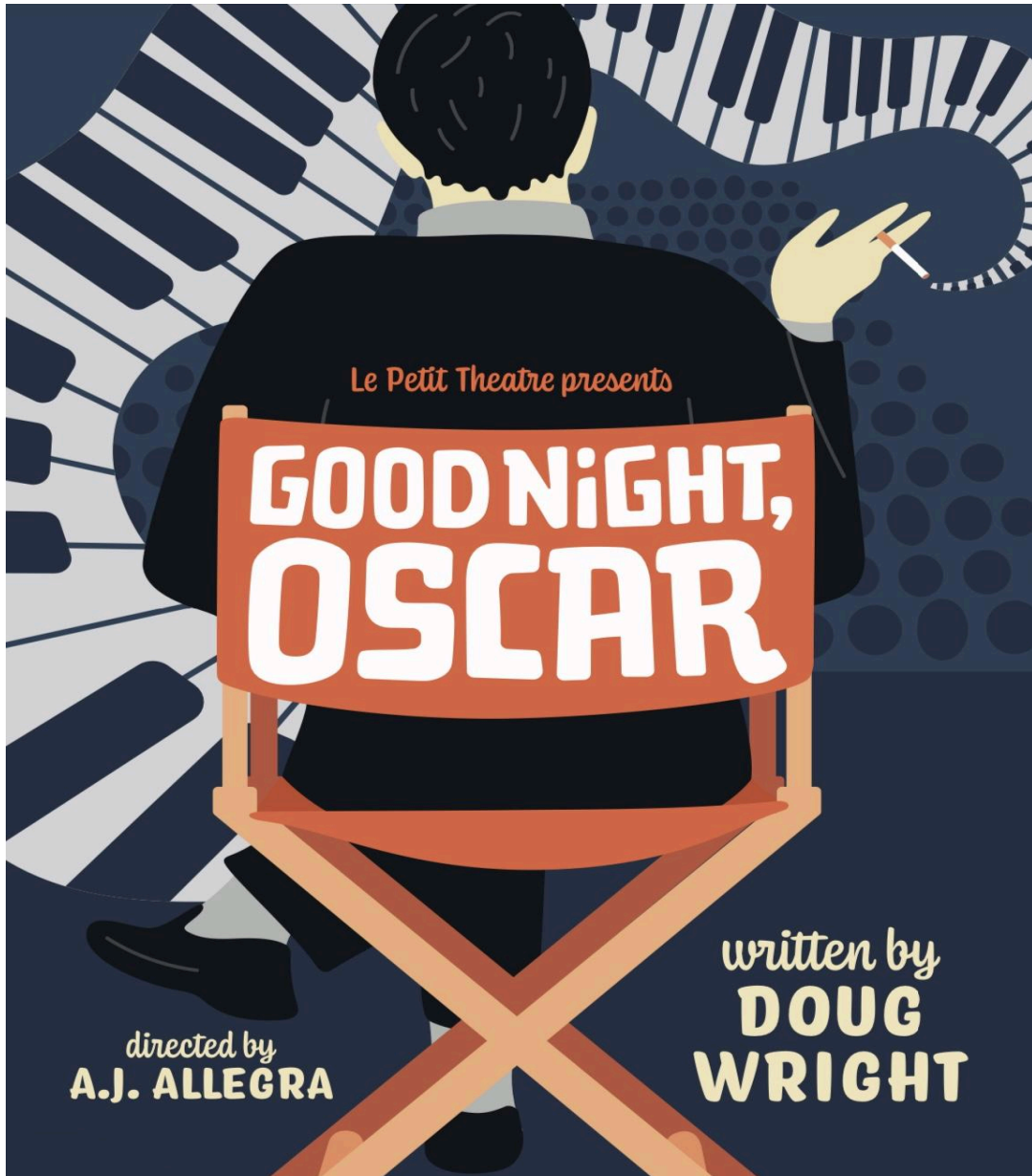


Dramaturgy Actor Packet

Goodnight, Oscar

Written by Doug Wright

Directed by A. J. Allegra



Compiled by Mak Secret

Table of Contents

PART I: About the Play	
About the Playwright.....	1
Production History.....	2
PART II: The World of the Play	
Character Profiles	
Oscar Levant.....	3
Jack Paar.....	5
George Gershwin.....	7
Period Context.....	9
Part III: Glossary of Terms	
People.....	11
Places.....	17
Things.....	18
Additional Research Links.....	22

About the Playwright

Playwright: Doug Wright

Born: 12/20/1962

Other Plays: *Quills* (1995), *I Am My Own Wife* (2004), *Prosperity* (2015)

Notable Awards: Pulitzer Prize for Drama (2004),
Tony Award for Best Play (2004)



Biography:

Doug Wright is an American playwright and librettist known for plays and musicals based on real events and people. Born in Dallas, Texas, in 1962, Wright had an early aptitude for theatre. He was the president of the Thespian Club at Highland Park High School and graduated from Yale University before earning his Master of Fine Arts from New York University.

He gained acclaim in the mid-1990s for his play *Quills*, about the final days of the Marquis de Sade. In 2003, he wrote *I Am My Own Wife*, a one-man show about the life of German transgender antiques collector Charlotte von Mahlsdorf. The play became one of Wright's most famed works and earned him the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and a Tony Award for Best Play.

Although the characters in Wright's plays inhabit a vast spectrum of times and worlds, a noticeable commonality between them is their shared need to survive and persevere in the face of overwhelming odds and their fierce determination to express their human singularity amidst the mindlessness of the mob and the heartlessness of an ethically-challenged authority.

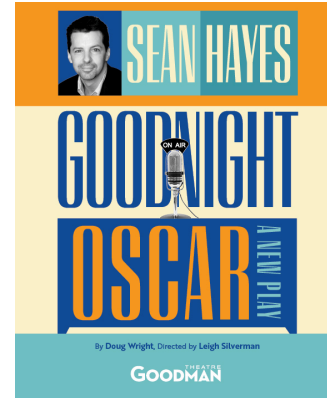
In addition to his eight plays, Wright has written three musicals: *Hands on a Hard Body*, *Grey Gardens*, and *War Paint*. As an ardent supporter of writers' rights in the theatre industry, he is a member of the Dramatists Guild of America and was formerly the elected president of the non-profit organization, succeeded in 2021 by Amanda Green (the first woman to hold the role in the Guild's history.) Wright lives in New York City with his husband, singer/songwriter David Clement.

“A humble wooden stage with a velvet curtain can still be a site for soul-shattering revelation.”

-Doug Wright

Production History

Goodnight, Oscar first premiered in 2022 at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago, with Sean Hayes as Oscar Levant. The production ran from March 12 until April 24, 2022.



The Broadway production was directed by Lisa Peterson. The production opened on April 24, 2023, and had its final performance on August 27, 2023.

