





The Legendary

MARTY ALLEN

with Karon Kate Blackwell

CELEBRITY DIRECT ENTERTAINMENT

Cord G. Coslor - agent

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www.Celebritydirect.net

SHOW SUMMARY:

Straight from stages in Vegas & Atlantic City, it's the dynamic duo of the legendary Marty Allen with the multi-talented Karon Kate Blackwell ! The show is filled with comedy and the amazing music of Karon on piano and vocals. Their show will have you laughing and even crying before it's over! At 94 years young, Marty and the amazing Karon will take you on a journey through Marty's career with a video supplement that is amazing! They can perform with a full band, or to tracks with Karon on piano. It's legendary.... it's amazing.... it's Marty & Karon !!

BIOGRAPHY:

Hello Dere! This living legend is better than ever! He's appeared on every major television program (including over 40 times on Ed Sullivan!), and has headlined virtually every major venue! His all-new show has been receiving amazing reviews by sold out audiences throughout the United States, and features the lovely and talented Karon Kate Blackwell. Their newest incarnation of the show still features their hilarious comedy, and Kate's amazing musicianship, but has an added element of audiences taking a walk down memory lane to through Marty's photo scrapbook via video technology.

FULL BIO:

During the 1950s, Marty worked in many of the top nightclubs in the country as opening act for established stars such as Sarah Vaughan, Eydie Gorme and many others, including the legendary Nat "King" Cole. It was during this time that he became part of the great comedy team of Allen & Rossi.

That association produced a string of hit comedy albums, dozens of television appearances, including 40 visits to the Ed Sullivan Show, and the theatrical motion picture "The Last Of The Secret Agents." Eventually, Marty decided to try his hand at some strait dramatic roles. His debut as a serious actor came on "The Big Valley" TV series. In an episode titled "The Jonah," Marty played a character who was considered a jinx and blamed for a run of bad luck at the ranch. "I met two great ladies doing that show," Marty said, "Linda Evans was very nice to me, and when Barbara Stanwyk complimented me on my acting, I was in heaven." Marty appeared in several other dramatic productions, including the TV movie "Mister Jerico," and "The Ballad of Billie Blue" and a Rod Serling "Night Gallery" segment.

Helping others, who are less fortunate, is part of his personal credo. In 1968 he made a "Hello Dere" tour of military hospitals in the United States, paying for his own transportation and hotel costs. A commendation for his good deeds was placed in the Congressional Record. He repeated the tour yearly through 1972. On each tour, he spent long hours talking to and entertaining the wounded soldiers who had just returned from Vietnam. He is also involved in a number of charitable causes including American Cancer Society, The Heart Fund, March Of Dimes, Fight For Sight, Cerebral Palsy, and is on the board of the Epilepsy Foundation. "I believe that if you have a talent and you use it to become successful, you should give back in return for the good fortune you've had," he said.

Throughout the 1970s and into the '80s, Marty made hundreds of TV appearances. "I went up and down the dial. I did all the talk shows and even became a regular on 'Hollywood Squares.'" He also appeared on "The Circus Of The Stars," "Password" and many other game shows plus 10 movies for television. "They used to call me 'the darling of daytime television.' I did everything except 'Sermonette.'" It was during this time he met Karon Kate Blackwell. The two began performing together, combining "Katie's" music and Marty's comedy.

The scene was almost as wild as Marty Allen's hair.

Over 50 years ago, Las Vegas Marty Allen and Steve Rossi were at the epicenter of the Beatles' U.S. debut, an earthquake in pop culture.

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"It was total pandemonium, pure electricity" recalled Allen. Every time Ed Sullivan tried to introduce the British boy band on Feb. 9, 1964, "all those girls went bananas. You knew this was going to sweep the country."

At the time, Allen and Rossi, six years into their act, were one of the hottest comedy teams of their era. They were making their 12th appearance on Sullivan's Sunday night TV show, then the entertainment world's greatest launching pad.

After the Beatles' five-song set before a then-record 73 million viewers, Allen and Rossi's dilemma was immediately apparent: How do you avoid bombing when you're following the most explosive act ever?

With a screeching teeny-bopper crowd drowning out Sullivan, Allen and Rossi stepped into the swirl.

"If we had done our comedy bit, we would have died," Rossi said.

The big-haired Allen, who earlier cracked up John Lennon backstage with, "A lot of people mistake me for you," went with his trademark opener, "Hello dere," and added, "I'm Ringo's mother."

Big applause. Then Rossi, an accomplished singer, launched into the Beatles' hit song "I Want to Hold Your Hand" as Allen ran up the aisle, dancing and clapping.

