

By this time, it's no secret that Steven Hill, star of "Mission Impossible," will be conspicuous by his absence when the tv series returns next season. Guest star Martin Landau will probably replace Hill.

Numerous stories have covered the facts well, revealing that Hill's real name is Solomon Krakowsky, he is a deeply committed orthodox Jew, and he stipulated in his contract that he must leave the studio set each Friday night early enough to reach his home before sundown.

The 45-year-old, Seattle-born actor also put it in writing that he would not work on Jewish holidays and must also leave early on the preceding evening.

It quickly came to CBS' attention that it had failed to weigh carefully the full import of the stipulated Jewish holidays as they affect a 100% orthodox Jew. As one CBS publicist remarked, "Hill came up with Jewish holidays known only to a learned rabbi."

As a result, it has become an impossible mission to complete "Mission Impossible" each week. With its number-one star missing frequently, the one-hour show had to sweat and strain to knock off one segment before seven days had passed.

Meanwhile, Martin Landau received more and more exposure while Steven Hill was

seen less and less. It now appears that Landau, also Jewish but not orthodox, soon becomes the series' top star.

TV Guide and a magazine known as Los Angeles published stories about Hill. Los Angeles went into full depth about the actor's religious life on and off the set, including the fact that he brought his own kosher lunch to the set daily.

TV Guide's story by Les Raddatz chiefly played up Hill's talents and career biography, playing down the religious angle and tangle until the last few paragraphs. Raddatz then indicated that Hill's strict adherence to the tenets of his ancient faith made it clear that he could not do justice to his series role. Therefore, creator and executive producer Bruce Geller could not maintain a proper working schedule.

Following the story's publication, Raddatz received considerable mail from two extremist factions. One, using the anti-Semitic approach, screamed, "Get rid of that ---- and let's get on with the show!" disregarding the fact that Landau, Hill's

probable successor, is also Jewish.

The other group, representing the sympathetic Jewish reader, threatened, "If CBS drops Hill just because he's Jewish, we'll never again watch the show."

In between, thousands of TV Guide's cool-headed readers, with more settled opinions, have remained silent. Apparently, they hold the neutral assessment that Hill has a right to practice orthodox Judaism and CBS has a right to pursue a workable schedule.

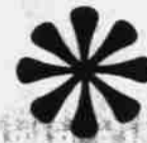
ROBERT MORSE, Michele Lee, Rudy Vallee and Maureen Arthur star in the Mirisch Corp. movie "How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying." Morse and Miss Lee, both Jewish, starred in the original Broadway production.

Michele Lee Dusick is the daughter of Sylvia and Jack Dusick. He has been a popular makeup man in Hollywood for 20 years.

Michele has a brother, Kenneth, majoring in economics at the U. of California at Berkeley. She hastens to assure, "He doesn't wear a beard or long hair and is not involved in campus politics, although he does plan to enter law."

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