

American[®] MASTERS

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WNET NEW YORK

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press information

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THIRTEEN/WNET NEW YORK'S *AMERICAN MASTERS* RE-VISITS THE *TWILIGHT ZONE* IN *ROD SERLING: SUBMITTED FOR YOUR APPROVAL*, AIRING DECEMBER 29 ON PBS

Back By Popular Demand, First Comprehensive Television Biography Of Rod Serling Features Interviews With Actors Jack Klugman, Jack Palance and Kim Hunter, Extensive, Never-Before-Seen *Twilight Zone* Footage, And Live Footage From TV's Golden Age

“Submitted for your approval: the man in cardiac crisis is Mr. Rod Serling – writer, producer and agent provocateur of a certain electronic medium he helped create and which, by way of thanks, kindly ushered him out the door ... Mr. Rod Serling – who once remarked that he just wanted to be remembered as a writer – is about to get his wish, during a short stay in a small town called Yesterday, found on any map, in *The Twilight Zone*.”

So begins a remarkable journey into the life of a man whose imagination made provocative and illuminating drama on television a reality. Through an exclusive arrangement with CBS, Thirteen/WNET New York's *AMERICAN MASTERS* presents *Rod Serling: Submitted for Your Approval*, which enjoys an encore presentation Monday, December 29 at 9 p.m. (ET) on PBS (check local listings).

Submitted for Your Approval was directed and produced by Susan Lacy for *AMERICAN MASTERS*. The Peabody Award-winning series recently won the 2003 Emmy for “Outstanding Primetime Non-Fiction Series,” the fourth time it has earned that top honor for television documentaries.

“*The Twilight Zone* has achieved cult status, not just in the U.S., but around the world. And our film really got to the heart of its genius, its originality and its popularity,” said Lacy, also the creator and executive producer of *AMERICAN MASTERS*. “In fact, it has been our most requested repeat over the years, perhaps because it's a departure from most film biographies in that it invokes the unique look and feel of *The Twilight Zone* series. I think it's exactly the sort of thing Serling himself might have come up with.”

Submitted for Your Approval was filmed in black-and-white, and employs several

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Twilight Zone stylistic techniques, as well as a Rod Serling sound-alike, to bring his print interviews, letters and essays to life. The film recounts the fascinating history of television while revealing the personal story of a creative genius who helped steer the medium’s course while winning more Emmy Awards for dramatic writing than anyone else in television history.

From the outset, Serling served notice to audiences and television executives that his subjects would include racism, corporate politics, labor rackets, and other controversial topics drawn directly from the headlines of the day. After *The Twilight Zone* debuted, Serling remarked, “I found that it was all right to have Martians saying things Democrats and Republicans could never say.”

Susan Lacy is the creator and executive producer of *AMERICAN MASTERS*. Jac Venza is director of cultural and arts programs at Thirteen/WNET New York.

AMERICAN MASTERS has become a cultural legacy in its own right, producing an exceptional film library that illustrates the creative journeys of our most enduring writers, musicians and visual and performing artists. Now in its 18th year, the series set the standard for documentary film profiles and has received widespread critical acclaim, winning 12 Emmys, five Peabodys, an Oscar, a Grammy, and 33 Cine Golden Eagles. With authenticity and integrity, the series enhances an appreciation of our cultural heritage and maintains the kind of in-depth, thorough and insightful explorations that viewers have come to expect from public television.

Corporate sponsorship for *AMERICAN MASTERS* is provided by American Century Investments. Funding is also provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Rosalind P. Walter, the Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation, Jack Rudin, the André and Elizabeth Kertész Foundation, and public television viewers.

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Thirteen/WNET New York is one of the key program providers for public television, bringing such acclaimed series as *Nature*, *Great Performances*, *American Masters*, *Charlie Rose*, *Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly*, *Wide Angle*, *Stage on Screen*, *EGG the arts show*, and *Cyberchase* – as well as the work of Bill Moyers – to audiences nationwide. As the flagship public broadcaster in the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut metro area, Thirteen reaches millions of viewers each week, airing the best of American public television along with its own local productions such as *The Ethnic Heritage Specials*, *The New York Walking Tours*, *New York Voices*, *Reel New York*, and its *MetroArts/Thirteen* cable arts programming. With educational and community outreach projects that extend the impact of its television productions, Thirteen takes television “out of the box.” And as broadcast and digital media converge, Thirteen is blazing trails in the creation of Web sites, enhanced television, CD-ROMs, DVD-ROMs, educational software, and other cutting-edge media products. More information about Thirteen can be found at: www.thirteen.org.

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