

Lucille Fletcher

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Lucille Fletcher (March 28, 1912 — August 31, 2000) was an American screenwriter of film, radio and television. Her full name was **Violet Lucille Fletcher**. Her credits include the story "The Hitchhiker", which was later turned into a radio drama by Orson Welles, a memorable *Twilight Zone* episode called "The Hitch-Hiker" and more recently inspired "Roadkill", an episode of *Supernatural*. Fletcher also wrote the screenplay for the film noir suspense thriller *Sorry, Wrong Number*, which was an expanded version of her 30-minute radio drama script.

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Lucille Fletcher	
Born	March 28, 1912 <div>Brooklyn, New York</div>
Died	August 31, 2000 (aged 88) <div>Langhorne, Pennsylvania</div>
Nationality	 American
Citizenship	 American
<i>Alma mater</i>	Vassar College
Occupation	Writer
Known for	Author of The Hitch-Hiker (The Twilight Zone)
Spouse	John Douglass Wallop III
Children	Dorothy Louise Herrmann Wendy Elizabeth Herrmann
Parents	James Ellen
Website	
<div>http://www.redwall.org/</div>	

Biography

Early life

Fletcher was born in Brooklyn in 1912 to parents Matthew and Violet Fletcher. She attended Vassar College, where she earned a degree in 1933.

After college

After graduation, she got a clerical job at CBS, where she met her future husband, composer Bernard Herrmann. The couple dated for five years, but delayed marriage due to her parents' objections. They finally married on October 2, 1939. Fletcher and Herrmann collaborated on several projects. He wrote the score for the *Campbell Playhouse* adaptation of her famous story "The Hitch-Hiker," and she helped write the libretto for his operatic adaptation of "Wuthering Heights."

As Lucille once explained in an interview, *Sorry, Wrong Number* was partially inspired by an incident from someone else's life. While Herrmann was sick at home, Lucille went down to the corner drug store for medicine. Innocently striking up a conversation with her pharmacist, a longtime friend, she raised the ire of an elderly woman who had apparently been waiting first. The woman interrupted and approached the druggist, complaining about poor service and demanding to "know who this interloper is?!", referring to Fletcher. Ms. Fletcher, finding the woman's shrill voice and demeanor particularly irritating, went home with the intention of writing a script based around a character with those traits who becomes embroiled in a precarious situation.

The radio drama premiered in 1943 and became one of the most legendary radio plays of all time. Agnes Moorehead created the role in the first performance and again in several later radio productions. Barbara Stanwyck starred in the 1948 film version and, in 1952, performed the original radio play over the airwaves. A 1959 version produced for the CBS radio series *Suspense* received a 1960 Edgar Award for Best Radio Drama.

Personal life

She married Bernard Herrmann on October 2, 1939. They had two children, Wendy and Dorothy. The couple divorced in 1948, over his affair with her cousin Kathy Lucille (Lucy) Anderson. In 1949, Bernard Herrmann married Lucy.^[1] Lucille later married Douglass Wallop, and they remained married until he died in 1985.

While married to Herrmann, she adapted the Emily Bronte novel *Wuthering Heights* into a libretto for her husband's opera of the same name. He completed the opera in 1951, by which time they had divorced.

Bibliography

Novels

- *Sorry, Wrong Number*, 1948, with Allan Ullman
- *Night Man*, 1951, with Ullman
- *The Daughters of Jasper Clay*, 1958
- *Blindfold*, 1960
- *And Presumed Dead*, 1963
- *The Strange Blue Yawl*, 1964
- *The Girl in Cabin B54*, 1968
- *Eighty Dollars to Stamford*, 1975
- *Mirror Image*, 1988

Plays

- *Sorry, Wrong Number*, (broadcast 1944), 1952
- *Wuthering Heights*, librettist, 1943-51
- *Night Watch*, 1972

Radio plays

- *My Client Curley*, 1940
- *The Hitch-Hiker*, 1941
- *Remodeled Brownstone*

- *The Furnished Floor*
- *The Diary of Sophronia Winters*
- *The Search for Henri Le Fevre*
- *Badm Dreams Fugue in C Minor*
- *Someone Else*
- *Night Man*
- *Dark Journey and The Intruder*

References

1. ^ Music Academy Online (<http://www.musicacademyonline.com/composer/biographies.php?bid=107>)

External links

- Lucille Fletcher: Radio's First Queen of Screams (<http://web.archive.org/web/20091027132313/http://geocities.com/Vienna/Stage/1045/Features/Fletcher.html>)
- Obituary (<http://www.obituary.com/fletcherlucille.htm>)
- *Suspense*: Diary of Saphronia Winters (<http://www.escape-suspense.com/2008/03/suspense---the.html>)
- *Suspense*: Fugue in C Minor (<http://www.escape-suspense.com/2007/10/suspense---fugu.html>)
- *Suspense*: The Hitchhiker (http://www.escape-suspense.com/2007/03/suspense_the_hi.html)
- *Suspense*: Sorry, Wrong Number (http://www.archive.org/download/SUSPENSE/43-08-21_Sorry_Wrong_Number_2.mp3)
- *Suspense*: The Thing in the Window (http://www.escape-suspense.com/2007/05/suspense_the_th.html)

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Categories: 1912 births | 2000 deaths | American screenwriters | Edgar Award winners | People from Brooklyn | Vassar College alumni | Women screenwriters | Writers from New York City | Writers from Pennsylvania

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