"Marty got them hand clapping. We won 'em over," said Rossi, who teamed up with Allen for almost 30 years, including 44 appearances on the Sullivan show.

Since 1999, Marty and Karon have revamped the show biz act that made him famous. Marty has added new material to include present day events while Karon sings, plays the piano, and plays the "strait man" for Marty during their on stage comedy routine.

Marty and Karon still love performing. They travel extensively, routinely performing to sold out shows. After 30+ years of marriage, Karon brings a new spark to the show with her Jerry Lee Louis style piano playing, remarkably gorgeous outfits, and lovely presence. Marty still has the wild hair, albeit, looking more like a human troll doll these days... but still bringing down the house with style and flair!

Marty and Karon prove during every show that great comedy and entertainment is timeless.

REVIEWS:

Mike Weatherford, Las Vegas Review Journal - "When Allen & Rossi made their mark as a duo in the Ed Sullivan era, it was Steve Rossi lobbing the soft serves that set off Allen's drunken wine-taster or addled football player. For years now, his wife has served up the punch lines, adding a new dimension to the old routines."

Norm Clark, Las Vegas Review Journal - "If you aren't already a fan of Marty Allen and his dynamic wife - vocalist/pianist/straight man Karon Kate Blackwell - you will be by the time you leave the showroom. ... Allen is as funny as he ever was, but for those who haven't seen the show the big surprise may be Blackwell and how talented she is singing the songs of Irving Berlin, Cole Porter, Ray Charles and Tina Turner."

Today in Las Vegas Magazine - "After wowing the audience, Ms. Blackwell introduced the Godfather of comedy, Marty Allen. Marty is living proof that talent is ageless. The self-proclaimed "love child" of Phyllis Diller and Jackie Mason wasted no time in getting the audience laughing to the point of tears. ... One of the best things about this performance was its testament to humor. Hello Dere! demonstrated without a doubt that a show can be absolutely hysterical without resorting to vulgar humor - a point Mr. Allen made quite proudly."

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Comic Marty Allen Marks 93rd Birthday With Laughs, Songs

Appeared in NY Times By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARCH 23, 2015, 8:47 A.M. E.D.T.

LOS ANGELES — On his 93rd birthday, comedian Marty Allen could easily rest on his laughs.

Instead, Allen was marking Monday's milestone onstage at a Las Vegas hotel with his wife, singer Karon Kate Blackwell. The act includes her songs, his comedy, and photos and anecdotes about the celebrities that Allen has worked or brushed shoulders with over the years.

"I lived in a time of superstars that will never come again," said Allen, who opened for singers that included Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, Sarah Vaughn and Tony Bennett, just to name a few.

Allen also enjoyed success solo and with singer Steve Rossi as a music-comedy team. It was during one of their appearances that Allen came up with his "Hello Dere!" catchphrase, which became as familiar to fans as his wild mop of hair.

His career started modestly in his native Pittsburgh, Allen recalled.

"I came up the hard way. I played little clubs, little bars. Anywhere three or four people came in and had a meeting, I did my comedy," he said.

Among the highlights: repeated appearances on "The Ed Sullivan Show," including the 1964 episode with The Beatles; opening for Sinatra at the Sands hotel in Las Vegas; and meeting and ribbing stars including Elvis Presley and Richard Burton.

"Stop stealing my act," Allen told the young Presley.

When Burton asked if Allen, whose credits include TV series, game shows and movies, had ever considered doing Shakespeare, the comic's comeback: "I don't do old material."

He's proud that he always worked "clean" and stayed away from insult humor, which he says isn't in his nature.

His self-published autobiography, "Hello Dere!" reflects that: He has only nice things to say about fellow entertainers and others. The book recounts his World War II service, which included a Soldier's Medal for valor, and his marriage to his first wife, Lorraine "Frenchy" Allen, who died in 1976. He and Blackwell married in 1984 and appear regularly onstage.

Allen credits his longevity to his attitude — "I enjoy life" — and his work.

"I think the fact I can make people laugh and entertain them, maybe that helps me feel good and keep going," he said.

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PARADE MAGAZINE - June 3, 2015

Marty Allen: he's one of the icons in comedy history. The people with whom he's performed during his career reads like a "Who's Who" celebrity Rolodex: Milton Berle, Soupy Sales, Henny Youngman, Connie Stevens, Nat King Cole, Carol Burnett, Lena Horn, Shirley Bassey, Linda Evans, Frank Sinatra...the list could go on and on.

He's even written a book about his life called "Hello Dere!: An Illustrated Biography," which includes tons of photos of Allen with the stars.



Want more Parade right in your inbox? Sign up for our email newsletter!

