

THE 6TH ANNUAL "LEND ME AN EAR!"
A SIX-PACK TO GO! (A Six-Part Olio)
Show and Character Breakdown

VIC AND SADE: Sade Thinks Baseball Is Just a Game- During its 14-year run on radio, Vic and Sade became one of the most popular series of its kind, earning critical and popular success: according to Time, Vic and Sade had 7,000,000 devoted listeners in 1943. For the majority of its span on the air, Vic and Sade was heard in 15-minute episodes without a continuing storyline. The central characters, known as "radio's home folks," were accountant Victor Rodney Gook (Art Van Harvey), his wife Sade (Bernadine Flynn) and their adopted son Rush (Bill Idelson). The three lived on Virginia Avenue in "the small house halfway up in the next block." The program was presented with a low-key ease and naturalness, and Rhymer's humorous dialogue was delivered with a subtleness that made even the most outrageous events seem commonplace and normal. From 1938.

WHISPERING STREETS: Episode 1467- Whispering Streets is a romantic soap-opera serial with a special twist. The stories are told in a somewhat serial format with the next week's story using a minor character's point of view. It is a highly unusual format and quite enjoyable, especially trying to guess which minor character will be the major character in the next week. The show had multiple well-known hostesses/narrators throughout the show's run including Bette Davis, Cathy Lewis, Hope Winslow, Ann Seymour, and Gertrude Warner. The most dramatic narrator of the show's run is Bette Davis who begins each show with a "Hell-low" and ends with "Goohdd-bye." From 1958.

COMMAND PERFORMANCE: Dick Tracy in B Flat- Command Performance is a radio program that originally aired between 1942 and 1949. The program was broadcast on the Armed Forces Radio Network (AFRS) with a direct shortwave transmission to the troops overseas. It was not broadcast over domestic U.S. radio stations. Troops sent in requests for a particular performer or program to appear, and they also suggested unusual ideas for music and sketches on the program, such as Ann Miller tap dancing in military boots. One memorable program, a musical adaptation of Dick Tracy, was broadcast on February 15, 1945. Bing Crosby had the title role with Dinah Shore as Tess Truehart and Jimmy Durante as the Mole. The supporting cast included Judy Garland, Cass Daley, Frank Sinatra, Frank Morgan, Bob Hope, Harry von Zell, and Jerry Colonna.

THE BAKERS BROADCAST & JOE PENNER: The Ghost's Wheel-

Joe Penner (1904-1941), was a Hungarian-born American vaudeville, radio and film comedian. He was launched on his successful radio career by Rudy Vallée, appearances which led to his own Sunday evening half-hour, The Baker's Broadcast, which began on the Blue Network October 8, 1933. Penner was a zany comic, noted for his famed catchphrase, "Wanna buy a duck?", and his low hyuck-hyuck laugh. Penner's other memorable catchphrase, often triggered by someone else's double entendre remark, was, "You naaaasss-ty man!" He was voted radio's top comedian in 1934, but a 1935 dispute with the ad agency over the show's format resulted in Penner quitting The Baker's Broadcast on June 30, 1935. A year later, he returned with The Joe Penner Show which began airing October 4, 1936 on CBS, sponsored by Cocomalt. He was caricatured by Tex Avery and Fritz Freleng in the musical cartoon, "My Green Fedora", and several pictures starring the bumbling stooge Egghead, a predecessor of Elmer Fudd. "There is no deep social meaning in his comedy, no shades of subtlety -- just utter slapstick foolishness, delivered in an endearingly simpering style that's the closest thing the 1930s had to Pee-wee Herman." Penner was doomed to early decline by the sheer repetitiveness of his format, even though he remained very popular with children right up to the end of his radio career". (Elizabeth McLeod). Penner died of heart failure in Philadelphia, PA in 1941. This show is from 1934.

MR. AND MRS. NORTH: The Opera Murder- What began as a light comedy about a nice, normal professional couple living in Greenwich Village, New York City, turned into a mystery show the next season. That did the trick, and it became so popular it rivaled the big detective show, Mr. District Attorney, for ratings. It aired on CBS from 1942 to 1954. Alice Frost and Joseph Curtin originally played Pam and Jerry North. Later in the show's decade, Richard Denning and Barbara Britton did the roles. The Norths originally came from novels. The couple seems to always be getting involved in a crime not there own. Luckily, they have a good and honest crime counselor in Lt. Bill Weigand of homicide. Frank Lovejoy, who went on to Nightbeat, first played Weigand. Pam is really good at getting details about the situation that just seem to add up. Jerry, whose day job is a book publisher, is helpful and thorough in his own way. "The feminine half of the twosome was at least equal to the husband in solving cases that often baffled law-enforcement officers with years of training and practice -- except in reading clues. No explanation was given as to why a couple of misfits could be so successful in their preoccupation while the professionals thrashed about ineffectually." From 1950.

