

EVENTS

Carol Burnett glad for show's freedom

BY STEVE KNOPPER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE (TNS)

The “Mary Worthless” sketch, in which Carol Burnett wears an old-lady wig and lampoons the Sunday funnies’ most annoying busybody, was not as terrible as the sketch-comedy heroine recalls. It has Harvey Korman taking a cake to the face, then flinging himself out a window. And it has Burnett, sensing something has gone terribly wrong with the sketch, ad-libbing a closing line: “Don’t be surprised if I show up on your doorstep someday — better yet, be surprised, because I’m not doing this again.”

“It wasn’t really landing well, and things were going wrong with it,” Burnett, 83, says of the 1972 sketch on her namesake TV hit. “But we were very freewheeling on our show. From the start, I never wanted to take a long time to tape it in front of an audience. Today, sometimes, they (take) the concept of 20 minutes of a show and take five or six hours to tape it in front of a continually bored audience, and it’s ridiculous.

“We’d do about an hour and 15 minutes, because I’d do a lot of (audience) Q-and-As, which I’d then edit,” she continues, in a half-hour phone interview

from her home in Santa Barbara, California. “We’d be out of there, with all the sketches, costume changes, musical numbers, in time to go to dinner. It was like a Broadway show. We did it quickly — even if stuff went wrong, unless the scenery would fall and knock us out, we kept going.”

When it comes to “The Carol Burnett Show,” which aired from 1967 to 1978, drew an average of 30 million viewers per episode and won 25 Emmy Awards, Burnett has been in a reflective mood recently. Her live act, “Laughter and Reflection with Carol Burnett,” centers on a wide-ranging audience question-and-answer session. She’ll discuss her famous ensemble, including Korman, Tim Conway and Vicki Lawrence, whom she discovered after the 17-year-old actress wrote her a fan letter; her post-show movie roles, including Miss Hannigan in “Annie”; and her prolific career on Broadway, perhaps peaking with an early-1970s role alongside the late Rock Hudson in “I Do! I Do!”

For her fourth book, “In Such Good Company: Eleven Years of Laughter, Mayhem and Fun in the Sandbox,” due this September, Burnett rewatched all 276



Carol Burnett

TNS FILE

episodes of the show. “Not straight through,” she clarifies. “I fast-forwarded it through a lot of stuff.”

It’s true that some of the “Burnett Show” sketches, preserved for eternity in a 3,720-minute boxed set two years ago and dozens of YouTube clips, seem stuck in the 1970s. But many are timeless comedy manuals, instructing the world on the art of deadpan (such as Conway’s hapless dentist, accidentally injecting himself with the anesthesia while Korman heroically tries not to bust up); economic writing (such as when Conway yes-dears Burnett’s suspicious wife to sleep after a wrong number); and physical comedy (the way nail-drying secretary Mrs. Wiggins fills out a skinny dress by, as costume designer Bob Mackie

instructed Burnett in the early days, “just sticking your butt into it”).

“So much of it was spontaneous, and we were really having a good time,” Burnett recalls. “I can look at some shows where I can see in the actors’ faces that this is about the 50th take of something, and it’s probably around 1 o’clock in the morning, and you can see people are just tired. And I don’t believe in that.”

Like many comedians, Burnett had a difficult childhood — both her parents had a drinking problem. Her grandmother raised her in Hollywood, and they attended eight movies per week, allowing Burnett to fall in love with Betty Grable, Rita Hayworth, Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland, many of whom made guest appearances on her TV show later.

Initially, in part because her mother aspired to interview movie stars as a journalist, Burnett enrolled at UCLA, intending to major in journalism. (She’d been editor of the student newspaper at Hollywood High School, interviewing famous alumni such as actor Joel McCrea, though the principal shut down her Lana Turner encounter when he found out she’d been cutting classes to meet the subjects.) As-

piring to write plays in college, she landed in theater arts; during a required acting class, she stood up to do a comedy scene.

“I was terrified,” she recalls. “Another student and I were teamed up by the teacher, and we decided we would do something kind of light and fun. The students laughed and I went, ‘Whoa! This is what I’ve been missing my whole 18 years! I like this feeling.’”

