

Abraham Sofaer was born in Rangoon, Burma and was descended from Baghdadi Jews. He was the son of a very successful merchant Isaac Sofaer (who established the Sofaer Building, Rangoon, which still stands today), he was educated locally at the Diocesan Boys' High School. His education continued in England, and he initially worked as a schoolteacher in Rangoon and later in London. Sofaer's strong features and resonant voice complemented his many exotic character roles.

Sofaer began his acting career on the London stage in 1921 and was soon alternating between theatre productions in London and New York. He appeared in the 1933 musical *He Wanted Adventure*. In 1935 he gained widespread attention on Broadway portraying Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli in *Victoria Regina*. During the 1930s he also began appearing in both British and American films. Among his more prominent performances were his dual role as the Judge and Surgeon in *A Matter of Life and Death* (1946) and as St Paul in *Quo Vadis* (1951).

He also appeared on television from its earliest days in the late 1930s and on radio, including a small part in Dorothy L. Sayers 'The Man born to be King'. Although his film appearances diminished after the 1950s, he continued to have guest roles on dozens of major U.S. television series throughout the 1960's. He made three appearances on *Perry Mason* and his voice featured in two episodes of *Star Trek*. Other guest appearances were in *Wagon Train*, *Gunsmoke*, *The Twilight Zone*, *The Time Tunnel*, *Lost in Space*, and he best remembered role was that of the genie in 'I Dream of Jeannie'.



Abraham was performing on stage around the time Eddie died, appearing at the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre at Stratford-upon-Avon.