Tony Nominations: Best Costume Design in a Play (Emilio Sosa), Best Scenic Design in Play (Rachel Hauck)

Tony Awards: Best Leading Actor in a Play (Sean Hayes)

Conception Dispute

The conception of the origins of the play has been up for debate with playwright David Adjmi, claiming in a Facebook post that he had persuaded Hayes to portray Levant and was commissioned by producer Beth Williams to write a play for the actor. When Adjmi refused to "lighten the material," he said, Williams and Hayes held their option "in bad faith" to prevent him from further developing his play, while hiring Doug Wright to write a new play based on Adjmi's idea. The production team of *Good Night, Oscar* strongly rebutted Adjmi's claim in a press release which alleged Hayes and Williams had themselves gotten the idea to make Levant the center of a play in 2010, and culled Adjmi from a list of playwrights to write it. Adjmi then published an email exchange on BroadwayWorld.com between himself and Hayes, in which he attempted to convince a reluctant Hayes to portray Levant.

Character Profile: Oscar Levant



Oscar Levant (1906–1972) was one of the most fascinating and multifaceted figures in 20th-century American culture. Known primarily as a virtuoso pianist and an interpreter of George Gershwin's works, Levant was also a composer, actor, author, and one of the first public figures to openly discuss his struggles with mental illness. His life and career were marked by his brilliance, but also by the profound psychological challenges that ultimately shaped his legacy.

Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Jewish immigrant parents, Levant showed early promise as a musician. Following the death of his father in 1922, Levant moved to New York City at the age of 16, where he immersed himself in the world of classical music. Although Levant is remembered for his piano virtuosity, few know that he initially harbored ambitions of becoming a concert violinist.

However, after suffering an injury that hindered his violin playing, he switched to the piano, a transition that proved pivotal in shaping his future career. While in New York, he studied with renowned teachers, including the innovative composer Arnold Schoenberg. In 1925, he appeared in *Ben Bernie and All the Lads*, a short film made with then-new technology that recorded sound and film together. For an audience accustomed to silent films, the movie—which consists of a group of men playing a medley of songs, with 19-year-old Levant at the piano—represented an exciting technological advance. Perhaps entranced by this new medium, Levant moved to Hollywood a few years later, where he quickly impressed and befriended George Gershwin. In his memoir *A Smattering of Ignorance*, Levant noted that the first time he had heard Gershwin play the piano, he felt the first stirrings of “the two characteristics I have nurtured ever since as the dominating influences of my life—jealousy and revenge.” After Gershwin’s untimely death in 1937, Levant emerged as one of the most authoritative interpreters of his music, particularly the *Rhapsody in Blue*, which he performed hundreds of times throughout his career.

Levant began appearing regularly on the radio in 1938, but surprisingly, he didn’t usually play music. Rather, he appeared as a panelist on [Information Please](#), a radio quiz show. From the late 1940s to the early 1950s, Levant enjoyed major supporting roles in a string of successful movies in which he often portrayed characters who mirrored his real-life persona—neurotic, sarcastic, and self-aware. His roles in movies like [An American in Paris](#) (1951) and [The Band Wagon](#) (1953) made him a familiar face to audiences, but it was his appearances on radio and television that cemented his reputation as one of



America’s most distinctive personalities. Levant’s upbeat performance in *The Band Wagon* belied his failing health. A year before the film’s release, in 1952, he had suffered a heart attack. After receiving treatment with Demerol, Levant soon developed an addiction to the narcotic. From this point on, he faced professional difficulties, and his faithful wife, June, shuttled him between mental hospitals, professional

engagements, and rest at home. He appeared as a panelist on the NBC game show *Who Said That?*, and hosted his own short-lived television show from 1958 to 1960, [*The Oscar Levant Show*](#). Levant was also a frequent guest on talk shows, including [*The Tonight Show*](#) where he would often joke about his mental health struggles, delivering lines like, “I’m not neurotic, I’m just sensible enough to be neurotic.” and “I am not only an addict; I am an advertisement for modern medicine.”



Despite his success, Levant’s life was dominated by his severe mental health struggles. He suffered from intense anxiety, neuroses, and depression throughout his life. Levant was diagnosed with various psychiatric disorders, including hypochondria and obsessive-compulsive disorder. Levant's mental health issues were evident from an early age. Even as he rose to fame in the 1930s and '40s, his neurotic behavior was often the subject of gossip. He was known for his unpredictable mood swings, bouts of paranoia, and hypochondriac tendencies, which led him to believe he was suffering from a variety of physical ailments. His struggles were exacerbated by his addiction

to tranquilizers, sedatives, and painkillers, substances he relied on to manage his anxiety, which also contributed to his declining health. Levant’s later years were marked by further declines in both his mental and physical health. In one infamous incident, Levant locked himself in his Beverly Hills home, convinced that people were out to get him. When police were called, he refused to open the door, claiming he needed time to "finish writing the sequel to the Ten Commandments."

At a time when such topics were considered deeply taboo, Levant spoke candidly about his experiences with psychiatric care, including his repeated hospitalizations. His willingness to discuss his mental health, often with humor, endeared him to many but also alienated some who were uncomfortable with such frankness. On *The Tonight Show* with Jack Paar, he famously said, “As I get older, I can’t seem to stop getting better or worse,” a reflection of his lifelong battle to maintain a balance between his personal demons and his public persona.

Oscar Levant died in 1972 from a heart attack, at the age of 65. His legacy as a pianist and composer remains significant, but perhaps even more notable is his role as a public figure who dared to discuss mental illness at a time when such discussions were shrouded in stigma.

“My sister and I agree that the more famous my dad became, with movies and TV and books and appearances, the less his musical gift was known. All of that other stuff eclipsed the thing he really cared about, the gift that really made him who he was.”

- Levant’s daughter, Amanda Carmel

Character Profile: Jack Paar



Jack Paar (1918-2004) was a television and radio pioneer who has been called the most imitated personality in broadcasting. He virtually created the late-night talk show format as the host of *The Tonight Show*, one of television's longest running programs. Of him, the Washington Post said, "Jack Paar was genuine, and the footprints he left on the loony moonscape of television are enormous; they will be there forever."

Paar was born in 1918 in Canton, Ohio and later moved with his family to Jackson, Michigan. As a child, he developed a stutter, which he learned to manage. He contracted tuberculosis when he was 14 and left school at 16. After dropping out of Jackson High School, he went on to work first as a radio announcer and later as a comic on a series of radio stations. He entered the army in 1942 and spent the remainder of World War II as a disc jockey and entertainer, delighting his audience of enlisted men by ridiculing authority figures, especially military officers. In the early 1950s, he briefly tried his talents in the movies, including an appearance in the 1951 film *Love Nest* with then-relatively unknown actress Marilyn Monroe. Throughout the early 1950s, he made numerous appearances on Jack Benny's radio show and such programs as *The Ed Sullivan Show*. Paar even hosted a game show, *Up to Paar*, and a morning variety show, *The Jack Paar Show*.

It was not, however, until 1957 that he became the king of late-night television as host of *The Tonight Show*. Eventually, Paar's popularity prompted NBC to rename it *The Jack Paar Show*. While Steve Allen had been *The Tonight Show*'s first host, Paar turned it from a typical variety format to something completely different. With a rare combination of intelligence, irreverence, and intuition, he invented a new genre of programming that would become a mainstay of modern broadcasting. He discussed religion with Billy Graham, visited with Albert Schweitzer in Africa, and [talked politics with Richard Nixon and JFK](#), all before the transfixed eyes of the American television audience. He was an engaging and sentimental personality, who gained the immediate appreciation of his audience and his guests.



