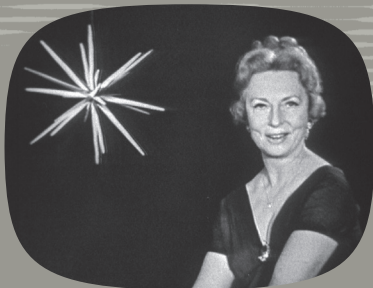
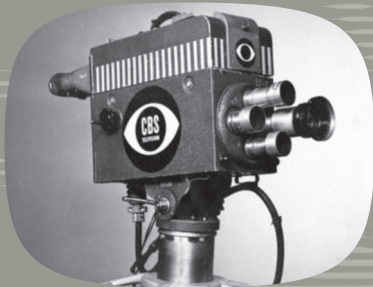
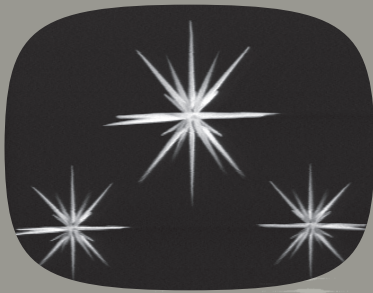


FROM TELEVISION CITY
IN HOLLYWOOD...

PLAYHOUSE 90



60th Anniversary Screenings
UCLA Film & Television Archive
Billy Wilder Theater

Saturday, October 1 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 2 at 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Premiering 60 years ago on CBS on October 4, 1956, the landmark dramatic anthology *Playhouse 90* stands today as a timeless example of the electronic medium of television being elevated to a legitimate art form. Arriving on the airwaves as the last of the hour-long live anthologies from New York were being phased out of network primetime schedules, *Playhouse 90* infused a final burst of vitality to the moribund studio-bound dramatic format, upping the ante with an extra 30 minutes of running time for expanded narratives. Originating from the state-of-the-art CBS Television City facilities in Hollywood, the ambitious series quickly became a showcase for broadcasting's top creative talent, including then still-emerging writer Rod Serling and battle-tested live TV director John Frankenheimer. Over the course of its innovative four season run the series would enjoy wide critical acclaim, including Emmys for Best New Program Series in 1957 and Outstanding Program Achievement in the Field of Drama in 1960.

In commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of *Playhouse 90*, join us and our special guests as we take a fond look back at a curated selection of rarely seen installments of this television milestone, including the series debut and final original broadcast.

COLD WAR DRAMAS: TWO BY ROD SERLING



Saturday, October 1 at 7:30 p.m.

In-person introduction by Emmy award-winning writer and director Matthew Weiner, creator of *Mad Men*.



PLAYHOUSE 90: FORBIDDEN AREA

Directed by John Frankenheimer

Produced by Martin Manulis

Based on the novel by Pat Frank

Adapted for *Playhouse 90* by Rod Serling.

Airdate: CBS, 10-04-1956. A CBS Television Network production.

Cast: Charlton Heston, Tab Hunter, Diana Lynn, Vincent Price, Victor Jory, Charles Bickford

Program introduced by Jack Palance



Live from CBS Television City, a tuxedo-clad Jack Palance introduces this premiere installment of *Playhouse 90* with a proclamation befitting of the occasion, "Tonight, television takes the giant step..." For the series debut, Rod Serling's tense teleplay launches deep into the omnipresent anxieties of the day with a tale of Soviet saboteurs penetrating the U.S. military to facilitate an atomic attack.



PLAYHOUSE 90: THE DARK SIDE OF THE EARTH

Directed by Arthur Penn

Produced by Martin Manulis

Written especially for *Playhouse 90* by Rod Serling

Airdate: CBS, 09-19-1957. A CBS Television Network production.

Cast: Van Heflin, Earl Holliman, Dean Jagger, Kim Hunter

Program introduced by Ernie Kovacs



The Hungarian Uprising of 1956 is the setting for Rod Serling's meditation on the extreme capacities of human cruelty and courage. Airing a year after the actual revolt, the daring character study concerns a Soviet commander (Van Heflin) struggling with his conscience amid the brutal tyranny that is his charge and the bravery of the Hungarian Freedom Fighters that include his son.

TWO BY JOHN FRANKENHEIMER

Sunday, October 2 at 7:00 p.m.

