

### Chapter 1 : The George Burns and Gracie Allen Show (TV Series "€") - IMDb

*George Burns (born Nathan Birnbaum; January 20, - March 9, ) was an American comedian, actor, singer, and www.nxgvision.com was one of the few entertainers whose career successfully spanned vaudeville, radio, film and television.*

At private services, George Burns is remembered for his wit, kindness and generosity. They reminisced about the passing of a show business legend, a bespectacled funnyman who rode his schtick from vaudeville to Hollywood. But even as they mourned, the humor of George Burns continued to play the crowd in perhaps the most fitting tribute of all. What am I supposed to do, stay home and play with my cuticles? There were no celebrities at this funeral. It was a quiet, personal affair for those closest to Burns, who died of heart failure at age on Saturday at his home in Beverly Hills. Born Nathan Birnbaum on the Lower East Side of Manhattan in , Burns began in vaudeville as a teenager before teaming up with Gracie Allen, his wife and the other half of a duo that charmed radio and television audiences for nearly three decades on "The George Burns and Gracie Allen Show. In that famous comedy team, Burns played the straight man, while Allen obligingly turned the jokes as his scatterbrained partner. They would end each show with the same routine. Allen died in , and Burns eventually stepped out with his own solo act, playing nightclubs in Las Vegas, appearing in television specials and winning an Academy Award for his supporting role in the film "The Sunshine Boys," in which he played a retired vaudeville performer. Burns had planned to play the Palladium in London for his th birthday but was too ill to make the appearance. In the end, he had appeared in more than a dozen movies and had written 10 books. He will leave a very large void in our lives. Mirkin recalled how the country club prohibited smoking in its dining area but made an exception for Burns, who seldom had been seen in public without an El Producto in his mouth. For much of his adult life, he smoked 15 to 20 cigars a day. Anyone over 90 could smoke. Burns frequently tipped bellboys for even the most basic services. Burns will be entombed next to Allen in a mausoleum at the cemetery. He is survived by his son, Ronald J. Burns; his daughter, Sandra Jean Burns; seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Mirkin said he is planning another memorial for Burns in the coming weeks that is expected to attract many of the celebrities that Burns counted as friends, including Berle, Buddy Hackett, Billy Crystal, Bob Newhart and others. But perhaps the most personal, and most poignant, sentiments came at the small chapel on the hillside.

**Chapter 2 : All my best friends by George Burns**

*Although George Burns and Gracie Allen have a relationship similar to Lucille Ball and Desi Arnez's (one I don't find appealing), there is a certain something one cannot ignore or dislike. Adding to this quiet quality are the variety of stars on this set ranging from Mickey Rooney to Rita Hayworth to Eddie Cantor.*