While he was destined to become huge in the comedy world, Allen actually earned accolades in his youth by winning all kinds of dance contests. He admits, though, that he was always the class clown. "It just came naturally," says Allen. "I even had the teachers hysterically laughing." Throughout his life, he's used his humor to help friends stop worrying and to entertain the world at large.

In fact, Allen is still going strong, having performed in Las Vegas in March on his 93rd birthday!

"When I get out of bed in the morning, the only thing that doesn't hurt is my pajamas," Allen jokes.

Allen is thrilled when fans contact him saying that his comedy helped them in some way or made them laugh. "I'm physically funny, and I enjoy doing what I do. I enjoy entertaining. Lately, I've been getting fan mail. They must be showing movies and different shows that I've done around the world," says Allen. "I'm getting letters from China, Germany, Denmark, the Czech Republic...it's really unbelievable."

For years, Allen appeared with Steve Rossi as part of the comedy team Allen & Rossi. Besides performing live and in movies, the duo appeared many times on The Ed Sullivan Show. That's where Allen met The Beatles when they were making their first television appearance in the U.S. He went over to John Lennon and said, "A lot of people mistake me for you," which sent Lennon into gales of laughter.

When asked how many times he did The Ed Sullivan Show, Allen quips, "I did more than Ed."

Allen not only performed with a lot of stars, but he was friends with them, and he cherishes these friendships. He says that he was even close friends with Elvis Presley. When he met him, Allen said, "Elvis, I want you to quit doing my act!" Allen says that the King collapsed with laughter. "It's my payoff when I can get that kind of reaction."

A favorite story of Allen's is about the time that he dressed up like Elizabeth Taylor, including a wig, a stole and earrings. He went to the restaurant where Liz and Richard Burton were having dinner. Allen says they started laughing hysterically when he began imitating Taylor. Burton asked him if he had ever thought of doing anything by Shakespeare, and the quick-witted Allen replied, "I don't do old material."

Today, Allen and his wife Karon Kate perform their act mainly at casinos around the country. (Their next slated performances are in July. To find out more go to www.MartyAllenHelloDere.com).

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We can't wait to see what he does for his 100th birthday!

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100 when he plays the Downtown Grand for two nights March 22 and 23, his 93rd birthday. "I don't feel old. I feel like a young spud. The only problem is that at my age joining the sexual revolution, I'm out of ammunition," he told me.

my 100th birthday. If the mayor doesn't have the downtown stadium built by then, I'll have to go overseas — maybe China with all these fan letters coming in."

Marty and his wife, singer Karon Blackwell, live here and will perform the two shows as a combination of half of their regular song-and-comedy act and half talking about life experiences with photos through the ages. "I'll talk about what happened with me when I was with Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton when I played with the Beatles on 'The Ed Sullivan Show,' my relationship with Tova and Ernie Borgnine.



"We just did that version of my official biography, "Hello Dere," in Mill Valley, and Mort Saul and Robin Williams' widow, Susan, came to see it. It's a combination show, but my comedy hasn't really changed over the years. We're the new George Burns and Gracie Allen, only I'm Gracie."



Marty is baffled as to why he's suddenly started getting incredible amounts of fan mail from overseas. "You can't believe how much it is from China, Singapore, England and Europe. It's unbelievable. They must be showing some of the comedy sketches and movies. I've been sending out tons of photos to meet their requests.

93rd birthday

Veteran comic Marty Allen has no intention of retiring, let alone slowing down as he celebrates his 93rd birthday. In fact, he's partying as if he's turning

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A Man of 1,000 Faces, At Least On The Walls

-- March, 2015

▶ WEATHERFORD: With photos, stories of showbiz

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

for your husband."
Betty Ford somehow knew he could do the jitterbug, and that's why there's a picture of the two of them dancing at the White House, the floor cleared of anyone else who would dare crash the moment.
That big silly grin on Presley's face came after Allen scolded him, "You gotta quit doing my act."
"I never saw anybody laugh like that," he says.
Allen turns 93 on March 23, and he will celebrate by doing what he likes to do best: performing. He and Karon

Kate Blackwell — his stage partner and wife since 1984, when the two were married at Sidney Sheldon's mansion — will play the Downtown Grand's Grand Parlor on March 22 and 23.
Blackwell has long played the straight-man role in Allen's classic routines. But this time they're trying something different. All those pictures? Fans will get to see them. Instead of doing the old skits like the added football player, Allen will offer a running commentary on a slide show.
His wife talked him into it. "Marty, you're so funny when you're telling stories about your life," she would

tell him. "In the beginning, though, he wouldn't do it." But they tried it at a recent date in California and the crowd loved it.
He won't be able to bring along everything, like his medal for heroism in World War II, his poster for "A Whale of a Tale" — perhaps William Shatner's most obscure movie — or his bound copy of the script for his episode of "The Big Valley."
But there's only so much room in a house, and only so much time in a show.
"You name it, I did it," he says.
For more stories from Mike Weatherford go to bestoflasvegas.com. Contact him at mweatherford@reviewjournal.com.

