



Sunday, 25 June 2017

Jack Benny on Women

When Jack Benny's TV series went off the air in 1965, he switched to a number of specials every season. Bob Hope did the same kind of thing, except Hope's in his later years were filled with bad cue card reading, lame sketches, football players, Brooke Shields (or before her, Elke Sommer). Jack seemed far more relaxed on his specials but a few of the sketches were cringe-worthy.

One special featured a send-up of beauty pageants. Who better to guest star than that curvaceous beauty, Phyllis Diller? It wasn't the best Benny comedy, but fans didn't seem to mind, and neither did the sponsor.

Here's Jack in a syndicated newspaper story that prompted by the coming special which takes, as its topic, women. It looks like a production company or network publicity handout; in fact, I found a version in one paper where the TV writer used some of the quotes and kind of left you with the impression he interviewed Benny. Various edited versions of this appeared in papers around November 26, 1966.

By all reports (mainly George Burns), Jack was a ladies man in his vaudeville days, and his daughter wrote in her book that her dad was very comfortable around women, who liked him because he was a good and sympathetic listener.



Jack Benny Hosts Musical Fun With Phyllis Diller

New York — Jack Benny emcees a beauty contest, the Smothers Brothers do the judging and Phyllis Diller gets into the act, on The Jack Benny Hour, color special on the NBC television network, Thursday, (8:30-9:30 p.m.). Singing, swinging Trini Lopez is another guest star on the program.

In the beauty contest, 10 girls from all over the world compete for the title of "Miss Northern and Southern Hemisphere." The banners on their bathing suits bear designations ranging from Miss Sweden to Miss Tunisia, Miss France to Miss Japan.

In the best beauty pageant tradition, Benny sings the contest theme song, "Here She Is, Miss Northern and Southern Hemisphere." The girls' official chaperone is Miss Diller.

Leading up to the contest, Benny introduces and trades quips with each of his guest stars. Between times, his more musical guests manage to squeeze in a number or two.

Trini sings "Fly Me to the Moon" and "This Train." The Smothers Brothers offer "I Talk to the Trees."

...

THE SMOTHERS LADS, like Miss Diller, made their first splash in show business at the Purple Onion nightclub in San Francisco. The brothers' act there was such a smash that they were encouraged to record it. The recordings, in turn, was bought by thousands, including Jack Paar, then host of NBC's Tonight Show. Paar booked Tom and Dick onto his show and thereby started a career that earned wide TV popularity for the brothers.

It was Paar who said, in commenting on the duo's unique blend of humor and music, "I don't know what it is that you fellows have—but whatever it is, no one is ever going to be able to steal it from, you."

There's something funny about beauty contests.

...



About Me


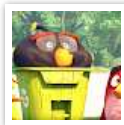


[View my complete profile](#)

Blogs to See

 **Cartoon Research**
Bugz' Livez: Antz (pt. 2) - We continue along last-week's trail, following closely behind the protruding abdomen of a marching ant, as his column descends into the depths of a subter...
 6 hours ago

 **Rip Jagger's Dojo**
 **Five Million Years To Earth!** - It's felt like five million years sometimes.
 I've yearned to have "Five Million Years to Earth" *or as it's otherwise know* Quatermass and the Pit i*n my ...
 8 hours ago

 **Movies with Michael**
 **Movie Review: The Angry Birds Movie 2** - Michael's Movie
 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 ...
 12 hours ago

 **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...
 15 hours ago

 **Termite Terrace headlines**
Screwing the Name Up: HB edition - A while ago I wrote

"The more legitimate anything is, the funnier is the satire," said Benny. Jack's a beauty contest ogler along with around 50,000,000 other Americans who watch the various beauty pageants on TV.

"I watch them for the same reason others watch them—to see beautiful girls," he said. "We're doing our show with real beauties, incidentally. They're all former contest winners." Jack, who has seen many beautiful women in show business, singled out several for special mention.

"I consider Greta Garbo the most beautiful," he said. "She and Audrey Hepburn, have the most beautiful eyes. My wife, by the way, fits into that category, too. And that's a truth. Garbo, Hepburn and Mary Livingston! I'd say Garbo has the most beautiful mouth and Cyd Charisse has the most beautiful figure. She also has a beautiful face."

...

THERE'S MORE to beauty than looks, according to Benny.

"If a woman is very talented, in addition to her looks then she has beauty," he said. "She doesn't have to be in show business to be beautiful. She can have other talents she can be brilliant or have a sense of humor, for instance."

Benny was modest — and honest—when asked what he has hoped to achieve through humor.

"My purpose was to be a big success," he said. "It was a selfish purpose. But a comedian doesn't start out any other way. Of course you serve a function, too in the process. As for the value of humor, I guess you could say that laughter is a sort of virtue. We would all like to see the whole world laugh if we could. If everyone could laugh, we wouldn't have any problems. You can't be angry when you laugh and you can't hate when you laugh. When I laugh I feel good. Most of the time that means feeling good physically and mentally."

Obviously a comedian has to be funny to be successful, but there's another ingredient that's important, according to Benny.

"To be a real success," he said, "People have to like you personally and what you stand for. Just getting them to laugh isn't enough."

Generally speaking Benny indicated that humor, if it has a function, "brings people down to size" and exposes "vanity."

Asked what serious thought he has found helpful through years of living, Benny reflected and then, said:

"There's one saying but none of us practice it: 'Don't worry about what you can't do anything about.' "I worry about little things that don't mean anything. But then maybe if I didn't worry about little things, when the big things come along, I wouldn't worry about those either. Maybe I'm successful because I worry."