However, Paar's career was not without turbulence and controversy. He was criticized for his interview with Fidel Castro in Cuba, and he caused an international incident when he broadcast his show from Berlin as the wall went up. He had countless feuds with columnists like Walter Winchell and Dorothy Kilgallen, and even quit the show briefly in 1960 after one of his jokes had been edited out without his knowledge. Almost in tears and clearly angry, Paar looked into the camera and said, "[I am leaving The Tonight Show. There must be a better way of making a living than this.](#)" However, he returned just a few

weeks later, beginning his opening statements with a simple [“As I was saying....”](#) Paar remained ill at ease with the executives until he left the show permanently in 1962.



Paar returned to television in January 1973 with a show titled *Jack Paar Tonite*, which aired one week per month as one of several rotating shows on ABC's *Wide World of Entertainment*. Paar stayed on the show, which was in direct competition with *The Tonight Show*, for one year before quitting, dissatisfied with the *Wide World of Entertainment* rotation scheme. Paar later expressed discomfort with developments in television media and once said that he had trouble interviewing people dressed in "overalls," a reference to young rock acts. In his 1962 book *My Saber Is Bent*, Paar wrote about gay men, "The theater is infested with them and it's beginning to show the effects." In 1973 during a run of [Jack Paar Tonite](#), Paar addressed his remarks and challenged representatives of a pro-homosexual organization to appear on the show to explain why he "and other entertainers should not call homosexuals 'fairies,' 'dykes', and 'fags'."

During the 1990s, Paar's health began to decline steadily. He underwent triple-bypass heart surgery in 1998 and suffered a stroke in 2003. On January 27, 2004, he died at his home in Greenwich, Connecticut, at age 85. *Time* magazine's obituary noted that: "His fans would remember him as the fellow who split talk show history into two eras: Before Paar and Below Paar."

"I found him to be a very, very wonderful man, and intellectually funny — able to take a moment, realize it, and say something that was absolutely brilliant. He wouldn't want to 'play anybody cheap.' He's wanted to get the best out of each and every performer."

-Bill Cosby on Jack Paar

Character Profile: George Gershwin



George Gershwin (1898-1937) was one of the most significant and popular American composers of all time. He wrote primarily for the Broadway musical theatre, but important as well are his orchestral and piano compositions in which he blended, in varying degrees, the techniques and forms of classical music with the stylistic nuances and techniques of popular music and jazz.

George was born on September 26, 1898, in Brooklyn, New York. Gershwin was the son of Russian Jewish immigrants. He began his musical education at age 11, when his family bought a second-hand upright piano, ostensibly so that George's older sibling, Ira, could learn the instrument. When George surprised everyone with his fluid playing of a popular song, which he had taught himself by following the keys on a neighbor's player piano, his parents decided that George would be the family member to receive lessons. The acclaimed piano teacher Charles Hambitzer took Gershwin on at the age of 14 and immediately realized the level of talent he had on his hands. "I have a new pupil who will make his mark if anybody will. The boy is a genius," Hambitzer wrote to his sister.

After dropping out of school at age 15, Gershwin earned an income by making piano rolls for player pianos and by playing in New York nightclubs. While still in his teens, Gershwin was known as one of the most talented pianists in the New York area and worked as an accompanist for popular singers and as a rehearsal pianist for Broadway musicals. He was a compulsive performer. At parties, he would commandeer the piano and play variations on his show-tunes into the night. When even his mother told him not to overdo it, he just said, 'If I don't play at a party I don't have a good time!'

In 1919 entertainer Al Jolson performed the Gershwin song "Swanee" in the musical *Sinbad*; it became an enormous success, selling more than two million recordings and a million copies of sheet music, and making Gershwin an overnight celebrity. In 1924, Gershwin composed his first major work, *Rhapsody in Blue*, for orchestra and piano. It was orchestrated by Ferde Grofé and premiered by Paul Whiteman's Concert Band, in New York. It subsequently went on to be his most popular work, and established Gershwin's signature style and genius in blending vastly different musical styles, including jazz and classical, in revolutionary ways. *An American in Paris* (1928), Gershwin's second-most famous orchestral composition, was inspired by the composer's trips to Paris throughout the 1920s. Gershwin was known as a gregarious man whose huge ego was tempered by a



genuinely magnetic personality. He loved his work and approached every assignment with enthusiasm, never suffering from “composer’s block.”

Gershwin ended his days in Hollywood writing film music. Living in Los Angeles, he enjoyed strenuous games of tennis with Arnold Schoenberg, who had left Nazi Germany in 1933 and was as fanatical about tennis as he was. He put Schoenberg firmly in his sights as a possible tutor. But it was George's friend, the film star and pianist Oscar Levant, who became a Schoenberg pupil.

Gershwin dated many women, and seduced quite a few, as well; he even proposed to one. But he never married, though he sometimes expressed a wish to do so.

Throughout the first half of 1937, Gershwin began experiencing severe headaches and brief memory blackouts, although medical tests showed him to be in good health. By July, Gershwin exhibited impaired motor skills and drastic weight loss, and he required assistance in walking. He lapsed into a coma on July 9, and a spinal tap revealed the presence of a brain tumor. Gershwin never regained consciousness and died during surgery two days later. He was at the peak of his powers with several unrealized projects ahead of him. His death stunned the nation, whose collective feelings can be summed up in a famous statement from novelist John O’Hara: “George Gershwin died on July 11, 1937, but I don’t have to believe it if I don’t want to.”

“When I'm in my normal mood, music drips from my fingers.”

-George Gershwin

Period Context

In 1958, the United States was at the height of the post-World War II era, experiencing a period of economic growth, social change, and Cold War tension. The nation's economy was booming, with a growing middle class, rising consumerism, and rapid suburbanization. This economic prosperity fueled the development of the automobile industry, the expansion of the American dream, and the spread of television into nearly every American home. While many Americans enjoyed an idealized version of family life, the decade was also marked by growing societal tensions, particularly around issues of race and civil rights.



U. S. Politics in the Late 1950s

President Dwight D. Eisenhower, in office from 1953 to 1961, presided over a period of relative stability and prosperity, though his administration was also marked by growing international and domestic challenges. On the global stage, the United States was deeply involved in the Cold War, competing with the Soviet Union for global influence. The launch of Sputnik by the Soviets in 1957 had triggered the "space race," and in 1958, the U.S. responded with the creation of NASA to advance its own space exploration efforts. This marked a significant moment in the technological competition between the two superpowers. The "Red Scare" lingered, fueled by figures like Senator Joseph McCarthy, who had accused many in government and the entertainment industry of communist sympathies, although McCarthyism began to lose influence after his censure in 1954.



