CBS STUDIO STUDIO CENTER Mecusletter

Happily Divorced – Art Imitating Life!

By Chad Drew

With production of season two of TV Land's *Happily Divorced* underway, fans of Fran Drescher's first hit sitcom *The Nanny* might see some familiar faces mingling around Stage 17, but the two shows couldn't be more different. Fran's new show, created by her and her ex-husband Peter Marc Jacobson, (with whom she also co-created *The Nanny*) is inspired by their real life story, and revolves around a woman who learns that the man she's been married to for eighteen years is gay.

Writing for characters based on the creators of the show presents a unique challenge. It's one thing if the showrunner doesn't respond to your story pitch where the ex-husband gets a bad hair dye job after thinking he's getting too old to hang with a younger crowd. It's another when the exhusband you're talking about is the showrunner and you fear that you'll be fired on the spot for thinking he's old. Which he definitely is not.

Thankfully, Fran and Peter are able to separate themselves from their TV alteregos and are never offended when someone, me, pitches a line for Fran in her voice, or at least my impersonation of her voice, only to remember that she's in the room, sitting directly across from me. The awkward silence is usually broken by Peter and Fran's assistant rushing in to tell them that they're needed for rehearsal, or a notes call, or editing, or casting. And we, the writers, forge ahead with the task at hand; stuffing our faces with the shrimp cocktail Fran brought in for us. Or the pies, or the cupcakes, or the brownies...



Fran Drescher and Peter Marc Jacobson

Along with Fran Drescher, *Happily Divorced* features acclaimed actors John Michael Higgins as Peter, her ex-husband; Tichina Arnold as her best friend, Judi; Rita Moreno and Robert Walden as her parents Glen and Dori and Valente Rodriguez as Cesar, her flower shop employee. The show

is executive produced by Fran Drescher, Peter Marc Jacobson, Frank Lombardi and Franco E. Bario.

Season two of *Happily Divorced* premieres on TV Land March 7, 2012 at 10:00 p.m.

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Contributing Editor Marsha Gorodkin Design & Layout Elizabeth Gulick

PRODUCTION S C H E D U L E



CSI:NY
(CBS PRODUCTIONS/CBS)

ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT (CBS TV DISTRIBUTION/CBS)

THE INSIDER (CBS TV DISTRIBUTION/CBS)

LAST MAN STANDING
(20TH CENTURY FOX TV/ABC)

WHITNEY
(NBC STUDIOS LLC/NBC)

UP ALL NIGHT
(OPEN 4 BUSINESS PRODUCTIONS/NBC)

THE TALK
(CBS TV STUDIOS/CBS)

HAPPILY DIVORCED
(HUDSON STREET PRODUCTIONS/TV LAND)

HOT IN CLEVELAND
(HUDSON STREET PRODUCTIONS/TV LAND)

PARKS & RECREATION (OPEN 4 BUSINESS PRODUCTIONS/NBC)

THE SINGING BEE (SINGING BEE ENTERPRISES/CMT)

FEBRUARY

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

- 2 Ground Hog Day
- 4 MDA Muscle Walk at CBS Studio Center
- 12 Lincoln's Birthday
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 20 Washington's Birthday observed
- 21 Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras)
- 22 Washington's Birthday
- 22 Ash Wednesday

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GOLDEN GLOBE AWARD NOMINATIONS

Best Television Actress in a Comedy or Musical AMY POEHLER

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD NOMINEES

Favorite New TV Comedy
LAST MAN STANDING
UP ALL NIGHT

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD WINNER

Favorite Cable TV Comedy
HOT IN CLEVELAND

63RD ANNUAL EMMY WINNER

Art Direction for A Multi-Camera Series
MICHAEL ANDREW HYNES,
PRODUCTION DESIGNER
MARALEE ZEDIKER, SET DECORATOR
HOT IN CLEVELAND
"SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING
SPANX©"
"I LOVE LUCCI: PART TWO"
"LEBRON IS LE GONE"

SAG AWARD WINNER

Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Comedy Series

BETTY WHITE / ELKA OSTROVSKY HOT IN CLEVELAND



HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY TO BETTY WHITE!

2

She Made It After All!

By Judi Miller

On January 29th television legend Mary Tyler Moore was presented with the SAG Lifetime Achievement Award. Former co-star Dick Van Dyke did the honors and she was greeted by her peers with a standing ovation. While accepting her award Mary explained how her stage name came about. Upon entering the show biz scene, she was told there were too many Mary Moores on the SAG roster and advised to therefore change her name. She wasn't too keen on this idea, but quickly realized she could simply add her middle name, Tyler, which was also her father's middle name, and as they say a star was born!

Ms. Moore became an important part of CBS Studio Center history when in 1969 she and husband Grant Tinker formed production company MTM and pitched a sitcom idea to CBS about a thirtysomething, independent working female. This became *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, one of the most well received shows of all time. The show landed here at Studio Center on Stage 2 in 1971 where it remained for the next six years. The series was also a launching pad for a long, successful relationship between CBS and MTM. In the years following their move to the studio MTM produced several spin offs, including *Rhoda*, *Phyllis*, and *Lou*



Mary Tyler Moore statue in Minneapolis

Grant, along with The Bob Newhart Show, The White Shadow and WKRP in Cincinnati. In 1985 MTM Enterprises purchased interest in the Studio and the name outside the gate became CBS/MTM Studios. Around this time Mary Tyler Moore went home again to Stage 2 for a short lived new series titled Mary. She returned to the lot in 2004 to tape the special The Dick Van Dyke Show Revisited, yet again to Stage 2 in 2006 for a recurring guest role on That 70's Show, and just last year she joined her old friend Betty White on an episode of Hot in Cleveland.

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Laura Owen, Payroll Specialist, and husband Bill On the birth of your grandson Patrick Joseph Owen September 18, 2011

Born to Lindsay and Michael Owen (Michael works in the HR Dept.)



his friendliness, hawaiian

shirts and crazy hats.



Thank you to everyone who participated in the American Red Cross Blood Drive on October 13, 2011.

We were able to collect 43 productive units that went to hospitals, helping to save up to 129 lives. This was a fantastic turn out!

Please hold the date for our next blood drive on Wednesday, April 18, 2012. Spread the news!!





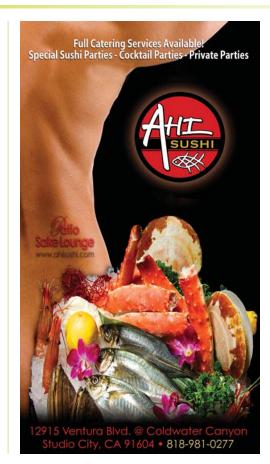
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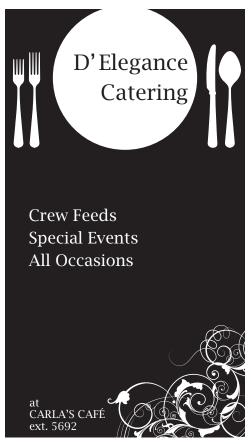


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