

who was the voice that said burke's law

who was the voice that said burke's law is a question that often arises among fans of classic television and vintage crime dramas. Burke's Law, an iconic TV series from the 1960s, is remembered not only for its unique storytelling but also for its distinctive narration and voice work. Understanding who provided the voice that said "Burke's Law" helps appreciate the show's production and the era's approach to television voiceovers. This article delves into the identity of the voice actor behind that memorable phrase, explores the background and significance of the show, and discusses the role of voice narration in early television crime series. Additionally, the article covers the show's legacy and how voiceovers contributed to its success. Read on to discover the voice talent behind Burke's Law and the impact of voice narration in classic TV.

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- Impact of the Voice on Burke's Law's Popularity
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Identification of the Voice That Said Burke's Law

One of the most frequently asked questions about the classic television series Burke's Law concerns the identity of the voice that famously said the show's title. The voice that announced "Burke's Law" at the beginning of each episode was provided by the legendary actor and voice artist Herschel Bernardi. Bernardi was well-known for his distinctive voice and extensive work in radio, television, and film. His delivery of the show's title added an air of sophistication and intrigue that perfectly matched the series' tone. As the announcer, Bernardi's voice became synonymous with the show's branding, making it instantly recognizable to audiences of the 1960s.

Herschel Bernardi: A Renowned Voice Actor

Herschel Bernardi had a prolific career spanning several decades, providing narration and voiceovers for numerous projects. His rich, authoritative voice made him a preferred choice for crime dramas and mystery shows. In Burke's Law, his voice served as a narrative anchor, setting the mood for the stylish and witty detective stories. Bernardi's contribution was pivotal in crafting the show's unique identity, and his voice remains iconic among fans of vintage television.

Other Voice Contributions in Burke's Law

While Herschel Bernardi was the primary voice behind the show's title announcement, Burke's Law

also featured voiceovers from other cast members and narrators for specific episodes or promotional content. However, none matched the prominence or memorability of Bernardi's signature voice when proclaiming "Burke's Law."

Overview of Burke's Law TV Series

Burke's Law was an American television detective series that originally aired on ABC from 1963 to 1965. The show starred Gene Barry as Amos Burke, a suave millionaire homicide detective who drove a sleek Rolls-Royce and solved crimes with elegance and intelligence. Burke's Law combined elements of mystery, drama, and light-hearted humor to create a distinctive viewing experience. The series was notable for its high production values, glamorous settings, and a revolving cast of guest stars.

Plot and Style

The premise of Burke's Law centered around Detective Amos Burke's investigations into complex murder cases. Unlike many traditional crime shows, Burke was portrayed as a wealthy and cultured individual, which added a unique twist to the detective genre. The series featured fast-paced storytelling, clever dialogue, and intricate plots. This innovative approach helped the show stand out in a crowded television market.

Cast and Characters

Gene Barry's charismatic portrayal of Amos Burke was supported by a talented ensemble cast, including Edward Mulhare as Burke's loyal assistant, Detective Tim Tilson. The show also frequently featured guest appearances by well-known actors of the time, adding to its appeal. The chemistry between characters and the stylish production design contributed significantly to the show's enduring charm.

The Role of Voice Narration in Classic Television

Voice narration played a crucial role in classic television, especially in the crime and detective genres. Narrators and voice actors like Herschel Bernardi provided exposition, set the tone, and enhanced storytelling. The voice that said "Burke's Law" was not just a title announcement; it was a branding tool that created anticipation and excitement for each episode.

Narration Techniques in the 1960s

During the 1960s, narration was often used to guide viewers through complex plots and add dramatic flair. Voiceovers helped establish the mood and offered insights into characters' thoughts or background information. This technique was particularly effective in crime dramas where suspense and mystery were key elements.

Benefits of Voiceovers in Television Shows

- Enhanced storytelling clarity
- Increased viewer engagement through dramatic tone
- Creation of a recognizable show identity
- Efficient exposition without cumbersome dialogue
- Ability to set mood and atmosphere quickly

Impact of the Voice on Burke's Law's Popularity

The voice that said "Burke's Law" became an integral part of the show's identity and contributed to its popularity. Herschel Bernardi's distinctive vocal style helped establish a memorable brand that resonated with viewers. The voiceover's confident and polished delivery matched the show's sophisticated aesthetic and made the opening sequence instantly recognizable.

Audience Reception

Viewers appreciated the seamless combination of visual style and vocal narration. The voice served as a cue that the audience was about to experience a high-quality detective story. This contributed to the show's strong following during its original run and in syndication.

Marketing and Branding Advantages

From a marketing perspective, the consistent use of Bernardi's voice in promotional materials reinforced the Burke's Law brand. The voiceover became a trademark auditory symbol, helping the show stand out in advertisements and on television guides. This strategic use of voice narration was ahead of its time and demonstrated the importance of sound in television branding.

Legacy of Burke's Law and Its Voice Work

Burke's Law left a lasting legacy in the realm of television crime dramas, not only for its innovative storytelling and stylish presentation but also for its effective use of voice narration. The voice behind the show's title remains a topic of interest for enthusiasts and historians of classic TV. Herschel Bernardi's contribution is celebrated as a key element that helped define the series' unique style.

Influence on Later Crime Dramas

The success of Burke's Law and its use of distinctive voice narration influenced subsequent crime and detective shows. Many later series adopted voiceovers as a narrative device to create mood, provide exposition, and develop character personas. The legacy of the voice that said "Burke's Law" can be seen in the continued importance of voice work in television storytelling.