Meanwhile, in the civil rights struggle, tensions were rising as African Americans increasingly challenged the status quo of segregation and discrimination. The year 1957 was a pivotal moment, with the integration of Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas. The "Little Rock Nine," nine African American students, faced violent opposition as they attempted to attend the previously all-white school, forcing President Dwight D. Eisenhower to intervene with federal troops to ensure their safety. This event highlighted the deep resistance to desegregation in the South and the need for federal enforcement of civil rights laws.

Censorship in Television

In the late 1950s, as television rapidly became a dominant cultural force, tensions around censorship and social representation were heightened, particularly with the enforcement of the *Television Code* and oversight by the *Federal Communications Commission* (FCC). The *Television Code*, established by the *National Association of Broadcasters* in 1952, set strict guidelines for what could be aired, emphasizing family-friendly content that avoided controversial subjects like sex, profanity, and violence. Programs adhered to conservative portrayals of American life, with shows like *I Love Lucy* and *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet* reflecting idealized notions of family, gender roles, and morality. Meanwhile, the FCC regulated broadcasting to ensure that TV content upheld public interest standards, further enforcing the status quo of what was deemed "appropriate" for mass consumption. However, as the decade progressed, television increasingly reflected societal tensions, especially in coverage of the Civil Rights Movement and shifting cultural values. Shows like *The Twilight Zone* began to challenge the boundaries of the Television Code, addressing issues such as social justice and racial inequality. Late-night shows, such as *The Tonight Show*, also began to introduce more risqué and politically charged content, subtly pushing the limits of acceptable discourse while still operating within the constraints of censorship.



Public Perception of Mental Health



In the 1950s, mental health was largely stigmatized. During this period, psychological issues were often misunderstood and not openly discussed, with many people viewing them as a personal weakness or a source of shame. The prevailing attitude was that individuals should "pull themselves together" and avoid airing their mental health struggles. Psychiatry was still in its infancy, and treatments like electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) and psychoanalysis were common. The emphasis on conformity and traditional gender roles in the 1950s meant that those who deviated from the societal norm, especially women and minorities, were sometimes pathologized or ignored when it came to mental health care. Public figures and celebrities, often viewed as paragons of success and stability, faced even greater pressure to maintain a facade of perfection, leading many to hide their struggles. The mental health challenges faced by stars like Marilyn Monroe, who suffered from depression and anxiety, or actress Vivien Leigh, who struggled with bipolar disorder, were often downplayed or ignored by the media. When celebrities did speak out, their mental health was frequently treated as a curiosity or scandal rather than a legitimate issue.

Glossary of Terms: People

Word	Definition	Quote	Pg. #
Robert Young	an American film, television, and radio actor best known for his leading role as Jim Anderson, the affable insurance salesman and father, in the long-running popular sitcom <i>Father Knows Best</i> .	"Please welcome the stars of Father Knows Best, Robert Young and Jane Wyatt!" - Announcer	1
Jane Wyatt	an American actress who starred in a number of Hollywood films, such as Frank Capra's <i>Lost Horizon</i> , but is likely best known for her role as homemaker and mother, Margaret Anderson, on the television comedy series <i>Father Knows Best</i> , and as Amanda Grayson, the human mother of Spock on the science-fiction television series <i>Star Trek</i> .	"Please welcome the stars of Father Knows Best, Robert Young and Jane Wyatt!" - Announcer	1
The Lennon Sisters	one of the most acclaimed, longest performing female vocal groups in history. Originally consisting of sisters Dianne, Peggy, Kathy, and Janet, they gained fame in the 1950s on "The Lawrence Welk Show." Known for their wholesome image and melodic tunes, they became a beloved act in traditional pop and easy-listening music.	"Last week, he stiffed The Eddie Fisher Show. The Lennon Sisters had to sing on the fly—" - Bob	2
Xavier Cugat	a Spanish musician and bandleader who spent his formative years in Havana, Cuba. A trained violinist and arranger, he was a leading figure in the spread of Latin music. In New York City, he was the leader of the resident orchestra at the Waldorf-Astoria before and after World War II.	"Xavier Cugat's in town, playing at the Coconut Grove—" - Bob	2
Liberace	an American pianist, singer, and entertainer known for his flamboyant stage presence and extravagant costumes. Rising to fame in the 1950s and 1960s, he combined classical piano with popular music and was famous for his charismatic and showy performances.	"He plays a nice piano; so does Liberace." - Bob	4
Horowitz	a renowned Russian-American pianist, celebrated as one of the greatest pianists of the 20th century. Horowitz gained fame for his interpretations of Romantic composers like Chopin, Liszt, and Rachmaninoff, and his ability to bring emotional depth and technical brilliance to his performances made him a legendary figure in classical music.	"A 'nice piano?' The man ranks with Horowitz, with Previn—" - Jack	4
Previn	a versatile German-American conductor, pianist, and composer. Born in 1929, he achieved fame in both classical music and Hollywood. Previn won multiple Academy Awards for his film scores and was a celebrated conductor of major orchestras, including the London Symphony Orchestra and the Los Angeles Philharmonic.	"A 'nice piano?' The man ranks with Horowitz, with Previn—" - Jack	4
Ed Sullivan	an American television host and producer, best known for creating and hosting "The Ed Sullivan Show," which aired from 1948 to 1971. The variety show became a major platform for introducing new talent and iconic performances. Sullivan's show is famously known for showcasing The Beatles' American debut. His ability to spot talent and his influence on American popular culture made him a legendary figure in television history.	"Ed Sullivan—" - Jack	7

Paul Newman	a highly famous and acclaimed American actor, director, and philanthropist. Renowned for his roles in iconic films like "Cool Hand Luke" and "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," he became a major Hollywood star. Newman won numerous awards, including an Academy Award, and his striking looks and talent made him a household name.	"Know how he scores the Paul Newmans? The Liz Taylors?" - Jack	7
Liz Taylor	an immensely famous American actress, known for her stunning beauty and talent. She starred in iconic films such as "Cleopatra," "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" and "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof." Taylor won two Academy Awards for Best Actress and became a Hollywood legend.	"Know how he scores the Paul Newmans? The Liz Taylors?" - Jack	7
Steve Allen	a multifaceted American television personality, comedian, musician, and writer, best known as the original host of "The Tonight Show." Born in 1921, Allen created and hosted the show from 1954 to 1957, establishing the template for late-night television. His innovative format included a monologue, celebrity interviews, comedy sketches, and musical performances, elements that remain staples of the genre today.	"Or Steve Allen? His budget is — what — three, four times mine?" - Jack	7
Ava Gardner	a celebrated American actress and one of the leading stars of Hollywood's Golden Age. Born in 1922, she gained fame for her stunning beauty and captivating performances in films such as "The Killers," "Mogambo," and "The Night of the Iguana." In addition to her acting, she was famous for her glamorous lifestyle and high-profile relationships, including marriages to actors Mickey Rooney and Frank Sinatra.	"He can name every contract player from Ava Gardner to Zasu Pitts." - Bob	8
Zasu Pitts	an American actress and comedian known for her work in silent films and early sound movies. Born in 1894, she gained fame for her unique voice and expressive acting style, often portraying quirky and comedic characters. She is perhaps best known for her roles in films like "The Party's Over" and "The Wedding March."	"He can name every contract player from Ava Gardner to Zasu Pitts." - Bob	8
Jayne Mansfield	an American actress and sex symbol, born in 1933, known for her beauty and curvaceous figure. A prominent star of the 1950s and 1960s, she appeared in films like "The Girl Can't Help It" and "Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter?" Mansfield embraced her glamorous persona and was one of the first Playmates.	"He's got the top slot, before Jayne Mansfield and Señor Wences." - Jack	10
Señor Wences	a Spanish ventriloquist and comedian, born in 1896. He gained fame in the U.S. during the 1950s and 1960s for his charming act featuring puppets like "Johnny" and "Coco." Wences showcased his humor and musical talent on shows like "The Ed Sullivan Show." His unique ability to engage audiences without directly speaking made him a beloved figure in ventriloquism, and he remained active in entertainment until his death in 1999.	"He's got the top slot, before Jayne Mansfield and Señor Wences." - Jack	10
Debussy	a French composer, born in 1862, known for his innovative contributions to music and as a leading figure of Impressionism. Debussy's music often evokes imagery and emotion, breaking traditional forms and exploring new musical landscapes. His influence reshaped 20th-century music, inspiring generations of composers with his emphasis on atmosphere and color in sound.	"I couldn't help thinking, 'These are the very same fingers that play Debussy and Ravel so beautifully.'" - June	15

