

Barry Morse, 89, played pursuer on 'The Fugitive'

TV actor - Despite hundreds of other stage and screen roles, he was best known as a dogged cop

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Barry Morse, famous for his portrayal of the detective who relentlessly pursues the wrongly convicted Richard Kimble for four seasons in "The Fugitive," one of the biggest TV hits of the 1960s, died Saturday in London. He was 89.

His death was confirmed by Robert E. Wood, a friend and a co-author of Morse's autobiography.

The slim, angular-faced Morse was trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London and played hundreds of roles on stage and screen in his seven-decade career but never quite escaped his role in "The Fugitive." As Lt. Philip Gerard, he hounded David Janssen as Richard Kimble, who was convicted on flimsy evidence of murdering his wife, but escaped during a train wreck on his way to death row.

Gerard appeared in only 37 of the episodes, but his image was used in the opening credits, and the threat of his sudden appearance was never far from the mind of the fugitive or the audience.

By his own estimate, he performed in 3,000 stage, screen, television and radio productions, in England, Canada and the United States.

In the 1970s, he co-starred with Martin Landau in "Space 1999," a science-fiction television series, made in England, about life on a lunar base.

Herbert Morse (he changed his name to Barry) was born June 10, 1918, in London's East End.

He married Sydney Sturgess, a Canadian actress, in 1939. They had two children, both of whom became actors. Sturgess died in 1999. Morse's daughter, Melanie, died in 2005. He is survived by his son, Hayward, of London; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.