

The Second "Phenomenon" Episode.

Written by James Randi

Sunday, 04 November 2007 05:37

At youtube.com you'll see an interesting set of videos dealing with the last Phenomenon episode, the second in the series. Here, all three actors – Geller, Angel, and Callahan – get to expound on what they think took place. Video also here →

First was Geller (misspelled "Gellar" in the heading) who of course declared himself "mind-blown" by the episode, poor chap. He took pains to re-emphasize his contrived acceptance of woo-woo, and generally said nothing that added to the situation. He threw in the popular Relativity rant, dragging in Einstein and demonstrating his profound ignorance of what that man had to say about the real world. But consider: Geller's in a rather peculiar situation, having now been directly confronted by Angel on this show, and unable to respond...

I'm sure that NBC is also taking pains to see that the Randi element doesn't get to enter in here, since it might bring a more rational atmosphere to the show, and lose viewers...

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Criss Angel said, in his rather lengthy comments, "[Callahan] demonstrated something that is unexplainable to some" – though to whom that might have applied, I cannot fathom – and Criss is beginning to sound very much like that chap James Randi, tossing about a million-dollar challenge...

Callahan was frantic. He said, concerning the drubbing he got by Criss Angel, "I'm tired of it."

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Well, no, Callahan, you're scared of it because you've never had anyone come up against you directly, as Criss did. Mind you, along with several others who've commented on the Angel presentation of the sealed envelope challenge, that's not something that Callahan has ever actually claimed to be able to do; he should be asked to state – if he can – just what he can do – and then be required to do it.

Callahan retreated to the same ploy as Geller, defending religion and declaring his fervent belief in religious mythology, thus looking for support from that element, then made a rather vicious threat against Angel: "I will definitely do everything I can to ruin him."

All together, this added up to a major victory for rationality – launched and fought by Criss Angel – that must have NBC in both a tizzy and an orgasm, since they've achieved yet another pinnacle of mediocrity. Their first "Phenomenon" show ended up in 45th place...

I'll have more on this event, as soon as I've had a chance to review it in detail...

NOT MUCH LEFT

We figure that the only trick Uri Geller has left to do on "Phenomenon" is the "lifting-a-guy-using-four-fingers" trick... I expect we'll be seeing that one very soon. First, see www.randi.org/encyclopedia/flying.html
. Remember, this is a "mystifyer," not a magician or a trickster...