

J. Carrol Naish
Ryan Ellett

J. Carrol Naish was born Joseph Patrick Carrol Naish on January 21, 1896, to Irish immigrants. As a child Naish began appearing in vaudeville and by the 1920s he was touring the world. Stranded in California in 1926, Naish took the opportunity to test Hollywood's waters. He was cast in his first uncredited motion picture part in 1926 and that led to a decades-long acting career in both film and television.

Naish is credited with over 200 movie roles, earning two Academy Award nominations for Best Supporting Actor. For his accomplishments working two decades on television he was honored with a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame in 1960.

J. Carrol Naish appeared on a number of radio programs during the 1940s, primarily in supporting roles on anthology programs such as *Hollywood Hotel*, *Lux Radio Theater*, *The Screen Guild Theater*, and *Suspense*. In 1948 he was cast by Cy Howard in his new comedy *Life with Luigi*. Naish's part in the title role of Italian immigrant Luigi Basco would prove to be his only recurring part and by far his most memorable radio performance.

Life with Luigi aired until 1953 when it suddenly left the air due to accusations that writer Mac Benoff was associated with Communists. However, Naish was also tiring of his part as Luigi and his reluctance to fully commit to the role sunk attempted revivals of the series on both radio and television.

Naish's final film was released in 1971 and he passed away two years later on January 24, 1973.