

## September 22, 1959



*Mike Wallace questioned Rod Serling about the writer's fights with the networks over censorship. Less than two weeks before the premiere of Twilight Zone, Serling worked hard to protect his coming artistic freedom:*

**Wallace:** "Well, you're not going to be able to cop a plea or chop an axe because you're going to be obviously working so hard on The Twilight Zone that in essence, for the time being and for the foreseeable future, you've given up on writing anything important for television, right?"



**Serling:** "Yeah. Well, again, this is a semantic thing—important for television. I don't know. If by important you mean I'm not going to try to delve into current social problems dramatically, you're quite right. I'm not."

**In 1997, Wallace reflected on the exchange:**

"At the time he did the interview, he'd just gotten through battling censorship and gotten through battling the system. So of course he was going to say, 'I'm not going to do anything controversial.'"

## The Rod Serling Calendar for SEPTEMBER 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6 U.F.O. (S1 1954)	7	8	9
10	11	12 Certain Honorable Men (On Stage 1968)	13 The Director (Fireside 1955)	14 One For the Angels (Danger 1954)	15	16
17	18 The Loner (CBS 1965)	19 The Dark Side of the Earth (PH90 1957)	20	21	22 Mike Wallace interview 1959	23
24	25 Mr. Finchley vs. The Bomb (Kaiser 1956)	26	27	28	29 The New People (CBS 1969)	30