

The Library of Proctor

"Loyalty to a petrified opinion never yet broke a chain or freed a human soul." ~ Mark Twain

On September 28, not only am I presenting **The History of the Art of Radio** with my dear and not-yet-dead partner, **David Ossman**, on the stage of the Coolidge Theater at the **Library of Congress** representing **The Firesign Theatre or What's Left of It**, but it also marks the release date on **AMAZON** for my long-anticipated autobiography: **Where's My Fortune Cookie?**, co-authored by **Brad Schreiber**, who has penned comic tomes like *What Are You Laughing At?* and *Stop the Show!*, serious pieces like *Death in Paradise: the history of the LA Coroner*, and historical studies like *Becoming Jimi Hendrix*, inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame library, and lately, the award-winning *Revolution's End*.



GOOD FORTUNE
Andy Thomas, Phil, Jeff Abraham,
and Brad Schreiber

Aided by our longtime Firesign publicist, **JEFF ABRAHAM**, at Jonas PR, I will be promoting *Cookie* with various hosts like **Kevin Pollock** and **Phil Hendrie** in LA and **John Fugelsong** on his "Tell Me Everything" Sirius/XM TV show in New York and even on "Coast to Coast" in October.

"What an astonishing thing a book is. One glance at it and you're inside the mind of another person, maybe somebody dead for thousands of years. Proof that humans are capable of working magic." ~ Carl Sagan

SOUND FAMILIAR?

"How fortunate for governments that the people they administer don't think. All propaganda must be popular and must accommodate itself to the comprehension of the least intelligent of those whom it seeks to reach.

"Make the lie big, make it simple, keep saying it, and eventually they will believe it." So wrote **Adolf Hitler**.

THROUGHOUT THE 'PLANET,' CLICKING **DARK RED TYPE** OPENS A RELATED INTERNET LINK.

WHERE'S MY FORTUNE COOKIE?



我的傻超现实主义的故事

(My Psychic, Psurrealistic Pstory)

Firesign Theatre's Phil Proctor
and Brad Schreiber

"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power." ~ Abraham Lincoln

OH, NOW YOU TELL ME

A rat can last longer without water than a camel. Bats always turn left when exiting a cave. The original name for butterfly was flutterby. If one places a tiny amount of liquor on a scorpion, it will instantly go mad and sting itself to death. A female ferret will die if it goes into heat and cannot find a mate.

Your stomach needs to produce a new layer of mucus every two weeks or it will digest itself. Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying. It takes more calories to eat and digest a piece of celery than the celery has to begin with. The glue on Israeli postage is certified kosher.

In a game of chess, the number of possible ways of playing the first four moves per side is 318,979,564,000. An old law in Bellingham, Washington, made it illegal for a woman to take more than three steps backwards while dancing. A 2X4 is really 1-1/2" by 3-1/2". On average, 12 newborns will be given to the wrong parents daily...

Because metal was scarce, the Oscars given out during WW2 were made of wood. During the chariot scene in *Ben Hur*, a small red car can be seen in the distance, and **Heston's** wearing a watch. **Bruce Lee** was so fast that they had to s-l-o-w the film down so you could see his moves. The first CD pressed in the US was **Bruce Springsteen's** "Born in the USA." **Charlie Chaplin** once won third prize in a Charlie Chaplin look-alike contest.

There are no words in the dictionary that rhyme with orange, purple, and silver. Sherlock Holmes NEVER said, "Elementary, my dear Watson." *The Guinness Book of Records* holds the record for being the book most often stolen from public libraries. And astronauts are not allowed to eat beans before they go into space, because passing wind in a spacesuit damages them.

"Prejudices are rarely overcome by argument; not being founded in reason, they cannot be destroyed by logic."
~ **Tryon Edwards**

THE NIGHT WITCHES

They flew under the cover of darkness in bare-bones plywood biplanes. They braved bullets and frostbite in the air, while battling skepticism and sexual harassment on the ground. They were feared and hated so much by the Nazis that any German airman who downed one was automatically awarded the Iron Cross. All told, the all-female 588th Night Bomber Regiment dropped more than 23,000 tons of bombs on Nazi targets. In doing so, became a crucial Soviet asset in winning World War II. The Germans nicknamed them the **Nachthexen**, or



"night witches," because the whooshing noise their wooden planes made resembled that of a sweeping broom."

There were 12 commandments the Night Witches followed. The first was "be proud you are a woman." Killing Germans was their job, but in their downtime the heroic flyers still did needlework, patchwork, decorated their planes, and danced. They even put the pencils they used for navigation into double duty as eyeliner.



Altogether these daredevil heroines flew more than 30,000 missions, and despite being the most highly decorated unit in the Soviet Air Force, they were excluded from the victory-day parade in Moscow, because it was decided their planes were too slow. **READ MORE**

■ **CONTINUED**

"We hang the petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office." ~ **Aesop**



CRACKING WISE
A touch of Papal physical comedy.