Mike Weatherford/REVIEW JOURNAL
Marty Allen in the guest house that serves as his office and houses much of the memorabilia from his long career.



Marty Allen has a lot more framed photos than he has walls to display them.
He has a very nice house, mind you. He just has a lot more photos from a career that spans at least 70 of his nearly 93 years.
If you had an already-framed picture signed by astronaut Buzz Aldrin, who wrote "Thanks for being so human," you'd likely free up some space.
But in the guest house, which serves as Allen's office, and where he sometimes writes short stories or the self-published memoir "Hello Dere!" (his catchphrase), the Aldrin photo waits for its wall.

The competition includes a photo of Dean Martin, who inscribed, "Is that a haircut or did you back into a wall socket?" referring to the shock of Van de Graaff hair that's made Allen immediately recognizable since the early '60s.
Elvis Presley wrote that Allen put on "one of the best damn shows we've ever seen," adding "You get a 99+."
With and without stage partner Steve Rossi, who died last year, Allen traveled the world and made the rounds. Perhaps the most amazing thing about their career is that Allen and Rossi accomplished most of it as an opening act.

"The singers were the big stars, and they used comedians to open the show. Do your 20 minutes and get off."
"I got lucky," Allen adds. "I worked with Nat (King) Cole, I worked with (Frank) Sinatra, (Paul) Anka, Shirley Bassey, Patti Page... I worked with superstars who will never come our way again."
A lot of people he is pictured with are laughing at the moment the photos were snapped.
Take John Lennon. "He had no idea who I was," when fate brought the Beatles to "The Ed Sullivan Show" the same night as Allen and Rossi. "So I walk over and say, 'John?' He says, 'Yes?'"
"A lot of people mistake me for you."
A variant version of the line worked for Betty Ford: "A lot of people mistake me

▶ SEE WEATHERFORD PAGE 46
With pictures, a peek into a life

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Las Vegas Sun : Friday, Mar 20, 2015

by Robin Leach

ENTERTAINMENT

Comedy legend Marty Allen talks his 93rd birthday, looks to 100

By Robin Leach

A version of this story was posted on lasvegassun.com.

Veteran comic Marty Allen has no intention of retiring, let alone slowing down as he celebrates his 93rd birthday. In fact, he's partying as if he's turning 100 when he plays the Downtown Grand for two nights Sunday and Monday, his 93rd birthday.

"I don't feel old. I feel like a young spud. The only problem is that at my age, joining the sexual revolution, I'm out of ammunition," he told me. "I'm still young at heart, young in mind — but not so young in body."

Marty and his wife, singer Karon Kate Blackwell, live here and will perform the two shows, combining half of their regular song-and-comedy act and half talking about life experiences with photos through the ages.

"I'll talk about what happened with me when I was with Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton when I played with the Beatles on 'The Ed Sullivan Show,' my relationship with Tova and Ernie Borgnine," Marty said.

"We just did that version of my official biography, 'Hello Dere,' in Mill Valley, and Mort Sahl and Robin Williams' widow Susan came to see it. It's a combination show, but my comedy hasn't really changed over the years. We're the new George Burns and Gracie Allen, only I'm Gracie."

Marty is baffled as to why he's suddenly started getting incredible amounts of fan mail from overseas: "You can't believe how much it is from China, Singapore, England and Europe. It's unbelievable. They must be showing some of the comedy sketches and movies. I've been sending out tons of photos to meet their requests."

"The comedy is really quite old, but they invite me to visit there to see the sights and enjoy the food and culture. They're all very complimentary, so with a whole new legion of overseas fans, we may be doing some new traveling. As long as they want my autographed photos, I'll send them so long as I don't go broke with the cost of overseas stamps!"

Is it a case of the older he gets,



L.E. BAYDIN

Marty Allen and Karon Kate Blackwell enjoy a fun moment on the red carpet for the ENTSpeaks performance at the Inspire Theatre in October.

the more famous he becomes?

"It's funny how that is — quite amazing," he told me. "I really enjoy it, though. I love entertaining, and I love working with Karon. She opens the show with dynamic singing, then I walk out and do some jokes and we proceed to do the different photos. It's very different, the combination of the comedy and what's in

the book. Everybody has a wonderful response to it.

