

# The Drink Tank Forty Four

Darkest are the Hours of potential loss

## A Pressing Issue

Brightest are the Days when Victory is Renewed

### The News From Mountain View

Jack Avery, God Bless Him, has finally had enough. He's gone and stopped making SF/SF, the BArea News Zine. It was a great piece of work and there's no one who could have done half as good a job as Jack at the whole thing.

But We're gonna try!

A couple of us, along with participation from Jack, are going to be taking over, making it a bi-weekly and keeping up the faith. Jack will still be working with us, thankfully, as he actually knows what he's doing when it comes to lay-out and so forth.

A couple of the new activities will include the BArea Blog Index and Review section, which I'll be heading up, a look at BA fandom from some of our folks, and a calendar that will just about blot out the sun.

How will this affect The Drink Tank? We'll find out after October 5th!

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### TWO OF THE MANY WORKS OF DINA WATERS



Don't worry if you've never heard of her. She's one of those actresses that has done a lot of work but seldom gets noticed. She's had good roles in a lot of little things and a lot of tiny roles in a lot of bigger things. If you saw *The Haunted Mansion*, she was one of the ghosts. I'm hoping you didn't. This weekend, between fits of writ-

ing, I watched two of Dina's works, one a TV series on DVD, the other an in-theatre film. Let's start with the movies and move forward.



Just Like Heaven is a return of sorts for Reese Witherspoon. She's just had a kid and she took about a year and a half off to deal with all that. This was her first movie since *Vanity Faire*. She plays Elizabeth, a young doctor with no time for the finer things in life.

She's a workaholic who can only function with a large amount of her workahol. She is in an accident with a truck while on her way to her sister's house. Her sister Abby is played by Miss Dina Waters with equal amounts of frenzy and care, something she has always specialized in.

Somehow, her spirit leaves her body, even though she's not dead. She ends up going back to her apartment which Abby has rented to David, played by Mark Ruffalo, a guy whose wife died two years prior. It's a solid performance from Ruffalo, but it's not spectacular. He's got a sad sack thing going on that both works and grates on you after a while.

As the movie goes on, it tells the predictable story of a guy who falls for a woman who isn't available and then the race against time to save her physical body. It's a simple set-up, but it goes along so well that you barely notice that you've seen this story so many times before in so many different settings.

The supporting cast is very good, even



if they aren't given too much to do. Donal Louge, the genius behind Jimmy the Cabbie and later on Grounded for Life, plays David's shrink and friend. His is a simple performance and when they need a good piece of physical comedy during the closing moments, he gives it all. He needs a film of his own as the only one of his starring works that I've seen, the Tao of Steve, was great.

Also along for the ride, and playing a bigger part, is John Heder. He's best known (OK, only known) for his role as Napoleon Dynamite. He was really good playing the role as the only legit psychic friend that David can come up with. When we first meet him in the Psychic bookshoppe where he works, it's a great scene with lots of laughs for those of us who know our JFK and UFO theory.

It's set in San Francisco, which is the perfect city for a romantic comedy. While an SF Dramatic Romance is hard to pull off (see Sweet November), a Romantic Comedy can not fail if it's set on the hilly streets of the City by the Bay. They get some beautiful cinematography and a little bit of local color sopped up, and far more than several movies (and even more than some TV shows) that are set in SF.

The whole film is pretty good, and a very solid date film. It's a chick flick, let's just say it, but it's a fun chick flick. The



'Greg the Bunny'

last chick flick I can remember seeing at the Century 21 was Never Been Kissed, and this was considerably better.

Once we got home, I looked through my not fully watched DVD collection and came across the series Greg the Bunny. I had watched all the episodes they showed on Fox back in 2002, and I had bought the series because I loved it so much. For some reason, I hadn't really gotten around to watching it all the way through. So, on a lazy Saturday afternoon, I popped in teh DVD and gave it a thorough viewing.

