

STUDENT LIFE

Carey urges hip folk to watch 'Green Screen'

By Kate O'Hare
Zap2it.com
(KRT)

"You have to be hipper than the guy next door to like this stuff," says Drew Carey about his new show on The WB, "Drew Carey's Green Screen Show."

Carey is calling in from his hometown of Cleveland, Ohio, where he's just participated in a fundraiser for an old family friend, freshman Sen. George V. Voinovich, R-Ohio, who's making a bid for a second term. But just because he's helping out a friend doesn't mean that Carey, a Libertarian, has political plans of his own.

"No, don't worry about that," he says. "I have no aspirations at all. This guy's daughter is one of my best friends. I've known her for 15, 16 years, so it's been a long time. It's hard to say no when he says, 'Come out and raise some money.'"

Carey, who considers himself "semi-retired" since the demise of his ABC sitcom, "The Drew Carey Show" is busy attending soccer games, watching television, hanging out with friends and family and doing his little side project for The WB.

Airing Thursdays at 8:30 p.m. EDT, "Drew Carey's Green Screen Show" combines one of Carey's great loves, comedy improvisation (which he also showcased on the ABC improv game show "Whose Line Is It Anyway?"), with animation. Skits are done in front of a green screen (hence the name of the show), with wacky visuals filled in later that visualize what the comics are acting out.

Along with Carey (who's also an executive producer, with Robert Morton and Ron Diamond), the cast features Brad Sherwood, Colin Mochrie, Greg Proops, Jeff Davis, Chip Esten, Jonathan Magnum, Julie Larson, Sean Masterson and Kathy Kinney. The show's paired with the comedy-sketch show

"Blue Collar TV." "I guess we held the 'Blue Collar' audience pretty well (in our premiere)," Carey says. "I don't worry about it anymore. I just do the show, and everything else is up in the air. Who cares? I mean, I care, but I'm not going to stress about it."

"I'm really happy The WB took a chance. It's going to be one of those shows, either you're going to get it, or you're not going to get it. I'm sort of a blue-collar guy myself, so just because it's me, it's a good match."

This easygoing philosophy is all part of Carey's post-ABC lifestyle. After several seasons as a hit, "The Drew Carey Show" fell on ratings hard times and had its last season unceremoniously burned off over the summer of 2004.

"The Bachelor" got better ratings than I did (on Wednesday)," Carey says, "so I don't blame them for switching it. They always treated me great. But they didn't run promos for the last season; they didn't send out preview tapes. I thought that was kind of sh---y, to go down the memory hole like that."

"That's the only thing where I thought, 'Gee, that's not very nice.' Trying to save a buck, I guess." When the Emmy Awards aired in September, there was a roll call of shows that had finished their runs, with some notable exceptions. For example, The WB's "Angel" was not mentioned, nor was "The Drew Carey Show."

"Oh, yeah, I know," Carey says. "It's like they forgot I was even on. It's like it never existed. That kind of hurts, but so what. I always bad mouth the Emmys, so maybe that's why."

For now, semi-retirement agrees with Carey. "I'm taking it day to day. I like to travel and chill and hang out with my friends. I like to work, make people laugh, do interesting things like the 'Green Screen Show,' that are worthwhile and deserve to be seen. I'll see how it goes."

Spare reality TV

FCC fined FOX network for indecency

By Pamela Sitt
The Seattle Times
(KRT)

It's almost Halloween, and a big scary monster is acting up and sending chills down my spine.

First, it went after Janet Jackson - fine, I didn't watch the Super Bowl and I have no sympathy for her after "Damita Jo," anyway.

But please, FCC, spare my reality TV.

The Federal Communications Commission this month fined the FOX network a record \$1.18 million for indecency in an April 2003 episode of the short-lived reality series, "Married by America." First of all, has the FCC ever watched the FOX network? Just the fact that Paris Hilton has her own show should be considered obscene.

You probably missed "Married by America" (the ratings were dismal) in which viewers played matchmaker to singletons who would do just about anything to get on TV, including one contestant who, unbeknownst to FOX, turned out to be already married. Oops.

The ruling terrifies me on many levels. With the FCC banning whipped-cream antics and lap dances on reality TV shows, hot-tub scenes and nude photo shoots can only be next. There go "The Bachelor" (which, OK, should be canceled anyway), "America's Next Top Model" and the late-night classic "Elimidate."

