

'Gilligan' identity remains with Denver

By Kent Warneke

Bob Denver has done many things in his illustrious acting career, appeared on stage at dinner theatres and community playhouses, starred in television series and movies and has also lent his voice to Saturday morning cartoons.

But for a good portion of today's population, Bob Denver is Gilligan, the starring role in the TV series *Gilligan's Island*, a humorous character of inebriating ineptitude stranded on a South Sea island.

However, going past his public appearance, Bob Denver is also a person with an ever-present, innocent sense of humor—very easy to talk with and down-to-earth. Combined with his wife of two years, Dreama Peery, they make a couple that any dinner theatre or community playhouse would be thankful to have grace their steps.

The Denvers were in Lincoln this last

week to star in the Lincoln Community Playhouse's production of *The Button* along with Lincolmites Don O'Neill and Shelley Lahman.

Born in New Rochelle, N.Y., Denver began studying drama in his sophomore year at Loyola University in Los Angeles. After graduating from college and working as a teacher and in the postal service, he made a screen test for the Dobie Gillis show which he was picked to play the perverbal beatnik, Maynard C. Krebs. So began the acting career for Denver.

"Dobie Gillis ran for four years and then I got the part in *Gilligan's Island* which ran for three years," Denver said, "Immediately after that I was in a series called *The Good Guys* where I played a guy named Rufus Sutterworth, but that show didn't go anywhere, it was like people didn't even know it existed."

'Gilligan of the West'

"I also did a TV show called *Dusty's Trail* with Forrest Tucker, a Gilligan of the west type of show, that was really hard work," Denver said, "We would do two shows a week and the horses and the wagons and everything would continually get in the way and after 12 episodes, the whole cast and crew was just too tired to move."

"*Dusty's Trail* was then made into a movie for Denver by combining four of the TV episodes, which was unique in its structure.

set up bars and at night it would look just like moonlight shining over the sand," Denver said.

A sequel was made to the original *Gilligan's Island* series recently where Gilligan and the rest of the castaways were rescued, but then were returned to the island after finding out that civilization wasn't all it was cracked up to be.

"The people at NBC kept telling us year after year that this would be the year that they would do the sequel since we had to quit production without showing what finally happened to us," Denver said, "Well, finally the sequel was made and it got great ratings."

"It looks like now there's a good possibility for a new one-hour series on NBC with the original cast of *Gilligan's Island*. We would be rescued from the island and all go to Hawaii where the Howells would build a hotel in the shape of the huts and we lived on the island and we would all work with him," Denver said.

"Even if that doesn't work out, Dreama and I will probably do a TV series pilot in the fall, there's a lot of good, funny material around," Denver said. "We recently got through with a *Love Beat* two-hour episode that was more of a vacation than work."

"For the two-hour episode, they took us on an eleven-day cruise to Acapulco and we couldn't even call it working," Denver said. "When the cruise was over, we told the producers that when the next two-hour episode came along, we'd be more than ready to take part."

Met on stage

Dreama Peery has been an actress for 10 years and it was on a stage that the two met.

"We had both been on the road for quiet a few years and it's a wonder we didn't run into each other before that," Peery said. "Now we always work together and it works out great."

"In fact probably our favorite play, *The Owl and the Pussycat* is one in which it's just the two of us performing, but it's also one of the most demanding plays," Peery said.

Denver and Peery have recently given up any sign of a permanent address and most of their possessions in favor of being on the road in the theatre.

"Homes are really a headache because with our schedules we wouldn't be able to live there very much, so we'd end up renting out, which is a hassle," Denver said. "We just like a simple life style where we can work in theatres and then be able to take time off."

"Most of our work now is in dinner theatres on six-week engagements and then when that's up we can either work some place else or take a vacation," Denver said.

"And we like working in theatres. We can do 35 or 40 performances and the play will be different every night even through the final performance and we take enough breaks in engagements to avoid plays getting repetitious," Denver said. "And we like working with people right in front of you."