The premise is weird, and once you come to grips with it, it gets easier to watch. In the world where Greg the Bunny lives, there are humans and there are puppets, aka Fabricated Americans. They live and work and do all the strange things that regular people do. Greg is a bunny who is living with his best friend, a human named Jimmy who happens to be played by Seth Green (Oz of Buffy and Scott Evil in Austin Powers). Jimmy's Dad, Eugene Levy, runs a children's show called Sweetknuckle Junction, a long running show whose star is aging out. Greg goes to apply for a job as a PA, but ends up auditioning and getting the lead in the show. Jimmy, the slacker son, then comes on board and the show is complete.

There's a lot of hilarious stuff in Greg the Bunny. There are simple gags that



revolve around the Puppet world, but there are even more hilarious things coming at ya from the world of

TV. Sarah Silverman, the hilarious comedic actress who is currently with Jimmy Kimmel in a 'What the Hell is She Thinking' coupling, plays a network suit who is trying to get the show's ratings up. Jimmy has a huge thing for her, as does a female TV Guide reporter who shows up in one episode. There's a lot of great comedy in her interacting with Levy and Jimmy. There are the human members of the SweetKnuckle Junction cast, led by Junction Jack. He's a sweet conductor on the train, but he's a dark twisted vet off the set. He's joined by Dotty, a slightly slutty and highly ditzy girl played by Dina Waters. It's a funny role which required her to both play dumb and overlooked. That's not an easy twosome.

The reason stars may be the other puppets of the show. There's Count Blah, a take off on The Count on Sesame Street, who is always saying 'Blah!' at the end of sentences. It's a funny bit, especially as it is revealed that he's an old and crusty puppet who has been in the business for decades. He gets some great lines and it makes me laugh a lot when he is crochety. Warren deMontague is an ape and on the show he plays Professor Ape. He's supposed to be a classically trained Shakespearean actor who is making ends meet by playing the role. In one of the last episodes, Warren's wife, Maggie (played by the still stunning Marilou Henner) comes back and has a tryst with Blah as a way for Blah to get over his dead wife. It's one of the three best episodes of the show.

The show does a lot of weird humor, especially with a slow-witted turtle named Tardy who shows up a few times and just about makes me laugh harder than anybody else. He just has these little walk-ons and a high pitched squeal that are hilarious.



There are other monsters of various sorts, but mostly, the real comedy comes from those three puppets...and a Bear that reads very gay.

Greg the Bunny, much like Mystery Science Theatre 3000, started off as a Community Access show. It was seen by a few important folks and that led to them getting some time on the Independent Film Channel. There's a lot of history on the early days and more than a little footage. There are even auditions for the puppet roles and interviews with the creators. Greg was probably funnier before he ended up on Fox, but the results of the series are good anyhow. The additions of Levy, Green, Silverman and Waters made me smile.

The show starts off smart and keeps getting better. The last episodes are easily the funniest overall and probably make up for the random silliness of the early eps. A Birthday party for Junction Jack coincides with the visit from TV Guide and a fight between Greg and Jimmy over a girl. This leads to a funny series of tricks and traps that both fall into. One very good episode talks about Puppet Rights and a guy named Huminahumina who is the Al Sharpton of the Puppish Movement. That leads to a great series of gags about the word Sock, a serious Puppet insult, and the fact that all puppets love Tartar Sauce.

They go back to that theme when Greg gets involved with a Puppish Sepe-ratist Movement. It's all funny funny stuff that you should buy as soon as you get a chance. Trust me, you'll like it!

