

February 3, 2020

The Jack Benny Program - aired Tuesday evening at 9:30PM on February 4, 1964 on CBS. Filmed at Universal - Revue Studios in Universal City on Stage 1 which was demolished in 2007 and replaced with a new stage and offices. This new structure was the short term home of The Tonight Show with Conan O'Brien.

Beverly Powers - introduced as Lisa Porter on the show, but billed as Miss Beverly Hills. In the early 1960's she was a headliner at the Silver Slipper in Las Vegas billed as Miss Beverly Hills - The Sophisticated Lady Of Burlesque. She had a successful career on stage along with television and films. Beverly worked in three films with Elvis Presley (*Kissin' Cousins*, *Viva Las Vegas* and *Speedway* (where she got to kiss Elvis), plus roles in *Breakfast At Tiffanys*, *Days Of Wine and Roses*. She made regular appearances with Red Skelton on his television program and in *Comedy Of Terrors* with Peter Lorre and Vincent Price. Lucille Ball said Beverly's comedic timing was reminiscent of Judy Holiday. Beverly faced numerous challenges physically, emotionally and financially leading her move to Maui to reconnect with her family in 1987. Her meeting with the pastor of the Maui County Correctional Center and attending the School of Practical Christianity led her on the path to becoming a minister by 1989. Upon her retirement in 2011, she completed her book, *Passing The Baton Of Light* which was released in November 2014 (see the link below). Today at the age of 80, Reverend Powers is one of the chaplains at Maui Memorial Hospital and has an email hotline for those in need. Beverly is widowed, has 2 grown sons, 6 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

Passing The Baton Of Light - Saving a Family Tree by Beverly J. Powers

https://www.amazon.com/Passing-Baton-Light-Saving-Family/dp/1490854886/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1577295663&sr=1-1

The Steve Allen Plymouth Show - Aired Monday evening, March 28, 1960 at 10:00PM on NBC opposite *Adventures In Paradise* and *Man With A Camera* on ABC and *Hennesey* and *The Dupont Show with June Allyson* on CBS.

Telecast from NBC in Burbank in Studio 3. Among the shows broadcast from this studio are *Betty White Show* (1954), *Bob Hope Variety Specials*, *Club Oasis with Spike Jones* (1957-58), *Danny Kaye Show Special* (1962), *Tennessee Ernie Ford Show* (1956-60), *Hollywood Squares* (1966-80), *Jack Benny's First Farewell Special* (1973), *Jeopardy* (1978-79), *Let's Make A Deal* (1963-68), *Pat Boone Show* (1966-67), *Sanford & Son* (1977) and *Tonight Show with Jay Leno* (1992-2014).

Steve Allen - Prolific composer/lyricist of some 2000+ songs, the best known of which are "This Could Be the Start of Something" (his theme song), "Pretend You Don't See Her" (a top-ten hit for Jerry Vale), "Impossible", and "Gravy Waltz" (a top-40 instrumental hit for Allen himself in 1962, and a jazz standard today). He claimed that the melody of his biggest hit, "This Could Be the Start of Something Big", came to him in a dream. He is considered by many as the "father of late night television comedy", as he was the original host of NBC's "Tonight Show" (1953-1957).

Quotes from Steve Allen:

"Radio is the theater of the mind; television is the theater of the mindless."

"I used to be a heavy gambler. But now I just make mental bets. That's how I lost my mind."

Don Knotts - was born Jesse Donald Knotts in Morgantown, West Virginia. When World War II began in America, he enlisted in the United States Army and was assigned to the Special Services Branch where he entertained the troops. From 1953 to 1955, he was a regular on the soap opera *Search for Tomorrow* (1951). He was cast in the small role of the psychiatrist in the Broadway play "No Time for Sergeants", which starred Andy Griffith. Don appeared in the film adaptation of the play also with Griffith. As "Deputy Barney Fife", he was nominated for an Emmy Award for Best Supporting Actor five times from 1961 to 1967, winning each time. Don ceased to be a regular on *The Andy Griffith Show* after 1965 because originally, the show's producers had intended to end the series after that year, still at a creative and popular peak. Knotts had already signed a multi-picture deal with Universal Studios when Griffith relented to network pressure and kept his show on the air for several more years. Don said later that he deeply regretted having to leave the show, but his film commitments prevented him from continuing as a cast regular. He is also best remembered as Ralph Furley on *Three's Company*.