Chalmers On the 30th of March, , the Rev. Thomas Chalmers, of Kilmany, preached his first sermon in Glasgow, a few months prior to his admission as Minister of the Tron Church. Among his hearers was George Burns, who fell at once under the potent spell of the great preacher. Nor did the pale, unemotional, plain face, with its broad and prominent cheek-bones, and large half-closed eyelids, betoken the magical influence the great champion of the Evangelical revival was to wield. But as he warmed into his subject, burst himself free from all conventional fetters, and threw himself out upon his theme, the face and figure of the man were transfigured ; his voice lost much of its harshness, and his gestures seemed the natural complement of his words as the glories of his eloquence poured forthâ€”electrifying all who heard him. Chalmers lived in the closest friendship with men much younger than himself. In the course of years some hundreds of letters passed between these two, but unfortunately they have been mislaid or destroyed, and we must content ourselves, therefore, by weaving together into as complete a narrative as may be, the fragmentary recollections of long-later years. At the time of Dr. It had come to be a poor, lifeless affair; sometimes not more than ten or a dozen old people attending the service. As George Burns came out of the church, on the day when the first sermon of the series was preached, he was able to give attention to the people who had composed the congregation, and he was struck to find that many of them were the most unlikely he would have expected to seeâ€”rich and poor, learned and illiterate, religious and profane, all had flocked together to the church that day. As lie stood, he chanced to overhear a short conversation between two old women. Long ere the bell began to ring, a stream of people might be seen passing through the passage which led into the Tron Church. Across the street, and nearly opposite to this passage, was the old reading-room where all the Glasgow merchants met. So soon, however, as the gathering, quickening stream on the opposite side of the street gave the accustomed warning, out flowed the occupants of the coffee-room; the pages of the Herald or the Courier were for a while forsaken, and during two of the best business hours of the day the old reading-room wore a strange aspect of desolation. Chalmers settled in Glasgow, he was revolving vast schemes in his mind. Chalmers was a firm believer in every member of a church taking part in church work, instead of throwing the whole burden upon the shoulders of the minister. Hitherto the chief duties of the elders had consisted in standing by a plate at the church door to receive contributions, distributing them to the poor, and occasionally visiting the sick. Henceforth not for elders only, but for every member of the church and congregation whom he could rouse to a sense of responsibility, he was ready to organize work and assign a position. Foremost among his efforts was the establishment of a comprehensive system of Sabbath Evening Schools, to counteract in some degree the deplorable ignorance he had discovered among the young people of the wynds and alleys. He invited a few picked members of his congregation to form themselves into a society for the purpose of establishing such schools in various districts of his parish, and on the 3rd of December, , the first of these schools was opened in Chapbell Street with thirteen in attendance. Fresh schools soon followed, and within two years twelve hundred children were under religious instruction. Monthly meetings of the teachers were held, at which the Doctor was always present; and at one of the first it was arranged that there should be no set form of teaching, but that each teacher should, within certain necessary limits, have full liberty to work according to his own ways and methods. George Bums was one of the first to enrol himself as a teacher, and for many years, and long after he was married, he continued his labours in the Sunday schools. It was a different matter to be a Sunday-school teacher in those days than it is in these. Some professed to regard it as interfering with the proper domestic training of the young; others, that the whole thing was born of conceit and pride, and that laymen were usurping functions which should only be performed by the clergy; while many lifted up their hands in horror at the terrible amount of fanatical piety which was being fostered! From the platform and the pulpit Dr. Chalmers vigorously defended the Sunday-school system and the Sunday-school

teachers, who, through evil and good report, worked on zealously. Chalmers, as we have said, chose for his intimate friends young men with highly intellectual endowments or special spiritual graces. No sooner had he commenced those mighty enterprises which were to create a moral revolution not only in Glasgow, but, by the force of their influence, throughout Scotland and in some degree throughout the world, than he took into his innermost confidence, to aid him with their counsel and their prayer, young George Burns and, though considerably older, Peter Gilfillan, a writer lawyer, and a man of good position, great ability and warm Christian zeal. Chalmers selected to meet with him every Saturday evening for conference, and to pray for success on the following Sunday in the church and in the schools. Chalmers proposed that the meeting-place should be in Mr. In all the movements of those eventful times, therefore, George Burns stood at the heart of things, and in the incidents which we shall now proceed to relate, we come into very close contact with the prime movers. In January, 1817, the year when Dr. Chalmers was asked to London to preach the anniversary sermon of the London Missionary Society. Gilfillan went along with him, and I says George Burns was very sad to be left behind; not only because I delighted to accompany Dr. Chalmers, but also because I had not at that time seen London, and could not afford either the time or the money. On this particular occasion he was staying in the house of William Wilberforce, and while there he was invited to dine at the house of a nobleman, where, among the guests to meet him, was the late Bishop Philpotts, of Exeter, who was remarkable for his cordiality and politeness. Chalmers was led up to be introduced to him, a row of magnates being on either side, in the drawing-room. Although it was a great disappointment to George Burns not to be able to accompany Dr. Burder—the founder of the Religious Tract Society—sat among the two or three hundred ministers for whom seats in the gallery had been reserved, mopping the perspiration from his brow! On this visit Dr. Chalmers was also accompanied by Mr. John Smith, his publisher, of whom and his family George Burns says: Smith, bookseller in Hutcheson Street, the father of John, who afterwards became publisher. He had a circulating library, and was the chief man in Glasgow as a book-seller. Smith asked how they were used. Smith did so, and allowed himself to be shackled by the wrist. Smith was sadly disconcerted lest any one should come into the shop to find him in such a ludicrous plight. Smith had two sons. Thomas, the one to whom Dr. Chalmers was so devotedly attached, and who died early, was the younger, and with him I was not acquainted. The elder son, John, I knew very well. Vincent Street, where he added to it the function of publisher. Chalmers was very intimate with him also, and he published some of Dr. Collins was one of Dr. It will when Dr. Chalmers was in London on this visit that he became acquainted with James Montgomery, the Moravian and poet. From him Chalmers heard of the struggles of the poor congregations of Moravians—that estimable body of Christians—to raise among themselves sufficient funds to maintain their missionary establishments, commenced and carried on with so much zeal and heroism, in Greenland, Labrador, North and South America, South Africa, the Danish West Indian Islands, and elsewhere. Early in the following year February 5, the Glasgow Auxiliary to the Moravian Missions was formed, the chief burden of which fell to the lot of Mr. James Playfair, whose son still represents the work in Glasgow. James Playfair and his wife were the most intimate friends of George Burns, and it was at their house he first met James Montgomery. Balfour was the first president of the Auxiliary Society, and George Burns was one of a large committee of forty members, and a secretary. He never through life lost his interest in this Auxiliary Society, of which he became the treasurer, and the sole survivor of those who originally constituted the executive. Almost the first of the noble band of men who had to relinquish the position they had taken up in this excellent. Balfour, the President, and one of the most eminent of the ministers of Glasgow. Chalmers was taking a little well-earned rest at Ivlmany, the Princess Charlotte died, and one morning, when he was on his way to preach to his old parishioners, a letter was handed to him, announcing that the magistrates of Glasgow had intimated that the day of the royal funeral would be observed with all due solemnity and ceremony, and requesting him to return and occupy the pulpit of the Tron Church on the appointed day. This demand irritated Ur. Prentiss, distorted a passage, of broadest and most general application, as specifically directed against the supporters of the existing Government, and belauded Chalmers for coining over to the Badical side. Chalmers was there, looking on anxiously. He evidently had something weighing on his mind. Chalmers, who was a capital companion, and whose ordinary table-talk was full of interest. He was very fond of bright and cheerful

