



ized I don't know what nationality you are? What would most people probably guess?" Behar answered, "Jewish, but I'm Italian. They let a couple in. Pat Cooper allows it every once in a while—'Where are the Italians?'—so they let two or three in." Cavett said that people take him for being Jewish as well to which Behar responded, "You too? You're so waspy." Cavett noted, "Mel Brooks once called me 'spectacularly gentile.'"

"When you started and found yourself with the first show you had to do did you have the same problem I had?" Cavett asked Behar, "Diarrhea?" asked Behar. Not to be outdone Cavett fired back, "Funny you should mention that after the salmon."

Joy talked about preparation and pre-show jitters, "I don't get nervous doing interviews. I get nervous doing stand-up. Interviewing, it's a conversation so if you wait a couple of seconds the other person will speak, but in stand-up that doesn't happen. If you wait a couple of seconds they walk out."

Behar also had some strong feelings on the goings on at Buckingham Palace fresh off the big Royal Wedding, "The Queen looked like a drunken bumble bee. To me they are a bunch of welfare recipients. I don't see them as special. I don't get that." Cavett agreed saying, "As the years go by there is something increasingly funny about having a royal family."

The SRO crowd got in some great questions too when the discussion was opened up for Q & A. One Friar asked the pair what makes a good talk show guest?

Behar: "A good guest to me is someone who comes to be spontaneous, in the moment and speak the truth about themselves and who's not guarded. When somebody comes on *The View* sometimes and we get a list of things we can't ask them I immediately hate the interview."

Cavett: "They should be reasonably attractive and not spit on the floor." Which neither of these good guests did.

Inside Boxing

The "sweet science" (aka fisticuffs) has long fascinated people from all walks of life. Movies like *Raging Bull*, *Rocky*, *Million Dollar Baby* and *The Fighter* have delighted not only sports fans but anyone who appreciates dedicated and

Talk Show Hosts Talk Shop

Two television talk show legends hooked up at the Monastery to share tales from their award-winning broadcasting careers in an event produced by Friar Randie Levine-Miller. Everyone, of course, knows Friar Joy Behar from ABC's *The View* where she has co-hosted with Friar Barbara Walters, Friar Meredith Vieira, Rosie O'Donnell, Friar Whoopi Goldberg, Star Jones and Elisabeth Hasselbeck over the years. She now has her own prime time talk show on CNN HLN where she covers the goings on in news, politics and entertainment.



Friars Joy Behar and Dick Cavett have a few laughs

Friar Dick Cavett has the remarkable distinction of appearing regularly on television in five consecutive decades. His shows featured classic interviews with such well known celebrities as Friar Groucho Marx, Katharine Hepburn and Friar Lucille Ball. With that in mind he certainly knew what to ask Behar as a first question, "Well Joy, what do you want to know about me?"

Behar quipped, "It's kind of redundant to have two talk show hosts interview each other don't you think?" Cavett retorted, "If we were that sort of talk show host it would be all questions and no answers."

We were fortunate to get plenty of both as the informal and fun conversation went in all different directions. Cavett remarked to Joy, "I real-



Friars Joy Behar, Dick Cavett, Randie Levine-Miller

Photos by Stephen Sorokoff

courageous athletes who are willing to lay it all on the line inside the ring. Or maybe it's because the sport is filled with so many colorful characters with huge compelling personalities. Guys like Burt Sugar and Friar Don King, along with classic fighters like Muhammad Ali, Sugar Ray Leonard, Oscar De La Hoya and Mike Tyson are all household names.

Friar Jules Feiler produced a night that celebrated boxing and the men who make it all so interesting. Friars Prior Stewie Stone moderated the entertaining panel that included some great boxing personalities from behind the scenes. Burt Sugar (boxing historian, author *The*



Prior Stewie Stone, Lou Duva, Burt Sugar, Tommy Gallagher, Friar Lou DiBella, Holt McCallany

Photos by Richard Lewin

Ultimate Book of Boxing Lists), Lou Duva (trainer, manager—Evander Holyfield), Tommy Gallagher (trainer), Friar Lou DiBella (boxing promoter) and Holt McCallany, an actor who has starred in such films as *Fight Club*, *Alpha Dog* and the FX series *Lights Out*. Stone noted, "I think this is one of the most exciting nights we've ever had at the Friars. I've never met intellectuals like this in my entire life. I sat around the table and all they said is, "What's for fucking dinner?""