She landed in the off-Broadway “Once Upon a Mattress,” which pushed her in the direction of TV hit “The Garry Moore Show.” Burnett won her first Emmy there and became so well-known that CBS signed her to a 10-year deal, which eventually became “The Carol Burnett Show.” During the golden age of TV sketch comedy, Burnett’s run was the gold standard, drawing guest stars Ella Fitzgerald, Jimmy Stewart (an old friend), Lucille Ball, Ray Charles, Vincent Price, the Jackson 5 and Bing Crosby.

“I look back on it and, not that I want to do it again, but I missed some of it,” she says. “When I would see certain things happening, I would say, ‘I wish we were doing the show, so I could see a take-off on that.’ Today, I’d want to do the Kardashians.”

Theater announces
Encore auditions

DOVER-FOXCROFT — The Center Theatre and the Slightly Off-Center Players announce that auditions for the 10th Anniversary Encore, a collection of songs and scenes from shows at Center Theatre over the past 10 years, will be held 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, May 28, and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, May 31.

Directors will be on hand to fill their casts. Singing and nonsinging roles for adults and children will be available. No experience is necessary.

The 10th Anniversary Encore performances are slated for Aug. 4-14.

For information about the auditions or performances, email SOCP@centertheatre.org, call the Center Theatre at 564-8943, or stop by the theater 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Friday at 20 East Main St.

Free admission at
marine museum

SEARSPORT — Penobscot Marine Museum opens for the season on Saturday, May 28, and is inaugurating a program to offer residents of each town in Waldo County free admission to the museum for a week.

Each town’s free week is listed on the museum website.

The museum’s theme this summer is “Wish You Were Here: Communicating Maine.”

The public is invited to the opening reception 5-7 p.m. Friday, May 27.

Things to Do

BANGOR — Contradance, 8 p.m. Friday, May 20, Unitarian Universalist Society church, 120 Park St. Music by Audrey and Clayton with Chrissy Fowler calling. Beginners’ session, 7:30 p.m. \$8. 941-9727, bangorcontra.org or bangorcontra@gmail.com.

BANGOR — “Girls Day Out” Crossroads for Women leadership project resource and vision-setting day for women living in downtown Bangor, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, May 21, Columbia Street Project, 45 Columbia St. Resource fair of nonprofit organizations serving needs of women and children, financial workshops, arts activities, health screenings, locally grown food workshops. Child care. Lunch at Columbia Street Baptist Church.

BANGOR — “Haroutunian: Riffs of Maine,” paintings by Joseph Haroutunian, through May 31, Boyd Place, 21 Boyd St. Open daily 9 a.m.-7 p.m. through May 31. 963-6005, 941-2837 or info@littlefieldgallery.com.

BANGOR — Pot roast supper and music show, Saturday, May 21, Bangor Grange Hall, 1192 Ohio St. Supper, 5:30 p.m., \$9; show featuring Maine Country Music Association members, 7 p.m., \$8. 973-3976.

BANGOR — Morita’s School of Dance’s 48th annual Dance USA, 12:30 p.m. for Bucksport, Dover-Foxcroft and Milo studios; 4:30 p.m. for Hermon studio, Saturday, May 21, Bangor High School’s Peakes Auditorium. Dancers age 3 through adults doing tap, ballet, pointe, jazz, contemporary, hip hop and acro. Tickets available at Morita’s School of Dance at 848-5083 and at the door.

BANGOR — Great Strides 5K Walk for Cystic Fibrosis, 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, May 21, Bangor Waterfront. Family-friendly. Snacks and children’s activities. Free. 50/50 raffle. fightcf.cff.org.

BAR HARBOR — Celebrate Down East Maine’s culinary traditions, 5-9 p.m. Thursday-Sunday, May 19-22, at various venues. Food- and drink-related events including dessert night, pub tour, chef’s table, Eden Farmer’s Market and \$20.16

menu. 801-2566 or bar-harborinfo.com/Events/Taste-of-Bar-Harbor.aspx.

BEALS ISLAND — Aquatic Center open house, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 21, Downeast Institute, 39 Wildflower Lane. Part of Alewives: Small Fish, Big Impact series of community events. Activities run through May. Free. Include film screenings, book discussions, story hours, art projects, panel discussion and more. island-readersandwriters.org/alewives or 244-5111.