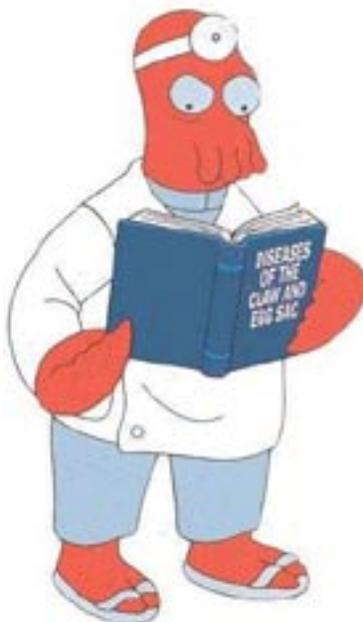


# IN CELEBRATION OF THE FAKE



As I've said, I'm a sucker for the Social Networking sights. Not only for the exposed cleavage of Friendster and MySpace and the full on boobage of Tribe.net, but because they are places of infinite jest. People themselves are funny enough, often writing far more than they should and coming off hilarious/desperate (I know I do), but they also are people with little in the way of moderation and they end up being pretty damn dark and hilarious. Since they've all pretty much added blogs, they've gotten even funnier. But there is one phenomenon that I love. It's folks who pretend to be people they are not.

The first place where it was really noticeable was Friendster. People started posting profiles pretending to be wrestlers or dead people or movie stars or recording artists or authors. These were OK, and some of them were incredibly well researched. Even the few celebs who did get onto the boat ended up finding that they already had people with profiles pretending to be them. The trend started to move away from actual people and into fictional characters, most notably cartoon characters like Stewie and Peter from Family Guy and the various Simpson characters. They were everywhere, and some people would



build huge lists of friends out of only the fictional characters they'd create. Friendster started having troubles, mostly due to the long load times and the number of violators of the rules. They declined in popularity and others rose. Tribe.net, which is my favourite of the SN sites, never really had a lot of Fakesters, mostly because the focus was on interacting in groups called Tribes. There were a few, but mostly they were real people who told fake stories on posting boards. It wasn't until MySpace came around, with its very Friendster-like service, that MyFakes became popular again.

The funny thing is that everybody has a MyFake now. Charles Nelson Reilly (Top Right, like he always was on Match Game) had not one, but three. John Cena had several, as did Steve Zissou or The Life Aquatic. Dr. Zoidberg had seven or eight Fakesters and a couple of MyFakes. There are literary characters (Holden Caulfield and Michael Valentine Smith both have more than one) and there are writers (Farmer, Vonnegut, Heinlein and so on) and there are even things (Lamp has a few, as does carpet and my personal fave, Friendster has a MyFake on MySpace).

These aren't all bad, as places like old movie theatres would get Fakes and that would draw old patrons back together!

***Emailed Words of Comment  
Sent to Garcia@computerhistory.org  
by my Gentle Readers***

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A further letter of comment to add to the backlog that you'll have to either publish or WAHF at some stage!

***Ah, yeah...I...ummm....Well....***

I've added your Livejournal to my friends list - gotta keep myself topped up with that crazee Garcia fanac goodness. This, of course, links to you point about the need for an SF/fannish weblog list, as I wouldn't have been aware of it otherwise. As you say, the Emerald City weblog is "sort of but not really" a definitive list, although it would probably be a good place to start.

***This is going to change and change shortly. Keep watching eFanzines for SF/SF. Emerald City is the best resource right now, though.***

Do you think that there are actually enough fanzeens out there for you to be able to do "two to three" reviews a week? I assume that The Drink Tank is off-limits for the obvious reason, which probably removes about a third to a quarter of the total fanzeen issues being pubbed these days. When the "open" distribution of e-APA gets published in October, will you be able to review (or at least mention) that? I guess that OE David Burton will be touting it around all of the fannish mailing lists and web sites. Plus I'm thinking about what undercover recruiting I could do myself.

***I get about 3 print zines a month and there are between 5 and 7 new things on eFanzines every week. There's enough, at least if I start reviewing VFW.***

I've never understood the logic of reading out papers at academic conferences. The sensible thing to do is to treat them like we do committee papers at council meetings where I work. Assume that everyone has seen them in advance, and just give a very quick summary of the main points for those that haven't. Add anything that you've thought of since and want to show off about, then open the discussion up to the floor. David Lodge's novel *Small World* describes

an ideal academic conference, where nearly all the papers are distributed in advance so as not to get in the way of the socialising, describing how unread papers started to clutter up in the hotel's rubbish bins. (Which makes it all sound a bit like a Fanzeen Lounge gone bad.)

