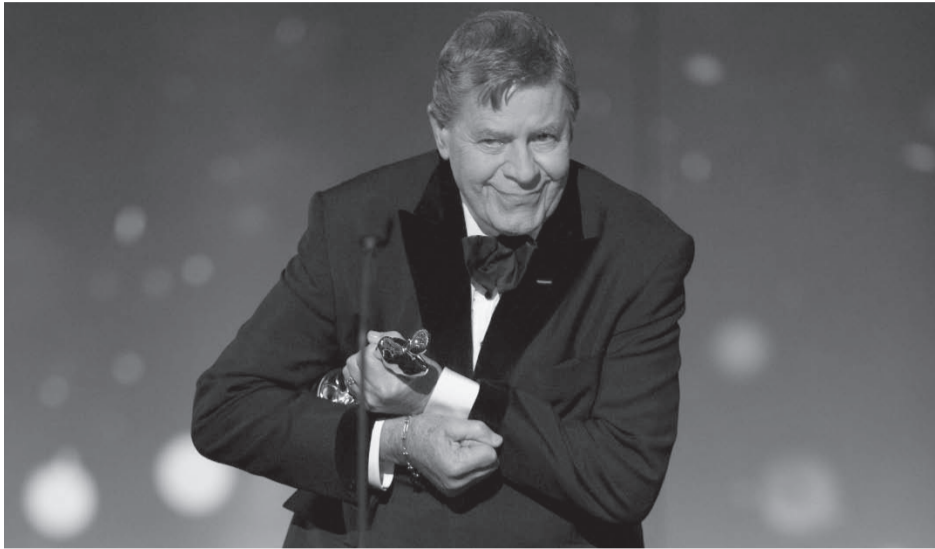


Friars IN THE PICTURE



Who knew that films like *The Stooge*, *Cinderella*, *The Nutty Professor* and *The Geisha Boy* would be part of an Oscar winning resume? The Academy of Arts and Sciences did when they gave Abbot Jerry Lewis the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award. It was for his dedication to the Muscular Dystrophy Association but let's face it he's no slouch in making films either. He has an impressive body of work so it's nice the Academy recognized his talents and his humanitarianism. "My humility is staggering," said Jerry—another surprise.



Friars John Travolta and Susie Essman got animated for Disney's film *Bolt* by lending their voices to the faux action hero dog of the same name (Travolta) and cynical city cat Mittens (Essman). Bolt is a TV action hero who leaves the confines of his fake world a la *The Truman Show* to find he has no real powers. Kind of how celebrities feel when they get roasted. He meets up with Essman's sassy Mittens—who, as any Friar will tell you, can destroy egos with a single quip—oh wait, that's Essman not Mittens. This reality vs. fiction can get so confusing.



Friar Janice Huff got all sultry for PBS. The animated children's series *Cyberchase* featured Huff as Stormy Gale for an episode on math and weather. Who better than NBC's meteorologist and host of "Wednesdays Child," a weekly adoption feature on "News 4 New York at 5," to give kids the right facts. Well, most of the right facts, we are talking about the weather. Of her animated doppelganger Huff noted, "She sort of looks like me, with short hair. And she's purple." It must be all those grapes Janice eats at the Friars brunch.



Ever since Friar Donald Trump breathed new life into his *Apprentice* by creating *Celebrity Apprentice* the show has become a must-see. This season was even even more entertaining thanks to Friar Joan Rivers who has a don't mess with mama attitude (appropriate since daughter Melissa also appeared on the show). Joan came out the winner despite cringeworthy moments in the board room with Clint Black and Annie Duke - her poker playing nemesis. Talk about funny—get on her bad side and this sassy broad gets even funnier.



Friar Liza Minnelli has earned all of those awards that performers would kill to have just one—Oscar, Tony, Emmy, Grammy—not to mention, being the first woman to become a card carrying member of the Friars Club. Liza's personal life may make headlines but our girl just keeps on smiling and singing. Her latest show, "Liza's at the Palace," with Friar Billy Stritch, proved she's still got it. Her voice was amazing and she was as funny as any Friar can be. We can't wait to see her back home on a New York stage again.



Friars Susan Lucci and Jeffrey Ross—that would be THE Jeffrey Ross who doles out laughs for a living—both appeared on *Dancing With The Stars*. Susan was beautiful, graceful (well, most of the time) and not the bad hoofer. According to Susan, "This was a lifetime experience that I will never forget. My dance partner, Tony Dovolani had tremendous patience teaching me how to dance." You can be sure there are no complaints from Tony especially with those sexy sambas he and Susan gyrated through. Jeffrey was the first to be knocked out of the competition but kudos to the comedian for trying. If only his partner Edyta Slinwinska hadn't accidentally poked his eye then maybe he would have seen both his left feet. But the eyepatch had nothing over those Somalian pirates. According to Jeffrey, "It was fun while it lasted, over in a blink of an eye—literally."