Posted by [Yowp](#) at [07:38](#)

Labels: [Jack Benny](#)

3 comments:



J Lee 25 June 2017 at 07:58

Diller was probably at her hottest in terms of media exposure about the time this special was made, with ABC trying to make "The Pruitts of Southampton" sitcom work with her in the lead. So Phyllis' homely woman schtick being used as the big boffo end piece here isn't that big a surprise (as for the overall writing, Jack's late 60s specials tried to adjust to the changing era and at times tried a little too hard. But they seemed to get all that out of their system by the end of the decade and Jack's 1970-74 specials are more consistently enjoyable).

[Reply](#)



Shade 25 June 2017 at 19:18

One of the better '60 specials features the Beach Boys.

[Reply](#)



Tim Carter 25 October 2018 at 19:59

It's uncomfortable to watch Jack holding the women's hands while interviewing them onstage. They always look uncomfortable, and he won't stop.

[Reply](#)



about the spelling Walt Disney. 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
2 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 ...
2 days ago

[Yowp](#)



Hanna-Barbera Fans Write Back - Is it possible to fairly compare

cartoons made by Hanna-Barbera and the Jay Ward studios? I don't think so. The two studios had a different attitude and p...
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...Original art...prints for sale petergrayart

ist@gmail.com for prices etc... -
<https://petergrayart.blogspot>

Enter your comment...



Comment as:

Garth (Google) ▼

Sign out

Publish

Preview

☐ Notify me

[Newer Post](#)

[Home](#)

[Older Post](#)

Subscribe to: [Post Comments \(Atom\)](#)

.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**
Paranoja (Paranoia) -
'Paranoia' is a short film (lasting only four minutes) about a young man who thinks he's followed on the street.
1 day ago

Blog Archive

- [2019](#) (233)
- [2018](#) (379)
- ▼ [2017](#) (380)
 - [December](#) (33)
 - [November](#) (32)
 - [October](#) (32)

- ▶ [September](#) (32)
- ▶ [August](#) (33)
- ▶ [July](#) (33)
- ▼ [June](#) (31)
 - [Galloping With Willoughby](#)
 - [Cat's Eyes](#)
 - [Another Look at Phil Harris](#)
 - [Running From Egypt](#)
 - [Buccaneer Blow Up](#)
 - [Jack Benny on Women](#)
 - [Heeza Hit](#)
 - [How a Mouse Escapes](#)
 - [Car Trouble](#)
 - [He Wants to Be a Ne'er-Do-Well](#)
 - [Pan to McPoodle](#)
 - [The Pepe Bounce](#)
 - [Age, Television and Taste](#)
 - [Private First Class Batman](#)
 - [Making Shorts](#)
 - [Tea Time For Tex](#)
 - [Suddenly, They're Contented](#)
 - [Our \(First\) Regularly Scheduled Programme](#)
 - [The Pancakes Are Panned](#)
 - [Rube Goldberg in Space](#)
 - [He Interviewed an Idol](#)
 - [Max Fleischer Tells His Story](#)
 - [Gimme That Wool](#)
 - [The Turn-Tale Wolf Backgrounds](#)
 - [An Odd Affection For Turkeys](#)
 - [Arctic Oops](#)
 - [The Old West Drive-In](#)
 - [Larry Stevens](#)
 - [Cartoon Cars For Safety](#)
 - [Fade To Black](#)
 - [Eyeing the Shark](#)
- ▶ [May](#) (31)
- ▶ [April](#) (30)
- ▶ [March](#) (31)
- ▶ [February](#) (29)
- ▶ [January](#) (33)
- ▶ [2016](#) (396)
- ▶ [2015](#) (389)

- [2014](#) (390)
- [2013](#) (388)
- [2012](#) (397)
- [2011](#) (106)

Labels

Aline Mosby	(16)
Art Davis	(30)
Bad Luck Blackie	(9)
Bob and Ray	(9)
Bob Clampett	(72)
Bob McKimson	(51)
Bob Thomas	(53)
Chuck Jones	(134)
Columbia	(25)
Cynthia Lowry	(24)
Dick Thomas	(12)
Don Patterson	(16)
Earl Wilson	(6)
Erskine Johnson	(36)
Felix the Cat	(24)
Film Daily	(50)
Fleischer	(137)
Frank Tashlin	(21)
Fred Allen	(37)
Fred Brunish	(9)
Friz Freleng	(127)
Gene Deitch	(16)
George Pal	(9)
Grant Simmons	(3)
Hanna and Barbera unit	(91)
Hanna-Barbera	(2)
Harman-Ising	(54)
Henry Morgan	(13)
Irv Spence	(8)
Jack Benny	(403)
Jay Ward	(30)
Jimmy Durante	(16)
John Crosby	(78)
John Sutherland	(23)
Johnny Johnson	(25)
Kenny Baker	(6)
King-Size Canary	(6)
Laugh-In	(10)
Maurice Noble	(12)
Mel-O-Toons	(4)
MGM	(501)
Norm McCabe	(4)
Pat Matthews	(10)
Paul Julian	(13)
Sara Berner	(5)

Screwy Squirrel	(32)
Spider-Man	(1)
Terrytoons	(68)
Tex Avery	(415)
Tom and Jerry Human	(25)
Tralfaz Sunday Theatre	(14)
Ub Iwerks	(65)
UPA	(51)
Van Beuren	(81)
Vernon Scott	(40)
Virginia MacPherson	(14)
Walt Disney	(126)
Walter Lantz	(212)
Warner Bros.	(523)
Who Killed Who	(10)

Watermark theme. Powered by [Blogger](#).