

## Dan Duryea

A native of White Plains, New York, Dan Duryea (b. January 23, 1907) took his first tentative steps toward a show business career at Cornell University where he majored in English and was president of the drama society. Upon graduating from Cornell University, Duryea sought his parents' approval and took a job as an advertising executive, work that led to a heart attack within six years.

Duryea turned to Broadway at that point where appeared in such plays as *Dead End*, *The Little Foxes*, and *Many Mansions*. He relocated to Hollywood in 1940 where he developed a successful career in motion pictures, eventually working alongside such legends as Gary Cooper and James Stewart.

In the 1950s Duryea was cast as the lead in *China Smith* and its successor *The New Adventures of China Smith*. He also earned guest-starring roles in Westerns such as *Cimarron City* and *Wagon Train*.

Although Duryea was never a radio headliner, he was always willing to take roles on the airwaves when he had the opportunity. He made appearances on such programs as *Suspense*, *Family Theatre*, *Lux Radio Theatre*, and *Sealtest Variety Theatre* through the 1940s and 1950s but was the lead in only one series, a 1951 summer replacement program *The Man From Homicide*, in which he played Lt. Lou Dana.

Dan Dureya lived a quiet life out of the limelight. He spent his spare time volunteering with the PTA and the Boy Scouts. Dureya lived in the San Fernando Valley and was married to the same woman, Helen, for 35 years until her death in 1967. He died the next year of cancer and is interred at the Forest Lawn – Hollywood Hills cemetery.