

Saturday, 26 December 2015

Alan King on Benny

Tributes were seemingly endless after the death of Jack Benny on December 26, 1974. Newspapers ran more than wire service reports; their own columnists and even editorial writers would memorialise what Benny meant to the world.

Newsday did something else. It talked to comedian Alan King about Benny. King appeared on Benny's TV show in the '60s and roasted him on a special in the '70s. But their relationship went beyond that. King talked about it years later in one of his books, and he talked about it in a column in *Newsday* two days after Jack's death. King's sentiments were universal, but he coupled it with a personal story.

'Cheapest Man' Gave Both Life And His Money

By ALAN KING

Special to Newsday

"Your money or your life!"

Not very funny, but it was the straight line to the biggest laugh in radio history. After spending 35 years developing an image as the "Cheapest Man in the World," Jack Benny was walking down a dark radio street when a holdup man appeared and threatened: "Your money or your life!"

Jack didn't answer. After one minute (you see, he was thinking about it), the audience started laughing. After his two minutes of silence they roared.

Strange, but that's what Jack Benny's comedy was all about. It wasn't what he said. It's what he didn't say that was important.

But to a young comic of 16, it was what Jack Benny did say that was important. Whenever Jack was in New York, he'd come to see me at the famed Leon and Eddie's on 52nd Street. And he always asked me to join his table.

"You were great," he would say. "You're gonna make it big. Stay with it."

Always words of encouragement. And always treating me as an equal. He was my idol. And he became my friend. Always words of encouragement.

He never failed to call me after my TV show just to tell me that he was watching, and he enjoyed. He'd call collect.

His opening line was "Well, you don't want me to destroy a legend, do you?"

Cheap? He was the most giving man I ever knew.

He appeared all over the world at benefits for charity, no matter what the cost. Many years ago he flew from California to appear with me for the Nassau Center for Emotionally Disturbed Children in Syosset, N.Y.

His opening line was: "I flew all the way from California because I figured it was cheaper than sending money."

Two days later he sent a check for \$5,000 to the center.

Your money or your life. Jack Benny gave up both to make this world a happier and better place.

I'll miss him.

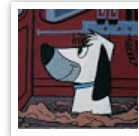


Posted by Yowp at 06:51



Labels: Jack Benny

About Me



View my complete profile

Blogs to See

Movies with Michael



Cowboy Church #67 - Hello my friends and welcome back for another

service of cowboy church. Today's musical selection begins with Gene Autry singing "Dear Hearts and Gentle People..."

27 minutes ago

Termite Terrace headlines



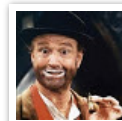
Question for All You Cartoon Collectors! - OK so I've been doing some

looking around. Bosko apparently had a comic book and I'm wondering if any of you know of additional covers you could share! ...

9 hours ago

Way Too Damn Lazy To Write A Blog

Born on July 18, 1913 - Red



Skelton - *Today's post commences with the Guzzler's Gin routine

(f...

23 hours ago

Fernando Llera Blog Cartoons



'Cozy Bear' Group Tied to Hacks on Covid Vaccine Research. - ©2020


fernandollera.com

1 day ago

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 **News From ME**
Sorry... - As far as I know, I do not have any diseases. I just have too much to deal with right now so I won't be blogging much if at all. I'm postponing all the web...
1 day ago


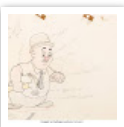
 **Cartoon Research**
In His Own Words: H.T. Kalmus on Disney in Technicolor - Suspended Animation #276 Many references may be found regarding two-strip Technicolor. I have been guilty of discussing Walter Lantz's King of Jazz (1930)...
2 days ago

 **AFRTS Archive**
 Mary Turner 1985 - Mary Turner today Mary Turner really rocked the house. Normally when any of the jocks got a reaction, it'd be split. The ones that were really liked wou...
3 days ago

 **The World of Knight**
TONIGHT, 11:54 PM. - COPYRIGHT 2020 BY MILTON KNIGHT

4 days ago

 **Yowp**
 Hanna-Barbera Birthday Did-You-Knows - 63 years ago today, some forms were signed by George Sidney, Bill Hanna and Joe Barbera creating what eventually became the biggest TV cartoon operation i...
1 week ago

 **Supervised By Fred Avery: Tex Avery's Warner Brothers Cartoons**
 Wabbit Twouble: A Small Addendum to An Outstanding Podcast - Original animation drawing from Wabbit Twouble with color notations for the ink and paint department. Release date: 12/20/41 Availability: Looney Tunes Gol...
3 weeks ago

Mark Kausler's CatBlog
The Lady and the Tiger -
From the Cathy Hill Archive
of Unpublished Comics
comes "The Lady and the
Tiger". This story was
drawn before Cathy started
the "Mad Raccoons" series.
U...
4 weeks ago


 **Peter Gray's Comics and Art**



An early
Tom Thug
page for
sale and
other comic
art by Lew
Stringer go
to link and ebay.. -
<http://lewstringercomics.blogspot.com/2020/02/original-art-for-sale.html>
https://www.ebay.co.uk/sch/graphite47/m.html?_nkw=&_armrs=1&_ipg=&_from=

5 months ago

What About Thad?
Cartoon Logic Podcast -
And yet another distraction
from this brick and mortar
blog... I've entered the
world of podcasting with
renowned animation
director and historian Bob
Jaques...
10 months ago

 **Likely Looney, Mostly Merrie**

That's all, folks! - My posts
have gotten thinner over the
years. I'm aware of that. I've
been hopeful for a long
time, that I can remain
active with blogging and
sharing furth...
1 year ago

 **Dr. Grob's Animation Review**

The Flying Man - 'The
Flying Man' is a very short
absurdist film in which a
man drops his coat to take
a swim in mid air. Another
man with a dog drops by,
tries the same th...
1 day ago

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