

CELEBRITY AVAILABILITY

John Barbour: A successful, controversial career...but NEVER dull.



BACKGROUND:

At 15, he was a Canadian 9th grade drop out. At 46, he changed the face of American television as the Creator-Producer-PrincipalWriter and Co-Host of 'Real People,' TV's first reality show. Known as 'The Godfather of Reality TV,' from 1979 to 1981, this number one show for NBC often garnered a 50 share, the most of any show in TV history.

By 1970, he was the original Host of 'AM Los Angeles,' where he won the first of his five Emmys, interviewing guests like Mohammed Ali, Cesar Chaves, and Ronald Reagan; and lost this highest rated highly acclaimed morning show after booking New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison to talk about his investigation into the murder of President John F. Kennedy. It would take 20 years before Hollywood brought Garrison's story to the screen, but John is the only person to whom DA Jim Garrison gave an interview to in the 10 years following the Clay Shaw trial.

The Hollywood Reporter, Friday, July 10th, 1970

Set the alarm. Turn on the set. Pour a cup of coffee. Watch, enjoy and most important of all, learn. Learn how provocative 90 minutes of daybreak can be. Learn how a host, John Barbour, can merge the best elements of any talk show on the air with a commitment to using the medium for both enlightenment and education.... Occasionally, telephone questions are solicited, and to pay the show the highest compliment, the responses are from bright, interested people ... While this particular show, (with Tommy Smothers) showed the possibilities of 'AM' at its best, the program had the feeling it would be the same no matter what morning one tuned in. KABC is to be heartily congratulated. Brad Lachman is the Producer. Mark Massari the Director. John Barbour is the Man! Tony Lawrence. (page 423)

As a stand-up comedian he released two major albums: 'It's Tough To Be White' with liner notes by Dick Gregory, and 'I Met A Man I Didn't Like' with liner notes by Neil Simon. He was Frank Sinatra's personal writer for years, and appeared with him on 'The Tonight Show'. He was a principal writer-performer on the 'Laugh-In' revivals which introduced Robin Williams.

He produced, wrote and hosted 'Ernie Kovacs: TV's Original Genius' for Showtime and PBS, which remains the pivotal documentary on this American comedian.

In Las Vegas, he was the opening act for Robert Goulet, Bobby Darin, and Dionne Warwick. He appeared frequently on variety shows from 'The Dean Martin Show,' 'The Dean Martin Roasts,' to the 'The Merv Griffin Show,' where Westinghouse signed him to replace Merv.

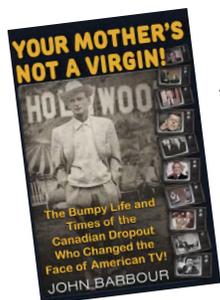
On his own half a dozen Variety Shows in Los Angeles, he gave Redd Foxx his first television appearance, and was known for booking controversial guests like Frank Zappa and Harlan Ellison.

If I had one real friend and mentor in this business, Redd was it. I was thinking of making a list, a short list, of the friends I've kept over the bumpy or prosperous years in this industry. But there is no list. Just one name: Redd Foxx. (page 295)

As an actor, he worked for a year in a British Rep company, and in Hollywood appeared in dozens of TV shows and made-for-TV movies, all the way from 'Ironsides' to 'Get Smart,' 'Sanford and Son,' and a co-starring role with Tim Conway on 'CSI,' and 'Breaking Bad'

In 1972 he won a Golden Mike and was made an Honorary Guardian for his stunning commentary on the murder of Israeli athletes during the Munich Olympics. He is the only person in TV to have won Emmys for both news and entertainment.

In 1992 his documentary feature, 'The Garrison Tapes' won the San Sebastian Film Festival Award...and has had a million views and was the top-watched documentary when premiered on Cinemax. Oliver Stone said it was the companion to his movie, JFK. In May 2017, Barbour completed Part Two of 'The Garrison Tapes' called 'The American Media And the 2nd Assassination of President John F. Kennedy', heralded by assassination experts as the definitive film on the murder of JFK and the historical birth of "fake news". It was accepted for 2017 Oscar consideration.



AVAILABLE APRIL 1, 2019 ON AMAZON:

Your Mother's Not a Virgin: The Bumpy Life and Times of the Canadian Dropout Who Changed The Face of American TV by John Barbour

More at: www.johnbarboursworld.com

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