

COMEDY

Bob Saget Gets Dirty On Stage

By Iris Wiener
info@longislandernews.com

Yes, he is the one and only Danny Tanner, and yes, he was the host with the funny voices on that cheesy home-video show.

Bob Saget often has to begin a conversation by confirming this obvious information, but it's only a matter of time before he can greet a fan or start his dirty comedy act without immediate acknowledgement of the most well known roles of his past. In fact, he projects it will only be five years before the name "Bob Saget" will bring to mind the image of a tall, unbelievably creative entertainer...who also happened to be Danny Tanner and the host of that home-video show. His current tour of stand-up comedy hits North Fork Theatre on April 20, and will feature digs at everything from his squeaky clean, family man image, to his highly successful film, *Farce of the Penguins*, to his new hosting gig on *1 vs. 100*. But don't worry; although he pokes fun at his life as a single dad, the art of dating, and life after divorce, *Full House* is not off limits.

"At the end of my show I sing 'Danny Tanner is Not Gay,' and I also have a couple of new songs that are really fun," he laughed, considering the popularity of his songs thanks to his various tours, and of course, youtube.com. "It's a very creative time for me. It's complicated. I'm juggling life. I was in New York taking my middle daughter to look at college while I was getting ready to do *Bob Saget: That Ain't Right*, my new HBO special. One second I'm trying to be the best dad I can possibly be, and the next second I'm the dirtiest bastard on the block. It's a very funny, schizophrenic duality," he said. "I still like the idea of entertaining families, as sick as that sounds. It's very fun to tell a story in

was 60 years old, 'What are you going to do with the money?' and the guy goes, 'We're gonna buy our first house!' I go, 'Wow, I'm pretty damn fortunate. Hosting a bloopers show and I'm able to pay for some college for some kids.' I realized that that's a very hard life for a lot of people. Those shows, as crazy as it is, they really are a windfall for some people."

Saget loves everything about being an entertainer, from acting to directing to hosting to writing. In fact, his career is very much like Forrest Gump's infamous box of chocolates. He has many scene-stealing cameos under his belt, including those in the films *Half-Baked*, *Dumb and Dumber*, and *The Aristocrats*, and television series' *Huff*, *Entourage*, and *Law and Order, SVU*. He directed the cult favorite feature film *Dirty Work*, and directed and produced the ABC television movie *For Hope*. Last year he surprised New York theatre critics with a powerful turn in Paul Weitz's off-Broadway play, *Privilege*.

"*Privilege* is one of the favorite things I've ever done. For me that was very rewarding. It helped me lose any fear, because when you're doing theatre in front of 30 people off-Broadway, you're really putting yourself in front of them and you really have to concentrate on your character and what story you're telling and how your relationships are with everybody."

So how did he go from the New York stage to working with....foul-mouthed penguins? "I was watching *March of the Penguins* with my friend, and then all of a sudden I just couldn't stop doing voices. I just started narrating old relatives' voices as the penguins were walking because, well, they look like my relatives. I don't tell my relatives which ones I had in mind though. They always think I'm talking about the other one," he laughed. Saget

no one expected. It made a lot of money for what it cost."

"They call it a hyphenate," he said of his multi-faceted career. "My self-deprecating way of saying it, I do five things- none of them well! I guess I would say right now, I'm a comedian." Even with such a diverse resume, Saget still doesn't feel like he's tried everything he wants to...yet. "Here I am at 50 doing stand-up, just blowing up whatever people thought of me. I guess I wouldn't be quite as hard edged if I wasn't known for Danny Tanner and the host of *AHVV*. But I don't know what I *would* be."

Unlike many of his peers, Saget has taken the persona with which he has been typecast and used it in his act rather than work against it. Not only do people love it, but it has also earned him well-deserved respect.

"Why would I actually fight that typecast issue? It's like a 10-year-old jumping up and down going, 'I'm not Danny Tanner!' To be angry that you did it, I learned the hard way, is ridiculous. Then you're going, 'I wish I'd never lived my life.' That's the road that I took when I was 30 years old. I'm 50 now. It's going to be interesting, in five years I'm not going to have to tell people I'm not Danny Tanner. I'm not going to have to even say Danny Tanner. And right now my stand-up has a big disclaimer: 'Don't bring anyone under 17- even with a good I.D.' That will be gone. I'm excited to see what kind of work I can do that's just flat out funny. My act will be my version of what it's like to be a dad and have relationships and have parents age and what real observations I can make and maybe contribute something that's artistic and has some meaning. I'm excited to be able to grow into that because I don't feel like I'm there at all. I'm trying to be more real, but I'm also

watched *Full House* or the video show and like irreverent stuff that could be very offensive to their moms, they should *definitely* come see it."

