

The Fountain of Youth (1958)



Welles is more than just the host in this episode of what was supposed to be the first of a series. (c) DesiLu

This little gem about human love and vanity was aired in 1958, Welles' adapting John Collier's short story "Youth From Vienna" that has a touch of science fiction. Scientist Humphrey Baxter falls in love with showgirl [Carolyn Coates](#) but has to go away to work on a serum that promises eternal youth. When he returns after three years, he discovers that Carolyn has fallen in love with tennis champion Alan Brody. The clever Humphrey gives them the last vial he has of the serum, saying that it contains just enough for one person. You can watch to see what this does to the lovers' relationship—plus there's a surprise ending.

Welles made the most of what must have been a very limited budget by his appearing on camera as narrator throughout the drama, intercutting with live actor scenes and then stills of the actors as he describes the action or their thoughts. It works well and should have led to more episodes—Welles ends by announcing the title of next week's story. This was produced actually in 1956 as a pilot, but no further episodes were filmed. It was a

Desilu Production with Desi Arnaz himself the producer. He and his wife Lucy were friends of Welles but attempts to get him to commit to a 30 or 40 episode series did work out. It has two distinctions, one being what Welles has said, "the only comedy I ever did on film, and the other that it won a special Peabody Award. Arnaz wrote, ""It was the only unsold pilot ever to win the then most coveted award in television." For more on this see the Wikipedia article "[The Fountain of Youth \(Film\).](#)"

What a treasure someone has given us by posting it on [YouTube](#).

Desilu Production

No questions. Some of those with the other Kane films could be used.