BOWDOINHAM — Contradance with beginners’ workshop, 7:30 p.m.; contradance, 8 p.m. Saturday, May 21, Bowdoinham Town Hall, School Street. Scrod Pudding with Greg Anderson on hammered dulcimer; Pam Weeks on fiddle and mountain dulcimer; Jim Joseph on button accordion, banjo, percussion; Eric Johnson on guitar; Bill Olson on bass; and Bill Olson calling. Admission \$10; \$7 for students and seniors. 666-3709.

BREWER — Spring Festival, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, May 21, Brewer First United Methodist Church’s parking lot, 40 South Main St. Bounce house, baby animals, music. Free hot dogs, beans, chips, drinks, popcorn and a chocolate fountain. Crafts and bake sale inside the church. Proceeds benefit church youth camp.

BREWER — The Skyliners playing big band for dancing, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Saturday, May 21, Next Generation Theatre, 39 Center St. \$8 at the door. 989-7100.

HAMPDEN — Friends of Edythe Dyer Library in Hampden annual spring book sale, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 21, basement book shop, 269 Main Road North. 951-0648.

HAMPDEN — Quilt raffle to benefit Reeds Brook Middle School music programs, ticket sales end May 20. Drawing May 24. Quilt is 62-by-76-inch pink and purple Atkinson Design pattern of Popsicle Sticks, hand-made and donated by Anne Worthley. Tickets \$5 for two, \$10 for 5. sites.google.com/site/rbmsmusicboosters/ to print out form needed to purchase tickets, which also will be sold at Edythe Dyer Library.

LEVANT — Levant PTA’s community yard sale, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, May 21, Suzanne M. Smith Elementary School, 169 South Levant Road. Proceeds from space rentals and concessions to benefit school’s students. Rain or shine. Visit Community Yard Sale - Levant on Facebook.

MACHIAS — Smolt Bolt and Bloater Bash, Saturday, May 21. Registration, 8 a.m.; race, 10 a.m. Part of the Alewives: Small Fish, Big Impact series of community events. Free public events include film screenings, book discussions, story hours, art projects, panel discussion and more. island-readersandwriters.org/alewives or 244-5111.

MADISON — 1980s and 1990s Country Gold, featuring at least one song from every year through the two decades, 8-11 p.m. Saturday, May 21, Lakewood Theater, 76 Theater Road. \$15 in advance, \$17 at the door. Country buffet dinner, \$15, reservations required. 474-7176 to obtain tickets for buffet or show. Show tickets also available at lakewood-theater.org.

MONSON — Traditional Finn dance, 7:30-10 p.m. Saturday, May 28, Finn Hall, Route 15. Schotisches, polkas, waltzes and fox trots. Music led by Alexandra Conover Bennett on accordion. \$8, free to children under 12. 997-3639.

PORTLAND — “Commissioned by God” (the Bible collaged and deconstructed) by artist G. Bud Swenson, through May 26, Union of Maine Visual Artists Gallery, 516 Congress St.

PORTLAND — Free reading and discussion group led by Dr. Jeannine Uzzi, University of Southern Maine; and Kyle Elsea, U.S. Army, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, May 18 and 25, Woodfords Church, 202 Woodford St. Combat veterans of all eras invited. Space limited and registration required. Rita Siavellis, 780-3584. Offered in partnership with Portland Vet Center.

PORTLAND — Charles Birnbaum, president of The Cultural Landscape Foundation, delivering Maine Historical Society’s annual Olmsted Lecture, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 19, at the historical society, 489

Congress St. \$20, \$5 historical society members. 774-1822.

STOCKHOLM — The App-leseed Collective will perform at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 20, at Eureka Hall Restaurant, 5 School St. No cover charge. For information, call 896-3196.

SOUTHWEST HARBOR — Southwest Harbor Public Library annual plant sale, 8 a.m.-noon Saturday, May 21, parking lot of Bar Harbor Bank and Trust, Main

Street, Southwest Harbor. To donate plants, 244-7065.

TRESCOTT — Run with the Alwives, part of Alewives: Small Fish, Big Impact series of community events, noon-5 p.m. Saturday, May 21, Cobscok Community Learning Center, 10 Commissary Point Road. Activities run through May. Includes film screenings, book discussions, story hours, art projects, panel discussion and more. Free. islandreadersandwriters.