***I avoid academic conferences for the most part now, but they have their place. BY distributing the papers, they make sure that you're one of the ones who have heard it and can't claim plausible deniability when you plagiarize it a year later. They'll have a record!***

***And Now...Eric Mayer!!!***

Hi,

Interesting observations about those poor guys who have trouble pulling chicks. They obviously have never heard of the "I just bought the new Beatles album" ploy. That does still work, doesn't it? Heck, maybe it's not just that they're geeks. Maybe they're pencil neck geeks. I know I certainly am.

***That's always a possibility (and thank you for making reference to my hero, Classy Freddie Blassie's 1975 hit record)***

Women and obsessive hobbies don't mix, except, I guess, for some whose obsessive hobby is women. Someone who wants another person to give up his favorite hobby or prize collection, has got to be a bad match. What was it Kipling said, something like a woman is just a woman but a good cigar is a smoke?

***Was that Kipling? I always thought that it was Hemingway or somesuch. It's a good moral to hold on to, which may explain why I'm not married...***

I didn't know you had a blog at LiveJournal that wonderfully mature online community. (I think the terminology gets to me...collecting friends...if it was termed "readers" and "journals I read" I'd like it better.) Here's a question, though. Why not trufen.net? I haven't been inspired to do

much blogging there partly because I don't feel that I have much of faanish interest to say, but also because no one seems much interested in the journals there. To me, it would seem a natural place for fan journals, moreso than LiveJournal.

***Of the Trufen regulars, there's me and Jerry Kaufman who seem to update the most. Of my three blogs, Trufen gets all of my fannish stuff that aren't reviews (which I'm doing on my LiveJournal) and my MySpace blog is simply to try and show off with weird thoughts. Trufen is a great site that I should really send more stories to.***

I think written fanac has been diluted badly. A lot of stuff that now goes into blogs or lists would all have gone into fanzines in the past.

***There's a school of thought (headed by Professor M Lloyd) that says that The Drink Tank is my Highest-Level Blog.***

Granted, you seem to have dealt with that by writing about a million words a year!

***I'm not at a million yet (I think total, including LoCs and such, is nearing 900k), but I'll easily pass 1M this year!***

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Eric

M Lloyd talks a bit about her Christopher Garcia Anthology

I've thought about it a lot and I basically came to the opinion that Chris has written too many things to be accepted on their own terms. Much of it is Craptastic, but there have been some that are worthy of collection. I'm working on anthologizing Chris' work under the title *The Year of the HyperActive Typing Fingers*.

So far, I've identified five stories that certainly belong (one from Peregrine Nations, one Found in Collection, one Drink Tank story, a Falls Count Anywhere and one LoC) and I know there are more. If anyone has any ideas of articles that Chris has done, let me know through [Thefabulousshow@yahoo.com](mailto:Thefabulousshow@yahoo.com) and I'll think about adding them.

Thanks

M

Well, that's all for another week of The Drink Tank. I wanna thank ever'body, especially Bill Burns and company. As I need to fill a little space, and Jay hasn't come through with a new 12pt Courier New like I asked him, I'll just sign off by saying that I hope everyone makes it through the next set of Hurricanes and that all is well in everyone's lives. By the way, My Pops is doin' OK, and even has gone back to driving Limos! It's good to see him earning a wage again after a long lay-off.

The Drink Tank was written and conceived by Christopher J. Garcia and had help with some words from Pete Sullivan and Eric Mayer. Keep an eye open for new issues of Claims Department and the SteamPunk Issue is in the mail!

Terrortypist's work is a new fave. This one is Very M

