

Planet 83 and me

PLANET PROCTOR ■ JULY 2023

"The art of love is largely the art of persistence." ~ Nora Ephron

Late Broken News!

We're happy to report that my darling wife, Melinda is recovering nicely from her corrective kneecap surgery and is doing well with her visiting Physical Therapist and the remote help of our longtime trainer, **Allison Barenbrug**. Thanks to **Charles Moed** for his continued support, and to you all for your well wishes and visits.

And Attention, Seekers:
I will be a startling 83 on July 28

Hippy Burpday to Me!



"It's you versus you in everything you do." ~ WNBA star, Sabrina Ionescu

Indian summer

FALL WAS UPON A REMOTE RESERVATION when the Native American tribe asked their new Chief what the coming winter was going to be like. The modern-day Chief had never been taught the secrets of the ancients. When he looked at the sky, he couldn't tell what the winter was going to be like. Better safe than sorry, he said to himself and told his tribe that the winter was indeed expected to be cold and that the members of the village should stock up on firewood to be prepared.

After several days, our modern Chief got an idea. He went to the phone booth, called the National Weather Service and asked, "Is the coming winter going to be cold?" "It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold," the meteorologist at the weather service responded. So the Chief went back to his people and told them to collect even more firewood in order to be prepared.

A week later he called the National Weather Service again. "Does it still look like it is going to be a very cold winter?" "Yes," the man at National Weather Service again replied, "It's going to be a very cold winter." The Chief again went back to his people and ordered them to collect every scrap of firewood they could find.

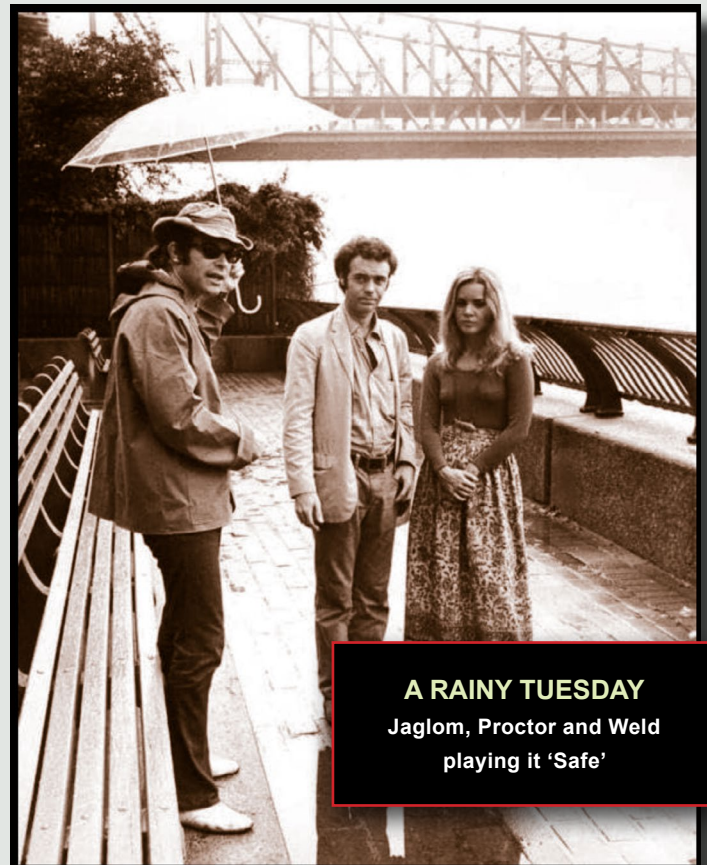


Two weeks later, the Chief called the National Weather Service again. "Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?" "Absolutely," the man replied. "It's looking more and more like it is going to be one of the coldest winters ever."

"How can you be so sure?" the Chief asked. The weatherman replied, "the Native Americans are collecting firewood like crazy."

"Somehow we've weathered and witnessed / A nation that isn't broken, but simply unfinished."

~ Amanda Gorman



A RAINY TUESDAY
Jaglom, Proctor and Weld
playing it 'Safe'

Film Proctor

THE LAST RADIO SHOW BEFORE SUMMER reruns of **Phil and Ted's Sexy Boomer Show** featured a rare return appearance by my longtime friend, director/auteur **Henry Jaglom**, who shared hilarious tales of his longtime relationship with the legendary **Orson Welles** (pictured, below), as presented by recordings from his "Lunches with Orson," as transcribed by **Peter Biskind**.

I had the distinct joy of watching Orson playing a magical Rabbi in Manhattan's Central Park during



the filming of Henry's debut film, **A Safe Place**, also starring the ethereal **Tuesday Weld**, the mischievous **Jack Nicholson** and introducing a handsome young whippersnapper, (whose screen presence was once described by French director **Roger Vadim** as having "a presence on screen, like **Marilyn Monroe**."

Henry and I became friends through

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a mutual infatuation with my date, the incomparable **Karen Black**, at Downey's Steakhouse, where the likes of **Shelly Winters** and **Chris Jones**, and many up-and-coming Broadway luminaries gathered after our shows.