conversation enlivened with anecdotes. These he could tell well, and many that, on repetition, seem to lack point, do so because they want the heartiness and vehemence of manner in which he told them. For example, George Burns says: Chalmers once told me a story of a minister in Fife, he preached in a country place where it was the custom for the farmers to be followed by their dogs, and the dogs went into the church. One Sunday there was a stout man sitting in the front loft gallery ; he wore an obvious wig, and was accompanied by a dog which placed his paws on the gallery rail. The man had come in late, had been walking fast, and was extremely hot. He took off his wig to wipe away the perspiration, and in absence of mind put his wig on the head of the dog. The effect was so ludicrous that the minister was greatly discomfited. There was great familiarity between the pulpit and the pew in my early days. On one occasion Dr. Chalmers, Frederick Adamson, myself and others, were dining at the house of my brother, the doctor. Many attempts were made by the ministers of the day to get the custom abolished, as, owing to the advanced state of education, it was no longer necessary. A minister in Fife, whose name I do not remember, proposed to do away with the obnoxious custom, and urged upon his congregation the arguments generally employed in such attempts. One day he announced that the precentor would go on with the singing without reading the line. The minister, as usual, read out the first two lines of the psalm, when the precentor began to do his duty; but a little rebellious feeling broke out in various parts of the church, some of the people repeating the line, and afterwards singing it themselves. Balfour, who, in an attempt to abolish the use of the line, met with considerable opposition from the old people of his congregation, one of whom came to him with her objections. Some time after that a music tune was used in singing the psalms, in which the last line of the verse was repeated three times. The same woman returned to Dr. Balfour with a remonstrance that this was even worse than taking away the reading of the line. Wardlaw, and others, and leave the church in which you should take the greatest interest? Burns of the Barony there was the most cordial friendliness, and the following letter indicates the feeling of both with regard to the good work in which George was engaged: Burns, "It quite escaped me, yesterday, to remind you of our Fast-day on Thursday, the 29th of October, being Thursday fortnight, and to request that, as usual, you would preach for me in the afternoon. He is of the greatest service to me in particular, and I am sure is doing much good for me in various departments of usefulness. Believe me, Yours very affectionately, Thomas Chalmers. Ramsay, a Sabbath-school teacher, Mr. Gilfillan, and a younger brother from South America, to breakfast with me. Went after breakfast with Messrs. Burns and Ramsay to the parish, where I assigned to each a local district, and procured scholars for them.