Ravel	a French composer, born in 1875, renowned for his intricate orchestration and innovative harmonic language. Ravel's music often blends elements of Impressionism with classical forms, showcasing his fascination with rhythm, color, and texture. Ravel's distinct style and ability to evoke vivid imagery through music have made him a key figure in 20th-century classical music.	"I couldn't help thinking, 'These are the very same fingers that play Debussy and Ravel so beautifully.'" - June	15
Attila the Hun	a powerful ruler of the Huns from 434 to 453 AD, known for his military leadership and conquests across Europe. He united the Hunnic tribes and led campaigns against the Roman Empire, earning a reputation as one of history's most feared conquerors. His reign ended with his death in 453, after which the Hunnic Empire declined rapidly. Attila remains a symbol of barbarian power and aggression.	"Before that, he was social secretary for Attila the Hun." - Oscar	21
Count Basie	an influential American jazz pianist, bandleader, and composer, born in 1904. He is best known for his work with the Count Basie Orchestra, which became famous for its energetic performances and distinctive swing style. Basie's band featured a roster of legendary musicians and played a crucial role in the development of big band jazz.	"Count Basie's playing down at the Dunbar—" - Oscar	25
Howard Hughes	an American aviation pioneer, film director, and business magnate born in 1905, known for his immense wealth and influence. He inherited a fortune from his family's successful tool-manufacturing company and became one of the richest individuals of his time. Hughes gained fame in the 1920s and 1930s for setting aviation records and producing major films like "Hell's Angels." Despite his accomplishments, he became increasingly reclusive in later life, struggling with mental health issues and obsessive-compulsive disorder.	"And Howard Hughes, the richest man in the known world?" - Oscar	26
Shostakovich	a prominent Russian composer and pianist, born in 1906. He is known for his symphonies, chamber music, and operas, which often reflect the tumultuous political climate of Soviet Russia. Shostakovich's music is characterized by its emotional depth, intricate counterpoint, and blend of traditional and modern elements.	"I was gonna be Shostakovich!" - Oscar	28
Paderewski	renowned Polish pianist, composer, and statesman, born in 1860. He gained international fame for his virtuosic piano performances and compositions, particularly his "Nocturne" and "Variations." Paderewski's concert tours helped popularize classical music in the United States and beyond. In addition to his musical career, he was actively involved in Polish politics and served as Prime Minister of Poland in 1919.	"'You're no Paderewski,' she tells me." - Oscar	30
Schubert	an Austrian composer often celebrated for his lieder and chamber music. Despite his short life, he composed over 600 songs, including the famous "Ave Maria" and "Die schöne Müllerin." Schubert's reliance on conventional forms and melodies can come off as repetitive and uninspired, leading some to view his music as lacking the innovation found in contemporaries like Beethoven.	"'Don't you know any Schubert?' one of 'em asks me." - Oscar	31
Brahms	a German composer and pianist, born in 1833, known for his traditionalist approach to composition in a time of rapid musical innovation. His symphonies and chamber works, such as "Symphony	"'Maybe a bit of Brahms?'" - Oscar	31

	No. 1" and the "Piano Concerto No. 1," though technically proficient, are sometimes criticized for lacking emotional depth and dynamism compared to the more flamboyant styles of his contemporaries.		
Fats Waller	an iconic American jazz pianist, composer, and entertainer born in 1904. Renowned for his lively performances and distinctive style, he masterfully blended stride piano with humor and showmanship. Waller composed many popular songs, including "Ain't Misbehavin'" and "Honeysuckle Rose," which have become timeless jazz standards. His energetic personality and innovative music left a lasting impact on the jazz genre, making him a beloved figure in American music history.	"I started playing Shostakovich like it was Fats Waller." - Oscar	31
Tchaikovsky	a renowned Russian composer born in 1840, celebrated for his emotionally powerful music and memorable melodies. He is best known for his ballets, including "Swan Lake," "The Nutcracker," and "Sleeping Beauty," which remain staples in the classical repertoire. Tchaikovsky is regarded as one of the greatest composers of the Romantic era.	"The sweet spot where Tchaikovsky and Jelly Roll Morton meet." - Oscar	32
Jelly Roll Morton	an influential American jazz pianist, composer, and bandleader, born in 1890. Recognized as one of the first significant figures in jazz history, he blended various musical styles, including ragtime, blues, and Creole influences.	"The sweet spot where Tchaikovsky and Jelly Roll Morton meet." - Oscar	32
Paul Whiteman	an influential American bandleader, composer, and orchestral director, born in 1890. Known as the "King of Jazz," he played a pivotal role in popularizing jazz music during the 1920s. Whiteman's orchestra blended jazz with classical elements, creating a unique sound that appealed to a broad audience. He is best known for his successful recordings, including "Rhapsody in Blue," composed by George Gershwin, which helped bridge the gap between classical and popular music.	"Paul Whiteman and his Orchestra." - Oscar	32
William Paley	an influential American businessman and media executive, born in 1901. He served as the president of CBS from 1928 to 1946 and played a significant role in shaping the television industry during its formative years. Under his leadership, CBS became a major broadcasting network, introducing innovative programming and establishing the network as a leader in news and entertainment.	"We met at the Paley's, didn't we?" - George	34
Cary Grant	a celebrated British-American actor born in Bristol, England. Known for his suave demeanor, charm, and impeccable comedic timing, he became one of Hollywood's most iconic leading men. Cary Grant was known for his striking appearance, characterized by his tall, slender build and graceful posture. Standing about 6 feet tall, he had chiseled features, including a strong jawline and expressive blue eyes. Grant's impeccable fashion sense, often featuring tailored suits, further enhanced his suave persona.	"Looking like a cross between Cary Grant and a Weimaraner." - Oscar	36
Chuck Berry	an influential American singer, songwriter, and guitarist. Often hailed as a pioneer of rock and roll music, he helped shape the genre with his energetic performances and innovative guitar riffs. Berry is best known for classic hits like "Johnny B. Goode," "Roll Over Beethoven," and "Maybellene," which showcased his clever lyrics and distinctive style.	"I'll take Chuck Berry any day." - Alvin	38