One thing led to another, as it was wont to do in the sexy sixties, and before long, Henry cast me and Karen in his play at the Actor's Playwright's Studio called, at the time, **The Snowball Tree** after the Russian folksong "Kalinka," which I sang on tour von 1959 in the USSR with the **Yale Russian Chorus**.

Also in that cast was **Bonnie Bedelia**, **Charlie Dierkop** and Henry's comic compadre, **Richard Pryor**. Later, I got to act in my first major movie part in his screen adaption, **A Safe Place**, where I basically learned how to play a character in a film. The simple fact is, you must BECOME that person, and shaking it off is much more challenging than playing a role on stage.

I'll write some more about illusion and reality. It's a sad story...

*"It's not the notes you play, it's the notes
you don't play." ~ Miles Davis*

The ugly ducklings

THREE GUYS DIE TOGETHER IN AN ACCIDENT and go to heaven. When they get there, St. Peter says, "We only have one rule here in heaven: Don't step on the ducks!" So they enter heaven, and sure enough, there are ducks all over the place. It is almost impossible not to step on a duck, and although they try their best to avoid them, the first guy accidentally steps on one.

Along comes St. Peter with the ugliest woman he has ever seen. St. Peter chains them together and says: "Your punishment for stepping on a duck is to spend eternity chained to the ugly woman!"

The next day, the second guy steps accidentally on a duck, and along comes St. Peter, who doesn't miss a thing, and with him is another extremely ugly woman. He chains them together with the same admonishment as for the first guy. The third guy has observed all this and not wanting to be chained for all eternity to an ugly woman, is very, VERY careful where he steps.

He manages to go months without stepping on any ducks, but one day St. Peter comes up to him with the most gorgeous woman he has ever laid eyes on: a very tall, tan, curvaceous, sexy blond. St. Peter chains them together without saying a word.

The guy remarks, "I wonder what I did to deserve being chained to you for all of eternity?" She says, "I don't know

about you, but I stepped on a duck!"

*"If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. Then quit.
No use being a damn fool about it. ~ WC Fields*



Not so weird science

WE ALL KNOW NOW THAT WE'RE EXPERIENCING the hottest days ever recorded in human history, yet after over a month in the Amazon jungle, four indigenous children who somehow survived a deadly plane crash, managed to stay alive because they had been instructed by their elders to KNOW how to live off the jungle.

Meanwhile, in the waters off the Gulf of Gibraltar, fishermen's boats are being destroyed and disabled by organized pods of whales – and they're not white~

And then, Japanese airlines are offering FREE clothes sent to the passenger's hotels, in order to lighten the load and limit their need for fossil fuels.

Am I a fool to believe all this is really happening?

*"Success didn't spoil me; I've always been insufferable."
~ Fran Lebowitz*

No pain no gain

A Planeteer penned a letter home:

'Dear folks, I feel miserable because I have to keep writing for money. I feel ashamed and unhappy. I have to ask for another hundred, but every cell in my body rebels. I beg on bended knee that you forgive me. Your son, Marvin

P.S. I felt so terrible I ran after the mailman who picked this up at the box at the corner. I wanted to take this letter and burn it. I prayed to God that I could get it back, but I was too late.'

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A few days later, Marv received a letter from his father: 'Dear Son, Good news! Your prayers were answered. Your letter never came!'

"To get back one's youth one has merely to repeat one's follies." ~ Oscar Wilde

A letter from Blackie

MY CLASS AND DORM MATE AT RIVERDALE Country School in the Bronx, now lives most of his life in Germany, with his actress wife, Jutta. We often communicate online at the RCS alumni site, but here is a personal message I feel obliged to share.

And by the way, the Armenian name Sevan contains the word for "black", hence his nickname...

"My Dears, I have read about darling Melinda's mishap; terrible! I am so sorry that she is having to go through this suffering. Still, the knowledge that the pain is finite and that the damage is temporary (not to mention that she has

the ministrations of an infinitely loving partner/attendant/lover) shall carry her through the challenges of the moment,

"I trust, with her characteristic good humor and unassailable optimism.

We have entered the realm where we can expect frequent messages from the outer regions reminding us of the eventual dissolution of

the empire. Still, for the moment, we are in some aspect of our youthful glory, safely contained within this still handsome cloth and, if we believe it, mistress and master of all we can see.

"Having said that, I must admit that I am not above doubt. I must regularly remind myself not to allow the future, to cast a shadow over the present. As I say, messages of aches and pains, arrive daily, from the four corners of the body. The empire is under siege, they say. But here and now, we are suspended in time. The Smiles of a Summer Night, the embrace of children, the hand of our beloved friends, the faithful presence of our lovers, prevail.

Yes, yes, yes, I must remind myself that each day

is a blessed event, a glorious rebirth, limited only by my imagination. My plan it to take full advantage of it, immediately after I take my nap.

