

TRIVIAL, ETIC!

Identify movies' first Monster?

By Steven Alan McGraw

Questions:

1. True or False, Boris Karloff was the first actor to portray Frankenstein's Monster.
2. In 1942's *The Fleet's In*, the sailors enjoy their leave in what American city? (Bonus: This movie was a remake of a 1936 film and redone once more in 1951. Name both versions and the comedy team which starred in the '51 film.)
3. Julie Andrews made her film debut in what movie? (Bonus: Name the film in which Andrews was directed by Alfred Hitchcock and her co-star in the work.)
4. Identify the three performers who constitute the entire cast of 1959's *The World, the Flesh and the Devil*.
5. Who turned down the title role in Ben-Hur before Charlton Heston accepted the part?

Answers:

1. False. Charles Egle played the first creature in Thomas Edison's 1910 film.
2. The movie took place in San Francisco. The earlier version was called *Lady Be Good*. The later one, starring Martin and Jerry Lewis, was called *My Popcorn*.
3. Mary Pickford was Andrews' first film. She worked under Hitchcock in *Torn Curtain* with Paul Newman.
4. Harry Belafonte, Inger Stevens and Mel Ferrer.
5. Hurt Lancaster.



David Suchet plays detective Hercule Poirot in Thursday's episode of *Mystery* on PBS.

Ducommun uncommon Canadian, businessman

By Suzanne Gill

Jokester Rick Ducommun is certainly more brash than the usual run of Canadians, those orderly, law-abiding souls at the top of the continent. Perhaps that's what drove him south at the age of 15. As to his routines, he's willing to say whatever the audience will bear — from cleaned-up *Tonight Show* fare to the scatological stuff of an HBO special.

Ducommun's nonchalance is owing in part to the fact that he hasn't given up his day job, which finds him at the head of a skateboard manufacturing firm. His repartee with customers led several friends to encourage him to step out on stage. That experience led to parts in movies from *The 'burbs* to *Encino Man*. His second HBO special, *Rick Ducommun: Hit and Run*, debuts Saturday, July 18.

A collector of vintage autos, Ducommun emerges from a wrecked sedan at the beginning of the show. Though it looks like the car was deliberately wrecked for the occasion, Ducommun insists it's just a salvage-yard heap with a shiny new paint job.

Once on his feet, the comedian takes on subject matter from the sex lives of presidents to the deranged mind of serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer. Unafraid to make light of such serious topics, Ducommun believes comedy clubs will be remembered as the last place where civilized people could congregate to laugh in the bleakest of times.

On Monday, July 13, The Discovery Channel revisits the *East of America's Classic Ballparks*. This program takes a retrospective look at the early days of the sport with a profile of 19th-century major league ballparks still standing. Over on ESPN, a same-day tape of the

Upper Deck Old-Timers Game is followed by live coverage of Major League Baseball's 1992 All-Star Game, with Chris Berman as host of the festivities on the eve of the All-Star Game. And HBO debuts *When It Was a Game II*, the sequel to its acclaimed tribute to baseball's golden age. In addition to rare footage and interviews with Hall of Famers, celebrities such as Jason Robards contribute readings.

Tuesday, July 14, is the big day, however. First journey through baseball's illustrious past on The Discovery Channel with *The Glory of Their Times*. Written, produced and directed by Bud Greenspan, the official filmmaker of the Olympics, this documentary of America's pastime between the years of 1890 and 1916 recalls the heyday of diamond heroes such as Ty Cobb, Honus Wagner, Jim Thorpe and Babe Ruth. Immediately following on CBS is the All-Star Game, live from San Diego, Calif.



Monday on CBS's *Murphy Brown*, Frank (Joe Regalbuto) goes crazy when he wins an award.

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