

MARLENA'S 50TH

'A Hysterical Perspective'

1948 - 1998



Written by *Rita Abrams & Marlena Weinstein*

PRODUCED BY MARLENA WEINSTEIN

DIRECTED BY MARLENA WEINSTEIN, RITA ABRAMS & COMPANY

***Dedicated to the memory of
Rose & Norman Weinstein
and Michael Clement Warner***

With Special Thanks To:

My Uncle Harold who made me a pair of stilts and a Knock Hockey Set which inspired me to become an entrepreneur . . . i.e. 'schmooser'

My Uncle Moe who always told me if you go to college an idiot, you come out an educated idiot . . . i.e. 'saychal'

My father, who taught me, if you can't get there going straight, go under it, go over it, go around it or go through it until you do . . . i.e. 'chutzipa'

My grandmother 'Bubby' who told me everything I ever had to know about men . . . i.e. to 'shtup' or not to 'shtup'

My mother who 'schlepped' me to the library, dancing lessons, piano and violin lessons, Girl Scout meetings, Sunday School, and diet counselors. She also sat up with me all night helping me with my homework so I could always get an "A" . . . i.e. 'go for it!'

And to the guy (whatever his name was) who left me waiting for him in the elevator – never to return – *So there!*

FOREWORD

50 years ago the physical potential of the human adventure seemed limitless. In retrospect, what was perceived as awesome now seems ludicrous.

One simple measure of the changes we have seen is in our vocabulary. A college dictionary prior to the 1950's does not contain such words as automation, antibiotics, ecosystem, Chicano, nursing home, or condominium. Zip code and jet lag were unheard of concepts. The word "gay" was defined as full of, inclined to, mirth; or bright colored.

Program was a noun, not a verb!

EVERYTHING changed in the mid 60's . . . Our generation became dedicated to a new form of music and other popular art that expressed a turning away from the American dream – material prosperity, successful career, happy marriage, and a house with a green lawn and a white picket fence. We desired new clothing — colorful, wild, casual — sometimes evoking the bygone world of British Edwardian extravagance, and sometimes that of the hobo. We looked with distrust at our elders (anyone over 30).

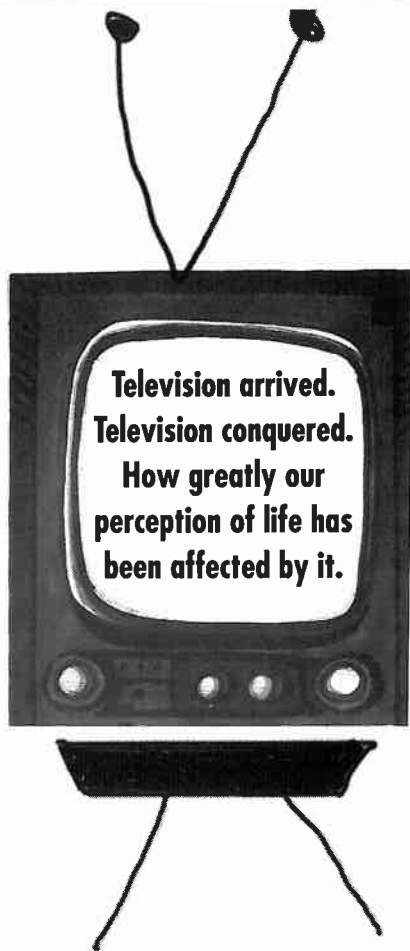
We turned on, tuned in and dropped out! Our 'movement' placed emphasis on kindness, affection, looking out for one another, caring for the natural environment, social justice, freedom of expression, tolerance, the fostering of creativity, and a peaceful coexistence.

The turbulent Nixon years saw men land on the moon and The Cold War beginning to thaw. We reexamined ourselves in the 70's in a struggle to renew the American dream. In the 80's, President Reagan started a conservative revolution introducing supply-side economics which trickled down a flow of debt that undermined our optimism and happiness.

The 90's have brought us into a revolution of electronic media and economic strength that has rekindled a passion for sharing information and ideas. Our spirits are lightened by our matured perspective of the events and experiences of our past.

