

Gerald Mohr

Patrick Andre

Gerald Mohr was an American radio, film and television character actor who appeared in more than 500 radio plays, 73 films and over 100 television shows. Mohr was born June 11, 1914 in New York City to singer Henrietta Mohr and her husband Sigmond Mohr. He was well educated beginning with his years at Dwight Preparatory School in New York City. Mohr learned to speak several languages, and was fluent in Swedish, French and German and he learned to play the piano.

While training to become a doctor at Columbia University, Mohr was struck with appendicitis. During his recovery in a hospital a fellow patient who happened to be a radio broadcaster realized Mohr's pleasant baritone voice would be ideal for radio. Mohr was hired by the radio station and became a junior reporter. By the mid-1930s, Orson Welles invited him to join his formative *Mercury Theatre*.

Mohr was one of the busiest actors in Hollywood for many years. He made more than five hundred appearances in radio roles from the 1930s, through the early 1950s. He starred as Raymond Chandler's hardboiled detective, Philip Marlowe, 1948–1951, in 119 half-hour radio plays. Mohr also starred in *The Adventures of Bill Lance*, was one of the actors who portrayed Archie Goodwin in *Nero Wolfe*, frequently starred in *The Whistler*, and acted in different roles in multiple episodes of *Damon Runyon Theater* and *Frontier Town*. Some of his other radio appearances include *Our Miss Brooks*, *Box 13*, *Escape*, and *Lux Radio Theatre*.

Mohr began appearing in films in the late 1930s, playing his first villain role in the 15-part cliffhanger serial *Jungle Girl* (1941). After three years' service in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II, he returned to Hollywood starring as Michael Lanyard in three movies of *The Lone Wolf* series in 1946-47. He also made cameo appearances in *Gilda* (1946) and *Detective Story* (1951), and co-starred in *The Magnificent Rogue* (1946) and *The Sniper* (1952).

From the 1950s on Mohr appeared as a guest star in more than one hundred television series, including the westerns *The Californians*, *Maverick*, *Lawman*, *Cheyenne*, *Bronco*, *Bonanza*, *The Rifleman*, *Wanted: Dead or Alive*, and *Rawhide*. He also guest starred on *Crossroads*, *The DuPont Show with June Allyson*, *Harrigan and Son*, *The Barbara Stanwyck Show*, *Perry Mason*, *77 Sunset Strip*, *Hawaiian Eye*, *Lost in Space*, and many other series of the era, especially those being produced by Warner Brothers Studios and Dick Powell's Four Star Productions.

Mohr also made guest appearances in comedy shows, including *The George Burns and Gracie Allen Show* (1951), *How to Marry a Millionaire* (1958), *The Jack Benny Program* (1961 & 1962), *The Smothers Brothers Show* (1965) and *The Lucy Show* (1968). He had the recurring role of newsman Brad Jackson in *My Friend Irma* (1952). Gerald Mohr is remembered for his performance as "Ricky's friend" psychiatrist Dr. Henry Molin (real life name of the assistant film editor on the show) in the classic February 1953 *I Love Lucy* episode, "The Inferiority Complex".

In 1954-1955, Mohr starred as Christopher Storm in 41 episodes of the third series of *Foreign Intrigue - Cross Current*, produced in Stockholm for American distribution. *Foreign Intrigue* was nominated for an Emmy Award in 1954 under the category Best Mystery, Action or Adventure Program and again in 1955 under the category Best Mystery or Intrigue Series. Mohr

guest starred seven times in the 1957-1962 television series *Maverick*, twice playing Western outlaw Doc Holliday. Mohr made four guest appearances on *Perry Mason* between 1961 and 1966. Notably, in 1966, he played agent Andy Rubin in the series' final episode, "The Case of the Final Fadeout."

In 1964 Gerald Mohr, together with his second wife Mai, planned the formation of an international film company headquartered in Stockholm with Swedish and American writers. The company was to have featured comedy, adventure, crime, and drama shows for worldwide distribution. By then fluent in Swedish, he also planned to star in a film for TV in which his character, a newspaperman, would speak only Swedish.

Mohr continued to market his powerful voice, playing Reed Richards (Mister Fantastic) in the *Fantastic Four* cartoon series during 1967 and Green Lantern in the 1968 animated series *Aquaman*. Also in 1968 he appeared in his last film role, as con-man Tom Branca in William Wyler's classic musical *Funny Girl* before guest starring in the TV Western series *The Big Valley*.

James Gardner once said of Mohr, "He made the transition to television and was one of the busiest actors in Hollywood for many years. He could tell a joke better than anybody, and he had a bunch of them. Never repeated himself. And he was a pro. I learned a few things about acting from him."

Mohr flew to Stockholm in September 1968, to star in the pilot of a proposed television series called *Private Entrance*, featuring Swedish film and TV actress Christina Schollin. Shortly after the completion of filming, Mohr died of a heart attack in the evening of November 9, 1968, in Södermalm, Stockholm, at the age of 54. Mohr is interred in Stockholms län, Sweden.