



ROD SERLING

(1924 - 1975)

Known primarily for his role as the host of television's **THE TWILIGHT ZONE**, Rod Serling had one of the most exceptional and varied careers in television. As a writer, a producer, and for many years a teacher, Serling constantly challenged the medium of television to reach for loftier artistic goals.

After a brief career in radio, Serling entered television in 1951, penning scripts for several programs including **Hallmark Hall of Fame** and **Playhouse 90**, at a time when the medium was referred to as "**The Golden Age**".

In 1955, **Kraft Television Theatre** presented Serling's teleplay **Patterns** and it changed both television as well as Rod Serling's life, winning him his first of six Emmy awards. The script established Serling as a rarity: a television playwright.

In October of 1959, **CBS** aired the first episode of a groundbreaking series, **The Twilight Zone**. Serling fought hard for creative control, and became television's first writer/producer. The series incorporated Serling's deep progressive social and moral views. This iconic series ran for five seasons winning numerous awards and winning critical acclaim for Serling and his artistic staff and provided a training ground for some of our most gifted actors.

The winner of more Emmy Awards for dramatic writing for television than anyone in history, Serling expressed a deep social conscience in nearly everything he did.

Some of his most well know works include:

- **Requiem for a Heavyweight** (1956)
- **The Twilight Zone** (1959 - 1964)
- **Planet of the Apes** (1968)
- **Night Gallery** (1970 - 1973)

In June 1975, Rod Serling died of a heart attack. Today, many years after his death, Serling's legacy continues to grow. His television and cinematic works have reached iconic status enlivening a new interest in one of the great early pioneers of American television.



Rod Serling's groundbreaking television series "The Twilight Zone" had its first airing on October 2, 1959. **Twilight Zone at 50... A Celebration of Rod Serling and the Twilight Zone** marks the 50th Anniversary with a four day event honoring our hometown iconic genius.

Each year, the **Rod Serling Video Festival** at the Binghamton City School District not only sustains the Serling legacy but stirs the creative imaginations of students K-12 both locally and nationally. An award ceremony and screening is held each first Friday in June. Visit: www.rodserlingvideofest.com.

Another great source for information is the Rod Serling Memorial Foundation. Founded in 1986 the foundation is dedicated to the promotion and preservation of Serling's contributions to the Arts and Humanities. Visit: www.rodserling.com.



For more community information:

Greater Binghamton Convention & Visitors Bureau

49 Court Street, 2nd Floor at the Metrocenter

Binghamton, NY 13901

(607) 772-8860 // (800) 836-6740

www.VisitBinghamton.org



Everyone
has to have a
hometown...



Binghamton's
mine.
— Rod Serling

“No one could know Serling, or view or read his work, without recognizing his deep affection for humanity... and his determination to enlarge our horizons by giving us a better understanding of ourselves.” —Gene Roddenberry

LOCATION #1

Recreation Park, on Binghamton's West Side, was the inspiration for Episode #5 Walking Distance from **The Twilight Zone's** first season. Actor Gig Young portrays Martin Sloan, a frazzled executive, who learns that you can go home again after he steps back in time and meets his mom, his dad, and himself as a young boy. Ride the carousel and visit the pavilion featured in the broadcast. Serling's boyhood home is just a few blocks from the park. Contact: City of Binghamton Parks and Recreation (607) 772-7017



LOCATION #2

Rod Serling graduated from Binghamton Central High School in 1943. Binghamton High School is now home to the Rod Serling School of the Arts and houses the Helen Foley Theatre, named in honor of Rod Serling's English and Drama teacher, an 800 seat proscenium style state of the art facility. Contact: Binghamton City Schools, (607) 762-8202