Tickets to Bob Saget's performance at North Fork Theatre at Westbury can be purchased online at www.northforktheatre.com, by calling Ticketmaster at 631-888-9000, or by visiting the box office.

Eight Things You're Dying to Know About Bob Saget

The biggest surprise about his stand-up: People come to the show because they want to see the dad on *Full House* curse. I like to put on a show for people. I'm not the guy going out there going, "Oh I'm going to curse for an hour, that'll be funny."

The hardest part of hosting *1 vs. 100*: I'll say the wrong name of one of the 100 people that I spoke to earlier. Or I'll say, "Well you chose A because...why did you choose A?" I'll make them review for me.

His dream mob-members: The cast of *The Sopranos*. That would be the best. I also have a bunch of comedy friends, it would be fun to have those people in it.

In his fantasy *Full House* drinking game, people would chug every time: You hear "Have

in comes *I vs. 100*, the "familyish" job that has been balancing out his career as he worked on the raunchy HBO special, set to be released at the end of the summer. "My daughters were watching *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?* constantly. I said, 'Comedy *Millionaire* would be kind of funny. Kind of fun to riff with people and do that.'" But Saget has yet to have the last laugh.

"The big laugh on Conan and Leno and anybody that I've been getting interviewed by is that they love hearing me try to explain the game. There's really nothing to it. I took the gig because I liked the idea of the fact that trivia is very simple, you can be funny off of it, and it's also an engaging game. I actually get involved with the people, because I like people. But it's also a stand-up forum, so it also made sense to take it," he smiled and shakes his head as he remembers his first round of interviews.

"Then they ask me what the rules are, and I'm like, 'Well, there's 100 people, and one person is up against them, but as soon as one of them gets...' then I'm always tongue-tied. 'One of them gets the wrong answer then they're out... But wait, how many...' I end up just saying, 'It's a really simple game once you watch it!'"

But Saget has the greatest affection for his role as host, not because of the humor, but because of what people gain from being on the show. "I would say that my favorite people are people that could really use the money, such as schoolteachers and firefighters. I find it really nice when good people get help. Even when I did *America's Funniest Home Videos* I was very happy when I would say to a guy who

Penguins, an R-rated comedy/documentary/love story, that he voiced-over, wrote, directed, and produced with David Permut and Thinkfilm. Samuel L. Jackson was the first star on board the project as the narrator. "When Lewis Black and Tracy Morgan said yes to doing voices for the penguins right away, Monique said yes right away and then Christina Applegate... It was a snowball effect. The greatest thing about it is it's a success that

clarified before cashing in on his alter ego one more time.

"Long Islanders should come see me at North Fork Theatre because I just can't wait to see them! That would be the Danny Tanner thing to say," he laughed at himself. "But it's so cool to be there, everybody has played there. I like playing historical venues." This promises to be one show Long Island won't soon forget. "If people want to laugh or they've ever



Bob Saget's done fighting the type casts and ready to reveal it on stage at the North Fork Theatre April 20.

wouldn't want people to have to drink that much, so I would just do it when they hear "Wake up San Francisco!" That's about every four episodes. It's for occasional drinkers, my drinking game.

His best kept secret: I have a birthmark on my left ankle. That's it. It looks like Southeast Asia. Everybody says that. Because I'm so tall people are often staring at my ankles.

One thing he would change about Danny Tanner: More confrontation between myself and Jesse and Joey, but nobody wants to see that. I would have butched him up more. But then I wouldn't have "Danny Tanner is Not Gay." It was all meant to be.

One thing he would change about Bob Saget: I would try to be less reactionary. I go between being cool about things and being way too dramatic about things. Less drama.

Next you'll find him: My touring is sporadic. I'm going to do a directing thing, or I might do something with my buddy David Permut again because we had such a good experience with *Farce of the Penguins*. Or I might decide whether I'll develop another series as an actor. HBO's *Bob Saget: That Ain't Right* will be detonating any images anyone has of me. They're either going to like it or they're going to be offended.