Hug and kisses to you my dears, Sevan.

"Seriousness - and morality and indeed, sanity - cannot exist without humor." ~ Martin Amis

Still crazy after all these years

Dennis Gwynne writes:

"Hey Phil, I recently purchased a 1972 Rolling Stone mag to look up an old article that it had, and low and behold, there's a letter to the Editor in there from you scolding the record reviewer beca by pointing out that Not Insane was the 'latest 'LP from guys, not the 'last.' done in your usual humorous fashion. At any rate, it was great bonus."

*"The love of liberty is the love of others; the love of power is the love of ourselves."
~ William Hazlitt*

Our summer break

PHIL AND TED ARE REPLAYING A FEW OF the fascinating interviews we've done so far. Live on KPFK every Tuesday from 1-2. Here is the lineup, so DON'T TOUCH THAT DIAL:

Ian Ruskin, July 4: Phil and Ted ask Thomas Paine about what happened to common sense.

Nancy Cartwright, July 11: offers a fascinating, inside look at how "The Simpsons" is made, how it navigates controversy, and remains a hit in a "woke" society.

Roger Steffens, July 18: Roger takes us down a wild and trippy path through war-torn Vietnam and to Jamaica for an insider's look at how Reggae was born in 1968 and quickly overtook the world

Noel Blanc, July 25: Enjoy an inside look at the life of his dad, **Mel Blanc** and tales of Hollywood that you've never heard before.

Louise Palanker and **Fritz Coleman**, August 1: They host the MEDIA PATH PODCAST, a conversational show that looks at what has defined media and culture for the past half-century.

Carl Gottlieb, August 8: Carl is an actor, director, producer, screenwriter, and author whose books include the bestseller *Long Time Gone: The Autobiography of David Crosby*, and the acclaimed *Jaws Log*.

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INDIES

DRAGON DRONES

Phoebe Dorin: August 22: Tune in for amazing stories shared by the wonderfully funny Hollywood and Broadway veteran actress, singer, and writer. "What, and quit show business?"

Weird Al Yankovic: August 22: Al recently dropped his record label and is boldly heading into the uncharted mediascape. Find out what's next from the brilliant and inimitable Weird Al!

Lawrence Kubik: August 29: My neighbor, Larry, produced (and is shot dead) in **Zachariah**. written by The Firesign Theatre. and as an agent has represented **Sylvester Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jon Voight, Peter Fonda**, and dozens of other Hollywood stars. Get ready for some wild stories about Hollywood's last days of shooting from the hip.

Henry Jaglom: September 5: Also a longtime friend, he's written and directed 21 films, including *A Safe Place*, introducing Phil Proctor; and has worked with Hollywood's lesser stars like **Lee Grant, Maximillian Schell, Dennis Hopper, Roddy McDowell, Vanessa Redgrave, Faye Dunaway**, and **David Duchovny**.

Troy Evans, September 12: Ted and guest co-host, MC Gainey welcome actor, master storyteller, and funnyman, Troy Evans, who has appeared in countless movies and television roles as Frank Martin in "ER" and more recently as Detective Johnson (Barrel) in "Bosch."

And we'll be back, so Stay Tuned...

"We may have democracy or we may have wealth in the hands of the few, but we cannot have both." ~ **Louis Brandeis**

And live theatre too

OUR BELOVED ANTAEUS COMPANY IN Glendale is up to its new tricks again, presenting a limited run – so run to get tickets! – of good ole **Billy Shakespeare's** *The Tempest*. I promise you, it's an immersive evening of song and dance telling the classic tale as you've never seen it before! My friend, now a critic, **Michael Sheehan** has written a lovely review for ONSTAGE LOS ANGELES available **HERE**

"Director Nike Doukas splashes the Antaeus stage with the energy of a perfect storm. Read the play, then!! Come prepared to sing. The magic island doesn't exactly bubble out of the roiling sea, but the bottom line is that it is a 'must see.' " Go to www.ANTAEUS.ORG now!

"We are such stuff as dreams are made on, and our little life is rounded with a sleep." ~ **W. Shakespeare**

Senders

Ben Ohmart, Kent McCaman, Richard Fish, Cat Ishikawa, Larry Kubik and Leslie for strawberry shortcake on July 4th! And, **The Week** for their Wit and Wisdom, my trousers to show my respect...

And farewell but not goodbye to our dear nextdoor neighbors, **Marc** and **Lynne Weingarten**, who are moving to Sherman Oaks. They have been the sweetest people in the world to us, and we will especially miss our playful banter when Marc is walking their two silly little chihuahuas, **Tex**, the vicious one, and **Nicco**, the loving fuzzy one.

AND HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO **KRISTIN** AND **GEOFF!**

"Places into people just as much as people move into places." ~ **Nicola Dinon**

TEMPESTUOUS
Peter Van Norden
is Prospero at Antaeus.

"The day you die is just like any other, but shorter." ~ **Samuel Beckett**

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