Somerset Maugham	a renowned British playwright, novelist, and short story writer, born on January 25, 1874. His play “Impropriety” was first performed in 1947 and centers around a group of characters involved in a scandal surrounding an affair, exploring themes of morality, social norms, and the complexities of human behavior.	“‘Impropriety!’ Somerset fucking Maugham—” - Oscar	54
Pat Boone	an American singer, actor, and television personality known for his clean-cut image and family-friendly appeal. He was often seen as a contrast to the more rebellious rock and roll stars of the time, such as Elvis Presley, which helped him gain popularity among conservative audiences.	“The most lily-white interview since Pat Boone sat down with Dinah Shore.” - Oscar	58
Dinah Shore	a renowned American singer and television personality. She gained fame in the 1940s with hits like "Buttons and Bows" and "Baby, It's Cold Outside," known for her warm, smooth voice. Her image was that of a clean-cut, all-American girl, which helped her gain widespread appeal across various demographics.	“The most lily-white interview since Pat Boone sat down with Dinah Shore.” - Oscar	58
Emperor Nero	born in 37 AD, ruled the Roman Empire from 54 to 68 AD. Known for his extravagant lifestyle and tyrannical reign, he became infamous for his alleged cruelty and excesses. Nero is often remembered for his brutal actions, such as the murder of his mother and his wives.	“I turn into Emperor Nero, but without the charisma.” - Oscar	62
Dorothy Parker	an American poet, writer, and critic known for her sharp wit and satirical humor. She was a founding member of the Algonquin Round Table, a group of New York City writers, critics, and actors who met regularly at the Algonquin Hotel. Parker's writing often featured biting commentary on contemporary society, relationships, and human nature.	“He’s kept pace with the likes of Dorothy Parker..” -Jack	65
Dostoyevsky	a Russian novelist, philosopher, and short story writer known for his profound exploration of human psychology, moral dilemmas, and the darker sides of human nature. Famous novels include <i>Crime and Punishment</i> , <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> , <i>The Idiot</i> , and <i>Notes from Underground</i> .	“Sober, I’m Dostoyevsky.” - Oscar	67
Henry Youngman	an American comedian known as the "King of the One-Liners." Standing on stage, often with a violin in hand, he would deliver a relentless series of short, punchy one-liners with a deadpan, almost indifferent expression.	“A few Demerol, and I turn into Henny Youngman.” -Oscar	67
J. Edgar Hoover	was the first FBI Director, serving 48 years. He modernized American law enforcement but was controversial for his secret files on public figures and surveillance of activists, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. His book <i>Masters of Deceit</i> outlined his strong anti-communist stance during the Cold War.	“J. Edgar Hoover just published a book about Communism—” -Jack	68
Zsa Zsa Gabor	a Hungarian-American actress and socialite known for her glamorous lifestyle, multiple marriages, and witty one-liners. She appeared in numerous films, including <i>Moulin Rouge</i> (1952) and <i>Queen of Outer Space</i> (1958), and became a symbol of Hollywood's golden age with her lavish public persona.	“She’s running neck-and-neck with Zsa-Zsa Gabor.” -Jack	70

Cardinal Spellman	was the Archbishop of New York from 1939 to 1967 and a powerful figure in the Roman Catholic Church in the United States. He was a vocal advocate for "moral censorship" and worked to influence the media to align with Catholic values.	"The calls, they're coming already. The Legion of Decency. Cardinal Spellman." - Max	74
Paderewski	a Polish pianist, composer, and statesman. Renowned for his virtuosity, he became one of the most famous pianists of his time, performing worldwide. A passionate advocate for Polish independence, he also served as Poland's prime minister and a delegate to the League of Nations.	"I played it for Paderewski!" - Oscar	79
Heifitz	a Lithuanian-American violinist, widely regarded as one of the greatest violinists of all time. Known for his impeccable technique, precision, and expressive performances, Heifetz revolutionized violin playing.	"I played it for Paderewski! For Heifitz!" - Oscar	79
Schoenberg	an Austrian composer and music theorist, known for developing the twelve-tone technique, a method of composing with all twelve notes of the chromatic scale. His major works include <i>Verklärte Nacht</i> and <i>Suite for Piano</i>	"Third-rate, imitation Schoenberg?" - George	80
Jonathan Swift	an Irish writer, satirist, and political pamphleteer, best known for his works <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> and <i>A Modest Proposal</i> . His writing often critiqued society, politics, and human nature. Swift's biting satire and sharp wit made him one of the greatest prose writers in English literature.	"Do it in a novel, and you're a regular Jonathan Swift." - Jack	90
Joey Bishop	an American comedian and actor, best known as a member of the "Rat Pack" alongside Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and Sammy Davis Jr. He had a successful career in stand-up comedy, television, and film, and hosting <i>The Joey Bishop Show</i> .	"Our guests will be Joey Bishop, Gypsy Rose Lee, and Jonathan Winters." - Jack	94
Gypsy Rose Lee	an American actress, singer, and burlesque entertainer, best known for her striptease performances. She became a cultural icon and is often associated with the Broadway musical <i>Gypsy</i> , which was based on her life.	"Our guests will be Joey Bishop, Gypsy Rose Lee, and Jonathan Winters." - Jack	94
Jonathan Winters	an American comedian and actor, known for his improvisational style and eccentric characters. His notable works include <i>The Jonathan Winters Show</i> , <i>Mork & Mindy</i> , and films like <i>It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World</i> .	"Our guests will be Joey Bishop, Gypsy Rose Lee, and Jonathan Winters." - Jack	94

Glossary of Terms: Places

The Burbank Studios (formerly known as **NBC Studios**) is a television production facility located in Burbank, California. NBC Studios Burbank, established in 1952, quickly became NBC's West Coast production center. NBC Burbank hosted the production of many of the iconic variety and game shows from the 1950s through the 1990s, including *The Tonight Show* beginning in 1972. In that year, Johnny Carson moved the show to California from New York, where it remained until 2014. The show would return to New York with Jimmy Fallon as host ending a 42-year era of the show's taping from Southern California.



The **Hudson Theatre** is a Broadway theater at 139–141 West 44th Street, between Seventh Avenue and Sixth Avenue, in the Theater District of Midtown Manhattan in New York City. One of the oldest surviving Broadway venues, the Hudson was built from 1902 to 1903. NBC purchased the Hudson Theatre in June 1950, and the theater became a television studio for NBC. At that time, several Broadway theaters had been converted to TV studios due to a lack of studio space in New York City. The shows at the studio included *Broadway Open House* and *The Tonight Show*. Steve Allen and Jack Paar, the first and second hosts of *The Tonight Show*, both hosted at the Hudson.

