



Artifact Showcase

George Burns and Gracie Allen Publicity Photo

Husband and wife comedy team George Burns and Gracie Allen had popular programs, first on radio, and then on television. Burns played the straight man and Allen his nutty wife, whose convoluted logic created much of the humor. (In real life she was said to be smart and very logical, and did well against experts on the intellectual quiz show *Information Please!*)

After getting their start in vaudeville (as did many stars of the Golden Age of Radio) the two launched their radio career in 1929 on the BBC in London. Their U.S. stardom began in 1932. *The Burns and Allen Show* aired at times on CBS and at other times on NBC until 1950 when it began its nearly decade-long run on television.



When President Roosevelt ran for a third term, Gracie had fertile ground for gags by launching a run for president as a candidate of the Surprise Party. When asked about her political experience, she replied that she had run for governor in the State of Coma.

The Burns and Allen radio show was inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame in 1994, and the Television Hall of Fame in 1998. The team appeared in several movies. Jack Benny was a dear friend of George and Gracie's.

This promotional photo from the Museum's photo archives was taken early in their radio careers.

We appreciate your support of the museum so that historical artifacts like this one, and the stories that go with them, can be preserved for future generations. THANKS!