

About the Show



Veteran stage and television actor Eddie Carroll's one-man show... "JACK BENNY/LAUGHTER IN BLOOM", goes beyond mere imitation of Benny's familiar catch phrases and mannerisms.

It's a captivating evening of theater that has Jack Benny himself leading us on a fascinating tour of his rich and colorful life and illustrious career that spanned six decades...from vaudeville to films, from the Broadway Stage to radio and television, to concerts and personal appearances.

Carroll, who researched and penned the show himself, spent months preparing for the role and perfecting every facet and nuance of Benny's persona...from his walk, body language and gestures, to his voice, timing and delivery. "I didn't want to just imitate Benny or do an impression", says Carroll. "An impression is basically a caricature with overly exaggerated vocal traits and gestures. My goal as an actor was to re-create Benny's honest reality and the true humanity of the man." As a result, Carroll's performance is no stand-up comedy act or routine, but an award winning, Broadway-quality theatrical presentation that is in the same class as Hal Hollbrook's "Mark Twain", James Whitmore's "Will Rogers", Robert Morse's "Tru", and Frank Gorshin's production of "Say Goodnight Gracie".

As one critic wrote... "Carroll doesn't just do Benny... He IS BENNY". Before your eyes he truly becomes the beloved comedian, capturing his endearing nature, dwelling in his spirit, as well as his shadow."

The show opens with a short film

of some of Benny's funniest TV moments and ends with a freeze-frame of Benny in his typical pose. As the image slowly fades to the strains of "Love In Bloom", Carroll is illuminated on stage left, in the same pose we have just seen on the screen. By the time Carroll takes center stage, the audience has made the transition that Jack Benny is truly there in person. For the next hour and forty minutes, the audience is transported on a nostalgic journey as they learn of Benny's childhood as Benjamin Kubelsky growing up in Waukegan, IL...his personal struggles and failures, and eventual success in Vaudeville and meteoric rise in radio and television. He also shares insights into his personal life and hilarious anecdotes of cast-mates and other stars that fill the theater with heart, warmth, great memories and wall-to-wall laughter.

Carroll, (who's diverse career spans four decades in the theater, a television series, countless TV shows and the voice of Jiminy Cricket since 1973) has been performing "Jack Benny / Laughter In Bloom" for



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more than a decade and continues to draw sell-out performances where ever it plays. As Carroll says, "Nothing has given me as much pleasure as doing this show. I feel privileged to carry on Benny's legacy with respect and dignity and to continue keeping his image alive."

Jack Benny was more than a show business legend. He became an American Institution and enjoyed more audience identification than any other entertainer. Even today his classic trademarks are still recognized and known to millions. With his incomparable approach to comedy, no one could steal his material or copy his style or timing. He was a class act who stood alone and was respected and revered by his peers. In a recent poll, he was voted as America's most loved comedian and one of the top five entertainers of all time.

When a man can leave as much of himself as Jack left us, then he can never truly be gone. He simply becomes... immortal.