Marlena's 50th will allow us to relive those memorable moments and to remember . . .

" . . . open our heads . . . let the pictures come – if we close all our eyes together, then we will see where we all come from . . . "



Who could forget ...

1950's

"21"
 Captain Kangaroo
 Davy Crockett
 The Cisco Kid
 Beat the Clock
 House Party
 Lassie
 Mitch Miller Show
 Superman
 Hallmark Hall of Fame
 Bob Hope Show
 Mc Hale's Navy
 Today Show
 Fury
 Gumby
 Queen for a Day
 Gunsmoke (ran 20 years)
 The \$64,000 Question
 Guiding Light
 Anne Southern Show
 Search for Tomorrow
 Ed Sullivan Show (23 years)
 Mr. Rogers
 Mickey Mouse Club
 Roy Rogers
 Kraft Theatre
 Playhouse 90
 Mr. Wizard (still airing)
 Truth or Consequences
 Meet the Press
 Dinah Shore Show
 Perry Como Show
 Lawrence Welch Show
 I Married Joan
 Mighty Mouse
 Merrie Melodies
 Rifleman
 American Bandstand
 Tarzan
 The Three Stooges
 Wild Bill Hickcock
 Love that Bob
 You Bet Your Life
 Milton Berle
 I Love Lucy
 The Honeymooners
 Dobie Gillis
 Milton Berle Show

Mr. Wizard
 Ozzie and Harriet
 Phil Silvers Show
 Father Knows Best
 The Real McCoys
 Gary Moore Show
 George Burns & Gracie Allen Show
 Leave it to Beaver
 December Bride
 Mr. Peepers
 Our Miss Brooks
 Make Room for Daddy
 Mama
 Your Show of Shows
 What's My Line
 Zorro
 The Lone Ranger
 Hopalong Cassidy
 Rin Tin-Tin
 Kukla, Fran and Ollie
 See It Now
 Dragnet
 Sky King
 Howdy Doody Show
 Steve Allen
 Jack Paar
 Bonanza (14 years)
 My Little Margie
 Oh Susannah
 Dennis Day Show
 Jack Benny Show
 The Life of Riley
 Surfside
 The Little Rascals
 Popeye
 Ernie Kovacs
 Sea Hunt
 Robin Hood
 Candid Camera
 Daniel Boone
 Death Valley Days
 Annie Oakley Show
 Sugarfoot
 Wagon Trail
 Rawhide
 Looney Tunes
 Casper The Friendly Ghost
 Felix The Cat
 Treasure Hunt

There was Eisenhower's surprising farewell address from the White House warning of the influence of the 'military industrial complex', there were the Nixon-Kennedy debates, seeing Elvis & The Beatles for the first time on *The Ed Sullivan Show*, the final episode of *The Fugitive*, the 10 long years of the Vietnam War, Watergate, the travels of Pope John Paul II, the sight of Neil Armstrong taking his giant step for mankind, the tragedy at Dallas, the final episode of the *Mary Tyler Moore* show, who actually shot J.R., the return of the hostages from Iran, the final episode of *Cheers*, the final episode of *Mash* in 1983 with 125 million viewers, the outrageous verdict of O.J. Simpson, the recent tragedy in Paris as we said good-bye to a Princess, and just recently, the final episode of *Seinfeld* - with 100 million+ viewers.

(One hundred and six T.V. theme songs will be played during dinner.)

1960's

Archie
Ben Casey
Bewitched
Dark Shadows
Mr. Ed
Password
Get Smart
Flintstones
The Bullwinkle Show
Perry Mason
Dennis the Menace
The Partridge Family
Hogan's Heroes
Route 66
Love American Style
Outer Limits
The Hollywood Squares
To Tell the Truth
Flipper
Green Acres
Andy Griffith Show
Star Trek
Hawaii 5-0
Marcus Welby, M.D.
My Three Sons
Red Skelton Show
Arthur Godfrey Show
Dean Martin Show
Let's Make A Deal
Lost in Space
I Dream of Jeanie
Donna Reed
Topper
Dr. Kildaire
77 Sunset Strip
Price is Right
The Newlywed Game
The Dating Game
The Avengers
That Girl
Dick Van Dyke
Man From Uncle

