

Obsession

After the real-life terrors of World War II, it must have been hard for most Americans to settle down to a more peaceful life and a relatively gentle radio world. Radio waves were populated, to a certain extent, with characters like Dr. Christian, Lum and Abner, and Ozzie and Harriet. When the war was over, and the GI's returned, audiences craved more dramatic programming. To fill this void, radio producers began to promote macabre and terrifying thrillers including shows like *Inner Sanctum*, *Lights Out*, and ... *Obsession*.

Obsession was produced independently by C. P. "Chick" MacGregor, and its first episode aired on October 9, 1950. It began on WBBM, Chicago as a filler until January 15, 1951, when *Obsession* earned its own time slot. The program lasted only seventeen months. Its final broadcast aired May 12, 1952. The program starred many radio greats including Vincent Price, Ruth Warrick, William Gargan, Miriam Hopkins, and Barton Yarborough. Various writers have noted that the music was eerie and the acting was first-rate, but the quality of the scripts varied from week to week. Nevertheless, enthusiasts insist that it is well worth listening to.

This classic radio horror series is based on the premise that the human mind is often dark and twisted ... that we never truly know what is going on in the mind of those around us... that our own personal obsessions can lead to shocking, even brutal, ends

For the Old Time Radio Researchers, I'm _____, your announcer.