*"All My Best Friends" is a great history of how entertainment developed in the 20th century from vaudeville and silent movies to radio to talkies to television. And all the performers are there: Burns and Allen, Groucho and the Marx Bros, Jack Benny, Milton Berle, Al Jolson, Eddie Kantor, Ed Wynn, George Jessel, Fanny Brice and dozens of others.*

He was an actor and producer, known for Oh, God! He was married to Gracie Allen and Hannah Siegel. After her death and his retirement period, he created a new image as an remarkably active amiable old comedian. Wearing glasses in his later years. Trivia 36 As a child, he attended P. Uncle of Lou Weiss, chairman emeritus of William Morris Agency, who got his mailroom start in the agency business with help of "Uncle Nate". Was a regular on the "Dean Martin Celebrity Roasts". He was even a guest of honor in Burns loved playing jokes on Benny, almost as much as watching him laugh and pound the floor afterward. Actually wore a hairpiece for most of his performing career; appears briefly without it in The Sunshine Boys and in Two of a Kind He and Gracie Allen continued to play single, even years after they were married; declining ratings prompted George to "update" the act on-air. He said later, "We were the only couple on radio who got married because we had to". Until his death, he smoked as many as ten cigars a day. Facts on File, ISBN His first marriage was in name only. In the early s he was doing a ballroom dancing act with Hannah Siegal, and they were offered a week contract to go out on the road. When her father objected to her traveling with a young man outside the bonds of matrimony, George and Hannah got married so as not to turn down the offer. When they returned from their three-month engagement, they divorced. In the beginning of their partnership Gracie Allen played the straight character and Burns had the funny lines. When he realized Gracie got more laughs, he switched their roles. Daughter Sandra Burns adopted , son Ronnie Burns adopted He was in very fragile health and could not attend his th birthday celebration in person. Oxford University Press, Was originally supposed to deliver the eulogy at the funeral of his best friend Jack Benny , but he was so overcome with emotion after trying that he let someone else do it. In the early s, during the height of their popularity, he had a brief extramarital affair. He apologized to Gracie Allen by giving her a new coffee table, and nothing more was said about it. However, years later, when Gracie was serving coffee to a friend in their living room, George overheard her say, "You know, I wish George would have another affair. I really need a new coffee table". Interviewed around the time of the death of wife Gracie Allen in the summer of , he described her as being his "next breath". The whales in Star Trek IV: Although Gracie Allen was in love with another man when they first met, he carried a ring in his pocket until she finally agreed to marry him. The intention was to turn Broadway on its ear and revive flagging interest in the show, which had been running since , originally with Carol Channing as Dolly Levi. This idea never came to fruition Diller did appear in the show for three months in Brother of William Burns. Was a struggling vaudevillian in his early youth, often appearing as a trick roller skater and in ballroom dance acts. Some of his acts were pretty bad and work was hard to come by, so he was forced to frequently change his stage name, appearing variously as Willy Delight, Captain Betts and Buddy Links. Has never appeared in a Best Picture Oscar nominated film. Personal Quotes 54 Smartness runs in my family. When I went to school I was so smart my teacher was in my class for five years. I went out fishing with a fellow the other day and he fell overboard. Fall in love with what you do for a living. I did go to school--my kind of school. When I was a kid I went out. You talk to them. Anybody says something that makes sense, it stays with you, rubs off on you. That kind of school. You know, lots of times people have asked me what [ Gracie Allen ] and I did to make our marriage work. I think the trouble with a lot of people is that they work too hard at staying married. They make a business out of it. Well, anybody can be a straight man if he hears well. You just have to wait for laughs. Nice to be here? In what other business can a guy my age drink martinis, smoke cigars and sing? I think all people who retire ought to go into show business. I would go out with women my age, but there are no women my age. Bridge is a game that separates the men from the boys. It also separates husbands and wives. A young mind in a healthy body is a wonderful thing. Especially for an old man with an open night. If you stay in the business long enough and get to be old enough, you get to be new again. I use the cigar for timing purposes. If I tell a joke, I smoke as long as they

