Playhouse 90 Encyclopedia Article

Playhouse 90

The following sections of this BookRags Literature Study Guide is offprint from Gale's For Students Series: Presenting Analysis, Context, and Criticism on Commonly Studied Works: Introduction, Author Biography, Plot Summary, Characters, Themes, Style, Historical Context, Critical Overview, Criticism and Critical Essays, Media Adaptations, Topics for Further Study, Compare & Contrast, What Do I Read Next?, For Further Study, and Sources.

(c)1998-2002; (c)2002 by Gale. Gale is an imprint of The Gale Group, Inc., a division of Thomson Learning, Inc. Gale and Design and Thomson Learning are trademarks used herein under license.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Encyclopedia of Popular Fiction: "Social Concerns", "Thematic Overview", "Techniques", "Literary Precedents", "Key Questions", "Related Titles", "Adaptations", "Related Web Sites". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Guide to Literature for Young Adults: "About the Author", "Overview", "Setting", "Literary Qualities", "Social Sensitivity", "Topics for Discussion", "Ideas for Reports and Papers". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

All other sections in this Literature Study Guide are owned and copyrighted by BookRags, Inc.



Contents

Playhouse 90 Encyclopedia Article.....1

Contents.....2

Playhouse 90.....3

Playhouse 90

Considered by many to be the most ambitious of the anthology dramas to emerge during the "Golden Age of Television," *Playhouse 90,* according to historian William Boddy, was voted the greatest television series of all time in a 1970 *Variety* poll of television editors. Appearing Thursday evenings on CBS from 1956 to 1959, the program presented new ninety-minute dramas, many of which were telecast live. Like other "anthology dramas" of the era, *Playhouse 90* is often remembered as a fertile ground for quality performances and an opportunity for writers and directors to showcase dramatic talents for a national audience. During its four-year run, *Playhouse 90* launched careers, lured stars back to television, and allowed actors the opportunity to take chances performing roles which they otherwise might not have been offered. The program began on October 4, 1956, with *Forbidden Area,* starring Charlton Heston, Tab Hunter, and Vincent Price. It was followed by Rod Serling's classic *Requiem for a Heavyweight,* which won the Emmy as best single program of the year, and starred Jack Palance, who won an Emmy for best single performance by an actor. Other *Playhouse 90* stars included Johnny Carson (in his first dramatic television role), Errol Flynn, Kim Hunter, Paul Newman (in his last dramatic television role) and Joanne Woodward, Cliff Robertson, Jack Lemmon, Claude Rains, Burt Reynolds, and Robert Redford. Among the memorable programs from this series are *For Whom the Bell Tolls, Judgement at Nuremberg, The Male Animal, The Days of Wine and Roses,* and Joseph Conrad's *The Heart of Darkness. Playhouse 90* was recognized with five Emmys during its first season and won the award for best drama each of the next three years it was on the air. In its final season of production, *Playhouse 90* was limited to sixteen programs or specials as it shared a time slot with *The Big Party.*