"WHISPERING GHOSTS" COMES TO TV SCREEN
Milton Berle's First Starring Picture To Be Telecast

Radio Sleuth Tries Tracking Real Criminal on Channel

Milton Berle stars as a radio crime-solver who finds murder and theft aboard a mystery ship in the 20th Century-Fox —NTA film "Whispering Ghosts" to be telecast __________ day at __________ p.m. over Station __________, Channel __________.

As H. H. Van Buren, sleuth of the airwaves, Milton Berle boards the Black Joker trying to discover who killed Captain Wetherby, former skipper of the ship. Betty Woods (Brenda Joyce) also comes aboard to find the jewels left to her in the captain's will.

Van Buren snoops about the ship with his valet, played by Willie Best, and meets a character called Long Jack (John Carradine) who does his best to scare the crime-solver. However, Van discovers he is an old vaudeville actor hired to put on an act as a practical joke. Convinced that the whole situation is a gag, Van refuses to believe Betty when she tells him that the only clue to her inheritance is a strangely inscribed dog collar.

However, after a mysterious stabbing, Van takes things more seriously. Fearing Betty will be the next victim, Van hurries to her and finds that the mysterious inscription on the dog collar is a quotation from the Bible calling attention to the captain's log. They find the jewels—which turn out to be paste.

Van by this time knows the murderer of the Captain and returns to his station to reveal the solution of the mystery to his radio fans.

Sol M. Wurtzel produced this National Telefilm Associates tv film release and Alfred Werker directed the screen play by Lou Breslow.

***** REVIEWS *****

New York Sun:
...a thriller with a sense of humor ... filled with suspense and surprise.

New York World Telegram:
...film has some hearty fun in it.

New York Daily News:
"Whispering Ghosts" has it over many another horror film ... Milton Berle has plenty of gags ... So, the film has more laughs than shudders.

Variety:
Berle's work stands out ... it's a laugh from start to finish.

New York Herald Tribune:
Berle is a funny fellow ... Willie Best is at his funniest.

***** SHORT TAKES *****

Berle Makes Film Debut
Reminiscing about his first top billed movie role — a sleuth in "Whispering Ghosts" to be telecast __________ day at __________ p.m. over Station __________ — Milton Berle recalled, 'Darryl Zanuck said, 'Berle, I'm going to make you a star.' And he did ... out of an old newspaper with a pair of scissors ... I had a very elaborate wardrobe in that picture. I got to wear a double-breasted shroud with bell-bottom lapels ... This picture proved very lucrative, though. I got the laundry concession for the sheets the ghosts wore.'

Prop Cobwebs Snare Flies
The cobwebs in the mystery-comedy "Whispering Ghosts" to be telecast __________ day at __________ p.m. on Station __________, starring Milton Berle, were certainly a credit to the prop men. Concocting a substance out of various chemicals, they spun gossamers which would make a spider proud. Not only did the webs look authentic, but they enmeshed a few flies during the production.

Shoestring Stand-In
John Carradine, the actor featured in "Whispering Ghosts" to be seen __________ day at __________ p.m. on Station __________ claims himself to be the only performer who has a shoestring for a stand-in.

Double Take
"Whispering Ghosts" the __________ day feature on Station __________ began popularizing the "double take." Milton Berle believes that it was with this movie that the "double-take" began to supplant the "slow burn" as a laugh getter.

***** HIGHLIGHT LISTING *****

A radio sleuth boards a mystery ship to find out who killed the captain. He encounters the old skipper's grand-niece who has come to find jewels left to her in the old man's will. Her only clue is an inscribed dog collar. After many narrow escapes, the sleuth of the airwaves returns to his station with the solution of the mystery for his fans. Milton Berle, Brenda Joyce, John Carradine.
"HAVE YOU HEARD THE ONE ABOUT...?"

Oh, no you haven't... 'cause there's never been anything like these goings-on!

... Berle's a dippy dick on a murder ship... and what happens to him shouldn't happen to a dogfish!

MILTON BERLE

WHISPERING GHOSTS

with

BRENDA JOYCE

and John Shelton - John Carradine - Willie Best

Executive Producer Sol M. Wurtzel Directed by Alfred Werker
Screen Play by Lou Breslow. Original Story by Philip MacDonald.

A 20th-CENTURY-Fox Picture

Running time: 75 minutes

SYNOPSIS

Whispering GHOSTS

Cast

H. H. Van Buren - Milton Berle
Elizabeth Woods - Brenda Joyce
David Courtland - John Shelton
Norbert (Long Jack) - John Carradine
Euclid White - Willie Best
Gilpin - Edmund MacDonald
Inspector Norris - Arthur Hohl
Jonathan Flack - Grady Sutton

Credits

Executive Producer - Sol M. Wurtzel
Directed by - Alfred Werker
Screen Play by - Lou Breslow

Synopsis

Aboard the Black Joker, mystery ship, H. H. Van Buren (Milton Berle), a crime-solver on the air, and his valet, Euclid (Willie Best), are trying to discover who killed Captain Wetherby, former skipper of the ship.

Betty Woods (Brenda Joyce), a grand-niece of the captain, comes aboard to find the jewels left her in the captain's will. She is in possession of a dog collar with a mysterious inscription on it.

Strange things are afoot aboard the ship as Van soon finds out. He meets two characters called Long Jack (John Carradine) and Meg (Rene Riano) who do their best to scare him away from the boat. He soon discovers, however, that they are old vaudeville actors, who are putting on an act at the request of a friend who wishes to play a practical joke on Van.