Bob Denver

Photo by Bob Pearson

"Instead of your regular movie building up from the beginning up until the end, this was like four complete movies. One episode would get over with and the producer would stick in some film of the wagon's going over a hill and then we'd begin another whole new show," Denver said.

"I went to see the movie with about 500 kids, it really was a lot of fun, and I enjoyed it," Denver said. "I also was part of 15 cartoons called the *Far Out Space Nuts* with monsters and the whole bit shown on Saturday mornings. I did that entirely for kids."

But *Gilligan's Island* is still the show that Denver is recognized for, a show that can probably be seen more of ten now than when it was a new series back in 1963.

"My wife and I were in Charlotte, N.C. and seven different *Gilligan* shows on different stations were on in one afternoon between 3 and 6 p.m.," Denver said.

The cast and set of *Gilligan's Island* was a mixture of good friends and a lot of fun.

"*Gilligan's Island* was basically a lot of fun and I had a good time doing it. We always finished production on time and we had the same great crew from the beginning so everything went well," Denver said.

Great parties

"Besides, we had a great stage set-up with all the sand and huts, we had really great parties. In all the different huts we'd

daytime

Ad Lib

MORNING

- 5:30 1 WHAT'S NEW
- 6:00 2 NOT FOR WOMEN ONLY
- 6:30 3 PTL PROGRAM
- 7:00 4 VARIOUS PROGRAMMING
- 7:30 5 FARM REPORT (FRI.) Answer is Love (WED.)
- 8:15 6 CBS NEWS
- 8:30 7 UNO SCENE (WED.)
- 8:30 8 BOZO
- 9:00 9 COUNTRY DAY
- 9:00 10 SUNRISE SEMESTER
- 9:00 11 VARIOUS PROGRAMMING
- 9:45 12 A.M. WEATHER
- 7:00 13 ARCHIES
- 7:00 14 TODAY
- 8:00 15 GOOD MORNING AMERICA
- 9:00 16 CBS NEWS
- 9:00 17 MORNING SH
- 9:00 18 SESAME STREET
- 7:30 19 FLINTSTONES
- 8:00 20 POPEYE AND PORKY
- 8:00 21 POPEYE
- 9:00 22 CAPTAIN KANGAROO
- 9:00 23 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING (UNTIL 12:00)
- 8:30 24 OUR GANG
- 9:00 25 GROOVY GHOULIES
- 9:00 26 700 CLUB
- 9:00 27 CONVERSATIONS
- 9:00 28 ALL MY CHILDREN
- 9:00 29 CARD SHARKS
- 9:00 30 ALL IN THE FAMILY
- 9:00 31 PHIL DONAHUE SHOW

- 9:30 32 ROMPER ROOM
- 9:30 33 JEOPARDY
- 9:30 34 DECEMBER MAGAZINE (THUR.) Price is Right (EXC. THUR.)
- 10:00 35 BEWITCHED
- 10:00 36 HIGH ROLLERS
- 10:00 37 HAPPY DAYS
- 10:00 38 HAPPY DAYS (EXC. FRI.) Martha's Kitchen (FRI.)
- 10:00 39 FAMILY AFFAIR
- 10:30 40 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING (UNTIL 12:00)
- 10:30 41 RELIGIOUS PROGRAMMING
- 10:30 42 WHEEL OF FORTUNE
- 10:30 43 FAMILY FEUD
- 10:30 44 LOVE OF LIFE
- 10:30 45 MAYBERRY R.F.D.
- 11:00 46 MARCUS WELBY
- 11:00 47 AMERICA ALIVE
- 11:00 48 \$20,000 PYRAMID
- 11:00 49 YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS
- 11:00 50 LOVE AMERICAN STYLE
- 11:30 51 RYAN'S HOPE
- 11:30 52 SEARCH FOR TOMORROW
- 11:30 53 WHAT'S NEW
- AFTERNOON
- 12:00 54 ANDY GRIFFITH SHOW
- 12:00 55 11 NEWS
- 12:00 56 NOON SHOW
- 12:00 57 ALL MY CHILDREN
- 12:00 58 SESAME STREET
- 12:15 59 FARM ACTION