Wednesday prime time

		7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	
BROADCAST	2	NBC	207	Inside Ed.	Heartbeat (N) (HD)	Law & Order: SVU		Chicago P.D. (N) (HD)		News	
	4	CBC	Dragons' Den		NHL Hockey Pittsburgh Penguins at Tampa Bay Lightning. (N) (L) The National (N)						
	5	CBS	Big Bang	Broke Girl	Survivor One castaway is crowned Sole Survivor. (N)		Survivor (N) (L) (HD)		News		
	52	CW	Family Guy	Family Guy	Arrow (N) (HD)		Supernatural (N) (HD)	News	Seinfeld	Cougar	
	6	NBC	207	Inside Ed.	Heartbeat (N) (HD)	Law & Order: SVU		Chicago P.D. (N) (HD)		News	
	7	ABC	Wheel	Jeopardy!	The Middle	Goldbergs	Mod Fam	blackish	Nashville (N) (HD)	News	
	WAGM	FOX	The Insider	Ent. Tonight	Rosewood (N) (HD)	Empire (N) (HD)	News		Big Bang	Big Bang	
	8	ABC	Wheel	Jeopardy!	The Middle	Goldbergs	Mod Fam	blackish	Nashville (N) (HD)	News	
	MPBN	PBS	PBS NewsHour (N) (HD)		Nature (N) (HD)	Genius by Hawking		Genius by Hawking		C. Rose	
	9	IND	Person of Interest (N)		Arrow (N) (HD)	Odd Couple		Odd Couple	News-Lisa	CTV News	Daily Show
KIDS	13	CBS	Ent. Tonight	The Insider	Survivor One castaway is crowned Sole Survivor. (N)		Survivor (N) (L) (HD)		News		
	22	FOX	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Rosewood (N) (HD)	Empire (N) (HD)	FOX 22 News at 10 (N)		The Closer		
	33	IND	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Happy Days	Laverne	Hogan Hero	Hogan Hero	C. Burnett
	38	IND	Big Bang	Big Bang	The Closer (HD)		The Closer (HD)		WBZ News (N) (HD)		Seinfeld
	NICK	Game		Thunder	Thunder	Nicky, Ricky	Full House		Full House	Full House	Friends
	DISN	Stuck		Bunk'd	Best Fr.	Best Fr.	K.C. Under.	Jessie	Best Fr.	Girl Meets	Stuck
	FREE	(6:00) *** Matilda (P6)		*** Mrs. Doubtfire (1993, Comedy) (ESP) Robin Williams, Sally Field. (P6)		Comedy (ESP) Robin Williams, Sally Field. (P6)		700 Club			
	HIST	American Pickers		American Pickers		To Be Announced		Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars
	DISC	Bering Sea Gold		Bering Sea Gold		Bering Sea Gold (N)		Alaskan Bush	Bering Gold		
	TLC	My 600-Lb. Life		My 600-Lb. Life: Where		My 600-Lb. Life Pauline has a medical emergency.		My 600-Lb		(R)	
A&E	The First 48		**** Saving Private Ryan		(1998, War) Tom Hanks, Edward Burns, Tom Sizemore. (R)						
ANPL	River Monsters		River Monsters		(-01) River Monsters		River Monsters		Devoured		
SPORTS	CSNE	SportsNet	Early	Coming	The Men in Blazers Show		Blackout	Sports	SportsNet	Sports	
	ESPN	MLB Baseball Washington		Nationals at New York Mets. (N Subject to Blackout)		Baseball Tonight (N) (L)		SportCtr			
	ESPN2	NFL Live (N)		30 for 30		SpoCenter		College Track and Field			
	NBCSP	NHL Live (N) (L)		NHL Hockey Pittsburgh Penguins at Tampa Bay Lightning. (N Subject to Blackout)		NHL					
	NESN	Behind B	Golf Dest.	MLB Baseball Boston Red Sox at Kansas City Royals.		Sports	Sports	Sports			
	CNBC	Undercover Boss		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Secret Lives	Secret Lives	Secret Lives	
	CNN	Erin Burnett OutFront (N)		Anderson Cooper 360		Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight	Tonight		
	FNC	Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor (N)		The Kelly File (N)		Hannity (N)	O'Reilly		
	MSNBC	Hardball Chris Matthews		All In With Chris Hayes		Rachel Maddow Show		The Last Word		All In With	
	NEWS	AMC	*** The Hurt Locker (2008, War)		Jeremy Renner, Anthony Mackie. (R)		*** The Hunt for Red October (P6)				
BRV		Housewives/NYC		Housewives/NYC		Housewives/NYC		Motherhood		Happens	