The Defenders
Quincy
Surfside Six
Hawaii Eye
The Monkees
The Muppet Show
Woody Woodpecker
Patty Duke Show
Rocky & Bullwinkle
Peter Gun
The Fugitive
Hee-Haw
Alfred Hitchcock Show
Laugh-In
Gomer Pyle
Courtship of Eddie's Father
Sonny & Cher
Bourke's Law
Wagon Train
Mod Squad
Batman
Sesame Street
Johnny Carson
Smothers Brothers
Julia Child
Have Gun Will Travel
Wyatt Earp
Paladin
Julia
The Flying Nun
Peyton Place
Gilligan's Island
Car 54, Where are You?
Adams Family
The Munsters
Then Came Bronson
Divorce Court
Untouchables
Roaring 20's
Maverick
This Is Your Life
Make Room for Daddy
Bachelor Father

Petticoat Junction
My Favorite Martian
I Spy
Loretta Young Show
Flipper
Jetsons
Mr. Magoo
Hazel
Huckleberry Hound
Petticoat Junction
I Dream of Jeanie
Secret Agent Man
George of the Jungle
Gidget
Speed Racer
Thin Man
Twilight Zone
Yogi Bear

1970's

Good Times
Carol Burnette Show
Welcome Back, Kotter
60 Minutes
McMillan & Wife
Mary Tyler Moore
Rhoda
All In The Family
Bob Newhart
Rockford Files
The Jeffersons
Saturday Night Live
The Love Boat
Fantasy Island
Charlie's Angels
The Brady Bunch
Little House on the Prairie
Hart to Hart
The Waltons
Mash
Soap
The Saint
Maude



Three's Company
Columbo
Baretta
Phil Donahue
Cannon
Streets of San Francisco
The Odd Couple
Alice
The Incredible Hulk
Laverne & Shirley
Happy Days
20,000 Pyramid
Flip Wilson Show
Room 222
Sesame Street
Scooby Doo
Bat Masterson
The Days and Nights of Molly Dodd
Road Runner
Fat Albert
Underdog
F Troop
Larry King
20/20
Fame
One Day at a Time
Sanford and Son
Kojak
Starsky and Hutch
WKRP in Cincinnati
Mission Impossible
Donny and Marie
Mannix
Chico and the Man
Ironside
Partridge Family
Pink Panther

1980's

Chips
People's Court
Dallas
Cagney and Lacey
Dynasty
Hill Street Blues
Miami Vice
Cheers
Cosby Show
Taxi
L.A. Law
Trapper John, M.D.

Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman
Fernwood Tonight
Wheel of Fortune
Golden Girls
Night Court
Moonlighting
Six Million Dollar Man
Falcon Crest
Mork and Mindy
Doogie Howser, M.D.
The Bionic Woman
Knott's Landing
Oprah Winfrey
Geraldo
Murphy Brown
Designing Women
Lou Grant Show
Murder She Wrote
Thirty Something
Rosanne
Picket Fences
Thunder Cats
Family
St. Elsewhere
Family Ties
Empty Nest
Hotel
The Smurfs
Pee Wee Herman
The Gong Show
Who's the Boss?
Star Search
Growing Pains
Wonder Years
Arsenio Hall
Barney Miller

1990's

Sisters
Spencer for Hire
Biography
Cybil
Mad About You
Seinfeld
The Nanny
E.R.
Chicago Hope
The Simpsons
Beavis and Butthead
Unsolved Mysteries
Law and Order

Baywatch
Rosie O'Donnell
Martha Stewart Living
Dateline
Politically Correct
Married with Children
Friends
X-Files
America's Funniest Home Videos
Frasier
Home Improvement
Entertainment Tonight

THE BOOM-ITZVAH TRIBUTEES*

1946

Bob Bourke, Surya Bolom, Joan Cassin, Deirdre Harrington, Mike Schultz, Phyllis Schultz, Judy Sommese, Carol Van Wijnen

