

Television Immortality Slated For Buddy Ebsen

HOLLYWOOD (UPI) — No. 1 man on the No. 1 television show in the country is the most unlikely candidate imaginable for video immortality—Buddy Ebsen. Now top dog of "The Beverly Hillbillies," Ebsen was clinging by a thread to a tenuous show business career until the hayseed series bailed him out. Rumor has it he had been advised to take up real estate when he was offered the role of seedy old Jed Clampett.

When he was old enough for college Buddy studied pre-med at the University of Florida, but returned to dancing and hied off to New York City to become a soda jerk in Pennsylvania Station. His first break came in 1928 in the Ziegfeld Follies. Later he teamed with his sister, Vilma, in a night club-vaudeville act and toured the country. They also appeared in Europe, establishing themselves solidly as top-flight hoofers.

In 1936 they appeared as featured dancers in their first movie, "Broadway Melody of 1936" for MGM. Thereafter Buddy became a "single" and costarred in scores of musical comedies on the screen. But when movie musicals ebbed Ebsen turned to dramatic roles in "Attack," "Between Heaven and Hell" and "Breakfast at Tiffany's." Roles became fewer and further between. He found a brief reprise playing Fess Parker's sidekick in Walt Disney's television series, "Davy Crockett." Thereafter it was a series of video guest spots. Many another actor might have thrown in the sponge. Not Ebsen. Now, at 55, he finds himself as big a star as television can boast. But he's still the same old shoe that he was sitting under a tree listening quietly. Finally the method actor turned to Buddy for confirmation of his attitudes about the rigors of being "an instrument of the muse." Buddy cocked his head and said lazily, "Hell, I'm just glad to be working. You should be happy about it, too."

Ebsen's level-headed approach to acting reflects his early background in his native Belleville, Ill., which was his home until the Ebsen family moved to Orlando, Fla., when Christian Ebsen Jr. was 10. Joins Dancing School Papa Ebsen ran a dancing school in the Sunshine State and insisted that his gangly son learn to hoof. Buddy thought it was "sissy stuff," but picked up enough pointers to become a fine dancer.



BERLIN HONORED — Nostalgic memories are brought back by this group as songwriter Irving Berlin, center, was honored by the Screen Producers Guild and given the Milestone Award. Making the presentation was Fred Astaire, right, whose performances in several of the famous Irving Berlin musicals along with his dancing partner, actress Ginger Rogers, left, did much to popularize the songs of the era. — UPI Telephoto

Ex-Gilbert And Sullivan Star Forms Own Troupe

NEW YORK (UPI) — Marty Green, who spent 25 years in the leading comedy roles of Gilbert and Sullivan shows for London's D'Oyly Carte company, has established a touring troupe of his own to present some of the famous musicals. "In the case of 'Pinafore,'" he explained, "I have taken the liberty of updating it from 1874 to 1913 and, at the same time, have changed the locale from England to Boston. This, of course, brings the situation closer to Americans. 'Naturally, these changes bring about a series of exterior modifications. For example, the lofty sailing vessel of the title is now an imposing steamship. And Sir Joseph Porter has been changed from an admiral to a cabinet minister. 'The overall revision to 1913 makes over-all more colorful and extravagant costumes, particularly for the women. 'All of this has been done, mind you, without tampering with one note or syllable of the original score. My innovations are designed to give a greater feeling of immediacy to the contemporary audience. 'As for 'The Mikado'." "I have always believed that 'The Mikado' is not a Japanese opera with British overtones, but a British opera through and through that just happens to be set in Japan. 'The century is still basically the 14th, but I work with the happiest use of license in regard to chronology throughout. 'In both operettas I have set a new way of working through the use of small set pieces that can be moved readily. This provides a more logical and fluid scenic movement than has ever been attempted. In 'The Mikado' particularly, this facility heightens my intention of creating a feeling of choreography rather than direction. 'The star, who survived a leg amputation accident a few years ago to resume his career, feels that Gilbert would be making changes himself were he still around. 'When Gilbert was first writing, producing and directing," Green said, "he was 20 years ahead of his time. If it were only for the way he utilized the chorus on stage—integrating it thoroughly—not just keeping it a part of the scenery—he must be recognized as an innovator in the field of stagecraft. 'Were Gilbert alive today, he would still be 20 years ahead of his time. I am convinced that he would be or Sullivan see what we are doing today, both would say, 'My dear Mr. Green, you are still 20 years behind us.'"

