

Press Release, 6/21/21

The Raconteurs: A Story Of George Burns and Gracie Allen.

A four-part podcast of selections, scenes, and adaptations from [National The Eugene O'Neill Playwright Conference](#) semi-finalist play, *The Raconteurs: A Story of George Burns & Gracie Allen*, takes you on the origins journey of real-life Vaudeville, Radio, Film, and television stars (and comedy legends) George Burns and Gracie Allen. Focusing on several key moments in their early life. Highlights from Act One, the episodes will each focus on milestones in the couple's life such as their first meeting, falling in love, and the evolution of their act. Based on detailed research and rare thought to be lost interviews with the elusive and private Gracie Allen herself (who rarely did interviews out of character) *The Raconteurs* is the first dramatization with Gracie's point-of-view. Although immortalized in the Alliance of Women in Media Gracie Awards, Gracie Allen the woman's real story has been mostly seen through the lens of her husband George's memories of her. Gracie, a female pioneer in comedy, who has been the basis for such modern characters as Phoebe Buffay on *Friends* and Rose Nyland of *The Golden Girls*, is often forgotten in terms of her place in the pop-culture history books, until now.

Presented in radio-style format to mirror their much loved and successful (1930s/1930s) Radio show and hosted by actor Stephen Tobolowsky (*Groundhog Day*; *One Day At A Time*) and featuring Kevin Sebastian (*The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*) as George Burns and playwright Lauren Milberger as Gracie Allen.

The full two-act play itself is a play-with-in-a play where George Burns, playing the narrator he always played in his television series, puts on the story of his life with his best friends [Jack Benny](#), Mary Kelley, and his wife Gracie Allen.

But as years pass and their lives become more complicated (infidelities, friends die, Gracie's health & her need to retire from the act), George comes to the painful realization that life isn't always a "happy showbiz story". Feeling no longer in control of his life, George loses control of the play as narrator... and Gracie takes over.

First episode drops Monday July 6th and the last Monday July 26th for Gracie Allen's 126th Birthday. Available on all major podcasting platforms including [Spotify](#), [iTunes](#), and [Google Play](#). As well as our [RSS feed](#).

The production is seeking a financial partnership to produce the full-length production of the play on stage, film, or as a full radio podcast. Professional inquiries can email Burnsandallenplay@gmail.com

Playwright Lauren Milberger is an actor and writer as well as a [published essayist with a focus on Gracie Allen's history](#), spending many years and hours researching Miss Allen over the last decades. For more please check out www.laurenmilberger.com and www.laurenmilberger.com/Burnsandallenplay or www.laurenmilberger.com/Burnsandallenplaycast.

Episodes are as follows:

Episode 1 "Meet Cute"

Episode 2 "The Walk Home"

Episode 3 "A New Act"

Episode 4: "Live At The Palace Theater..."

See the end for episode summaries.

Special guests include [Jeffery C Wolf](#) as Jack Benny (Episode 4 "Live At The Palace Theater...") and a cameo by Mary Linehan as Mary Kelley (Episode 2 "The Walk Home")

Short Series Summary

Scenes & adaptations from "The Raconteurs: A Story Of George Burns and Gracie Allen" by Lauren Milberger. A four-part series of highlights from The National Eugene O'Neill Playwrights Conference Semi-finalist, Starring Lauren Milberger as Gracie Allen & Kevin Sebastian ("Marvelous Mrs. Maisel") as George Burns. Hosted by Stephen Tobolowsky ("Groundhog Day," "One Day At A Time") Subscribe now!

Episode 1: "Meet Cute"

"The Raconteurs: A Story Of George Burns and Gracie Allen". In our first highlight, George Burns (Kevin Sebastian) and Gracie Allen's (Lauren Milberger) first meeting in 1923. Host: Stephen Tobolowsky. Check out our website for music credits, more on the actors, the production, and all professional inquiries toward the full script.

Episode 2: "The Walk Home"

"The Raconteurs: A Story Of George Burns and Gracie Allen". After their final rehearsal of George's original act, George walks Gracie home and they get to know each other before their first performance. Host: Stephen Tobolowsky. Check out our website for music credits, more on the actors, the production, and all professional inquiries toward the full script.

Episode 3 "A New Act"

"The Raconteurs: A Story Of George Burns and Gracie Allen". Gracie encourages George to write a new act for them (a scary act of faith on his part, but being truthful to oneself can be a scary prospect). Host: Stephen Tobolowsky. Check out our website for music credits, more on the actors, the production, and all professional inquiries toward the full script.

Episode 4: "Live At The Palace Theater..."

"The Raconteurs: A Story Of George Burns and Gracie Allen". In our final episode, we get a glimpse of different scenes from the play that show the evolution of George and Gracie's stage act over the years, leading to the pinnacle-- performing at The Palace Theater on Broadway in

NYC. Host: Stephen Tobolowsky. Check out our website for music credits, more on the actors, the production, and all professional inquiries toward the full script. Want more? Leave us a review, contact our playwright on Twitter, and get the word out on social media!

Music Credits:

Tea For Two orchestrations by [Johnathan Fox Powers](#) (Episode 4)

The Entertainer provided by SupernovaMusic / Pond5

Scott Joplin's *Maple Leaf Rag* provided by lynnepublishing / Pond5 (All Episodes)

www.laurenmilberger.com/Burnsandallenplaycast