

UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL
PRESENTS
A
FIVE MINUTE
PERSONAL INTERVIEW
WITH
ZASU PITTS

STAR OF "FRANCIS"

OPEN - END INTERVIEW

ANNCR: WHENEVER THEY TALK ABOUT EXCELLENT PARTY GIVERS AND TOP COOKS OUT IN HOLLYWOOD...THE NAME OF TODAY'S SPECIAL GUEST INVARIABLY COMES UP. AND WHEN I INTRODUCE HER TO YOU...I THINK YOU'RE GOING TO BE MIGHTY SURPRISED. FOR NO ONE EVER THINKS OF HER AS THE DOMESTIC TYPE. INSTEAD, THEY REGARD HER AS THE COMEDIAN WITH THE QUAVERING VOICE, SAD EYES, AND FLUTTERY HANDS...AND WHO ELSE CAN I BE TALKING ABOUT.....

ZASU: (INTERRUPTING) ME...ZASU PITTS.

ANNCR: THAT'S RIGHT...HOLLYWOOD'S OWN...ZASU PITTS. AND BEFORE WE GO ANY FURTHER, THERE'S ONE QUESTION I HAVE TO ASK YOU RIGHT AWAY, ZASU.

ZASU: I KNOW WHAT IT IS.

ANNCR: YOU DO?...WHICH ONE?

ZASU: THE ONE EVERYONE ASKS WHEN THEY FIRST MEET ME...HOW DID I GET MY NAME.

ANNCR: (LAUGHINGLY) WELL, WHAT'S THE ANSWER?

ZASU: IT WAS JUST THAT MY MOTHER WANTED TO NAME ME AFTER TWO OF MY AUNTS, ELIZA AND SUSAN...BUT DIDN'T KNOW WHICH ONE IT WAS GOING TO BE...SO AFTER A LITTLE DISCUSSION...THEY TOOK THE ZA FROM ELIZA AND THE SU FROM SUSAN AND THERE IT WAS...ZASU... NOT ZAZA.

ANNCR: AND THUS KEPT BOTH AUNTS HAPPY.

ZASU: HMMMMM...AND JUST THINK HOW LUCKY I AM THAT MY AUNTS WEREN'T NAMED TALLULAH AND NITA.

ANNCR: WHY?

ZASU: THEN MY NAME WOULD BE TATA PITTS...WHICH YOU MUST ADMIT WOULD BE PRETTY BAD.

ANNCR: (LAUGHINGLY) Yes...I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN. YOU KNOW, ZASU, I INTRODUCED YOU TO OUR LISTENERS AS ONE OF HOLLYWOOD'S TOP PARTY GIVERS AND COOKS...FOR ALL OF OUR PREVIOUS GUESTS HAVE ALL MENTIONED IT TO ME...BUT I MUST CONFESS I DON'T KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT THESE SPECIAL TALENTS OF YOURS. WILL YOU FILL IN SOME OF THE DETAILS FOR US?

ZASU: WELL...WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW?

ANNCR: TO START WITH...WHAT'S YOUR FORMULA FOR A SUCCESSFUL PARTY?

ZASU: I THINK IT'S JUST A MATTER OF INVITING PEOPLE WHO ARE CONGENIAL AND WHO MAKE THEIR OWN ENTERTAINMENT WITHOUT HAVING ANYTHING SPECIAL PLANNED FOR THEM...WHICH REMINDS ME OF A LETTER I RECEIVED YESTERDAY FROM A MAN IN FOREST HILLS, NEW YORK. HE SAID HE HAD A WAGER WITH SOMEONE THAT I HAD STAYED UP ALL NIGHT RECENTLY AND HAD BAKED TWENTY-FIVE PIES, MADE NINE CAKES, AND TWENTY-FIVE DOZEN DONUTS...AND WANTED ME TO LET HIM KNOW IF HE WAS RIGHT.

ANNCR: WELL...DID YOU DO ALL THAT?

ZASU: OF COURSE, I DIDN'T...I WONDER WHERE PEOPLE GET SUCH IDEAS.

ANNCR: BY THE WAY, ZASU, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS?

ZASU: WHY?

ANNCR: WELL, IT'S BEEN JUST ABOUT THAT LONG SINCE WE'VE SEEN YOU ON THE SCREEN.