CMT		Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	*** Back to the Future Part III (1990) Michael J. Fox. (P6)					
COM		Futurama	Futurama	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	Daily Show	
E!		E! News (N)		The Kardashians		The Kardashians		The Kardashians		E! News	
FOOD		Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	
FX		(5:30) ** Immortals (R)		** 300: Rise of an Empire (2014, Action) (R)		The Americans (N)		The Americans (N)		Americans	
GAC		Going RV	Going RV	Going RV	Going RV	Going RV	Going RV	Going RV	Going RV	Going RV	
HALL		Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	The Middle	The Middle	The Middle	The Middle	Golden Girls	
HGTV		Property Brothers		Property Brothers		Property Brothers (N)		Hunters	Hunters Int'l	Listed	
LIFE	Little Women: LA		Little Women: LA (N)		Little Women: LA (N)		(:02) Little Women: NY		Little		
MTV	Catfish: The TV Show		Catfish: The TV Show		Catfish: The TV Show		The Challenge: Rivals III		Catfish		
VARIETY	OXY	Ever After		(:35) The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (R)		(:45) ** A Cinderella Story (2004) Hilary Duff. (P6)					
	SPIKE	Jail	Jail	* Law Abiding Citizen (2009, Suspense) Jamie Foxx. (NR)		** Snitch (2013)					
	SYFY	(6:00) ** The Lone Ranger		(2013) Johnny Depp.		** John Carter (2012, Science Fiction)		Taylor Kitsch. (P6-13)			
	TBN	Receive	Potters	John Gray	Turning	Prince	S. Furtick	Living Proof	Blessed Life	John Gray	
	TBS	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Conan	
	TCM	Eyes Without a Face (NR)		*** Jeremiah Johnson (1972) Robert Redford.		(:15) ** Across the Wide Missouri					
	TMC	(6:30) *** Bringing Out the Dead (R)		Mercenaries (2014) Kristanna Loken.		*** Snowpiercer (2013) (ESP) (R)					
	TNT	Castle		NBA Tip-Off (N) (L)		NBA Basketball Oklahoma City Thunder at Golden State Warriors.					
	TRAVEL	Expedition Unknown		Expedition Unknown		Expedition Unknown (N)		Expedition Unknown		Expedition	
	TRU	Carbonaro	Carbonaro	Carbonaro	Carbonaro	Carbonaro	Carbonaro	Carbonaro	Carbonaro	Carbonaro	
TVL	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Lopez (N)	Soul Man	King		
USA	NCIS		NCIS		Royal Pains (N)		Mod Fam				
VH1	Family Therapy		Family Therapy		Family Therapy		Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta		Hip Hop		
WGN-A	Person of Interest		Person of Interest		Person of Interest		Person of Interest		How I Met		
PREMIUM	HBO	(6:30) ** 27 Dresses (2008) erine Heigl. (P6-13)		(ESP) Kath- Veep (ESP)		*** Spy (2015) Melissa McCarthy. An undercover CIA analyst becomes an unlikely secret weapon. (R)		Real Time, Bill			
	MAX	(6:00) *** Wild (2014) Reese Witherspoon. (R)		Banshee (ESP)		(8:50) Ban-shee		(:45) * The Reaping (2007) Hilary Swank. A former Christian missionary debunks religious phenomena. (R)			
	SHOW	(:15) ** Shaft (2000) Samuel L. Jackson. A former cop vows to bring a murderous racist to justice. (R)		Stretch and Bobbito: Radio That Changed Lives (2015) (NR)		(:40) Just Let Go: Lenny Kravitz Live					
	STARZ	(:15) ** Ricki and the Flash (2015) Meryl Streep. A rock singer returns home to reconnect with her family.		Outlander Claire's useful medical knowledge.		Girlfriend Expr.		*** Misery (1990) (ESP) James Caan. (R)			
	STZNC	(6:05) *** The Thomas Crown Affair (R)		** Ghost Rider (2007) Nicolas Cage. A motorcycle stuntman is a supernatural agent of vengeance.		(9:55) *** Fury (2014, War) (ESP) Brad Pitt, Shia LaBeouf. (R)					
	PREMIUM										