What if FOX, which has 30 days to appeal the fines, gets spooked and actually starts toning it down? Is this the beginning of the end of quality (and by "quality" I mean the opposite) reality television fare like the network's forthcoming "Ivana Young Man" and "The Swan," which began its second season last night?

We digress now for the schadenfreude-illicious moment of the week: reality TV star and pop singer Ashlee Simpson's bloopers on "Saturday Night Live." Sure, it's embarrassing that Jessica's little sis got caught lip-synching on national TV, but what possessed her to make it 10 times worse by busting

out in an impromptu jig before ditching her band and fleeing offstage? Uh, thanks for trying to distract us, but we still noticed, Milli Vanilli.

Later, Simpson made things even worse for herself by trying to blame the band: "My band started playing the wrong song. I didn't know what to do so I thought I'd do a hoe-down." I wonder if that moment will make it on to "The Ashlee Simpson Show" on MTV.

Moving on... in the interest of space, today's Reality Check is presented in haiku form. Haiku purists, please hold your calls.

'THE APPRENTICE 2'

Like a yipping dog / Little Stacy irritates / And so, she is fired. (9 p.m. Thursdays, NBC)

'THE BIGGEST LOSER'

The fridge so tempting / Watch out for the woman when / Blood sugar is low. (8 p.m. Tuesdays, NBC)

'WIFE SWAP'

Pink feather boa / On a dairy farm with cows / Shades of Miss Hilton. (10 p.m. Wednesdays, ABC)

'EXTREME MAKEOVER: HOME EDITION'

A generous heart / Deserves a tricked-out home with / A hydraulic bed. (8 p.m. Sundays, ABC)

'SURVIVOR: VANUATU'

Sarge dreams of woman / Put Twila in a dress and / Take her to dinner. (8 p.m. Thursdays, CBS)

'AMERICA'S NEXT TOP MODEL'

Plus-size Toccarra / Size thirty-eight triple D / La Perla won't fit. (8 p.m. Wednesdays, UPN)

'MANHUNT'

Girls in the bathtub / Male models in boxer shorts / Move over, Tyra. (10 p.m. Tuesdays, Bravo)

'THE SWAN 2'

Burned by childhood scars / From a house with no mirrors / A swan emerges. (9 p.m. Mondays, FOX)

'THE BACHELOR'

Farewell to Krysta / But what happened to sweet Jayne? / She's evil, I fear. (9 p.m. Wednesdays, ABC)

'HE'S A LADY'

Back wax so painful / Like hitting chairs to the head / "I'm so beautiful!" (10 p.m. Tuesdays, TBS)

New ties for guys

By Jean Pattenon
The Orlando Sentinel
(KRT)

Want to get a guy riled up? Insult his taste in neckties.

We did that last year, when we suggested in a fashion column that clip-on ties are "tacky."

Boy, did that get readers' necks in a knot!

We heard from guys who love clip-ons. And we heard from guys who hate them, but defend the right of the convenience-conscious, fashion-challenged or klutzy to wear them.

The vehemence of the responses left no doubt: Whether they knot or clip their ties, men care about neckwear. Even those who have sworn off wearing ties have an opinion about them.

Now that fall is upon us, and summer's casual dress codes are going the way of autumn leaves, the time seems right to check on the evolving status of neckwear. Sales of men's ties are on the upswing, say trend-watchers. And women's ties, which pop up as a quirky accessory every few years, also are expected to be a popular item this fall.

Ties were the crown jewels in the men's power-dressing movement of the 1980s, says Jerry Andersen, spokesman for the Men's Dress Furnishings Association, a trade group in New York.

But neckwear fell out of favor during the dress-down 1990s, he says. That's when Casual Friday morphed into Casual Everyday. When "business casual" was defined, debated and redefined. When even the most tradition-bound bankers and lawyers swapped their suits and ties for khakis and polo shirts.

Now the tide is turning.

"There's a return to dressed-up style, especially among younger customers," says Andersen. "We saw it first with the specialty-store customer, who spends more money on clothes and is more tuned in to fashion."

The first ripple of change came in 1999, when ABC-TV game-show host Regis Philbin scored a double-whammy. His "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" show was a huge hit and so were the solid-colored, metallic ties he wore with his dark shirts. Men started buying dress shirts again, just so they could team them with "Regis ties."

But the dark, tone-on-tone look didn't last long. "Too dreary," says Andersen.

