

# LOST IN SPACE

CBS - TV - COLOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT

## Jonathan Harris

Among the acting fraternity, it is an axiom that the meatiest roles go to those performers whose characterizations are filled with villainy.

And for anyone who would like to think otherwise, let him ask Jonathan Harris, one of the stars of producer Irwin Allen's "Lost In Space" series seen each Wednesday night in spectacular color over CBS-TV.

Harris, as Dr. Zachary Smith, television's first outer space "heavy," struck a responsive chord with video viewers almost from the moment the series blasted off. There may be a bit of scenery-chewing, a touch of over-dramatization and a tremendous amount of leering in his performances as the space age bad guy, but Jonathan's portrayal is memorable.

The fact that he 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.

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 harassed by a frustrating bell boy named "Jose Jimenez." Movie-wise, he had outstanding roles in Universal-International "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 and more than once took leave from his studies to spend his time in the cultural establishments that surround Times Square.

"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