In-person discussion with Emmy award-winning director Robert Butler, recipient of the DGA Lifetime Achievement Award in Television Direction.

PLAYHOUSE 90: OLD MAN

Directed by John Frankenheimer

Produced by Fred Coe

Television Play by Horton Foote

From the novel by William Faulkner

Airdate: CBS, 09-05-1961, re-broadcast of a program originally aired on 11-20-1958. A CBS Television Network production.

Cast: Sterling Hayden, Geraldine Page, Milton Selzer, James Westerfield
Program introduced by Richard Boone

John Frankenheimer and crew miraculously transformed CBS Television City into an angry Mississippi River and pioneered nascent videotape editing to bring Horton Foote's moving adaptation of William Faulkner's literary masterpiece to the small screen. As an unlikely pair bound together against immovable forces of nature and society, Sterling Hayden and Geraldine Page deliver transcendent performances on par with the program's technological heights.

PLAYHOUSE 90: JOURNEY TO THE DAY

Directed by John Frankenheimer

Produced by Fred Coe

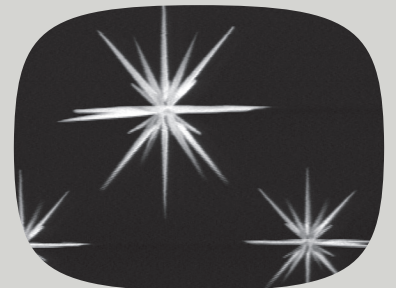
Written especially for *Playhouse 90* by Roger O. Hirson

Airdate: CBS, 04-22-1960. A CBS Television Network production.

Cast: Mary Astor, Mike Nichols, Steven Hill, James Gregory, Janice Rule, James Dunn

Program introduced by Agnes Moorehead

Best known for bringing visual and technological virtuosity to *Playhouse 90*, here John Frankenheimer tackles a confined character piece that includes a rare dramatic television performance by legendary comedian, and (future) stage and film director Mike Nichols (*The Graduate*). Set in a state mental hospital, the progressive ensemble play concerns the then emerging and still controversial practice of group therapy.



HOLOCAUST DRAMAS

Sunday, October 16 at 7:00 p.m.



PLAYHOUSE 90: JUDGMENT AT NUREMBERG

Directed by George Roy Hill

Produced by Herbert Brodtkin

Written especially for *Playhouse 90* by Abby Mann

Airdate: CBS, 04-16-1959. A CBS Television Network production.

Cast: Claude Rains, Paul Lukas, Maximilian Schell, Martin Milner, Melvyn Douglas

Program introduced by Telford Taylor, former Brigadier General and Chief Counsel for the prosecution at the Nuremberg war-crimes trials.



Later adapted into Stanley Kramer's acclaimed motion picture of 1961, this live docudrama expanded *Playhouse 90's* studio canvas to powerful effect through the integration of archival footage, including images of Nazi atrocities. Austrian-born Maximilian Schell would go on to win an Oscar for Best Actor in the feature film version for reprising the critical role he originates here as a German defense attorney.



PLAYHOUSE 90: IN THE PRESENCE OF MINE ENEMIES

Directed by Fielder Cook

Produced by Peter Kortner

Written by Rod Serling

Airdate: CBS, 05-18-1960. A CBS Television Network production.

Cast: Charles Laughton, Arthur Kennedy, Susan Kohner, Oskar Homolka, George Macready, Sam Jaffe, Robert Redford



One of the last beacons of the Golden Age of Television dimmed with this broadcast, the final original production of *Playhouse 90*. Rod Serling's controversial, humanist tale concerning a Rabbi (Charles Laughton) and Nazi brutality in the Warsaw Ghetto was almost never produced at all, as program sponsors indicated to CBS that declining ratings for the series warranted moving away from "depressing themes."

Use of episodes from *Playhouse 90* courtesy of CBS Broadcasting, Inc.



With over 300,000 film and television holdings, and 27 million feet of newsreel footage, UCLA Film & Television Archive is the world's largest university-held collection of motion pictures and broadcast programming. For more information on our collections or to arrange research viewing, please contact the Archive Research and Study Center (ARSC) at arsc@cinema.ucla.edu. To learn more about the Archive, please visit our website at cinema.ucla.edu.