

day of the puppets



Starting out as IFC filler way back in the late 90s, then morphing into a short-lived series on Fox, the exploits of hand puppet **Greg the Bunny** and his cohorts **Warren the Ape** and **Count Blah** have become cult favorites. After the Fox series was cancelled, IFC resurrected Greg and his alcoholic pal Warren with a season of all new film parodies. Late last month, *Greg The Bunny Season One* was released on DVD and on November 11th, they'll be back with another season of outrageous indie spoofs. Here's what the boys, along with co-creator **Dan Milano** had to say about the experience.

David Salcido As a huge fan of your show, I'm thrilled to see you back on the screen. How does it feel to be back on IFC, where it all started?

Greg The Bunny Well, it feels really good to be back on television. I am someone who really thrives on being seen and noticed, because it's really difficult for a Fabricated American such as myself to get any dignity or respect, so the fact that I've got a show out there, helps a little bit. Gives me a little bit of status. It's also fun to be doing new stuff.

Dan Milano We were on IFC for a long time, we had a lot of creative control and it was a lot of fun and we were really excited and proud to be doing the Fox series, but that was a little more difficult because we were dealing with so many cooks helping to stir the pot. So, when the show got cancelled we were disappointed, but the silver lining is that IFC is so creator friendly.

DS Dan, how much input do you have on which movies will be spoofed on IFC?

DM The way it works is that IFC comes to us and says, "here are the movies that we have coming up on our schedule in the next, say, six months and we'd like it if you guys did these films so it coincides with our programming." You may have noticed that sometimes, when we're asked to do a **Coen Brothers** parody, we'll do it, but we'll end it with a parody of **David Fincher's Seven**, or we'll end our **Natural Bom Killers** parody with a spoof of **Breakfast Club**. We tend to work other stuff in there. This season, we have an episode which is supposed to be based on **Being John Malkovich**, but we kind of just took the basic genre, but we instead did a parody of body switching movies, like **Vice Versa** and **Freaky Friday**. They allow us to kind of bend it a little bit.

DS And beyond this particular series, what does the future look like?

DM We'd like to possibly extend the series so that it's a little bit more about the day-to-day lives of the puppets, which at the end of the day is really what we're a little more interested in. The parodies are fun, but it's a little bit like watching **Muppet Treasure Island**. The sets are beautiful and the songs are wonderful, but I personally would just like to see **Kermit The Frog** being himself. The other possibility is for us

to do an independent film. We're trying to decide if that will be sort of a narrative in a sort of **Muppet Movie** style or if it will be more of a documentary sort of like **Waiting For Guffman**. Most likely it would be a hybrid of the two.

DS Okay, well I don't want to ignore the boys, too much. Here's a closing question for Warren and Greg. Is Hollywood finally becoming more accepting of fabricated Americans, or are there still areas that are closed to them?

Warren The Ape Um, I'd say that it's hard. You've got the **Crank Yanker** crew out there and, of course, the **Muppets** have always been the social elite, la de da, look at us minstrels that they are. But I find that in general day-to-day life, it's nearly impossible to get take-out at the drive-thru and you can't book a decent hotel room. We've got a long way to go.

GTB I find that people treat me nice at **Toys R Us** if I hang out by the sticker machine. Warren's just bitter because he wasn't allowed into the Muppets.

WTA It's not that I wasn't allowed in, I didn't want in. Okay? I was happily relieved when they kicked me... when they asked me to leave the Muppet house. It was a parting of the ways that I was amicable about. Oh, why lie... they hated me.

GTB You know who I want to meet? **Alf**. He seems really nice.

WTA I was at **Betty Ford** with Alf. He's nice when he's sober.

GTB Thank you, Warren, for slandering one of my childhood idols.



DS Um, okay, well we're running out of time. Thank you for talking to me, guys.

GTB Thank you for caring!

WTA Can I go drink now?

GTB Oh Warren, just say goodbye.

WTA If I do, can I have a cocktail?

GTB Yes.

WTA Goodbye.

Catch **Greg The Bunny Season Two** beginning November 11th on IFC. Films scheduled for parody are **Monster**, **Dogville**, **Lost Highway**, **Moulin Rouge**, **Being John Malkovich** and **American Movie**. Check icftv.com for listings.

