

## **“MY FAVORITE YEAR”**

**BENJY**

Mr. Swan, can I tell you something? BENJY Stone is not who he seems to be.

**ALAN**

Who is stone? Who is?

**BENJY**

Well I'm not even BENJY Stone. I'm Benjamin Steinberg. I changed my name because I thought it wouldn't look good on the screen. I'm a phony.

**ALAN**

Because you changed your name? What's in a name? A rose by any other name would wither and die. I'll give you a name. Clarence Duffy.

**BENJY**

Clarence Duffy? Who's Clarence Duffy?

**ALAN**

He's a young man from the west of Scotland. Middle class, Irish decent, who's Father was a grammar school teacher. His mother looked after her garden, Her husband and her only son. At the age of 18 he joined the navy. One year Later he jumped ship in Liverpool with notions of becoming an actor finishes Up in English B movies. 6 months later Lou Goldmark of paramount studios Announces his find. A dashing new English actor to star in paramount's next Big adventure film Swords of Glory.

**BENJY**

Clarence Duffy.

**ALAN**

One in the same.

**BENJY**

So you're not Alan Swann?

**ALAN**

Oh yes I am...and you're the only living soul who knows it.

BENJY

It dies with me Clarence. At least you're an actor. Actor's are supposed to make up names. It's not just making up a name Steinberg....

ALAN

The studio made up an entire life for me and I let them do it and now I can't tell where the bogus one ends and the real one begins. Nothing about me is what it seems to be. Even the reason why I'm doing your Comedy Cavalcade program is not because I wanted to. It's because of a deal I made with my new partner the Internal Revenue Service. If I do the show and give them half the proceeds they promise not to throw me out of the country.

BENJY

That dies with me too, Duff.

ALAN

Tonight your mother said shame on you and she's right. I'm fed up with people letting me get away with things...and everyone does...my friends, my agents, my manager, my doctor, my former wives, even my daughter

BENJY

You look great...how do you feel.

ALAN

I feel great stone thank you. I feel so well I'm going to make a prediction. It usually takes me two or three takes to warm up but tonight I predict we'll get it on the first take.

BENJY

We always get it on the first take. We have to.

ALAN

You do?

BENJY

Sure, It's live television.

ALAN

Live?...live? What does live mean?

BENJY

It means at the exact moment you're cavorting and leaping around That stage over there, 20 million people are seeing it.

ALAN

Wait a minute. Wait a minute! You mean it all goes into the camera lens and spills out into people's houses?

BENJY

Yeah.

ALAN

Why hasn't anyone had the goodness to explain this to me before?

BENJY

It's nothing to worry about mister Swann our audiences are great.

ALAN

Audiences? What audience?

BENJY

You knew there was an audience what did you think those seats were for?

ALAN

I haven't performed in front of an audience for 28 years. Audience? I played a butler. I had 1 line!! I forgot it.

BENJY

Look don't worry... this is gonna be easy.

ALAN

For you maybe...not for me. I 'm not an actor I'm a movie star.

BENJY

You can do it!

ALAN

I need time to think. I need time to think. I need time to think!

BENJY

Is that time to think or time to drink?

ALAN

Yes!

BENJY

What are you doing?

ALAN

Drinking and leaving!

BENJY

The musketeer sketch is on after the hijack sketch.

ALAN

I'm not doing the muscatel sketch.

BENJY

Musketeer.

ALAN

I'm not doing either. Alfredo!!! Alfredo!!

BENJY

Mr Swan...

ALAN

Oh my God Stoneberger will you ever leave me alone?

BENJY

As soon as you finish the show.

ALAN

I'm not doing the show.

BENJY

You have to do the show if you don't they'll deport you.

ALAN

Hahaha it doesn't matter. That's a sad sight.

BENJY

You're a sadder sight. All you end up doing is making anyone who cares for you unhappy.

ALAN

You know what they say about me Stoneberg...you can depend on Alan Swann he will always let you down.

BENJY

You tell tess that? Oh that's right you couldn't get out of the car.

ALAN

Stone...I'm afraid. I'm afraid. That's why I couldn't get out of the car to see my tess. My child.

BENJY

Alan Swann afraid? The defender of the crown, Captain from Tortuga, the last knight of the roundtable.

ALAN

Those are movies...damn you! Look at me. I'm flesh and blood, life size, no larger, I'm not a silly goddamn hero. I never was.

BENJY

To me you were. Whoever you were in those movies those silly goddamn heroes meant a lot to me. What does it matter if it was an illusion? It worked. So don't tell me this is you life size. I can't use you life size. I need ALAN swans as big as I can get them. And let me tell you something. You couldn't have convinced me the way you did unless somewhere in you, you had that courage. Nobody's that good an actor. You are that silly goddamn hero.