

Carrey escapes Jackson's to land big shot

P.J. Todd

Jim Carrey, impressionist extraordinaire, is only 19, yet he has just clinched a guest spot on Johnny Carson's Tonight Show. Talented and very ambitious — "I want to be the best singing impressionist in the world" — Carrey is headlining nightly at the *Cafe on the Park* from November 16th to the 22nd.

Carrey's repertoire includes almost 100 characters with such diverse impressions as Steve Martin, Kermit and Miss Piggy,

Sammy Davis Jr., Bruce Dern, My Three Sons, Trudeau, Bogart and the Amazing Kreskin. Since



his first professional performance 2 1/2 years ago, Carrey has played major clubs in Canada and the U.S. including a headliner show at New York's *Dangerfield's* and a performance at the *Improv* where he was spotted by the Carson Show's agent.

Now waiting for taping confirmation from L.A., Carrey works the comic circuit and spends most of his time at *Yuk Yuk's* in Toronto where he can "workout" on stage with

appreciative audiences.

Originally from Jackson's Point, he's only been in Toronto for six months and if his career continues to take off, he won't be here much longer.



"I've never wanted to do anything but perform and I've been getting laughs since Grade Three," says Carrey. He wants recognition and stardom. "I am interested in every medium —

film, T.V., stage and want to work in movies, commercials; everything. Some people think I should just become a professional singer, but I think the world needs comedy—especially now."

Carrey claims the centre of the comedy world is in the U.S. and has no hesitation about working there. "Canadian comedy needs a lot more money poured into it before it can compete." Toronto has been good to him though, especially the press, and he credits some of his recognition to the praise-filled columns of Blackadar (*The Toronto Star*) and Dunford (*The Sun*).

Jim Carrey is looking forward to playing the *Cafe* and says he never really gets nervous before a show: "of course I get the tight stomach, but that extra adrenaline is a benefit". He is confident. He is talented. And he's about to get the all-important Big Break on national television, so catch him while he's in Canada and you can still afford the ticket.

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Man Ray: doggie art

Elliott Lefko

Man Ray was to have earned his keep by sticking his wet nose to the ground and chasing wild game. However 11 years ago artist William Wegman saw a special quality in the dog and made Man Ray his star.

Since 1970 Man Ray has gone on to star in an extensive list of Wegman's better-known video tapes, and in the New York-based artist's drawings and life-size photos. Wegman's work is currently on display at the Yarlow/Salzman Gallery (211 Avenue Rd.).

Wegman's work featuring Man Ray has appeared on Saturday Night Live and The Tonight Show, in Newsweek Magazine, and in museums and art galleries throughout the world.

"I named him after Man Ray, the famous photographer and artist who was a leading figure in the dada and surrealist movements. Actually I just liked the name for a dog," says Wegman, his casual dress-sports coat, jeans, running shoes—reflecting his soft-souled personality. "But a couple of years ago I began to study his work again, and now I find I can't get enough of it."

Wegman's photos feature Man Ray in a variety of poses including wearing a pair of designer jeans, and sprinkled with baby powder. "His persona keeps changing," says Wegman of his four-footed friend. Before he was just a very spooky dog with presence and intensity, but he's gotten older and has gone through a transformation. He's becoming more subtle. I've been trying to demonstrate that, visually, by blending him into the floor or turning him into a bush."



The photos of Man Ray are taken on a large-format (24 inch by 20 inch) Polaroid camera. The device was invented five years ago, the brain child of Dr. Land, the 75-year-old inventor who founded the Polaroid corporation. "I'm not sure why he invented it," Wegman explains, "So far it's been used to take life-size portraits of wives at dentist's conventions. It's really just a big (400 pounds), impressive, party toy."

Wegman and 20 other artists were invited last year to try the new camera. "I loved it," Wegman recalls; "It provided instant feedback, just like video. The colour and detail were magnificent. Later, I began to rent it from them and now, a couple of times a year, I'll pack a car load full of props, and head up to Polaroid for a few days of shooting."

Besides Man Ray photos, Wegman's show also features 'normal' drawings and photos, retouched slightly in a bizarre fashion. One photo is of a hand picking up a telephone receiver. The image is unexciting until one sees that the telephone has grown a set of massive teeth. He also captures a simple wooden chair in front of an ivy-covered window pane in another photo. Beautiful for its rustic charm, it is transformed into a curiosity item by the words Wegman has written across the bottom, 'home of Betty Grable', and the silver and pink leg dancing out of the top corner of the window frame. "I sit and stare at an image until I see how I can transfigure it. I like to take things beyond normal expectation," he says with an accompanying laugh.

New England born, Wegman studied Fine Arts at Massachusetts College of Art, graduating in 1965. Later he attended the University of Illinois. Since 1967 he has worked in video, and later in photography and drawings. He moved to Los Angeles in 1970, and since 1979 has lived in New York. His work is permanently on display at the Holly Solomon Gallery on West Broadway.

For the next two months Wegman will be travelling with his work to centres across North America. When he's not creating or talking about his creations, he says he enjoys fishing, watching sports, and playing with Man Ray.

Wegman is asked what he'll do when Man Ray is no longer available to pose. "Only about one-tenth of my pieces have been with him, really. So I'll keep on working," he says, then adds, "but no, I won't rush out and get another dog to replace him."