

Barry Morse

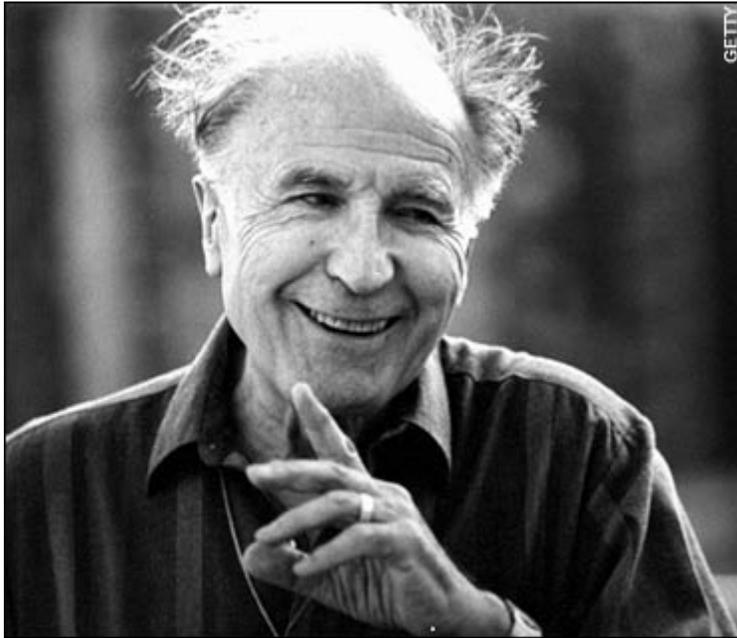
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Barry Morse, the actor who died on February 2 aged 89, was best-known for his appearance in the cult 1960s television series *The Fugitive*, in which he played the detective beset by doubt over whether he was actually on the trail of the right man.

The show starred David Janssen as a small-town American wrongly-convicted of his wife's murder who escaped after a train crash en route to Death Row. Morse played the local police lieutenant dedicated to tracking him down.

Although Morse played him duty-bound to get his man, the detective appeared to have doubts about his guilt.

He saw parallels with Inspector Javert in *Les Misérables* and pointed them out to the producer, who admitted that *The Fugitive* was, indeed, "a sort of modern rendition of the outline of *Les Misérables*".



Barry Morse was a true Cockney, born in Shoreditch

Accordingly, Morse returned to the Victor Hugo novel and studied the portrayal of Javert, looking for ways of making the character more complex than "the conventional Hollywood dick" envisaged by the show's creators.

Barry Morse was a true Cockney, born in Shoreditch on June 10 1918. Having dropped out of school at 15 to work as an errand boy, he won a scholarship to Rada, where he took the role of the lion in *Androcles and the Lion* and got to know George Bernard Shaw, a Rada patron.

Morse joined repertory companies in Nottingham and Peterborough and in 1941 joined a national tour of *The First Mrs Fraser* starring Dame Marie Tempest and AE Matthews. His West End debut, in *The School for Slavery*, was followed by appearances in *Escort*, *The Assassin* and *A Bullet in the Ballet*.

He took several parts on BBC Radio, including the title role in Hamlet, and starred as Paul Temple in Send for Paul Temple Again (1948).

His film credits included parts in The Goose Steps Out (1942) with Will Hay, Kings of the Sun (1963) with Yul Brynner and The Changeling (1980) with George C Scott.

In 1951 Morse and his family moved to Canada, where he was artistic director for the Shaw Festival in 1966. He became well known on television in series such as the British-made 1970s science fiction series Space: 1999 as well as The Fugitive.

In 1982 he played the Ronald Reagan-like American president Johnny Cyclops in the satirical sitcom Whoops Apocalypse.

Barry Morse married, in 1939, the actress Sydney Sturgess. They had two children.