ZASU: OH...WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE I'VE BEEN BUSY ON THE STAGE ALL THAT TIME.

ANNCR: WELL...WHEN ARE WE GOING TO SEE YOU ON THE SCREEN AGAIN?

ZASU: FAIRLY SOON...I HOPE...RECENTLY, I WENT OUT TO UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL TO WORK IN A PICTURE WITH DONALD O'CONNOR CALLED, "FRANCIS."

ANNCR: HMMMM...THAT'S AN INTERESTING TITLE...WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

ZASU: OH...IT JUST HAPPENS TO BE THE NAME OF THE TALKING MULE WHO'S IN THE FILM...

ANNCR: A TALKING MULE?

ZASU: SURE...HAVEN'T YOU EVER HEARD OF A TALKING MULE?

ANNCR: NOPE...CAN'T SAY THAT I HAVE...WHAT DOES FRANCIS DO IN THE PICTURE?

- ZASU: EVERYTHING...AND I MEAN EVERYTHING. YOU SEE, DONALD PLAYS A POOR UNHAPPY SECOND LIEUTENANT WHO GETS LOST IN THE JUNGLE WHILE JAPANESE SHELLS ARE EXPLODING AROUND HIM...AND AFTER HE GETS HIT...A G. I. MULE...WHO IDENTIFIES HIMSELF AS FRANCIS... SPELLED WITH AN 'I'...CARRIES HIM TO SAFETY. FRANCIS TAKES A LIKING TO DON AND LATER TIPS HIM OFF TO JAPANESE TROOP MOVEMENTS AND CAUSES DON TO BECOME A HERO...
- ANNCR: YOU MEAN, FRANCIS CAN ALSO REPORT ENEMY MOVEMENTS AS WELL AS TALK...
- ZASU: CERTAINLY!...WHY NOT...
- ANNCR: (PUZZLED) SURE...WHY NOT...
- ZASU: BUT EACH TIME DON TELLS HIS SUPERIOR OFFICERS THAT A MULE TOLD HIM ABOUT THE MOVEMENTS...HE GETS TOSSED INTO THE HOSPITAL MENTAL WARD FOR OBSERVATION...
- ANNCR: WHERE DO YOU COME INTO THE PICTURE, ZASU?
- ZASU: RIGHT THERE. YOU SEE I'M HIS NURSE IN THE MENTAL WARD AND I TRY TO PERSUADE DON HE'S HEARING THINGS...AND THAT THERE ISN'T REALLY A TALKING MULE CALLED, FRANCIS...
- ANNCR: WHAT HAPPENS?
- ZASU: WELL...AS A RULE I USUALLY TELL FOLKS HOW PICTURES END...BUT THIS IS ONE TIME I'M GOING TO SAY "SORRY"...FOR "FRANCIS" IS SUCH A FUNNY FILM AND HAS SUCH A DELIGHTFUL SURPRISE ENDING... I WANT YOU TO SEE IT FOR YOURSELF....
- ANNCR: ALL RIGHT...I WILL...IT SOUNDS LIKE A LOT OF GOOD ENTERTAINMENT....
- ZASU: AND NOW I THINK I SHOULD FOLLOW FRANCIS'S ADVICE.
- ANNCR: WHAT ADVICE?
- ZASU: WELL, ONE DAY ON THE SET WHILE TALKING TO SOME NEWSPAPERMEN HE REMARKED, "I THINK I OUGHT TO GO...I'VE BEEN TAKING UP TOO MUCH OF YOUR TIME." AND AS HE PASSED HE WINKED AT ME AND WHISPERED, "ALWAYS LEAVE THEM BEFORE THEY LEAVE YOU."
- ANNCR: (WONDERMENT) FRANCIS SAID THAT?
- ZASU: YES...WHY NOT?
- ANNCR: (BEFUDDLED) SURE...WHY NOT?...

-4-

ZASU: AND SO BEFORE I WEAR OUT MY WELCOME... I'M GOING TO LEAVE.
THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME OVER.

ANNCR: THANKS FOR COMING OVER, ZASU PITTS... GOOD LUCK TO YOU... AND
WHEN YOU SEE FRANCIS... SAY HELLO TO HIM FOR ME... AND TELL
HIM WE'RE ALL LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU, DONALD O'CONNOR,
AND HIM REAL SOON....

ZASU: I WILL... SO LONG EVERYBODY....

-0-