laugh and when they stop laughing I take the cigar out of my mouth and start my next joke. There are many ways to die in bed, but the best way is not alone. A good martini, a good meal, a good cigar and a good woman. At my age, the only thing hot waiting for me in my dressing room is a bowl of soup. The most important thing to succeed in show business is sincerity. If you live to the age of , you have it made, because very few people die past the age of Happiness is having a large, loving, caring, close-knit family in another city. Even when she comes out of the bathroom, her husband applauds. You just had to cheer him for breakfast, applaud wildly for lunch and give him a standing ovation for dinner. So I made her the comic and the act was a hit from that moment on. That was the beginning of Burns and Allen. It was from [ Florenz Ziegfeld Jr. I never read it to her. I told her it was from some of the boys at the Friars Club. Before she died I said, "Gracie, I got a confession to make. Remember that cable we got that time in vaudeville? Fields ] When he was 22 he played England with his young wife, who was His trick was juggling cigar boxes. The star of the show was an old geezer who had a funny voice. The wife fell in love with the old man. I think Fields got the best of the deal. I was sitting alone in the theater then like I am now. Instead we played Cleveland. The closest I came to Yale was once I had one of their padlocks. At home we ate fish every Friday, as Catholics were then supposed to do. Being Jewish, I compromised. But somehow I managed to fight my way through the ring and sing anyway. That vitality comes over the floodlights. Retirement at 65 is ridiculous. When I was 65 I still had pimples. People think that all I do is stand up and tell a few jokes. The jokes are easy.

**Chapter 4 : Chicago Tribune - We are currently unavailable in your region**

*Imagine George Burns reminiscing about his friends? Well that's exactly what happens in this delightful book. Burns talks about Al Jolson, Eddie Cantor, Ed Wynn, George Jessel and of course his long-time best friend, Jack Benny among many others.*

During the influenza epidemic of 1918, Lippe Birnbaum contracted the flu and died at the age of 17 as George was then called. He went to work to help support the family, shining shoes, running errands and selling newspapers. One day our letter carrier came down to the basement. His name was Lou Farley. Feingold was his real name, but he changed it to Farley. He wanted the whole world to sing harmony. He came down to the basement once to deliver a letter and heard the four of us kids singing harmony. He liked our style, so we sang a couple more songs for him. Then we looked up at the head of the stairs and saw three or four people listening to us and smiling. In fact, they threw down a couple of pennies. So I said to the kids I was working with: We called ourselves the Pee-Wee Quartet. We started out singing on ferryboats, in saloons, in brothels, and on street corners. Sometimes the customers threw something in the hats. Sometimes they took something out of the hats. Sometimes they took the hats. He claimed in a few interviews that the idea of the name originated from the fact that two star major league players George H. Burns and George J. Burns, unrelated were playing major league baseball at the time. Both men achieved over major league hits and hold some major league records. Burns also was reported to have taken the name "George" from his brother Izzy who hated his own name so he changed it to "George", and the Burns from the Burns Brothers Coal Company he used to steal coal from their truck. Though he had an apparent flair for comedy, he never quite clicked with any of his partners, until he met a young Irish Catholic lady in I did have a talent and I was married to her for 38 years. Hermosa Jose, one of his dance partners. The marriage, never consummated, lasted 26 weeks and happened because her family would not let them go on tour unless they were married. They divorced at the end of the tour. Stage to screen[ edit ] Burns and Allen got a start in motion pictures with a series of comic short films in the late 1920s. Their feature credits in the mid- to late 1930s included *The Big Broadcast*; *International House*, *Six of a Kind*, the latter two films with W. It was to star Burns and Allen with Bing Crosby, who was then already an established star of radio, recordings and the movies. The script was titled *Road to Singapore*, and it made motion picture history when it was released in 1935. This section does not cite any sources. Please help improve this section by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. In time, though, Burns and Allen found their own show and radio audience, first airing on February 15, 1935, and concentrating on their classic stage routines plus sketch comedy in which the Burns and Allen style was woven into different little scenes, not unlike the short films they made in Hollywood. For a time, Burns and Allen had a rather distinguished and popular musical director: A somewhat different Gracie also marked this era, as the Gracie character could often be found to be mean to George. Your mother cut my face out of the picture. Look at my face! What happened to it? It looks like you fell on it. What do you make? I make cookies and aprons and knit sweaters. No, I mean what do you earn? As this format grew stale over the years, Burns and his fellow writers redeveloped the show as a situation comedy in the fall of 1938. Goodwin remained, his character as "girl-crazy" as ever, and the music was now handled by Meredith Willson later to be better known for composing the Broadway musical *The Music Man*. Willson also played himself on the show as a naive, friendly, girl-shy fellow. Supporting players[ edit ] The supporting cast during this phase included Mel Blanc as the melancholy, ironically named "Happy Postman" his catchphrase was "Remember, keep smiling! New network[ edit ] In the fall of 1941, after twelve years at NBC, the couple took the show back to its original network CBS, where they had risen to fame from 1929 to 1941. Their good friend Jack Benny reached a negotiating impasse with NBC over the corporation he set up "Amusement Enterprises" to package his show, the better to put more of his earnings on a capital-gains basis and avoid the 80 percent taxes slapped on very high earners in the World War II period. Television[ edit ] George Burns and Gracie Allen, A number of significant changes were seen in the show: A parade of actors portrayed Harry Morton: Burns often broke the fourth wall, and chatted with the home audience, telling understated jokes and commenting wryly about what show characters were doing