1947

Troy Alders, Sandra Bourke, Sandra Brim, Dhyanis Carniglia, Beth Coffman, Janet Coleman, Esther Dansky, Sally Gelardin, Joni Lebach, Helen Leslie, Leslie Louis, Roberta Pasternack, Francey Philipson, Carl Priolo, Jan St. Clair, Terry Seaver, Virginia Simmons, Deirdre Simmons, Ruud Van Wijnen

1948

Susan Frank, Judy Howard, Elaine Leedy, Bill Richards, Judy Smith, Harriet Sneider, Paul Waszink, Marlina Weinstein

1949

Linda Applewhite, Patti Baker, Dougie Cole, Susan Gertman, Jacqui Long, Jim Peterson, Wendy Slick

*Not all present this evening.

(... and for all you other Baby Boomers... you know who you are.)

The Artists

Paula Sonenberg
Michael O'Brien
Jim Cranna
Danny Flores
Eric Warner-Weinstein
Joan Cassin
Gwendolyn McShephard
Evacheska Browne-Miller
Liz Hopkins
Michelle Pava-Mills

The Other Artists

Piano	Jef Labes
Drums	Joe Paulino
Set Design	Steve Coleman
Props	Gwendolyn McShephard
Wardrobe Coordinator/	
Makeup	Joan Cassin
Costumes	Dhyanis Carniglia
Lights/Sound	Darryl Joyce
Production Assistant	Mia Antonelli
TV Theme Audio Tape	Troy Alders, TLA Productions
Tribute Presentation	Laura Alders
Video	Chris Petersen
Program & Invitations	Sandra Brim, Brim Graphics + Printing
Program Cover Illustration	Taken from <i>The Story of Mommy Marlena</i> ...Michael Clement Warner
Musical Numbers	'All For The Best' from <i>Godspell</i> and 'Honey Bun' from <i>Little Luncheonette</i> – from productions of Director/Choreographer Kim Dansforth, K.D. Musical Theatre

(A special thanks to Ana Almejo and Jeff Cooper for their participation.)

WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?

RITA ABRAMS

Two-time Emmy Award winning songwriter best known for her international hit song *Mill Valley*, impressed Marlena so much that she moved to California just to meet her. Her more recent claim to fame is Marin's long-running musical comedy hit *For Whom The Bridge Tolls*. She is also a greeting card writer, and has produced scores of songs for award-winning children's albums, films and videos. She has more write-offs than you can imagine. She is an absolutely brilliant Jewish woman.

PAULA SONENBERG

Paula has appeared in numerous plays and musicals around the Bay Area including *Songs of Singapore*, *West Side Story*, *Beyond Therapy*, *Party of One* and is currently in *For Whom The Bridge Tolls*. She is blessed with being and staying gorgeous and thin. She is also blessed by being a brilliant Jewish woman.

MICHAEL O'BRIEN

Michael is not only a consummate actor, writer, and comedian, but just about the nicest guy you've ever met in your entire life. He is an original member of the National Theatre of the Deranged. Michael has appeared in numerous award-winning television and radio commercials and is one of the Karls of *Tips on Travel with Karl and Carl*. It's a good thing he has that gig, as his travel deductions know no bounds.

JIM CRANNA

Jim Cranna has appeared in over 15 major films including *American Graffiti* and *Mrs. Doubtfire*. He has performed in and helped create thousands of radio commercials. Jim is one of the original Committee members of the 70's and continues his improvisational expertise in the National Theatre of the Deranged (which he founded). He is married to a brilliant Jewish woman.

DANNY FLORES

'The World's Greatest Entertainer' is no misnomer. Danny has appeared in all forms of media and live performances as comedian, impressionist, singer, dancer and mime. He has now followed in Jim Cranna's footsteps, as he is living with, and recently engaged to a brilliant Jewish woman.

ERIC WARNER-WEINSTEIN

Eric has performed in over 20 musicals, plays, and presentations. A singer, dancer, actor and comic, he has continued to be an extremely expensive exemption. Stage presence and pizzazz he's got! He has also received real taxable income from commercials and voice-over work. He is fortunate to be the son of a brilliant Jewish woman.