It is being replaced this fall by a flood of striking patterns and brilliant colors, including hot pink. Andersen expects these lively new looks to sweep even the most ardent no-neckwear advocates back into tie departments.

"Our neckwear business is up," says Craig DeLongy, an owner of John Craig clothiers in Winter Park, Fla. "I think we're on a run."

"There are men who love wearing neckwear," DeLongy explains. "They find adding a new tie to an old shirt is a great way to update their wardrobe. And the neckwear right now is irresistible."

Orlando, Fla., attorney David Paul is one of those

men who are crazy about ties.

"If I really like a tie, I'll buy it," says Paul, 34. "I can spend \$200 or more on a tie, which is completely irrational. But a really good tie is unique. It ties differently. It sets on you differently."

He is especially fond of seven-fold neckties by Robert Talbott, which he buys at Christopher Jude Clothiers in Orlando for \$210 a pop. Fashioned entirely by hand from a single piece of luxurious silk, the tie is folded seven times into itself. The volume and quality of the silk creates a substantial knot and exceptionally elegant drape.

Paul enjoys buying souvenir ties when he travels, giving ties as gifts, and trading ties with friends and colleagues. "Kind of like adult baseball cards," he says.

A necktie "is one of those things you can wear and make a fashion statement without really doing a whole lot," he says. "Everybody notices your tie. Not everyone likes them, but everyone notices them."

"Nothing kills an outfit like a bad tie," says Carson Kressley, one of the Fab Five hosts on Bravo's hit show "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy."

In his just-published style guide, "Off the Cuff" (Dutton), Kressley offers a couple of tie-buying tips: "People ask how to find a good tie," he writes. "It's kind of like when you see a puppy at the animal shelter. When it's the right one, you'll know it."

When shopping for neckwear, "Give the tie a good feel," Kressley advises. "A good tie will have an inner construction that is actually tangible. If you took it apart, there would be something like a piece of mesh or screen that gives body to the structure. A bad tie is wimpy and soft."

"The most useful tie knot is the four-in-hand, which works with all collar types, except the widest spread collar," he says. (Coachmen who drove a team of four horses, or four-in-hand, knotted their neckwear in this fashion, hence the name.)

Bow ties should not be worn with regular suits, he believes. That look is "just a little too Orville Redenbacher." And when worn with a tuxedo, they should be hand-tied.

Which brings us back to clip-on ties. Style gurus do not like them. But some guys appreciate the convenience of clip-ons, especially if medical conditions such as arthritis or dyslexia make knotting a tie painful or difficult. (JCPenney, Sears and Big & Tall Men's Wear are among the few stores that carry clip-on ties for adults.)

Men who work close to machinery with moving parts often wear clip-ons as a safety precaution. If the tie gets caught in the machinery, it pops off. The tie may get chewed up, but not the wearer.

Police officers also wear clip-ons, usually made from the same material and the same color as their shirts.

"If someone were to grab them by the tie, he couldn't swing them around or use it to choke them. The tie would simply come off," says Sgt. Brian Gilliam, public information officer for the Orlando Police Department.

If a police officer wears a regular wrap-and-knot tie with his uniform, it means just one thing, says Gilliam: "He's top brass, and he's in a formal setting."

GET THE COLD FACTS

DOES GETTING WET OR CHILLED CAUSE A COLD?

- No, different types of viruses cause colds.
- You are more likely to get colds when you do not get enough sleep, eat poorly or spend time with people who have colds.

CAN I GET A PRESCRIPTION TO GET RID OF MY COLD?

- Colds can be treated effectively by treating the symptoms.
- Antibiotics are not effective against cold viruses.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF A COLD?

- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Coughing
- Stuffy or congested nose
- Hoarseness
- Swollen glands
- Muscle aches and fever

WHAT CAN I DO FOR MY COLD?

- **REST** - Taking a break is very important in the first 72 hours.
- **FLUIDS** - Drink plenty of clear liquids. Fluids help to clear out the mucous and prevent complications such as bronchitis.
- **STOP SMOKING** - Smoking prolongs the cold symptoms.
- **STEAM** - Take hot, steamy showers to relieve congestion in the chest & nose.
- **GARGLE** - Gargle with 1/2 teaspoon table salt in 8oz. of warm water and gargle every 2-4 hours as needed.

Brought to you by the **HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER** located in the Carriage House.

Call 898-6217 for all your cold needs.

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