'Body' Wants To Forget Cheesecake

HOLLYWOOD (UPI) — Marie McDonald would prefer that everybody forget her figure and think of her as a versatile performer. "Wasn't that awful?" she asked, referring to the days when movie studios turned out thousands of photographs billing Marie as "The Body." "When I passed an automobile repair place called the body shop it made me cringe," said Marie, "but I had to smile through the scenes of her next movie, 'Promise Her Anything.'" The blonde performer was cast in the picture as a replacement for Mamie Van Doren who quit in a dispute over salary. It's Marie's first picture in three years and she's determined not to wear any eye-appealing bathing suits. "They had it in mind," she said, "but I think I deserve my service stripes for that sort of thing. I earned them for cheesecake and leg art. Now I deserve to graduate."

Video Success Achieved By Governor's Victory

HOLLYWOOD (UPI) — Two young television producers who specialize in comical commercials switched successfully to a serious subject last fall and got probably the highest and most authentic audience reaction rating in history. Their bell-ringing rating—as the producers see it—was Democrat Brown's victory margin of almost 300,000 votes over the former vice president. "The 'spots' with the governor brought immediate to the television screen," said Barzman. "We had him right there visually against a background about which he was talking. 'We proved that TV 'spots' can accomplish something that will be memorable," said Klein. "Spots can sell issues as well as products. 'Every candidate can't be an Art Linkletter, walking around with a mike and ad-libbing," he said. "Nixon, in his telethons, was very polished but he had nothing to say. Brown was more relaxed—he was not a TV personality. We told him to be himself on his telethons and this was the first time Pat Brown really developed a television image. The man came through!" As a result of his success, Brown has been presented with the Klein-Barzman "Game Client Award" given "posthumously" in grateful appreciation and ultimate regard for extraordinary prudence, judgment and bravado. Farmer or farm manager was reported as their occupation by 100,925 women in the 1960 U.S. census.

TV Schedules For The Week

Table listing TV schedules for various stations: KBI-TV, KVIP-TV, KMED-TV, and KBES-TV. Each station section includes a header, location, and a grid of programming for Sunday through Saturday.

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Table listing TV schedules for various stations: R & M T.V., Nelson's TV, Ace TV, and B & B Radio & Electric. Each station section includes a header, location, and a grid of programming for Sunday through Saturday.

Film Favorites — Honored as the World Film Favorites

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TV Notes

Typical Film Casting Marie Costars in the picture with Tommy Noonan, Jayne Mansfield and Mickey Hargitay. In a typical Hollywood casting decision, she was paired off with Hargitay, playing his wife, Miss Cleo, Mickey's real wife, Miss Mansfield, is Noonan's spouse in the film. "That might not make sense to anybody outside of Hollywood but that's the way things are done in filmland. Marie said she had been confining her professional career to night clubs in recent years because of unsatisfactory parts offered her by film producers. "It depends on the role," she said. "I've turned down an awful lot of parts, cheesecake, clothes horses and other dull things. This picture is a comedy and the girl's play also sings two songs." Involved In Disputes The blonde Miss McDonald, one-time vocalist with the late Tommy Dorsey's orchestra, has been involved in legal controversies during her years in Hollywood. She reported she was kidnapped by two men in 1957 and released in the desert more than 100 miles from Hollywood. Police, lawyers, the county grand jury and other civic officials investigated the case but Marie's alleged kidnappers were never apprehended. She has also been involved in litigation with various husbands and ex-husbands. Marie has been married five times. When somebody suggested to Marie that she might possibly have spent more time in court than famous attorney Clarence Darrow, she retorted, "he made a lot more money in court than I did."

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