

## ABOUT TOM PARKS –

**A Brief Auto Biography – a Hollywood experience plus author, producer, playwright**

After spending over thirty years in the land of movie making, sometimes referred to as ‘Hollywood,’ TOM PARKS packed his bags, his pencils and erasers, and settled down on the Monterey Peninsula—that was in the early eighties. Of course, he never really settled down for it wasn’t long before he began a new career as a local writer, director, producer and sometime actor.

In Hollywood Parks was a behind-the-camera man; his job was to make sure the actors were familiar with their lines and that they were aware of the many changes that occur often on the set. He was a dialogue coach. In twenty five plus years he worked for most of the celebrated stars of movies and television.



He traveled extensively with Bob Hope; he was there at the creation of the fabulously successful TV revue, “Laugh In,” where stars would beg to make appearances. The thinking at the time was, if you hadn’t been insulted on “Laugh In,” you just weren’t marquee material.

The popular Carol Burnett had a run of ten years and Parks was with it till the show closed. Spending a season with Julie Andrews wasn’t a bad gig at all. Working for Jack Benny was a highlight of his career. Add to these credits great moments with Milton Berle, Phyllis Diller, John Wayne, and even diva, Bette Davis, who asked him out for an after rehearsal drink—Parks happily picked up the check.

Even with the joyful experiences of having known the greatest entertainers of the time, Parks believes the best part of his job was being close to the writers and directors, absorbing as much knowledge of the profession as he could. He submitted ideas and sketches, story ‘treatments’ to the big guys, the guys who made the big decisions of what would play and what wouldn’t. Modest and unaccredited contributions to be sure, still he was fortunate to have some success.

Tom Parks has presented several entertainments on the Peninsula in the last 20 years. For the Alliance on Aging he wrote and directed an homage to one of the great international superstars, MARLENE, FROM BERLIN TO HOLLYWOOD TO BERLIN—1939 TO 1945.” Another show, a USO vaudeville, SOMETHING FOR THE BOYS, played to full houses.

Later he starred with his musician friend, John Harris in a pastiche called SAY IT WITH MUSIC, SONGS FROM THE GOLDEN AGE OF BROADWAY. The next year Parks, in a one man turn, took on the role of another legendary show business icon in GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY—GEORGE M. COHAN TONIGHT!

CHUMS, a romantic comedy was Parks’ first non-musical. The play was produced once again at the Cherry. In April of ’09 Parks wrote and directed a one woman play about one of America’s favorite writers. WHAT FRESH HELL IS THIS? THE WIT AND WISDOM OF DOROTHY PARKER, was one of his most successful shows, and prompted him to write and produce two additional bio-dramas, PARIS IS PARIS IS PARIS, GERTRUDE STEIN IN PARIS, AND HIS 2015 PLAY, ZELDA, SAVE ME THE WALTZ.

Parks' musical offerings have included HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD, THE SONGS AND FABLES FROM THE GOLDEN AGE OF THE MOVIES, A LIFE AND A FEW SONGS, and a sassy revue, CARMEL, THE MUSICAL, and in 2018, A BROADWAY SONGBOOK.

THE COMPANION, (2016) a collaboration with writer, Phyllis Theroux, proved a successful on stage reading, as did his 2017 HE SAID, SHE SAID, THEY SAID, a comedy-drama. A one man biographical musical, I LOVE A GERSHWIN TUNE, HOW ABOUT YOU, and a drama set in the world of the Broadway Theater, BREAK A LEG, proved to be popular with audiences.

His more recent plays, LUCKY LINDY, A CONVERSATION WITH CHARLES LINDBERGH and SILENTS enjoyed positive reviews from audiences and the press. His latest play, THE INTERVIEW, was again presented at the Cherry in the spring of 2023. He completed about age and aging the title of which is AGE IS ONLY A NUMBER, A COMEDY – and has completed a yet to be show Volume 2 under this same title.

Parks has also published a collection of three of his plays, *3 WOMEN, 3 VOICES, 3 PLAYS*.