

Olan Soule
Ed Sehlhorst

Olan Soule, who played George in *Let George Do It* in 1954 at the end of the series' run, was a popular character actor with a most remarkable career spanning eight decades. He appeared in nearly 7,000 radio programs and commercials, 60 films and more than 200 TV shows.

Soule was born in La Harpe, Illinois on February 28, 1909 to Elbert and Ann Williams Soule, direct descendants of passengers on The Mayflower. He was only seven when his family moved to Des Moines, Iowa and it was from there that he began his career at the age of 17, joining the Jack Brooks travelling tent show.

Soule started his radio career in 1933 playing the Chinese cook Aha on *Little Orphan Annie*. In 1935 he started a decade-long stint as Sam Ryder on the soap opera *Bachelor's Children*. His other roles included a nine year run as the leading male character on *First Nighter* (1943 – 1951), second in command Kelly on *Captain Midnight* beginning in 1941 and 'Tut' Jones in the television version (1954 – 1956), and the lab technician in *Dragnet* on radio, motion pictures and television and as the voice of Batman for the ABC-TV animated *Super Friends* and *Super Heroes* series (1973 – 1983).

Other television work included appearances on *I Love Lucy* (1955), *M Squad* (1957), *The Jack Benny Program* (1958 – 1961), *Have Gun, Will Travel* (1958 – 1962), *The Andy Griffith Show* (1962 – 1965), *Twilight Zone* (1960 – 1964), *Battlestar Galactica* (1978 – 1979) and *Dallas* (1982). His many movie roles included *The Day the Earth Stood Still* (1951), *Monkey Business* (1952), *Call Me Madam* (1953), *Francis Joins the WACs* (1954), *Daddy Long Legs* (1955), *North by Northwest* (1959), *Days of Wine and Roses* (1962), *The Towering Inferno* (1974), and *The Apple Dumpling Gang* (1975). His last role was as a crime scene technician on the television program *Homicide* in 1991.

Soule died of lung cancer in Corona, California on February 1, 1994 at the age of 84.