In the meantime, Betty is followed by Mack Wolf (Abner Biberman) who was boatswain on the Black Joker when the Captain was murdered. Wolf appears and at the point of a gun demands the collar from Betty. Van enters and still thinking that it's all a gag, disarms Wolf and throws him out. Betty tries to convince Van that the whole thing is on the level, but he refuses to believe her until her boy friend, David Courtland (John Shelton) arrives. Van tries to give him the heave-ho, gets a solid sock on the jaw — becomes convinced of the seriousness of the situation.

Two more people enter the scene. They are Dr. Waldo Bascomb (Milton Parsons) and Jonathan Flack, a book salesman.

Later Betty discovers that the dog-collar is missing, and starts to search the ship. Mack Wolf has returned and taken it. Soon he is relieved of the collar when a mysterious figure stabs him.

Inspector Norris (Arthur Hohl) comes aboard. He has a warrant for Van's arrest, if the letter doesn't give him the information about the Captain's death. Van learns from Norris that Bascomb is really Jackson Voker, a murder suspect. He races out to find Betty, knowing that she will be the next victim. Bascomb has returned the collar, saying he found it in the hall. The mysterious inscription is a biblical quotation calling attention to the murdered captain's log book.

Van finds Betty tied up in a store room and releases her. They also find Voker, who has been fatally wounded, and they rush back to the cabin. In the log book, they find that the captain's globe is the clue to the mystery. They find that the globe contains the jewels. Suddenly Long Jack arrives in costume with walrus mustaches and a putty nose. He demands the gems. They grapple with him and finally overcome him. He is unmasked and turns out to be Inspector Norris. Voker admits murder of Wolf, but accuses the Inspector of Wetherby's murder. The jewels turn out to be paste, and Van returns to his station to reveal the solution of the mystery to his radio fans.
On-the-air Announcements

10 seconds
Milton Berle stars as a radio criminologist ______ day at _______ p.m. when this station presents WHISPERING GHOSTS. Don’t miss Mr. Television as he tries to trap jewel thieves aboard a mystery ship.

10 seconds
A radio sleuth has many narrow escapes _______ day at _______ p.m. when this station telecasts WHISPERING GHOSTS. Hilarious entertainment, chills and thrills result with Milton Berle portraying the hapless detective.

20 seconds
Solving a real crime proves a lot more hazardous than finding the culprit in a radio studio. Or so Milton Berle discovers in his role of a radio sleuth in WHISPERING GHOSTS, _______ day at _______ p.m. over this station. Trying to locate some jewelry aboard a mystery ship provides some narrow escapes for Milton, but chills and laughs for the audience. Don’t miss seeing John Carradine stir up a lot of excitement as Milton comes closer and closer to the missing gems.

20 seconds
Scarey, screwy comic antics take place aboard a ghost ship _______ day at _______ p.m. when Milton Berle stars as a sleuth on this station’s presentation of WHISPERING GHOSTS. Spooks and phantoms delay Milton in his quest for missing jewels but he routs the ghosts as well as more substantial culprits. Don’t miss the hilarious antics aboard the mystery vessel _______ day.

SLIDE
This 2”x2” promotion slide or telop is available free of charge four weeks prior to playdate. Order by number from the NTA Promotion Department in New York.

WG-S1
Exploitation Tips For Your Campaign To Attract Widest Audience For "Whispering Ghosts"

Some showmanship ideas are as old as Barnum, some so new that they will be created by you on receipt of the film. We hope the following suggestions will serve as a springboard for your station's exploitation campaign. Since we are anxious to learn about new methods you may devise to merchandise this show, please let us know any of your own successful promotions.

A postal card may be sent out to tv and entertainment editors — or to a more extensive mailing list — with suggested First Aid materials for watching "Whispering Ghosts."

SMELLING SALTS — for those who may faint from fright.

SPLINTS — for those who may get limp from laughter.

ARNICA — for those who may get a pain from too much laughter.

NEEDLE AND THREAD — for those with a stitch in their sides.

FLASHLIGHT — for those afraid to walk around the house in the dark.

A limited mailing of a kit containing the above materials would be in order — along with the directions for use — to newspapermen as a reminder of the telecast. Card should state playdate and time.

Men dressed as spooks in long sheets could be sent around town with the following copy on their backs:

"We're ghosts and we died laughing at Milton Berle in 'Whispering Ghosts' to be seen ________day at ________ on Station ________"  

In cooperation with a druggist or candy merchant in town, you might mail out cough drops or lozenges with the envelopes imprinted: "Save these. You're going to be hoarse — from laughing at Milton Berle in 'Whispering Ghosts.'"

A small specified sum could be offered, through the newspaper, to the first person to apply who is brave enough to sleep all night in a graveyard. The next day, before "Whispering Ghosts" is telecast, the person might give his reactions on communing with the spirits — tying in the attraction — to the television audience. If there are no takers, a 'stooje' could take the job.

STILLS

Order your 8" x 10" glossy photos four weeks prior to playdate from the NTA Promotion Department in New York. Additional star heads and production shots are available on request for special promotions.
One-column and two-column ad mats, as well as other sizes, are available to assist you in promoting and merchandising this fine feature. Order by number, four weeks prior to playdate from the NTA Promotion Department in New York. Cooperation in creating special layouts will be readily extended by our Art Department.