or undoing. In later shows, he would actually turn on a television and watch what the other characters were up to when he was off camera, then return to foil the plot. Von Zell was cast as the good-natured, easily confused Burns and Allen announcer and buddy. The first shows were simply a copy of the radio format, complete with lengthy and integrated commercials for sponsor Carnation Evaporated Milk by Goodwin. However, what worked well on radio appeared forced and plodding on television. The show was changed into the now-standard situation comedy format, with the commercials distinct from the plot. Sandy in an occasional voice-over or brief on-air part often as a telephone operator , and Ronnie in various small roles throughout the 4th and 5th season. Ronnie joined the regular cast in season 6. Burns attempted to continue the show for new sponsor Colgate-Palmolive on NBC , but without Allen to provide the classic Gracie-isms, the show expired after a year. Again as in the Burns and Allen television show, George frequently broke the fourth wall by commenting directly to viewers. The series only lasted a year. At the same time, he toured the U. Burns, who enjoyed working, accepted the job for what would be his first feature film since before World War II. As he recalled years later: The saddest are the ones who are retired. Very few performers retire on their own. Six years ago Sinatra announced his retirement. He was chosen to give one of the eulogies at the funeral and said, "Jack was someone special to all of you, but he was so special to me I cannot imagine my life without Jack Benny, and I will miss him so very much. Burns replaced Benny in the film as well as the club tour, a move that turned out to be one of the biggest breaks of his career; his wise performance as faded vaudevillian Al Lewis won him the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor , and permanently secured his career resurgence. At a celebrity roast in his honor, Dean Martin adapted a Burns crack: Burns appeared in this character along with Vanessa Williams on the September cover of Penthouse magazine, the issue which contained the notorious nude photos of Williams, as well as the first appearance of underage pornographic film star Traci Lords. You Devil "in which Burns played a dual role as God and the Devil , with the soul of a would-be songwriter played by Ted Wass at stake. Burns remained active in movies and TV past his 90th birthday. He always smoked a cigar onstage and reputedly timed his monologues by the amount the cigar had burned down. For this reason, he preferred cheap El Producto cigars as the loosely wrapped tobacco burned longer. Burns once quipped "In my youth, they called me a rebel. When I was middle aged, they called me eccentric. Final years and death[ edit ] This section needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Burns remained in good health for most of his life, in part thanks to a daily exercise regimen of swimming, walks, sit-ups, and push-ups. After that, Burns had chauffeurs drive him around. In his later years, he also had difficulty reading fine print. Burns suffered a head injury after falling in his bathtub in July and underwent surgery to remove fluid in his skull. Burns never fully recovered and all performances celebrating his th birthday were canceled. In December , a month before his th birthday, Burns was well enough to attend a Christmas party hosted by Frank Sinatra who turned 80 that month , where he reportedly caught the flu, which weakened him further. When that day actually came however, he was too weak to deliver the planned performance. He released a statement joking how he would love for his th birthday to have "a night with Sharon Stone ". George had said that he wanted Gracie to have top billing. George Burns has three stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame: The first two stars were placed during the initial installations of , while the third star ceremony was held in , [16] [17] in the new category of live performance, or live theatre, established that year.

**Chapter 5 : George Burns - Biography - IMDb**

*Iconic TV comedians George Burns and Jack Benny were best friends for a half-century, going back to their days in vaudeville. But Burns' long career got a remarkable second act when his pal had.*