Mt. Sinai	now Cedars- Sinai Medical Center, a Jewish-founded and Jewish-influenced hospital known as "Hollywood's hospital." The psychiatry department, influenced by Freudian psychoanalysis and the emerging field of psychopharmacology, catered to many in the entertainment industry seeking mental health support. Its discretion and cutting-edge treatments attracted stars, further cementing its cultural significance in Los Angeles during the golden age of Hollywood.	"Send a car, Jack; that's all you have to do. Mt. Sinai, the Klein Pavilion." - June	12
Loma Linda	a city located in San Bernardino County, California. Loma Linda is famous for the Loma Linda University Health system and the Loma Linda University Medical Center, both of which are key centers for research and education in health and medicine. The city is also one of the "Blue Zones," a region known for the longevity and health of its residents.	"Dr. Greenleigh says Loma Linda may have a place for me." - Alvin	42
Canter's Deli	a famous Los Angeles restaurant serving traditional Jewish deli food and founded in 1931. In the 1950s, Canter's was a favorite of many celebrities, including Marilyn Monroe, Jack Benny, Cary Grant, Gregory Peck, Danny Thomas, Elvis Presley, and the Beatles.	"How, when I'm goin' crazier than Canter's Deli on a Friday Afternoon—" - Oscar	63

Glossary of Terms: Things

Word	Definition	Quote	Pg. #
Father Knows Best	an American television sitcom that depicted the idealized suburban family life of the Andersons. The show starred Robert Young as Jim Anderson, the wise and kind father, and featured Jane Wyatt as his wife, Margaret. It was a popular and influential series, praised for its wholesome family values and humorous portrayal of domestic life.	“Please welcome the stars of Father Knows Best, Robert Young and Jane Wyatt!” - Announcer	1
The Eddie Fisher Show	an American television variety show starring singer Eddie Fisher. It featured musical performances, sketches, and guest appearances from popular stars of the era. The show was an attempt to capitalize on Fisher's popularity as a crooner, but it struggled with ratings and was eventually canceled after two seasons.	“Last week, he stiffed The Eddie Fisher Show. The Lennon Sisters had to sing on the fly—” - Bob	2
Test Patterns	a static image or series of images broadcast by a television station for technical purposes, typically aired when programming was not running or during transmission testing.	“Who’s your competition, for Chrissakes? Test patterns?” - Bob	7
Heel	a person who is considered contemptible, untrustworthy, or dishonorable, a scoundrel or a villain.	“Sorry, June. I’m a heel.” - Jack	11
Murano	n island in the Venetian Lagoon in Italy, famous for its long history of glassmaking. Murano glass is known for its exquisite craftsmanship, vibrant colors, and intricate designs.	“He started breaking things. A Murano swan he gave me one Christmas.” - June	15
Al Capone at Sing-Sing	Al Capone, the notorious American gangster, was never actually incarcerated at Sing Sing prison, which was located in New York and a prominent prison during Capone's time. After being convicted of tax evasion in 1931, Capone was sent to the U.S. Penitentiary in Atlanta. The phrase “Gimme the chair” was reportedly said by him when he was sentenced to prison.	“Just like Al Capone at Sing-Sing, I say, ‘Gimme the chair.’” - Oscar	19
Guy Friday	a term derived from the character "Friday" in Daniel Defoe’s 1719 novel <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> . In the story, Friday is a loyal servant whom Crusoe rescues from a group of hostile natives. Over time, the term "Guy Friday" came to mean a loyal, dependable assistant or servant.	“Kid, meet Alvin, my ‘guy Friday.’” - Oscar	21
Booby Hatch	a slang term for a mental institution or psychiatric hospital. It originated in the early 20th century and is often used humorously or disparagingly to refer to places where people with mental health issues are institutionalized.	“Technically speaking, I’m in the booby hatch.” - Oscar	21
Chock Full O’Nuts	an American coffee brand that originated in the 1930s. It was founded in New York City, initially as a chain of luncheonettes serving coffee and sandwiches. The name "Chock Full O’Nuts" comes from a promotion where coffee was served with chopped nuts.	“I told him my new fitness regimen’s gonna be ‘Chock Full O’Nuts.’” - Oscar	22

Hindenburg	a German passenger airship, famously known for its tragic crash that killed 36 people on May 6, 1937, while attempting to land in Lakehurst, New Jersey.	"The Hindenburg? Some idiot stepped on a crack in the sidewalk!" - Oscar	24
Kewpie Doll	small, chubby, and adorable collectible figures, characterized by their distinctive big eyes, tiny body, and mischievous expressions. Created by artist Rose O'Neill in 1909, these dolls were initially featured in O'Neill's illustrations and later produced as toys.	Sure, he's got that Kewpie doll face." - Oscar	25
<i>An American in Paris</i>	a classic musical film starring Gene Kelly, who also choreographed many of the dance sequences. The film tells the story of an American ex-soldier who stays in Paris to pursue his dream of becoming a painter. He falls in love with a French woman, leading to a romantic and artistic journey. Oscar Levant played the role of Adam Cook, a friend of Kelly's character. The film is known for its stunning dance numbers, including the iconic ballet sequence set to George Gershwin's music.	"I know the critics all say your greatest performance was in <i>An American in Paris</i> ; Gene Kelly's wing man." - Max	27
<i>Humoresque</i>	a drama film starring John Garfield as a talented but troubled violinist, and Joan Crawford as his wealthy benefactor and lover. The film explores his rise to success, his emotional struggles, and relationships. Sid Jeffers, portrayed by Oscar Levant, plays a supporting role as a friend and fellow musician.	"Sid Jeffers in <i>Humoresque</i> , with John Garfield and Joan Crawford." - Max	27
<i>Francis the Talking Mule</i>	a comedy film starring Donald O'Connor as U.S. Army officer Peter Stirling, who befriends a mule named Francis that can talk. While the humans in the film couldn't understand Francis, the audience could hear his thoughts and dialogue. The mule, voiced by Paul Frees, has a dry, sarcastic sense of humor and delivery.	"Christ, I sound like Francis the Talking Mule." - Oscar	28
Inspector Javert	a central character in Victor Hugo's 1862 novel <i>Les Misérables</i> . A dedicated and rigidly principled police inspector, Javert relentlessly pursues Jean Valjean, a former convict who broke parole. Javert embodies strict adherence to the law and believes deeply in justice without mercy.	"Psst. Hey. Inspector Javert." - Oscar	28
Alte Cocker	a Yiddish term, often used affectionately or humorously, to describe an older person, typically an elderly man, who might be set in his ways, opinionated, or grumpy.	"What's a kid like you care about an alte cocker like me for—?" -Oscar	30
<i>Singing in the Rain</i> (Couch Flip)	In the classic 1952 musical <i>Singin' in the Rain</i> , Debbie Reynolds performed the famous "Good Morning" dance number alongside Gene Kelly and Donald O'Connor. One of the most memorable moments in this scene is the "couch flip," where all three performers jump onto a couch, flip over its back, and land in sync.	"When Debbie Reynolds was here, I got to ask her about that famous couch flip in <i>Singin' In the Rain</i> ." - Max	30
<i>Royal Wedding</i> (Ceiling Dance)	In the 1951 musical <i>Royal Wedding</i> , Fred Astaire performed the famous "ceiling dance" sequence, one of the most innovative dance scenes in film history. In this scene,	"And Fred Astaire? Dancing on the ceiling in <i>Royal Wedding</i> —" - Max	30