JOY TO THE WORLD

The Pope leaned towards **Mr. Trump** and said, "Do you know that with one little wave of my hand I can make every person in this crowd go wild with joy?"

"This joy will not be a momentary display, like that of your followers, but go deep into their hearts and for the rest of their lives whenever they speak of this day, they will rejoice!"

Trump replied, "I seriously doubt that. With one little wave of your hand!? Really? Show me!"

So the Pope slapped him...

"Politicians are not born; they are excreted."
~ **Cicero**

PIG OUT

A farmer had five female pigs and as times were hard, he decided to sell them at the county fair. There he met a fellow farmer who also owned five male pigs, and they decided to mate the pigs and split everything 50/50, but since they lived 60 miles apart, they decided to drive 30 miles each and find a field in which the pigs could mate.

The first morning, the farmer with the females got up

at 5 a.m., loaded them into the family station wagon – the only car he had -- and drove the 30 miles to the field. Then, while the pigs were mating, he asked his partner, "How will I know if they're pregnant?" The other replied, "If they're lying in the grass tomorrow morning, they're pregnant, but if they're lying in the mud, they're not."

The next morning the pigs were rolling in the mud, so he hosed them off, loaded them into the family station wagon and proceeded to try again.

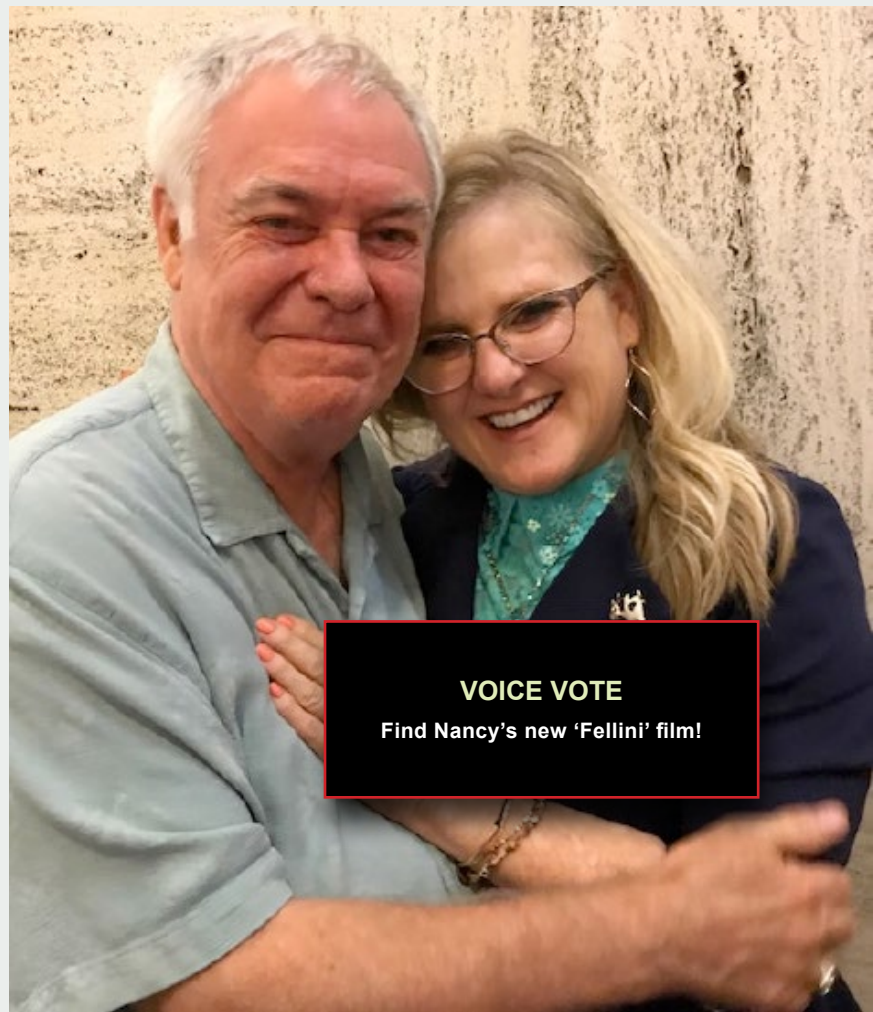
This continued each morning for more than a week and both farmers were worn out, and one morning, he was too tired to get out of bed. He called his wife, "Honey, please look outside and tell me whether the pigs are in the mud or in the grass."

"Neither," yelled his wife, "they're in the station wagon. And one of them is honking the horn."

"Leave the statues up; give the pigeons more food. Let nature take its course." ~ **Bob Wicks**, LA Times letters

IN SEARCH OF NANCY

Back in 1985, an adventurous young girl in Ohio named **Nancy Cartwright** went on a crazed quest to Italy to find the great director, **Federico Fellini**, whose films had infatuated her young mind. By 1995, she had become famous as the voice of Bart Simpson on



VOICE VOTE
Find Nancy's new 'Fellini' film!

the hit TV series, had borne two children and decided to represent her adventure as a one-woman show.

