

Actor Barry Morse dies at 89; nemesis of 'Fugitive' on TV

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wednesday, February 6th 2008, 4:00 AM



Barry Morse

LONDON - Actor Barry Morse, who played a detective pursuing the wrongly accused Dr. Richard Kimble in the 1960s TV series "The Fugitive," has died, his son said yesterday. He was 89.

Morse died Saturday at University College Hospital in London after a brief illness, his son Hayward said.

Born in London in 1918, Barry Morse trained at London's Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and appeared in British repertory and West End theaters before emigrating in 1951 to Canada, where he became a regular on radio and television.

The actor's Web site estimated he had played more than 3,000 roles on radio, TV, stage and screen over a seven-decade career.

In 1963, he was hired by producer Quinn Martin to play Lt. Philip Gerard on "The Fugitive." The series ran for 120 episodes over four seasons, teasing audiences with the cat-and-mouse pursuit of Kimble, wrongly accused of murdering his wife, by the implacable Gerard.

"He thought it was a good show - well-filmed, well-directed and well-acted," Hayward Morse said. "He had nothing disparaging to say about 'The Fugitive.'"

Morse also played Prof. Victor Bergman in the 1970s science fiction series "Space 1999." In 1966, he was named artistic director of the Shaw theater festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, rescuing it from financial crisis.

Morse was a lifelong devotee of playwright George Bernard Shaw, and his son said reviving the festival, which produces the works of Shaw and his contemporaries, was his proudest achievement.

Morse is survived by his son and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

His family planned a private cremation.