Man On The Street (Don Knotts):

Steve: What is your name?

Knotts: My name is B. F. Morrison. I'm from New York and I'm a carnival knife thrower.....retired!

Steve: What does the B. F. stand for?

Knotts: Butter Fingers!

Steve: Are you nervous?

Knotts: Noop!

Dayton Allen - His best remembered was catchphrase: "Why not?", always delivered with a somewhat manic expression and finger pointed in the air for emphasis. He also performed the voices of Deputy Dawg, the grumpy marionette Phineas T. Bluster and the voice of Flubadub on

the *Howdy Doody Show* and the two cartoon magpies, *Heckle and Jeckle*.

Pat Harrington, Jr. - best remembered as Schneider the building superintendent on *One Day at a Time* (1975), *The President's Analyst* (1967) and *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.* (1964). He served in the Air Force as an Intelligence Officer during the Korean War and achieved the rank of First Lieutenant. After the war, he went to work at NBC in New York.

Louie Nye - His best known character was the braggart Gordon Hathaway whose off-the-cuff catchphrase salutation to Steve Allen was "Hi, Ho, Steverino!" During his career he supported most of Hollywood's star comedians including Lucille Ball, Bob Hope, Jimmy Durante, Bill Cosby, and Jonathan Winters. He played the spoiled rich boy Sonny Drysdale, the son of bank president, Milburn Drysdale on *The Beverly Hillbillies* and also Jeff Garlin's dad on Larry David's *Curb Your Enthusiasm*.

Barbara Wilson - known for such forgettable films such as *Invasion of The Animal People* (1959), *The Man Who Turned To Stone* (1957) and *Teenage Doll* (1957). She also made appearances on the television programs *Bachelor Father*, *The Bob Cummings Show*, *Richard Diamond - Private Detective*, *The Real McCoys*, *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet* and *Checkmate*.

Johnny Carson - This appearance took place 2 1/2 years before he would become The King Of Late Night host of the *Tonight Show* for 30 years.

Diana Dors - was born in Swindon, Wiltshire, England. She enrolled at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (LAMDA) to hone

her acting skills. At 14 years of age, she was the youngest in her class. Her earliest credit was the role of Charlotte in the classic *Oliver Twist* (1948). Throughout the 1950s, she appeared in more films and became very popular in Britain. Diana was noted as the British version of Marilyn Monroe.

Johnny Mercer - started his career as singer and songwriter for Paul Whiteman. He began writing songs for Hollywood in 1935, where he also had a few small parts in musicals. Among his famous songs is the unofficial anthem of Hollywood, "Hooray For Hollywood" that he wrote for the movie "*Hollywood Hotel*". He also had radio programs and made records, some with Bing Crosby. In 1942, he co-founded Capitol Records with songwriter Buddy G. DeSylva and businessman Glenn Wallichs. Sold out in 1955 to EMI. Mercer began Capitol Records for \$25,000 and sold it thirteen years later to EMI for \$20 million. Mercer misjudged his own song "Moon River" from "*Breakfast at Tiffany's*," believing it had no commercial value. However, it went on to become one of his most-recorded songs and won him one of his four Oscars.

Belle Montrose - Member of the vaudeville team Allen and Montrose. She was an actress, known for *The Absent Minded Professor* (1961), *The Hathaways* (1961) and *The New Steve Allen Show* (1961). Most important of all to Steve Allen, Belle Montrose was his mother.

Jean Wald and Her Swinging Mothers - This band also appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show on July 27, 1958.

Les Brown - in 1952-53, Brown was the orchestra leader on radio *The Doris Day Show* radio program, on CBS. Les Brown and the Band of Renown performed with Bob Hope on radio, stage and television for almost fifty years. They did 18 USO Tours for American troops around the world and entertained over three million people. At one time, the

Bob Hope Christmas Specials were the highest-rated programs in television history. Brown and his orchestra were also the house band for *The Steve Allen Show* (1959–1961) and *The Dean Martin Show* (1965–1972).

Bill Dana - Born William Szathmary in Quincy, Massachusetts, he began his career at NBC working as a studio page. Known for creating the Hispanic character "Jose Jiminez". Dana himself was from a Hungarian Jewish background. He served in the US Infantry during World War II.