Fast-forward another 20 years or so, and she has now made it into a magical movie that I here declare is my month's Planet Pick! ... **IN SEARCH OF FELLINI**

"You get ideas from daydreaming. You get ideas from being bored. You get ideas all the time. The only difference between writers and other people is we notice when we're doing it." ~ Neil Gaiman



COOKING UP 'CANDIDE'

Max Adrian, Louis Edmonds, Barbara Cook and Robert Rounseville in the original 1956 production.

A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

I first saw the late great **Barbara Cook** on Broadway as the saucy Cunegonde in **Leonard Bernstein's Candide**, and later as an innocent Amish girl in *Plain and Fancy* before appearing as Marion, the librarian, opposite **Robert Preston** in *The Music Man* and then the letter-writing lead in *She Loves Me*.

Never formally trained, "I always just sang," she said. "I think I breathed and I sang, [and] of course, I think I've gotten better at it. I still think it's a work in progress. Seriously, as the years go by, I have more and more courage to go deeper and deeper and deeper."

Before her death at 90, after a long and successful career in cabaret, she articulated her creative philosophy in three words: "You are enough! You are always enough. You don't

ever have to pretend to be anything other than what you are. All you need do is deeply embrace who you are, and you'll be fine. In life, aren't you drawn to the more authentic people? Of course; you're not drawn to phonies."

I totally agree and am honored to have known her.

"Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony." ~ **Mahatma Gandhi**

BLACKOUT

Ramarkumar Jones wrote a touching and relevant remembrance of **Dick Gregory's** influence in the *LA Times*, that is as powerful as any I could hope to compose:

"Dick Gregory embodied the rebellious spirit of the 1960s. He kept that spirit alive long after so many of us had returned to the boring life of middle-Americans during the Reagan and Bush years..."

"Gregory's adamant and unending opposition to the Vietnam War was rooted in his obvious love and concern for humanity. No other social rebel could express his concern with such clever logic and both dead seriousness and irreverent humor as Gregory. This country badly needed him, and we were lucky to have him for so long."

"I never learned hate at home, or shame. I had to go to school for that." ~ **Dick Gregory**

OUR LATEST LOSSES

"**J**ay Thomas was one of the funniest and kindest men I have had the honor to call both client and friend for 25 years," said his publicist. Before landing recurring roles on "Cheers" and "Murphy Brown," he was the drive-time personality on Power 106 Radio



JAY THOMAS

1948-2018
(with Dave)

HARRY DEAN

1948-2018



in the L.A. market, and that's when we played together, introducing me as an Italian singer named **Vinnie Goomba**, cutting an early rap record parody called "Rappa Dis" for Lorie Records.

Born July 12, 1948 as Thomas Terrell in Kermit, Texas, he was raised in New Orleans, where he learned to avoid the usual temptations when relocating to Hollywood, since he "Pretty much got it all out of my system back home."

After playing Eddie LeBac, the former-hockey-player husband of barmaid Carla on "Cheers," he re-appeared as tabloid show host Jerry Gold on "Murphy Brown" winning Emmys

for both roles.

And his annual appearances with **David Letterman** helped to endear him to a national audience of goofballs like me.

But then we had to say farewell as well to **Harry Dean Stanton**, whom I knew mainly off-screen and always found approachable, lovable and bright in mind and spirit.

Vincent Canby wrote in *The New York Times* that his "mysterious gift" was "to

be able to make everything he does seem immediately authentic' and **Roger Ebert** once wrote that his presence in a movie meant it could not be "altogether bad." Summing up his adult life, Harry said, "To put it mildly, I was just a very late bloomer."

You can see him now starring in *Lucky*, and we are all lucky to have known him. **NEW YORK TIMES OBIT**

"Acting is my connection to the community, with the world at large. I hope what I do benefits the community without being moralizing." ~ **Harry Dean Stanton**

THE TIN MAN LIVES!!

I'm delighted to say that after 74 days at Cedars Sinai, my "Boomers" buddy, **Jamie Alcroft**, has finally had a successful heart and liver transplant and will be back on the bench when totally healed. What a miracle. Bless

you, Jamie, and your whole wonderful family, and welcome to your new life!

**HEART ART BY
ALYSSE ALCROFT**



"I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious." ~ **Albert Einstein**

LAUNCH

Thanks to this orbit's Planeteers: **Victor Kopcewich, Kenneth Wilhite, Jr., Joan Allemand, Allen Newcomb, Phil Marshall**, who gave me such a wonderful role in *F.S. Key: After the Song*,

now on selected PBS stations, and Curator of Recorded Sound **Matthew Barton**, who arranged for **Dave Ossman** and me to appear in a sold-out show at the Coolidge Theater in the Library of Congress on September 28 at 7:30 in Washington, D.C. We will drain the swamp!.

"The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything." ~ **Albert Einstein**

PLANETCLICK

CLICK WORDS TO OPEN

LUNCH

MAGIC

SHITS

WOW

SCIENCE

"All that you are is the result of all that you have thought." ~ **Buddha**

FIRESIGN • BOOMERS