

Is Tommy Tune really 7 feet tall?

ASK DICK KLEINER



DICK KLEINER

Q: I watched "Evening At Pops" three times the week Tommy Tune was on, just to watch him tap dance. He's marvelous! I had never seen or heard of him before. Has he been dancing and singing for very long? How old is he, and how tall — he looks about 7 feet tall. — Mrs. K.C., Naples, Fla.

A: Tommy Tune — and that is his real name, by the way — is from Houston originally. He is primarily a Broadway dancer. He started his professional career in 1964, in the chorus of "Irma La Douce." He has been in many Broadway hits — "Hello, Dolly," for example. He also danced on the old Ed Sullivan and Garry Moore shows on television. And he has been in a few movies ("Hello, Dolly," again). He is 50 now, and a puny 6-foot-5.

Q: Could you please tell me how many years it took to film "The Wizard of Oz"? — C.R., Honea Path, S.C.

A: Amazing how Hollywood can work wonders in a relatively brief time. They started shooting that on Oct. 13, 1938, and the premiere was Aug. 17, 1939.

Q: Please settle an argument my sister and I have. I say Bill Cosby earned his Ph.D. degree, and she says

it was an honorary degree. Which of us are correct? — V.I., Amarillo, Texas.

A: His advanced degree was earned, all right — from the University of Massachusetts, in 1977. Actually, he's an Ed.D., a Doctor of Education. As an undergraduate, Cosby dropped out of Temple University before earning a degree in physical education. Years later, he took part in the non-traditional advanced program at U. Mass. for "mature" students. He also received some credits for his appearances on educational TV shows for children. By the way, your grammar is incorrect. That last sentence in your query should have been: Which of us is correct?



Tommy Tune

Bill Cosby

Q: During World War II, when I was in high school, there was a popular book called "See Here, Private Hargrove." It was a hilarious account of a young draftee written by Dean Hargrove. Am I correct in assuming that this is the same Dean Hargrove who now produces many top TV series? — B.S., Grand Rapids, Mich.

A: No, because your memory, in this case, is slightly wrong. The author of "See Here, Private Hargrove" was Pvt. Marion Hargrove.

Q: Am I making this up, or was there ever a movie called "Death Takes a Holiday"? It may have been around the '40s or '50s and it may have starred John Garfield. I can't find it in any reference book. — J.E., Verona, Wis.

A: Look again. There were two movies by that title: the first, in 1934, starred Fredric March. The second, in 1971, starred Melvyn Douglas. Garfield was in neither.

Q: Who did the voices for the robot on "Lost In Space" and for Mr. Ed? — S.R.M., Shields, Mich.

A: An actor named Dick Tufeld spoke the robot's lines. Allen "Rocky" Lane was the good old talking horse. © 1989 NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE ASSN.

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