JOAN CASSIN

Joan can be seen all over the Bay Area in Musical Theatre as a dancer, singer and actress. She recently debuted in her first dramatic role in *Rosemarie* and was also featured in Jef Labes', *The 'It' Girl*. She got so 'meshugah' from looking at all your deductions during one tax season, that she decided the only numbers she'd be doing would be on stage. She also became Marlena's next door neighbor and continues to know all of her business.

GWENDOLYN MCSHEPHARD

Gwendolyn has been singing and performing since she was a child. She performed with B.B. King in 1985 and was the lead singer for the Hot Ice Band for seven years. She has performed in musicals as well. She is also an acclaimed illustrator and painter whose work is currently on display. However, her greatest claim to fame is that for the last ten years, she has as her very dear friend a brilliant Jewish woman.

EVACHESKA BROWNE-MILLER

This eleven year old's voice and style emits a sound and talent far beyond her years. Performing in a dozen musicals (many with Eric) she has shown herself to be a unique artist.

LIZ HOPKINS

She is adorable and multi-talented with a gorgeous voice and seasoned acting style . . .13 going on 50!

MICHELLE PAVA-MILLS

12 going on . . . lovely Michelle has been involved with musical theatre for 5 years. She is perky and charming with her own unique flair.

JEF LABES

Jef specializes in creating original musical theatre for children. He is currently working on a restaging of his 1993 musical *The 'It' Girl*. During the week, he teaches music to five hundred 4th-6th graders in Richmond and San Pablo, and can be seen here at Joe Lo Coco's *Late Show in the Lounge*. Jef is a brilliant Jewish man.

JOE PAULINO

Joe stopped using the short form in 1983. In 1997 he had over 17 employers-of-record. His hobbies are commercial voice work and depreciating microphones with scary German names. He likes alphabetizing restaurant receipts and dislikes the Alternative Minimum Tax. Whenever possible, he plays drums and sings for the spontaneous musical ensemble, *These Are Not My Hands*. Joe was audited twice before he started working with Marlena.

DHYANIS CARNIGLIA

Dyannis is an award winning theatrical costumer and belly dance performer and instructor. She is also the producer of the annual *Goddess Show* which is performing June 19th and 20th at the Marin Art and Garden Center.

STEVE COLEMAN

For 20 years as an award-winning set designer, Steve's spectacularly imaginative style has created the ambiance for a multitude of productions. His background artistry is breathtaking. His diversity has electrified the atmosphere for shows ranging from *The Importance of Being Earnest* to *The Night of the Iguana*.

MIA ANTONELLI

Mia is a second year student in Tam High's fantastic drama department. She has also been production assistant-at-large for her Mother Rita's four-year-old *For Whom The Bridge Tolls*.

TROY ALDERS, TLA PRODUCTIONS

Troy was Marlena's very first client. In 1976, he walked into H & R Block where Marlena immediately amended all his prior returns, and then continued to help him amend his life. He owns the most prestigious sound studio in San Francisco. He now has enough depreciable assets to carry over to the next millennium.

LAURA ALDERS

Laura is Creative Director for Chameleon. She has an outstanding background in design for the gift, toy and entertainment industries. As Senior Art Director for the Gifted Line, it was her designs that the U.S. Postal Service chose for their commemorative Christmas stamps.

CHRIS PETERSEN

For 20 years Chris owned and operated one of the Bay Area's leading wedding and portrait studios. As Marlena's personal photographer and videographer, Chris has, for the last ten years, captured in stills and videos every performance and event in her and Eric's life including (but not limited to) theatrical performances, the 'Wedding Party of the Century', four infamous tea parties, musical concerts, school projects, mystery dinners and this show.

SANDRA BRIM, BRIM GRAPHICS + PRINTING

Ever since Marlena convinced her to go into her own business, Sandra has been utilizing her creative and artistic talents as a well-known graphic artist for over 20 years. She is also one of Marlena's best friends, and once Marlena convinced her to take her receipts out of the trunk of her car, her organizational skills began to skyrocket. Even though she is only half Jewish, that half qualifies her as a brilliant Jewish woman.

A video of 'Marlena's 50th' will be available for sale upon request.