Burns was making a business he was working with unceasing diligence, he did not pursue it as though it were the one end and goal of life. A high sense of duty guided him in the disposition of his time, and he strove to recognise and give a due proportion to the claims of home and friendship as well as to those of church and country. We need not attempt to follow minutely the history of the earlier years of his married life. They were full of ever-increasing joy, darkened, however, by those clouds which inevitably, in some form or other, overhang family life. Out of seven children that were born to him, three only survived; the others died in early infancy. Many letters full of sympathy he before me from true-hearted relatives and friends who condoled with him in his successive family losses. The following was written by his father, Dr. Burns of the Barony. My dear George,â€”Upon receiving the letter from James intimating your heavy affliction, both your sister and I fell very deeply with you in this renewed trial of your faith and submission to the Divine will. Mysterious are the dealings of the Lord with us, that the young who we flattered ourselves might be spared long for comfort and usefulness are quickly cut down, whilst the aged who have in a great measure outlived their usefulness, are spared. The supreme Lord of all knows, and arranges all His plans in the best manner, and we are required submissively to bow to His sovereign appointments. I have no doubt that you and your dear partner have long ago taken hold of God as your God and Father, and He has promised to be a God in covenant to believers, and to their seed. You received little Elizabeth from the Lord, and you solemnly dedicated her to His service and disposal. The loan which He made of her to you He has seen fit to recall, and has He not a right to do with His own as seems best to Himself? The Judge of all the earth can do no wrong. You said she was His, and that you gave her up to Him: I trust your dear infant is now amongst the little ones, the living in Jerusalem, and celebrating the praises of redeeming mercy of which she was before incapable, perhaps looking down with wonder that you are grieving at her exaltation and glory. Your sister desires me to assure you that she most tenderly sympathises with you both, and would have written you, but thought it unnecessary as I am writing. I ever am your affectionate father, John Burns. Between George Burns and his father there was the most intimate confidence and affection. This was brought about in the following year, and George, albeit the youngest of the family, had the principal hand in promoting it. MacBrayne, in whose family Mr. Black, at that time a licentiate of the Church of Scotland, was a tutor. He it was who was chosen by Dr. Burns to be his assistant and successor. But there were difficulties in the way. The appointment was vested in the Crown, and was usually placed at the disposal of the Member of Parliament for the boroughs. Campbell, of Blythswood, was the member, and he had a minister in view, Mr. Lawrence Lockhart, of Inchinnan, to whom, as soon as the question arose, he was anxious to give the appointment. But this did not meet the views of Dr. Burns, and for some time the matter was kept in abeyance. Campbell handsomely withdrew, and Mr. A good man was Mr. Black, and humorous moreover, as many good men are. There are numerous stories told of his quaint sayings. Burns lived for nearly a dozen years after his assistant was appointed, and people sometimes used to say to Mr. Blackâ€”the degree of D. It had its basis in each case in reciprocity of Christian feeling. John Bums, the surgeon, was a man of singular piety, and of great beauty of personal character, as well as a man of marked ability. John Burns will show how it was perpetuated in his branch of the family. It was, in some respects, an unfortunate circumstance that Dr. Caesar Malan, with his dogmatic assertions upon the doctrine of assurance of salvation, scattered broadcastâ€”and in such an unreasoning manner, that he had told George Burns it was analogous to I the assurance that he had seen George IV. The following is an extract from one of the letters of Dr. John Burns when the hope of his daughter was reviving: The Saviour is not man that He should change, or forsake His people on account of their weakness of faith or coldness of love, or more positive transgression. He is God as well as man, and therefore He is infinite in compassion and firm as a rock. On that Rock you are placed, and although my beloved child, you may tremble at what you see around you, and within you, and may not always see the ground on which you stand, yet still you are on the Rock which

