Pinochle Game&quot;</td>
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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.
Program Listings:

Correspondence and Conversations:

Interviews:
Interview with Jim French conducted by Stewart Wright in 1998.

Books:

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.

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:

Internet:
Various Web pages at:
Jim French Productions
Web site is no longer active.
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