DIMENSION X: A Logic Named Joe- Dimension X was an NBC radio program broadcast on an unsponsored, sustaining basis from April 8, 1950 to September 29, 1951. The first 13 episodes were broadcast live, and the remainder were pre-recorded. Fred Wiehe and Edward King were the directors, and Norman Rose was heard as both announcer and narrator. Dimension X was not the first adult science fiction series on radio, but the acquisition of previously published stories immediately gave it a strong standing with the science fiction community, as did the choice of well established, respected writers in the field: Isaac Asimov, Robert Bloch, Ray Bradbury, Fredric Brown, Robert A. Heinlein, Murray Leinster, H. Beam Piper, Frank M. Robinson, Clifford D. Simak, William Tenn, Jack Vance, Kurt Vonnegut, Jack Williamson and Donald A. Wollheim. Ernest Kinoy and George Lefferts adapted most of the stories and also provided original scripts. In *Science Fiction Television* (2004), M. Keith Booker wrote: "It was not until the 1950s that science fiction radio really hit its stride, even as science fiction was beginning to appear on television as well. Radio programs such as Mutual's 2000 Plus and NBC's Dimension X were anthology series that offered a variety of exciting tales of future technology, with a special focus on space exploration (including alien invasion), though both series also often reflected contemporary anxieties about the dangers of technology. With a five-month hiatus from January 1951 to June 1951, the series spanned 17 months. All 50 episodes of the series survived and can be heard today. Later, NBC's X Minus One (1955-58) utilized many of the same actors and scripts. From 1950.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

ALL SCRIPTS HAVE ONE ANNOUNCER

VIC AND SADE- 2 Males, 1 Female

Director: Jon Hayden

VIC- Bill Tush

SADE- Details above

RUSH- Their adopted teenage son

WHISPERING STREETS- 1 Male, 5 Females

Director: Barry Stoltze

BETTE DAVIS- The narrator

VERONICA HALSTEAD- An old lady who was once a great actress

ERIC FILLIMORE- An old man, once a great actor

MRS. JENKINS- She keeps a boarding house

MILLY RAWDEN- Elderly, once a burlesque queen

WINIFRED SHELDON- Matron of a home for old actors and actresses

DICK TRACY IN B FLAT- 7 Males, 2 Females

Director: Doug Kaye

DICK TRACY – Bing Crosby

TESS TRUEHEART – Dinah Shore

FLATTOP – Bob Hope

SNOWFLAKE – Judy Garland

THE MOLE – Jimmy Durante

VITAMIN FLINTHEART – Frank Morgan, blustery

POLICE CHIEF – Jerry Colonna, wild eyed

SHAKY– Frank Sinatra as a villain

JUDGE HOOPER – A stodgy flummoxed gent. Harry Von Zell/
Announcer

NOTE: These characters may or may not have to be played with impersonations. Check with Mr. Kaye.

THE BAKERS BROADCAST & JOE PENNER- 3 Males, 1 Female
Director: Barry Stoltze

JOE PENNER- Barry Stoltze

RUDY VALLEE- Jon Hayden

OZZIE NELSON- Himself

HARRIET HILLIARD (NELSON)- Herself

MR. AND MRS. NORTH- 5 Males, 3 Females
Director: Doug Kaye

JERRY NORTH- Described above

PAM NORTH- Also described above

LT. BILL WEIGAND- Level-headed homicide boss

VICTOR STEPHANO- Opera singer fearing for his life

MRS. STEPHANO- Victor's wife who may be trying to murder him.
Intense, but worried. Slight accent.

GILBERT SPIRE- Victor's shady business manager

SALLY FORD- Victor's nervous secretary, accused of murder

NICK FORD- Sally's very protective brother

DIMENSION X- 10-11 Males, 5-6 Females

HOST

FRANK CALDWELL- Head serviceman for the Logics Company

BOSS- Over the Logics Company

KORLANOVITCH- Spineless rube

FREDDIE- Korlanovitch's evil ten-year-old son (Female voice)

LOGIC- The voice of all the Logics, extremely articulate, but sometimes betraying a human quality (Male or Female voice).

MIKE- Frank's co-worker

BUDDY- Frank's friend

CHARLIE- Frank's Irish friend

AGNES- The boss' "nervous" wife

BARTENDER- No nonsense, but sympathetic

DRUNK- Worried his wife will find him plastered

DRUNK'S WIFE- Out for bear

SERGEANT- From the local police

LAURINE- Dangerous but ditzy Southern Belle

GERT- Frank's wife. Suspicious and not sure what he's up to.