Collecting and Preserving Burke's Law

Today, Burke's Law remains a popular subject for collectors and classic TV aficionados. The voiceovers, including the iconic announcement, are preserved in reruns, DVD releases, and streaming platforms. This ensures that new generations can experience the charm and style of the series, including the memorable voice that defined its opening.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who was the voice that said 'Burke's Law'?

The voice that said 'Burke's Law' refers to the announcer or narrator voice from the television series 'Burke's Law,' which originally aired in the 1960s and was revived in the 1990s.

Who narrated the original 'Burke's Law' series?

The original 'Burke's Law' series did not have a traditional narrator, but the show's theme and opening line were associated with the lead actor Gene Barry, who played Detective Amos Burke.

Who was the voice behind the revival of 'Burke's Law' in the 1990s?

In the 1990s revival of 'Burke's Law,' Gene Barry reprised his role, and the opening voice or announcer was typically a studio voice or promotional announcer, not a specific credited actor.

Was Gene Barry the voice that said 'Burke's Law'?

Gene Barry was the lead actor portraying Amos Burke and is often associated with the voice of 'Burke's Law,' but the actual announcer voice in intros or promotions might have been a different uncredited voice actor.

Is there a specific voice actor known for saying 'Burke's Law' in the show's intro?

There is no widely recognized specific voice actor credited for saying 'Burke's Law' in the show's intros; the voice is usually that of a studio announcer or the lead actor Gene Barry.

What role did Gene Barry play in 'Burke's Law'?

Gene Barry played Amos Burke, a wealthy Los Angeles detective, in both the original 1960s and the 1990s revival of 'Burke's Law.'

Why is the voice saying 'Burke's Law' significant?

The voice saying 'Burke's Law' is significant because it sets the tone for the detective series, immediately identifying the show and its iconic main character.

Are there any famous quotes or lines from 'Burke's Law' associated with the voice?

The phrase 'Burke's Law' itself is the most iconic line, often delivered as a title card or voiceover to introduce the series and its episodes.

Has the voice saying 'Burke's Law' been imitated or referenced in popular culture?

Yes, the distinctive delivery of 'Burke's Law' has been referenced and parodied in various TV shows and media as a nod to classic detective series.

Where can I hear the voice that said 'Burke's Law'?

You can hear the voice saying 'Burke's Law' in the opening credits or promotional trailers of the original series from the 1960s or its 1990s revival, available on classic TV streaming platforms or video archives.

Additional Resources

1. *The Voice Behind Burke's Law: An Insider's Story*

This book delves into the history of the classic television series "Burke's Law," uncovering the mystery behind the voice that introduced the show. It features interviews with cast and crew members, providing a behind-the-scenes look at the production. Readers gain insight into the role of the announcer and the significance of voiceovers in 1960s television.

2. *Voices of Television: The Untold Narrators of Classic Shows*

Focusing on the often-overlooked narrators and announcers of TV's golden age, this book explores the careers of the voices behind shows like "Burke's Law." It highlights how these voices shaped the viewer's experience and contributed to a show's identity. The book includes a dedicated chapter revealing the voice actor for "Burke's Law."

3. *Burke's Law and the Sound of Mystery*

This title examines the unique elements that made "Burke's Law" a memorable detective series, with a special focus on the auditory experience. It explores the role of the announcer's voice in setting the tone and mood for the show. The book also reveals who provided the iconic voice that said "Burke's Law," adding depth to the show's legacy.

4. *Behind the Microphone: The Voices of Classic Crime Dramas*

A comprehensive look at the voice actors who brought crime dramas to life through their narration and announcements. This book includes a detailed profile of the announcer for "Burke's Law," discussing his career and contribution to television history. It offers readers a new appreciation for the power of voice in storytelling.

5. *The Soundtrack of Suspense: Voice Actors in 1960s TV*

Exploring the crucial role of voice actors in creating suspense and drama during the 1960s, this book features "Burke's Law" as a prime example. It uncovers the identity of the voice behind the show's iconic introduction and discusses how voice work enhanced the viewing experience. The narrative also touches on how these voices influenced future TV productions.

6. *Announcers and Narrators: The Hidden Stars of Television*

This book celebrates the announcers and narrators who remained largely anonymous despite their significant impact on television shows. It includes a section dedicated to the voice of "Burke's Law," revealing the man behind the microphone and his career highlights. The book contextualizes their work within the broader history of TV entertainment.

7. *The Mystery Voice: Decoding the Sound of Burke's Law*

A focused investigation into the identity of the voice that introduced "Burke's Law," this book combines archival research with interviews to solve the longstanding question. It discusses the importance of the announcer's voice in branding the series and the techniques used to create an unforgettable audio signature. Fans of the show will find this book especially enlightening.

8. *Television Voices: Legends Behind the Microphone*

Highlighting legendary voice artists from the early days of television, this book profiles many unsung heroes, including the voice behind "Burke's Law." It explores how these voices contributed to the era's pop culture and helped define television genres. The book offers rare audio transcripts and personal anecdotes from the voice actors themselves.

9. *Echoes of the Screen: The Art of TV Announcing*

This book examines the craft of TV announcing, spotlighting iconic voices that became synonymous with popular shows. It reveals who was responsible for the memorable voice on "Burke's Law" and analyzes the style and delivery that made it distinctive. The book also discusses the evolution of television announcing over the decades.

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