

MAD's IDIOT OF THE ISSUE!

RICK TULKA FAQs (Frantically Abnormal Questions we asked Rick!)



Q: Who is your favorite non-MAD artist?

A: Al Hirschfeld, David Levine, Toulouse Lautrec, Daumier, Ingres, Van Gogh... I could go on.

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Q: What is your favorite MAD article that you drew?

A: The one where the check cleared.

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Q: How long have you been living in Paris?

A: Long enough to tell a good accordion player from a bad one.

(Editor's note: Rick and his wife, Brenda, moved to Paris in 1995.)

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Q: What do you miss most about the U.S.?

A: Sitting on a stoop.

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Q: Who's your least favorite American visitor?

A: George W. Bush.

Q: What is your favorite book?

A: *Time and Again*, *The Chronicles of Narnia* and *Pat The Bunny*.

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Q: Pick a MAD contributor and describe them in one word.

A: Past: George Woodbridge — gracious. Present: Hermann Mejia — amazing.

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Q: Could you do that in French?

A: Oui. Zee pást: Monsieur Woodbridge — grâçiôus. Zee prèsent: Monsieur Mejia — âmázing, oo-la-la!

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Q: If you could have dinner with three living or dead people, who would they be?

A: President John F. Kennedy and Marilyn Monroe (during their affair) and The Beatles (circa 1966).

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Q: What actor should play you in a movie about your life?

A: Antonio Banderas.

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Q: What actress should play your wife?

A: Catherine Zeta-Jones.

Q: Name some other magazines and advertisers you've drawn for.

A: *Le Monde*, *Les Inrockuptibles*, *Télérama*, *Charlie Hebdo*, *Le Soir*, *Lire*, *Jeune & Jolie*, *Famili*, *Marianne*, *L'Etudiant* et *Chien Méchant*. D'accord?

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Q: What about the porn?

A: I have too many shortcomings.

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Q: Who do you consider your influences?

A: Lucy and Ethel.

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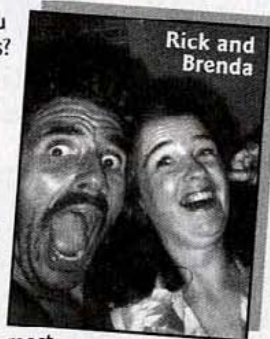
Q: What's your favorite French irregular verb?

A: Right now? "Vomir," because that is what this interview is making me want to do.

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Q: We understand you've studied tap dancing. Do you prefer "brush-step-flap-step-stomp-brush-stamp" or "brush-step-flap-step-stomp-brush-stomp"?

A: No, I prefer "shuffle-ball-change-step-cramp-fall-flap-flap-flap your arms in pain-scream-shuffle."



Q: What do they call Freedom Fries over there?

A: Zee stupid American propaganda.

Q: Do you believe in ghosts?

A: Just the ones who live in this apartment with us.

Q: What do you collect?

A: Problems.

Q: Tell us about your autograph collection.

A: For a period of about 10 years, in the 1980s, I was running around getting famous people like President Ronald Reagan and Nancy Reagan, Andy Warhol, Elizabeth Taylor, Al Hirschfeld, Spike Lee, Bernadette Peters, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Lucille Ball, Regis Philbin and William M. Gaines (naming a few) to autograph the drawings I did of them.

Q: Anyone you're still hunting for?

A: Princess Diana.

Q: We understand you're a wine connoisseur — what kind goes best with chicken-fried steak?

A: I suggest a delicate, mature, balanced, bourgeois Bordeaux with an aroma of austere, baked-burnt, oxidized pestilence, short of an askew woody, light, earthy bouquet that has great legs and body. Or anything under \$4.00 a bottle.

Q: Any embarrassing moments in Parisian museums you'd care to share?

A: All I can say is that it's never me, but associate editor Amy Vozeolas. She causes all of my embarrassing moments in Parisian museums! Those Picassos will never be the same and my wife finally started speaking to me again.

Q: We hear you email with John Caldwell every day. What's that like?

A: You know when you have an itch in the middle of your back and can't reach far enough to scratch it? Well, it's something like that.

Q: Any phobias? Fetishes?

A: Bad hair days and earwax, but not always in that order.

Q: What was your favorite MAD trip?

A: The cruise to Bermuda.

Q: Any stories from that trip that you'd like to share?

A: Does *Titanic* ring a bell?

Q: Favorite midnight snack?

A: Two ibuprofen.

Q: If you weren't an artist, what would you be?

A: A Tony-winning tap dancer in a hit Broadway musical with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, and making tons of money.

Q: During what time of the day do you normally work?

A: Normally, when I am awake.

Q: Where do you go when you need to draw?

A: It's more of a burden than a need.

Q: Who's the most famous person you ever met?

A: Michael Jackson.



Rick shows off his tap dancing skills in the cafeteria of a Parisian hospital (seriously). And (below) takes in some ocean air while on the 1991 MAD cruise to Bermuda.



Q: What was that meeting like?

A: It was a THRILLER.

Q: If you were conducting this interview, what question would you have asked yourself?

A: Does it usually go from the back to the front, or from the front to the back?

THE STATS:

First MAD article: Hot Albums of the 1990s...A Look Back (MAD #282, October 1988)

Number of MAD issues appeared in: 99

Number of MAD articles in this spotlight section: 8

SALUD, RICK!

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY MIKE SLAUGHTERBAUGH



Rick with...(from left to right) Bob Clarke, Jack Davis, Paul Coker, Mort Drucker, Desmond Devlin, Al Jaffee, George Woodbridge, Irving Schild, Angelo Torres and Sergio Aragones.