- 12:30 60 DICK VAN DYKE SHOW
- 12:30 61 DAYS OF OUR LIVES
- 12:30 62 CROSS WITS
- 12:30 63 AS THE WORLD TURNS
- 1:00 64 LUCY SHOW
- 1:00 65 ONE LIFE TO LIVE
- 1:00 66 MOVIE 'Count Three and Pray' (THUR.), 'It Happened To Jane' (FRI.), 'Boots Malone' (MON.), 'The Mountain Road' (TUE.), 'The Flying Missile' (WED.)
- 1:30 67 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING (UNTIL 3:30)
- 1:30 68 BEVERLY HILLBILLIES
- 1:30 69 DOCTORS
- 1:30 70 GUIDING LIGHT
- 2:00 71 PLEASE DON'T EAT THE DAISIES
- 2:00 72 ANOTHER WORLD
- 2:00 73 GENERAL HOSPITAL
- 2:00 74 MOVIE 'Man With The Golden Arm' (THUR.), 'Devil To Pay' (FRI.), 'The French Connection' (MON.), 'Along Came A Spider' (TUE.), 'The Princess And The Pirate' (WED.)
- 2:30 75 GOMER PYLE
- 2:30 76 M.A.S.H.
- 2:30 77 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING (UNTIL 3:30)
- 3:00 78 MICKEY MOUSE CLUB
- 3:00 79 GONG SHOW
- 3:00 80 EDGE OF NIGHT
- 3:00 81 HOLLYWOOD SQUARES
- 3:00 82 AFTERNOON PLAYHOUSE (THUR., FRI.) Match

- Game (MON., TUE., WED.)
- 3:00 83 SPIDERMAN
- 3:00 84 TOM AND JERRY
- 3:00 85 FLINTSTONES
- 3:00 86 ALL IN THE FAMILY
- 3:00 87 PHIL DONAHUE SHOW
- 3:00 88 I LOVE LUCY
- 3:00 89 MERV GRIFFIN (EXC. WED.) ABC After School Special (WED.)
- 3:00 90 MY KALAMITY KATE'S SHOW WAGON
- 4:00 91 ELECTRIC COMPANY
- 4:00 92 WOODY WOODPECKER
- 4:00 93 BEWITCHED
- 4:00 94 I DREAM OF JEANNIE (EXC. WED.) ABC After School Special (WED.)
- 4:00 95 DINAH
- 4:00 96 VARIOUS PROGRAMMING
- 4:00 97 MIKE DOUGLAS
- 4:00 98 MISTER ROGERS
- 4:30 99 GILLIGAN'S ISLAND
- 4:30 100 MY THREE SONS
- 4:30 101 BRADY BUNCH (EXC. WED.)
- 4:30 102 BIG VALLEY
- 4:30 103 LEAVE IT TO BEAVER
- 4:30 104 SESAME STREET
- 5:00 105 BATTLE OF THE PLANETS
- 5:00 106 NEWS
- 5:00 107 ABC NEWS
- 5:00 108 I LOVE LUCY
- 5:00 109 TERRYTOONS
- 5:00 110 ROOKIES
- 5:00 111 NBC NEWS
- 5:00 112 BEWITCHED
- 5:00 113 CBS NEWS
- 5:00 114 NEWS
- 5:00 115 MY THREE SONS

Entertainment Editor: Casey McCabe, Ad lib layout Editor: Liz Beard.

Ad lib is an entertainment supplement published by the Daily Nebraskan. Editor in Chief: Carla Engstrom. Advertising Manager: Denise Jordan. Production Manager: Kitty Policky. Business Manager: Jerri Haussler.

Unless covered by another copyright, material may be reprinted without permission if attributed to Ad lib, entertainment supplement to the Daily Nebraskan.

Ad lib is distributed Thursdays with the Daily Nebraskan.

MOVIE RATINGS

- **** Excellent (don't miss this one)
- *** Good (worth watching)
- ** Fair (has its moments)
- * Poor (disaster)