

The Fugitive's Final Season Now Available On DVD

From 1963 to 1967 large numbers of television viewers tuned in weekly to *The Fugitive* to see the latest episode of Dr. Richard Kimble's quest to find the one-armed man who either murdered his wife or knew who did so he could overturn his murder conviction and death sentence.

Kimble, played by David Janssen, was the ultimate underdog. He was a homeless, penniless, hunted man who had to spend his hours awake looking over his shoulder and sleep with one eye open to stay ahead of Lieutenant Philip Gerard who was hunting Kimble after he escaped from the train that was taking him to Indiana's death row.

The series was unusual for its time in that it was filmed on location across the country from Washington to Florida, from Maine to California, and it was one of the more highly

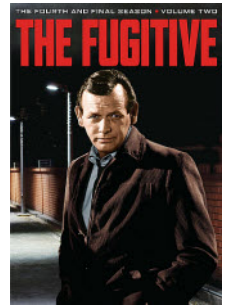
rated programs on network television.

Television viewers took Kimble's search for his wife's killer seriously. The 120th and final episode of *The Fugitive*, titled "Judgment," was broadcast on August 29, 1967. Four decades haven't diminished the gripping drama of that episode as Kimble finally cornered the one-armed man.

Almost 3/4ths of the U.S.'s television viewers saw *The Fugitive's* finale, and it was the highest rated program in TV history up to that time. Forty-four years later, and after more than sixty years of regular TV broadcasts, it remains the *third* highest rated episode of a television series in history: Only the final episode of *M*A*S*H* (1983) and the *Who Shot JR?* (1980) episode of *Dallas* outrank it. By audience share *The Fugitive's* final episode remains the *fifth* most viewed broadcast in U.S. television history.

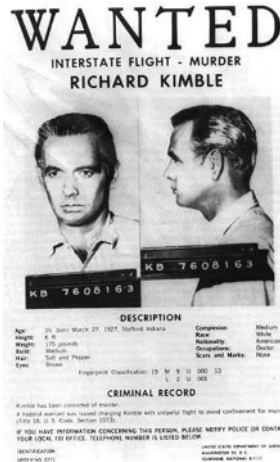
The Fugitive's unique place in television history continues to be recognized by those with a memory of the time when it

was broadcast. *The Fugitive* was so skillfully produced and popular that *TV Guide* honored it in 1993 as the Best Dramatic series of the 1960s. Best-selling author Stephen King wrote, "*The Fugitive* ... was absolutely the best series done on American television. There was nothing better than *The Fugitive* - it just turned everything on its head."



Now for the first time the final episode of the *The Fugitive* is available on DVD. *The Fugitive's* Final Season Volume Two was released on DVD on February 15, 2011. It consists of four disks with 772 minutes of episodes. The list price is \$39.98, but its discount price is about \$29 from Amazon.com and other online retailers. As of June 30, 2011 the DVD is Amazon.com's #1 seller in the television crime drama category.

Read Justice Denied's Issue 35 articles about actor David Janssen and *The Fugitive* at, www.justicedenied.org/issue/issue_35/lost_days_of_the_fugitive_jd_issue_35.pdf



Robert Lee Stinson Awarded \$25,000 For 24 Years Of Wrongful Imprisonment

Robert Lee Stinson was 21 when convicted in 1985 of first-degree murder in the 1984 death of a 63-year-old woman in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The prosecution's key evidence was the testimony by two experts that Stinson's teeth matched bites on the victim. The experts said the woman, who was Stinson's neighbor, had been bitten by a man missing a tooth, and Stinson was missing a tooth. Stinson was sentenced to life in prison.

Stinson was able to obtain new expert dental evidence that he was missing a tooth where the bite marks indicated a tooth should have been, and he had an intact one where the perpetrator didn't. In addition, DNA tests of crime scene evidence excluded Stinson as the woman's assailant. Based on the new evidence Stinson's conviction was overturned in January 2009.

On January 30, 2009, Stinson was released on bail after 24-1/2 years of wrongful incarceration. His murder charge was dismissed on July 27, 2009.



Robert Lee Stinson hugs his sister Charlene after his release from prison on January 30, 2009. (Andy Manis - AP)

In May 2010 the same DNA tests that exonerated Stinson were matched to a man convicted of rape and murder in another case. When confronted with the test results he confessed to the murder Stinson had been convicted of committing.

Wisconsin's wrongful conviction compensation statute allows a maximum award of \$25,000. Stinson filed a claim and on December 28, 2010, it was announced that the Wisconsin Claims Board, had unanimously voted to award Stinson \$25,000. The board also stated it was recommending that the Wisconsin legislature approve an additional payment of \$90,000 to Stinson.

Stinson is now 46. He was 20 when he was arrested the morning after the murder by police canvassing the area. The police arrested him because they said he couldn't adequately explain his whereabouts the night before when his neighbor was murdered.

Sources:

Robert Lee Stinson, the Milwaukee man exonerated of a murder conviction, will get at least \$25K from Wisconsin Claims Board, *Appleton Post Crescent*, December 29, 2010.

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