Zale J. Kessler*

Class of 1956

Zale J. Kessler built a prolific career over 60 years as a character actor.

He started out on Broadway, performing in a number of shows. He was cast as the leading man in “Dear World,” opposite Angela Lansbury.

Kessler also acted in movies, including small roles in many fan-favorite films produced by Mel Brooks.

He exhibited his versatility by performing on the operatic stage, singing and acting in “Die Fledermaus,” “The Merry Widow,” and “The Pirates of Penzance.”

Kessler was a familiar face on television, appearing on such shows as “Murder She Wrote,” “Night Court,” “The Jeffersons,” and 1977’s “Fernwood Tonight,” in which he had a recurring role.

His television career even spilled over into cartoons, where he voiced a number of characters in Hanna-Barbera productions.

Kessler died in September 2015.

*Awarded Posthumously