

Sunday, 5 March 2017

He Has Nine Gags

How different was Jack Benny on TV than the Jack Benny in real life? Quite a bit, actually. In fact, Jack gave seemingly countless interviews telling that to people.

Here's one of them from a feature column that appeared in newspapers starting April 20, 1956. Vernon Scott interviewed Jack a number of times during the '50s, '60s and '70s. This may be Scott's first, though he may have written about Jack earlier without a byline, or a search of earlier papers on-line may have been hampered by text that got garbled during scanning.

Benny Confesses His 'Legend' Is a Fraud By VERNON SCOTT

United Press Staff Writer

Jack Benny admitted this week he's the biggest fraud in show

The master comedian says he has based his "on-stage" character

on nine gags which, through the years, have become fact to millions of Benny fans.

For instance, few people know that Jack has never worn a toupee. He doesn't need one. But almost everybody he meets inspects his scalp for signs of a dome daily.

"NOT LONG ago I filmed a show with Bing Crosby, George Burns and Rochester," Jack recounted over a highball at Romanoff's. "Suddenly it occurred to me that all three of them wear toupees. But they don't advertise the fact."

Another Benny standby is his ghastly violin-playing. Jack is an accomplished musician who plays the fiddle very much better than he's ever demonstrated on his CBS-TV show.

He never owned a Maxwell nor lived next door to Ronald Colman. Both gimmicks, though, are sure-fire laughs and strictly fiction.

"MY FEUD with Fred Allen was another fraud," Jack admits. "He was one of my closest friends. We started sniping at one another, and when it got laughs we kept it up. That's how all my running gags started.

"Even in vaudeville I never told one-line jokes. I always had a routine and stayed pretty much with one story. But from the beginning, I was the underdog."

Benny's greatest fiction is he's the biggest fraud ms penny-pinching. Actually, his generosity is one of the worst-kept secrets in Hollywood. He never fails to contribute to charitable causes. Yet he tips twice as much as anyone else to avoid being called a skinflint.

His age is another hilarious element of Jack's other Benny.

Jack's gotten more yaks with the 39-year-old routine than any other. Out of character, he doesn't hesitate to talk about his real age, 62.

"One of my funniest gags was the treasurer bit with the Beaver Patrol," Jack grinned. "I don't know why, but people get a terrific kick out of an adult being mean to little kids."

Finally, Jack has drawn hundreds of laughs from boozing band members on his show. None of the musicians, to his knowledge, ever showed up for the program with a load on. Even his standing joke about "The Horn Blows at Midnight" is a phony. The picture made money.

"I'm not a complete fraud," Jack concluded. "Some things are true—like finding Mary (Livingstone) in the May

"It's been fun building up the character I portray, but I've given up trying to convince people it's not the real me."



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Yogi and Flintstones Comics -Some time ago, reader Richard Holliss

graciously offered to send scans of the Yogi Bear and Flintstones weekend newspaper comics he had collected over the ... 1 hour ago

🖺 Cartoon Research Bugz' Livez: Antz (pt. 2) -

We continue along lastweek's trail, following closely behind the protruding abdomen of a marching ant, as his column descends into the depths of a subter...

8 hours ago

Rip Jagger's Dojo



Five Million Years To Earth! - It's felt like five million vears sometimes.

I've vearned to have *Five Million Years to Earth *or as it's otherwise know' Quatermass and the Pit i*n mv ...

10 hours ago

Movies with Michael



Movie Review: The Angry Birds Movie

Michael's

Grade: B+ To be honest I didn't care for the first* Angry Birds Movie*. I simply just did not find that film enjoyable. That is what made ...

14 hours ago

Posted by Yowp at 07:35

Labels: Jack Benny, Vernon Scott

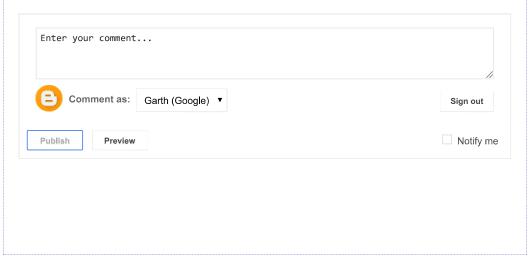
1 comment:



J Lee 5 March 2017 at 10:15

As noted in the past it's the variety is what contributed to Jack's longevity -- because Jack and his writers had developed so many different personality flaws, something could be brought in which hadn't been used for months but that through past use, the audience was already familiar with and enjoyed (which tied in with the ability to bring on semi-regulars on only an occasional basis as to not wear their routines with Jack thin, to the point he could even do routines with guest stars, like the Colemans or the Stewarts).

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News From ME

Recommended Reading -This piece by Ed Kilgore may bring comfort to some of my friends who think that if Donald Trump wins a second term, he won't get a third because there will... 17 hours ago

Termite Terrace headlines

Wisconstant Scools a Doc?

the Name Up: HB edition - A while ago I wrote about

the spelling Walt Dinsey. Today, I'll be talking about Hanna and Barbera. We all know that William Hanna and Joseph Barbera defi...

2 days ago

🕒 Fernando Llera Blog Cartoons



Trump is high on gun reform chances despite NRA

resistance. - ©2019

fernandolleracartoons.com 3 days ago

Way Too Damn Lazy To Write A Blog



Sunday String Swing -*Continuing the thread from last Sunday's

post, as the following caricature of Django ... 3 days ago

The World of Knight



LAST NIGHT -The sky was a beautiful color last night.

1 week ago

Mark Kausler's CatBlog

Racketty Ann's Mystery Flight! - Here are pages 5 through eight of "Racketty Ann and the Lost World". There's delightful fantasy here as Racketty Ann and Bla Bla take a ride on the back o...

3 weeks ago

Peter Gray's Comics and Art



New blog on my Art work...Origi nal art...prints

for sale petergrayart

ist@gmail.com for prices

https://petergrayart.blogspot

.com/ Will update it like I do on facebook. 5 weeks ago

Supervised By Fred Avery: Tex Avery's Warner Brothers Cartoons



Coming Soon To This Blog...

2 months ago

What About Thad? Chris Reccardi Interviewed

- I don't want to start a practice of publishing an interview every time someone from Ren & Stimpy dies, but Chris Reccardi (1964-2019) was too important a f... 2 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...
6 months ago

Kids, Eh? #1288: Bird Call - #1288: Bird Call 10 months ago

Cartoons, Model Sheets, & Stuff



Pete Hothead Model Sheets -Here are a few model sheets from

the first Pete Hothead short. Released in 1952 and directed former Tom & Jerry animator Pete Burness. Ted Parmelee was the...

1 year ago

Dr. Grob's Animation Review

Posljednji valcer u starom mlinu (Last Waltz in the Old Mill) - In this latter-day Zagreb Film studio short two grains change into a prince and princess who waltz around a remote water mill. 1 hour ago

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The Perpetually Peachy Parfait Lover

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Stopping the Bull

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Shadowing Disney

Dove of Peace Ends War

He Brought the Show Up When It Was Down

From Birth of a Nation to Buddy

Fleischer's Fuzzy Bunny

Baby Bugs vs Baby Elmer

Bong-Bong-Bong!

Redundant Squirrel

Dog Eat Dog

Buck Benny Interviews Again

How To Make a Good Cartoon Commercial

Uncle Max's Laughing Mailboxes and Sedans

I Reject My Son

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To Chase a Woodpecker

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