	Astaire's character dances exuberantly across the walls, ceiling, and floor of a hotel room, defying gravity in a captivating display of athleticism and precision.		
Shlemiel	a Yiddish term for a person who is clumsy, unlucky, or inept, often blundering through situations in a way that brings trouble upon themselves.	"Even then, she knew I was a shlemiel." - Oscar	30
Plug Nickels	an old American slang term referring to something of little or no value. A "plugged" nickel was originally a coin that had a piece removed (or "plugged") from it, making it worth less than its face value.	"...challah, and a piggy bank full of plug nickels." - Oscar	30
Shikshas	a Yiddish term traditionally used in Jewish culture to refer to a non-Jewish woman, often in the context of relationships or marriage. While it can sometimes simply mean "gentile woman," it has also carried more complex connotations, often associated with concerns about interfaith relationships.	"I meet a couple of high-tone gals; shikshas." - Oscar	31
Social Register	a directory of prominent American families, often associated with high society, social status, and wealth. Established in the late 19th century, it lists individuals and families considered part of the "elite" in terms of lineage, social connections, and accomplishments.	"Shikshas, straight out of the Social Register." - Oscar	31
Hoi Polloi	an Ancient Greek phrase meaning 'the many' or 'the masses'. It is used disparagingly by modern English speakers to refer to the masses: the common horde, the plebs, the working classes, etc	At the Roosevelt Hotel, for the hoi polloi." - Oscar	32
Making a Platter	creating or producing a vinyl record (or album). In music slang, a "platter" typically refers to a vinyl record. The term comes from the rotating turntable on which records were played, often called a "platter" due to its circular shape.	"Frankie Black was making a platter over at Brunswick." - Oscar	33
LP	(Long Play) is a type of vinyl record, typically 12 inches in diameter, that plays at 33 1/3 RPM (revolutions per minute). It can hold a full album's worth of music, usually around 20-30 minutes per side.	"Any chance I could swing 'round with an LP?" - Oscar	35
Weimaraner	a breed of dog that originated in Germany. Known for its sleek, silver-gray coat and striking appearance, the Weimaraner is often referred to as the "Gray Ghost" due to its color and the way it moves through the landscape.	"Looking like a cross between Cary Grant and a Weimaraner." - Oscar	36
<i>Embraceable You</i>	a popular jazz standard composed by George Gershwin. It was first introduced in the 1928 musical <i>Girl Crazy</i> . The song has become a classic, known for its smooth, romantic melody and heartfelt lyrics. It has been covered by many artists across various genres, including Frank Sinatra, Billie Holiday, and Ella Fitzgerald.	"Hell, even <i>Embraceable You</i> ..." - Oscar	37
<i>Female Jungle</i>	a 1956 American crime film directed by Bruno VeSota, known for its noir-style atmosphere. The plot centers around	"Female Jungle? I saw that movie seven times." - Max	38

	the mysterious death of a man, with a focus on crime, lust, and deceit. The title reflects the dangerous world navigated by the female characters. The film stars John Carradine, Coleen Gray, and Lawrence Tierney.		
<i>The Wayward Bus</i>	a 1957 film adaptation of John Steinbeck's novel. The movie stars Jayne Mansfield, Dan Dailey, and Jack Kelly. Set in the same California countryside, it follows the lives of a diverse group of people traveling together on a bus.	"I was telling her how great she was in The Wayward Bus when the traveling salesman says he'll marry her anyway, even if she was a stripper." - Max	43
Brooks Brothers	an American retail brand known for its classic, high-quality men's clothing, particularly formal and business attire. Founded in 1818 in New York City by Henry Sands Brooks, it is one of the oldest and most iconic clothing retailers in the United States and is credited with popularizing the button-down collar shirt in America.	"Brooks Brothers makes a swell straitjacket." - Oscar	50
Ticker Tape	the continuous stream of stock prices and trading information that was historically printed on a long, narrow strip of paper by a stock ticker machine. This machine would transmit real-time financial data, such as stock prices, from stock exchanges to businesses, newsrooms, and brokers.	"You're spitting out one-liners faster than ticker tape." - Jack	67
FCC (Federal Communications Commission)	established in 1934, regulates U.S. communications, including radio, television, and broadband. In the 1950s, the FCC played a key role in monitoring television and radio for indecent or controversial material, especially around issues like profanity, sexual content, and political speech, reflecting post-WWII societal values.	"Is that what you want? The FCC up my ass—?" - Bob	73
The Legion of Decency	an organization formed in 1933 by the Catholic Church in the United States to combat the perceived moral decline in film and promote censorship of movies considered immoral or indecent. It issued ratings for films, urging Catholics to avoid films deemed "immoral," which could include content with profanity, violence, or sexual themes. By the 1950s, the Legion's influence was significant, and its ratings played a role in the self-regulation of the film industry, pushing studios to adhere to moral guidelines.	"The calls, they're coming already. The Legion of Decency." - Max	74
Mi Sheberach	a traditional Jewish prayer for healing, often recited during synagogue services. The prayer is named after its opening words, which mean "May the one who blessed" in Hebrew. It is typically said for those who are ill or in need of spiritual or physical healing.	"My mother, she's on her knees, sobbing her way through the Mi Sheberach." - Oscar	84
Sacred Cows	A belief, custom, or institution that is held to be above criticism, challenge, or change, often treated with undue reverence.	"If television's ever gonna matter, we gotta use it to some real purpose to slaughter a few sacred cows." - Jack	90

Additional Research Links

Jack Paar and Oscar Levant on *The Tonight Show*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hECEAq1Qrvc>

Pulitzer Article by Playwright, Doug Wright

<https://www.pulitzer.org/article/little-encouragement#:~:text='Radicals%20make%20for%20good%20drama,become%20something%20of%20a%20ritual>.

Concord Biography on Playwright, Doug Wright

<https://breakingcharacter.com/artist-and-artists-advocate-an-appreciation-of-playwright-doug-wright/>

Script Conception Dispute

<https://www.broadwayworld.com/article/GOOD-NIGHT-OSCAR-The-Behind-the-Scenes-Battle-Splayed-Out-In-Public-20221009>

Broadway Production About

<https://goodnightoscar.com/about/>

Levant and Paar's Relationship

<https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/completely-unmasked-at-all-times-on-the-complete-piano-recordings-of-oscar-levant/>

Oscar Levant Retrospective

<https://www.latimes.com/entertainment/movies/la-et-mn-oscar-levant-appreciation-20180817-story.html>

The History of *The Tonight Show*

<https://eyesofageneration.com/teletales/six-decades-of-tonight/>