"I lived in a time where we had superstars that we will never see again. I was very fortunate to be in a period with Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, Richard Burton, Joan Crawford.... There just aren't stars like that anymore. I lived in a very wonderful time.

"They keep telling me I'm the

oldest working comic now out there. Don Rickles is a young'un at 88. There's no thought on my part of retiring; I'll keep going. I say to Karon as long as they want us and they call us up to play theaters or casinos, we'll keep going. The reaction is still wonderful — the audiences still enjoy what I'm doing onstage. It's clean, it's funny — with Karon's singing

and my comedy, the combination of the two is always a winner.

"We'll keep going because the next thing will be planning my 100th birthday. If the mayor doesn't have the downtown stadium built by then, I'll have to go overseas — maybe China with all these fan letters coming in."

@robin_leach

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The New York Times <http://nyti.ms/2emctLk>

ARTS

Comic Marty Allen Is 94, but Who's Counting? He's Laughing

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS OCT. 19, 2016, 2:34 P.M. E.D.T.

NEW YORK — The baby face and bug eyes were still in place. Ditto, the famous wasp's nest of hair.

"It's unbelievable to be 94 years old," Marty Allen told his audience. "My wife says, 'What do you want for your birthday?' I told her, 'An antique.' So she framed my birth certificate."

Allen — who, more precisely, is 94-and-a-half years old — is still making his audiences laugh six decades after hitting the big time touring with the great jazz vocalist Sarah Vaughan. He made 44 appearances on "The Ed Sullivan Show" with his comedy partner Steve Rossi, and for more than 30 years has performed with his wife, singer-songwriter Karon Kate Blackwell, an able "straight man" in her own right who was by Allen's side Tuesday night at the cozy Metropolitan Room for the first of several scheduled New York appearances.

Allen told her he had flown to New York for the gigs — peasant-class.

"PEASANT-class?!" exclaimed Blackwell. "I don't know what that is."

"A seat by the window," Allen replied, "on the wing looking in."

That wasn't all. He described an odd encounter in an elevator that very morning.

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"A woman keeps looking at me," he reported to the gathering. "She says, 'Oh, my God, I can't believe it. I saw you on "Hollywood Squares"! I saw you with the Beatles on "The Ed Sullivan Show"! I saw you with Joan Crawford and Nat King Cole on "The Hollywood Palace"! But I can't remember your name.'

"I said, 'Brad Pitt.'"

While Allen's comedy is still as broad as his grin, the jokes were still gentle and, even when offered up as topical, they clearly qualified for landmark status.

During a bit where he pretended to be Blackwell's ventriloquist's dummy, she asked her husband, "Who would you like to see as your next president?"

"Me," Allen replied.

"But you're a dummy."

"I'd fit in!"

Allen's act has always been family-friendly, somewhat of a rarity in the Vegas universe where he has long flourished. His raciest wisecrack Tuesday: "I remember the first time I had sex. I kept a receipt!"

For the record, only once during his act did he voice his timeless catchphrase, "Hello dere!" And then it was delivered as a sunny, earnest greeting when he first took the stage.

"Hello dere," of course, has been Allen's signature for more than a half-century. And beyond that, those once were household words that even Mercury astronaut Gordon Cooper radioed from space: "Hello, down dere!"

It was all a lucky accident for Allen, as he explains in his 2014 self-published memoir, aptly titled, "Hello Dere!":

During an engagement at a Philadelphia nightclub, he zoned out in mid-routine while Rossi was asking him a question.

Allen swiftly covered for his lapse with a wide-eyed "Hello dere!"

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"What did you say?" persisted Rossi, milking the moment.

"Hello dere!"

The audience went wild, and, as Allen writes, "I felt like a prospector who had found gold."

After Tuesday's set, Allen dispensed his "Hello dere" greetings generously, voiced to each fan who stepped up to get a book signed or pose for a photo.

Here was a veteran entertainer and living link to the likes of John Lennon and Dean Martin; Frank Sinatra, Lena Horne and Elvis Presley. Allen, who has outlived so many stars he knew and worked with (including Rossi, who died two years ago at 82), had finished his nearly two-hour act looking not at all tired but, instead, refreshed.

"I feel like a kid," he said, trying to explain the unexplainable. "Kids look at me and they think I'm funny. They look at me and they laugh. So when I see kids, I laugh. I'm not one of these intellectual guys. I want to entertain."

For Marty Allen, a budding centenarian, entertaining is still child's play.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Frazier Moore is a national television columnist for The Associated Press. He can be reached at fmoore@ap.org and at <http://www.twitter.com/tvfrazier>. Past stories are available at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/frazier-moore>



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