cannot be shaken. You have come to the beloved of your soul, to Him who is all excellent, and although you are indeed sensible that you love Him not as His excellence deserves, and trust Him not as He deserves, and follow Him not as He deserves, yet you still, -without self-delusion, can say that there is none other that your soul desires as a Saviour; that you do love Him, although coldly indeed compared to His merit, and that although you follow Him not with that closeness which the glorified spirits do in heaven, yet you still desire to keep Him in sight, and would not willingly and deliberately renounce your post for all that time can bestow. Who, my beloved Rachel, can love the Saviour enough; who, without delusion, dare say that he trusts in Him with unshaken, composed and enlightened, and constant obedience? The most sanctified here are those, I doubt not, who have their doubts, fears, and seasons of heaviness. The careless and the self-deluded have no fears, no anxieties, no doubts. Did Peter think that he loved Jesus sufficiently, or even more than his brethren did? Did Peter not remember that he had denied his Lord? And yet he did not, when so asked, say that he did not love the Lord. Neither can you say so, and fears proceed from a source which ought to give you encouragement, namely, from a humble knowledge of your own deficiency and the greatness of Him who requires your love. May we both have our way hedged in by the grace of the Redeemer, and at last by Him be brought to the heavenly Zion. Adieu, my dear child, and Believe me ever your affectionate father, J. Will the day ever return when such confidences will be resumed, as this solitary extract from a voluminous correspondence implies? There was never a time when such freedom of manner existed between parents and children as the present, but it is very questionable whether the free intercourse on matters of vital religion as here unfolded, is not almost a thing of the past! It is to be feared that the spirit of controversy has poisoned the atmosphere in which such confidences can live. Rachel Burns died in 1815 She wrote a letter to her father to be read after her decease, so that being-dead she might yet speak to him. May the consolations of His Holy Spirit support and comfort you in every situation and every trial. Rejoice, my beloved father, in the hope, the glorious hope, which is set before you. Earthly comforts may be withdrawn, but the fountain of all comfort is still Jesus. He, the blessed Jesus, ever liveth. He is a friend born for adversity. Trust in Him, my dearest father; He will never leave thee nor forsake thee. That your soul may ever be abundantly satisfied with His love, and ever enjoy His peace, and that we may meet to praise Him through eternity, is the earnest prayer of your dear, Your affectionate child, Rachel. During the year, George Burns was very much away from home, spending a considerable part of his time in London attending to Parliamentary business, and other matters connected with the shipping transactions referred to in the preceding chapter. A few extracts from his daily letters to his wife will point the current of his life and thoughts. Kendal, Sunday Evening, June 15, I was forenoon and afternoon at the parish church to-day. It is a very old-fashioned building, and was well filled. The ministers seemed desirous to do good by their preaching, but their sermons were defective. My lot in life is now fixed, and doubtless by His unerring wisdom. And He has hitherto helped me and delivered me wonderfully out of difficulties, and enabled me to persevere in the struggle. I have still many strong temptations to contend against, but trust that God will help me through. At present, although it is sorely against my nature, I am engaged in the occupation in which I am called in discharging a Christian duty for you, and for our dear children and myself. If I were now to shirk, you all must suffer. God grant that I may have strength given me to carry through my undertakings. London, June 7, Tell her also I saw four or five thousand young chickens like herself to-day in St. I wish my Jane had been there. We slept at Lichfield on Tuesday night, and rose early on Wednesday morning, and saw its beautiful Cathedral and the lovely monument of Innocence in it, that is a monument by Chantry of two grand-daughters of the Dean, who died in early life under distressing circumstances. I cannot forget their beauty, and the perfect personification of repose their appearance, locked in each others arms, presents. London, Sunday, June 10, I have been at Mr. Martin, Mitchell, and Miller. We heard many outrageously odd things, but also many good things from Mr. Miller fairly set off in a fit of laughter, and I followed him; Mr. Martin was restless under the effort to repress the same inclination, and James Mitchell looked perfectly dumbfounded. He spoke of this to Miller, who explained that they were people connected with farms, and had to attend to the milking of the cows. He made many forcible appeals to the conscience. Amongst other things, in talking of our being so apt in religious matters to follow our passions and not our reason, he dashed in an exclamation of this sort: In this month, while George Burns was in London

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and so tied to business that it was impossible for him to get free, twins were born to him. One of them, George, did not long survive ; the other, James Cleland Burns, remains to this day. On one occasion, when my husband went to London to oppose a Bill, your husband was born, and his father could not return for many weeks. So much for the trials incident to men in business.

### Chapter 6 : George Burns Quotes - Friendship Quotes by George Burns

*Buy tickets for George Burns and Friends at. If you need assistance placing your order, call OvationTix customer service Box Office:*

### Chapter 7 : Editions of All my best friends by George Burns

*George Burns and Jack Benny were best friends for more than 50 years. In ``Sunday Nights at Seven`` (Warner), by Jack`s daughter, Joan Benny, Burns insists that Benny, contrary to his widely known.*

### Chapter 8 : George Burns - Wikipedia

*It's good to be here. At 98, it's good to be anywhere. - George Burns. You know you're getting old when you stoop to tie your shoelaces and wonder what else you could do while you're down there.*

### Chapter 9 : Mourners Say Goodbye to a Comedy Legend - latimes

*Here is a wonderful song by the great George Burns from his album Young at Heart. I dedicate this to all my friends that have come and gone over the years. No copyright infringement is intended.*