

The Voyage of the Scarlet Queen

From July 3, 1947 to February 25, 1948, *The Voyage of the Scarlet Queen* brought listeners the weekly adventures of Philip Karney, master of the namesake ketch the *Scarlet Queen*, and his crew as they traveled around the seas of southeast Asia. Created by Command Radio Productions, the show was purchased for broadcasting by the Mutual network.

While Howard Duff played Karney in the audition episode and Alan Ladd was approached about the part, Elliott Lewis took over the role for the entirety of the series' run on Mutual. Ed Max played Karney's first mate, Red Gallagher. Gil Doud and Bob Tallman, who were finding success teaming together on scripts for *The Adventures of Sam Spade*, were hired to co-write the scripts for *The Voyage of the Scarlet Queen*. The music was composed by Richard Aurandt, a stalwart of West Coast radio whose work would also be heard on *The Adventures of Philp Marlowe*, *Rocky Jordan*, and *Wild Bill Hickok* among many others.

The Voyage of the Scarlet Queen never attracted a sponsor and in February 1948, after a seven-month run, the Mutual network pulled the plug on the series due to unimpressive ratings. The show could still be found on scattered stations, however, until the end of summer. The series experienced two abortive attempts to bring these adventures on the high seas to television. In 1951 Allegro Productions was scheduled to film some episodes and then NBC revived the idea in 1955, but neither effort led to any known finished video.