

Is Pee Wee Herman a real person?

ASK DICK KLEINER



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By Dick Kleiner

Q. My husband says Martin Short is Pee-wee Herman. I say he is wrong. Please tell me who is right, and what is Pee-wee Herman's real name? — C.S., Massillon, Ohio.

A. Martin is Short, and Herman is Pee-wee — but that doesn't mean they are the same two. They are entirely separate chaps. Pee-wee's real name is Paul Rubinfeld.



Martin Short



Joe Regalbuto

Q. Could you tell me if it was Jack Benny's wife or Bing Crosby's wife who was stabbed in the heart with a

letter opener? I understood they were living in France at the time. I can find no one else who remembers hearing about it. — L.T., Amarillo, Texas.

A. Include me among that number who has never heard about it. Neither Mary Livingston Benny, nor either of Bing's wives — Dixie Lee or Kathy Grant — ever was the victim of such an attack. And I do not have any idea who you might have them confused with.

Q. I'm curious about a name that keeps cropping up on the music credits for a lot of prime-time TV shows. Could you tell me something about Mike Post? — N.R., Skillman, N.J.

A. Mike Post is a Los Angeles-born pianist-composer, who hopes, someday, to be a symphony conductor. He got started in TV when his old pal, producer Stephen J. Cannell, hired him to write the score for "Toma." Post has done the music for many shows, including "Magnum, P.I." and "Hill Street Blues." When he is not working, he is an ardent runner. He has competed in several marathons.

Q. Whatever happened to that handsome actor John Gavin? Is he still living? — N.H., Lancaster, Ohio.

A. You must not read your newspapers very carefully. Ronald Reagan appointed Gavin to be our ambassador to Mexico, and he served in the post for several years. Now that he is

no longer in that job, Gavin is thinking about resuming his acting career.

Q. Help! Please list, in chronological order, all the James Bond movies, especially the one made for TV before the Sean Connery movies. You'll be a first class stress management aid if you can help. — R.G.D., Saginaw, Mich.

A. I haven't room to list them all, but the TV one was an adaptation of Ian Fleming's "Casino Royale," with Barry Nelson as Bond. It aired on Oct. 21, 1954, on the old CBS Climax Mystery Theater.

Q. On the show "Murphy Brown," there is a man who plays a character called Frank Fontana. Years ago, maybe 20 or so, he played on a regular weekly program, but I cannot remember the name of the show nor the name of the actor. Can you help? — D.B., Georgetown, Tenn.

A. Joe Regalbuto is the actor. His previous sereis were "The Associates" in 1979, "Ace Crawford, Private Eye" in 1983 and the recent "Street Hawk."

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(Send your questions to: Ask Dick Kleiner, c/o Newspaper Enterprise Association, 200 Park Ave., New York, N.Y. 10166. Due to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.)

Digging for gold

(TC)—Jericho, 1854: a small mining town in the remote Australian bush. *Golden Pennies*, Saturdays at 6:30 p.m. on TV Ontario, traces the fortunes and misfortunes of the Greenwood family.

Released from an unjust prison sentence in England, Luke Greenwood, along with his wife, Rebecca, and two stepchildren, Jack and Lucy, emigrates to Australia in search of a better way of life. But, as fate would have it, their quest for riches seems to bring only poverty, illness, injury, and corruption.

Befriended by martial-arts expert Lin Ping, French illusionist Marcel, his

daughter, Cléce, and Bojinda, an aborigine boy, the Greenwood family manage to overcome their difficulties with the help of their new friends' special skills.

Golden Pennies shows life during the Victorian gold rush days, seen through the eyes of the children. Written by Graeme Farmer, this family drama miniseries stars Bryan Marshall as Luke Greenwood, Carol Drinkwater as Rebecca, Tibbi Karman as Jack, Michaela Abay as Lucy, and Gerard Kennedy as the corrupt storekeeper, Uriah Lovejoy.



Left to right: Bryan Marshall as Luke Greenwood, Lawrence Mah as Lin Ping, Carol Drinkwater as Rebecca, and Alan Darglin as Bojinda in *Golden Pennies*

Turner and Hooch is a real summer dog!

FILMETER



ROBERT DIMATTEO

In Movie Theaters

TURNER AND HOOCH (PG) Tom Hanks is one of the most likable and gifted comic actors working in movies, but who is picking his roles? Hanks' most recent movie choices have been abysmal — "The 'Burbs," and now this inane, cutesy affair about a neatnik detective who inherits a big, slobbering dog.

The pooch has witnessed the murder of his master, and you don't have to be Albert Einstein to know that it's only a matter of time before the dog helps Hanks track down the killer. Though it comes on like a thriller, most of this picture is played for broad slapstick, as the ever-drooling, flatulent mastiff destroys Hanks' house. As played by a disagreeable beast named Beasley, this animal is certainly no Lassie. **GRADE: ***

PARENTHOOD (PG-13) The title tells all. This latest Ron Howard-directed comedy looks at the frustrations of American family life in the late '80s, as seen from the perspective of a whole gang of moms and dads. By focusing on four generations of a "typical" middle-class brood, Howard and his screenwriters, Lowell Ganz and Babaloo Mandel ("Splash"), have tried to show how parental attitudes and expectations are carried from one generation to the next.

The movie abounds in calamities, minor and major. The 9-year-old son of Steve Martin and Mary Steenburgen suffers severe emotional problems; the toddler daughter of overweening father Rick Moranis can read Kafka, but she doesn't know how to play; the teenage daughter of lonely, divorced mother Dianne Wiest forsakes her top SAT scores and college plans to marry a layabout race-car

driver, the self-centered son (Tom Hulce) of family patriarch Jason Robards returns home to sweet-talk his dad for money to pay off gambling debts.

The movie has been literally stuffed with traumas, soap opera style, on top of which Howard and his writers have applied a glaze of humor — the humor of a slightly daring sitcom.

Through it all, the outstanding cast finds truth in even the most contrived situations, with Steve Martin and Dianne Wiest the standouts. Despite its manipulations, a surprising amount of the movie manages to be both charming and touching. But it finally goes down the tubes when Howard supplies a screwy, lyrical coda in which almost every couple has another baby. After all the parent-child problems we've been shown, the film suggests that having more little ones is the answer! **GRADE: ★★½**

LOCK UP (R) In the wake of the brouhaha over the sadomasochistic strain in some of the late photographer Robert Mapplethorpe's work, along comes the new Sylvester Stallone picture. Talk about sadomasoch-

ter to torture him.

This being a vanity production for Stallone, his Leone manages to withstand the most bone-crunching abuse — his well-oiled muscles rippling, his perfectly cut hair never getting mussed up.

The movie is deeply dishonest: Everything is geared to encourage the viewer's desire for vengeance, and then a big deal is made out of the fact that Leone won't wipe out his nemesis, that he's not a murderer.

(Film grading: ★★★★★ — excellent, ★★★★ — good, ★★★ — fair, ★ — poor)

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TOM HANKS plays a cop whose life is thrown into turmoil when he teams up with a dog in "Turner and Hooch."

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