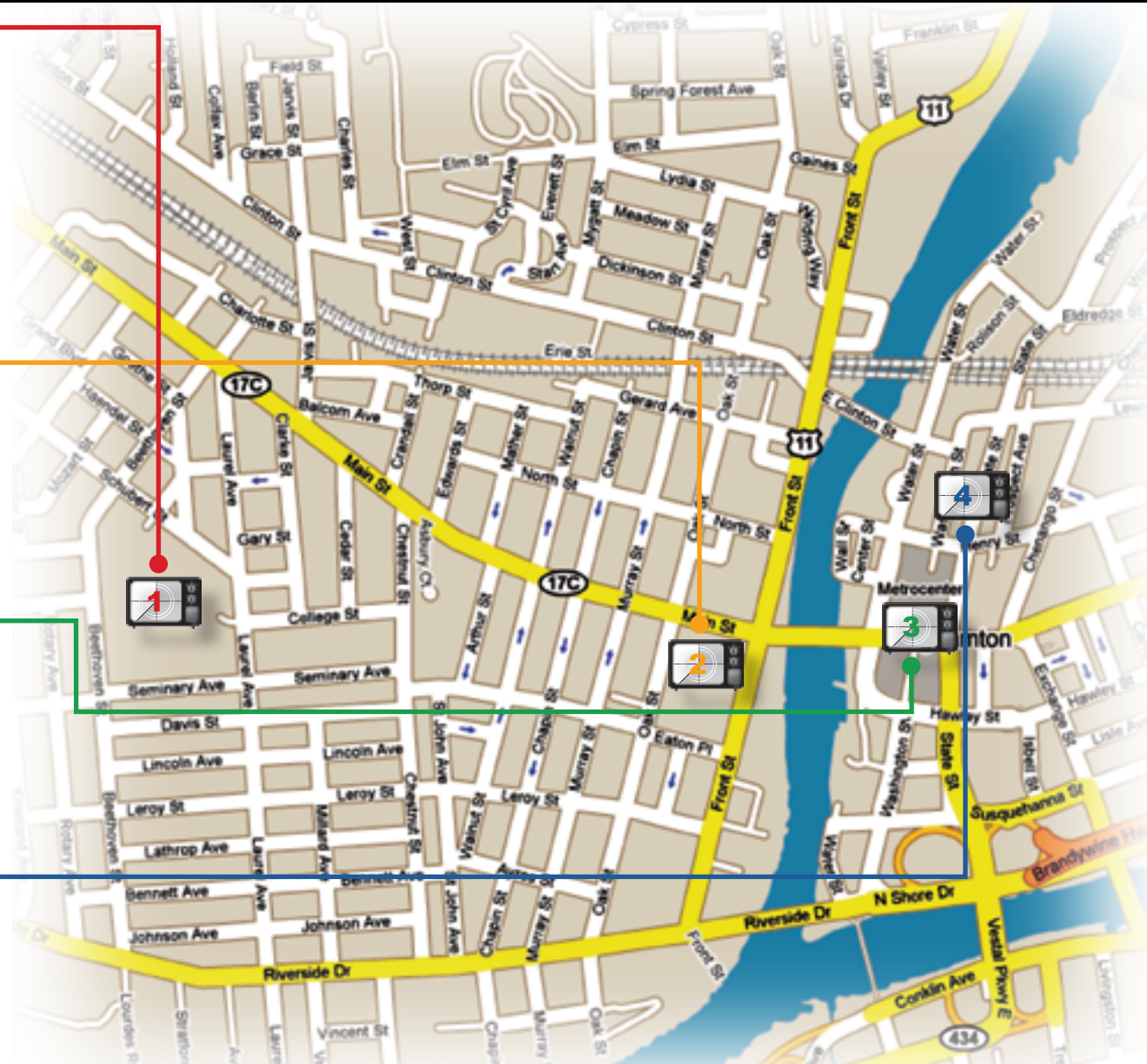
LOCATION #3

Here you will find Binghamton's very own version of Hollywood's "Walk of Fame" at the Metrocenter Courtyard in the Downtown District. Visit Rod Serling's sidewalk star situated alongside the names of many others that have brought distinction through the arts to our community. Contact: Greater Binghamton Convention & Visitors Bureau, (607) 772-8860



LOCATION #4

Day of a Playwright is the name of the permanent display at the Forum Theatre for the Performing Arts (236 Washington Street, Binghamton, NY 13901). The exhibit chronicles Rod Serling's life in photos and artifacts. Contact: The Broome County Forum Theatre, (607) 778-2480



“Everyone has to have a hometown, Binghamton's mine. In the strangely brittle, terribly sensitive makeup of a human being, there is a need for a place to hang a hat, or kind of geographical womb to crawl back into, or maybe just a place that's familiar because that's where you grew up. When I dig back through my memory cells, I get one particularly distinctive feeling and that's one of warmth, comfort and well-being. For whatever else I may have had, or lost, or will find, I've still got a hometown. This, nobody's gonna take away from me.” – Rod Serling