

The 2 sides of TV's Bob Saget

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Bob Saget's well-known role on Full House is no preparation for his standup comedy act. He performs next week at Comedy Works in Greenwood Village.

Photo courtesy of Bob Saget

'Full House' star to show his 'other side' at Comedy Works

BY PETER JONES

STAFF WRITER

Bob Saget is nothing, if not diverse.

As an entertainer, he has lived a sort of dual life – the star of a squeaky-clean sitcom by day, and a decidedly R-rated standup comic by night.

As Danny Tanner on *Full House*, Saget played the kind of idyllic single father that only 1980s television could have imagined, one whose good-natured, if imperfect, parenting was invariably accompanied by the clean comedy of his quick-witted adult roommates.

On stage, Saget’s “family” has been more of the dysfunctional variety, and not the kind of humor suited to everyone’s favorite identical-twin moppets.

Saget brings his self-described “soft-R” stage show to the Comedy Works in Greenwood Village for two nights, Oct. 16-17.

The comic-actor has worn a range of hats in his decades’ long career, first winning a student Oscar at age 21 for a serious-minded documentary on his cousin’s face-reconstruction surgery.

His diverse television career later included a stint as host of *America’s Funniest Home Videos*, HBO comedy specials and his own short-lived reality series, *Strange Days*, which saw Saget risk life and limb in a motorcycle club and arrange mail-order marriages, among other eclectic scenarios.

As a director, his 2007 film *Farce of the Penguins* paired stock footage of the flightless birds with comic voices to create an offbeat parody of the French Academy Award-winning nature documentary of a similar title.

The Villager recently asked Saget about his wide-ranging career choices.

Villager: You have a special connection to Comedy Works. You met your girlfriend there.

Saget: Yes, but we are no longer together (laughs).

Villager: Well, thank you for coming back nonetheless.

Saget: Exactly! A lot of my stuff is relationship-driven right now. I’m close to that club for many reasons. I actually opened the one in Greenwood Village. I asked her to put the curtain in between the stage and the bathroom. It’s no secret that it’s one of the best clubs in North America.

Villager: Given this played-up irony of *Full House* and blue comedy, have you felt pressure to push the envelope in your live act even further than you would have otherwise?

Villager: I think it’s the opposite now. I didn’t do it on purpose. I wasn’t like a 9-year-old boy stomping his feet. It’s no different than an actor playing many different roles. Right now, I feel no obligation for anything except to be as funny as I can be and to try and be as fresh and relevant as I can be for who I am.

Villager: Did you endure the recent behind-the-scenes Lifetime movie about the making of *Full House*?

Saget: I can’t watch that. I can barely watch *Full House*. It was a caricature piece and I know it was also full of many lies, but I also know it was a love letter.

**Bob Saget will perform
at Comedy Works at the
Landmark in Green-
wood Village, Friday
and Saturday, Oct. 16-
17. For tickets and more
information, visit www.comedyworks.com**

Villager: It portrayed you as a sort of sardonic stand-up comic frustrated by a subpar sitcom beneath his comic dignity.

Saget: That's not how it was at all. I was incredibly happy to get the job. I wanted to be on a sitcom. I had no job. I had just gotten fired.

Villager: Now you've rejoined the cast in a new Netflix series aptly called *Fuller House*. Is the new show a little more knowing than the old one?

Saget: It's more self-aware and they did a beautiful job. I had a ball. They wrote funny stuff. It had moral fiber. The premise is really solid. [Actress] Candace [Cameron] is trying to raise three boys. Her husband was a firefighter who passed away. So they're using the same premise as when I lost my wife [on the original series]. It's got a Disney movie kind of feel to it. There are a lot of single parents in Disney movies.

Villager: No Olsen twins, I understand.

Saget: To my knowledge, no, but I know people are still talking. They're successful women that don't want to act.

Villager: Talk about *Farce of the Penguins*.

Saget: I wrote it, directed it, voiced it. Samuel L. Jackson narrated it. We used really bad stock footage from New Zealand of penguins because we couldn't get any of the original footage. I just wanted to take the original *March of the Penguins*, take off the soundtrack and have the penguins complaining and cursing. But the French people who made the \$150-million-revenue-making movie said no, there would be a revolt in France if you do that to this classic.

Villager: For your TV show *Strange Days*, you once rode in the sidecar of a motorcycle from Nashville to Tampa going 80 mph.

Saget: It was crazy that I did something so dangerous without a seatbelt.

Villager: I'm not sure I'd do that for a paycheck.

Saget: I don't do things for paychecks. I'm always trying to do something that interests me.

Villager: How does that work in comedy?

Saget: I look at standup as though it's jazz. There are things where I'll have a premise and the audience will guide me through and I'll come up with material that doesn't ever sound like material.

Villager: Boy, you're a risk taker in a lot of ways.

Saget: It's a fun way to be.

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