** Regulars not in this episode:

****Tom Poston** - When World War II broke out, he joined the United States Army Air Corps. He won medals for his courage under fire and rose to the rank of captain. He started off as a dramatic actor, but soon switched to comedy. Tom would be best remembered as the "Man on the Street" interviewee who could never remember his own name. He was originally under contract to play Maxwell Smart ("Agent 86") in the show *Get Smart* (1965). Tom Poston was also the handyman George Uteley at the inn in Vermont owned by Dick Loudon played by Bob Newhart.

****Gabe Dell** - made his stage debut in the play "Dead End" with other juvenile members in the cast. He went to Hollywood for the film version. Dell was one of the more unusual members of what came to be known as the East Side Kids/Dead End Kids/Bowery Boys in that when he appeared in many of their films but didn't always play a member of the gang. He often played a reporter, a cop, or a gangster.

The Steve Allen Plymouth Show was pre-empted on April 4, 1960 for the Academy Awards telecast.

Academy Award Winners From April 4, 1960 Ceremony Honoring Films from 1959:

Best Picture: Ben-Hur

Best Director: William Wyler (Ben-Hur)

Best Actor: Charlton Heston (Ben-Hur)

Best Supporting Actor: High Griffith (Ben-Hur)

Best Actress: Simone Signoret (Room At The Top)

Best Supporting Actress: Shelley Winters (The Diary Of Anne Frank)

Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award: Bob Hope

Ben-Hur received 12 nominations and 11 wins

Your Show Of Shows - Aired Saturday evening at 9:00PM on April 3, 1954 on NBC.

The show had moved to the 5000 seat Center Theater on 51st Street and 6th Avenue (one block north of Radio City Music Hall) in New York. The theater opened in 1932 as the Roxy. the name was changed to the RKO Center Theater in 1934 and finally renamed the Center Theater in September of 1934. The theater was demolished after NBC's lease expired in 1954.

The skit, This Is Your Story (a take off on *This Is Your Life*) was performed during the fourth season.

Sid Caesar - After making his television debut in 1948 on Milton Berle's *Texaco Star Theater*, Caesar got his first series *Admiral Broadway Revue* in 1949. By 1950, he was heading up *Your Show Of Shows* and later *Caesar's Hour* in 1954. He was nominated for an

Emmy Award 11 times and won two times. Caesar was inducted into the Television Academy Hall Of Fame in 1985.

Carl Reiner - In addition to his many contributions with Sid Caesar on *Your Show Of Shows* as a writer and performer, Reiner also was the creator of *The Dick Van Dyke Show* and the straight man for Mel Brooks as *The 2000 Year Old Man*. He has also directed many films including *Oh, God!*, *Where's Poppa?* and *The Jerk*. Plus, he has won nine Emmy Awards for writing and performing over the years.

Howard Morris - is best remembered as the crazy Ernest T. Bass on *The Andy Griffith Show*. In addition to his work with Sid Caesar on *Your Show Of Shows*, Morris did voice overs for *The Jetsons* and *The Flintstones*. Among his numerous directing credits include episodes of *The Andy Griffith Show*, *Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.*, *Hogan's Heroes* and *Bewitched*. Howard Morris had over 140 credits as an actor and 30 directing credits.

Louis Nye - appears on this show a few years before his time on *The Steve Allen Show*.

According to Sid Caesar:

- This sketch was never rehearsed in its entirety. Much of what happened during this sketch was improvised "live" on stage.
- It was also the first time that cameras had been turned on to see the audience on *Your Show Of Shows* (possibly, the first time ever on TV)
- Howard Morris played the character Uncle Goopy.

- Carl Reiner did everything possible to keep the show moving. Caesar and Morris were doing what they could to keep this from happening.
- Howard Morris said that he got the idea to hang on to Sid Caesar's leg from watching Chita do the same thing to Tarzan in films.
- Mel Brooks and Neil Simon related a story of the two of them walking down 57th Avenue in New York. Three nuns were approaching them. Neil Simon begged Mel Brooks not to do anything. But, when the three nuns came face to face with Brooks he said, "Get out of those costumes. The sketch is out!"

REFERENCES -

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