The evening commenced with some great film clips of the most outstanding boxers of all time followed by a Q&A from the audience that allowed the panel to share their own thoughts about the giants of the ring. DiBella had some terrific insight into Mickey Ward (who was played by Mark Wahlberg in the Oscar nominated film *The Fighter*), "I promoted Mickey Ward the last five years of his career and I was Associate Producer of the film." When Sugar asked if his sisters were as bad as portrayed in the movie, he replied "They were out of their fucking minds. His mother was out of her fucking mind. His father was out of his fucking mind. I've never met a more dysfunctional family in all my life."

The Wards are yet another example of how, when it comes to boxing, we just can't look away.

Make Believe Friars

As part of the New Directions Committee's ongoing movie screenings one of the more unique films shown last season has been *Make*



Bill Koch, Krystyn Lambert, J. Clay Tweel, Hiroki Hara, Steven Klein, Derek McKee

Believe which Friars enjoyed at the Monastery. This coming of age journey, set in the quirky sub-culture of magic, follows six of the world's best young magicians as they pursue the title of Teen World Champion and take us on their personal journeys of transformation through magic.



Friar Paul Ginsberg, Friar Charlie Prince, Lance Burton

Photos by David Kogut

The screening was followed by a Q&A with Director J. Clay Tweel and Producer Steven Klein. Some of the kids in the film made an appearance along with master magician Lance Burton—so all in all it was, well, a magical evening!

Hoda and Kathie Lee Today

When Friars and *Today* show co-hosts Friar Kathie Lee Gifford and Hoda Kotb got together for a Celebrity Lunch, produced and hosted by Emmy and MAC Award-winning *Today* Producer Friar Angela LaGreca, you just knew it would be an afternoon filled with wit, wisdom and, of course, wine.

The winning combination of Gifford and Kotb has been a huge success as the bonus 4th hour of NBC's legendary *Today* show. They told LaGreca how it all happened.



Hoda Kotb and Friar Kathie Lee Gifford meet up with Friar Liza Minnelli

Hoda explained, "We had already started this additional hour of *Today* and it was Ann Curry, Natalie Morales and me and the show wasn't doing well. There was something about it that just didn't work." At this point Gifford began yawning which prompted big laughs from the SRO crowd that included iconic Friar Liza Minnelli, who is also a popular guest on *Today*. Hoda also chuckled and continued, "I was at Michael's with my producer and we saw Kathie Lee sitting at this table—we hadn't seen her since Regis—and we walked up to her and asked her if she would guest co-host one day. Kathie came to the show and it was like riding a bike. She talked about her cleavage, her peach pit, she did everything that she does and the show instantly

changed on that day. The powers that be were all over her to come back."



Hoda and Kathie Lee chat with the Friars

Gifford added, "At that time that was very nice because I was 55ish and you feel like the contribution that you've made has been made and I felt like I had the best fifteen years I could ever have on television with Regis. They were great years. They were amazing years and I was happily living in Connecticut, living on the water, raising my kids, writing for musical theatre and when you guys sort of ambushed me I was touched, 'Oh my gosh you know who I am?' And then I ended up going and the suits



Friars Angela LaGreca and Liza Minnelli

from NBC showed up and said, 'Can you come back tomorrow?'"

As for the infamous glass of wine they sip during each broadcast, LaGreca didn't shy



Hoda Kotb, Friar Angela LaGreca and Friar Kathie Lee Gifford

away from the subject, "Let's talk about the drinking on the show," she said. "It's the elephant in the room," joked Gifford. Kotb explained, "It started with a guest—Chelsea Handler—who had a book out, *Are You There Vodka? It's Me, Chelsea* and we wanted her to



Kathie Lee Gifford, Dean Freddie Roman, Hoda Kotb

feel comfortable and the producers brought her a drink on set. It was such a fun segment that Brooke Shields came on later and said, 'I saw that. Where's my drink?' OK, let's get one for Brooke and then our prop guys just became bartenders! Then *Time* magazine dubbed us the 'Happy Hour of the *Today* Show.'"

The Friars on hand for the Luncheon certainly agreed with *Time*'s high praise of the pair whose chemistry both on stage and off is unmatched.