

Entertainment Outlook

Eartha Kitt once played Catwoman on Batman series

Q. Can you tell me if a black actress ever played Catwoman on the old "Batman" series? I think there was, but my son says no. — G.C., Amarillo, Texas.

A. Right again, Mrs. C. There were several Catwomen on TV's version of "Batman," and among them was Eartha Kitt.

Q. In 1936, a movie called "Things to Come" starred Richard Dix and, I believe, Richard Arlen. The movie was about building a trans-Atlantic tunnel. I would like to know what book that was based on. — T.F., Monroe, Conn.

A. You have the title of the movie and the date correct. But the stars were Raymond Massey and Edward Chapman. It was about the future in general — the tunnel was only a small part of it. The film was adapted from the H.G. Wells novel "The Shape of Things to Come."



Eartha Kitt Curtis Armstrong

Q. What is the real name of Sting, the main force behind the musical group, The Police and now an established solo artist? — N.N., Taft, Calif.

A. He was born George Sumner. And it baffles the mind why he would want to trade that perfectly fine name for a name you would give a cat or dog. Here, Sting!

Q. I know Tom Selleck is 44, but what exactly is his date and place of birth? — N.P., Marquette, Mich.

ASK DICK KLEINER



DICK KLEINER

Q. I have a question about the man who plays Joey on "Full House." Is he from Michigan? He wears many Michigan shirts, so I was wondering. — R.O., Grand Rapids, Mich.

A. Both Tom Selleck and David Coulier are born and bred Detroiters. Selleck's birth date: Jan. 29, 1945.

Q. I am a big fan of The Carpenters. Did Richard and Karen write any of their songs? — J.A., St. Joseph, Mo.

A. They wrote some — but the only one of their major hits they had a hand in was "Top Of the World," which Richard wrote in collaboration with John Bettis.

Q. I have a bet with my father. In "Revenge of the Nerds II," does Gilbert Godfrey play Booger? — L.M., Sabetha, Kan.

A. No. Curtis Armstrong played that part.

Q. Please settle this three-year bet for me. On "The Brady Bunch," I know Eve Plumb played Jan. But wasn't there another girl who played Jan, either "before" or "after" Jan? — K.M., Kalamazoo, Mich.

A. Not in the original series, no. But later they tried an hour-long comedy-variety version in '77, called "The Brady Bunch Hour." There the part of Jan was played by Geri Reischl.

Q. My husband and I are curious about the Fonda family. We know Henry Fonda was the father of Jane and Peter, but what we don't know is — who was their mother? Also, are Walter Brennan and Eileen Brennan

any relation? And are Robert and Shane Conrad related? — Mrs. L.B., Benton, Ariz.

A. Frances Seymour Brokaw, the second of Henry Fonda's five wives, was the mother of Jane and Peter Fonda. A wealthy young society widow, she had married Fonda in 1936. After a nervous breakdown, she killed herself in a sanitarium in 1950. To answer your other questions: The Brennans are unrelated. Robert Conrad is Shane Conrad's father.

Q. Please advise me as to where I can obtain a complete list of every movie John Wayne appeared in or starred in. — L.R., Renton, Wash.

A. There have been several biographies that include such a list in an appendix. Your local library must have one or two of those books.

Second City tonight

A list of graduates of the Second City reads like Who's Who of Comedy — Alan Alda, Ed Asner, Dan Aykroyd, John Belushi, John Candy, Ben Gordon, Valerie Harper, Shelley Long, Andrea Martin, Bill Murray, Catherine O'Hara, Gilda Radner, Fiona Reid, Marty Short, David Steinberg, Betty Thomas — you get the picture. This zany comedy group has produced many of the comedic geniuses of our time.

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