THE NEW YORK WORLD

JAMES HAMILTON

YOU ARE, BUT WHAT AM I? The singer, actor and comedian Michael West as Pee-wee Merman, one of the many characters in his new one-man *ost Live from the Betty Ford Clinic*, now playing at the Douglas Fairbanks Theater.

EE MERMAN'S VENTURE

a disco-era Ethel Mer-
d in the body of Pee-wee
ntertaining the likes of
elli in the Betty Ford Cen-
um.

sted character, Pee-wee
proving to be the strangest
auteur Michael West's
Almost Live from the Bet-
nic, now playing Thurs-
Douglas Fairbanks Theater
eet.

s hour-and-a-half revue,
, incarnates a slew of fad-
rgotten icons, including
Carol Channing—who
-door, two-minute version
ly for B.F.C. patients—
ry Lewis, Sammy Davis
erald and Pearl Bailey.

ee Merman is *Almost*
ical, but Nick up,
ars the stage diva: giant
like I revel in their downfall. It's just that they're more interesting once they've lived and have had to be exposed as humans."

"Michael's fascination with these people is almost on the brink of some sort of wacky addiction," explained Carl Schmehl, the show's director.

Indeed, *Almost Live* opens with Ms. Minnelli informing Mr. West—up late consuming Merv Griffin reruns—that he's got an addiction to old-school camp. And in real life, Mr. West truly does.

"I used to have an Ethel Merman and Merv Griffin obsession," he said. "I would scan *TV Guide* when I was a kid to see if she was going to be on. There were years in Atlanta when they didn't show *The Merv Griffin Show*, but they would show it in Chattanooga, Tenn., which was like two hours away. So I would see what day it was going to be on—and, you know, I was in high school—and drive to Chattanooga, check into a motel and drive back

critical that anyone would have expected him to be pure or chaste."

—*Benjamin Ryan*

OOH-OOH

From the mailing list of OneLegUpNYC, a group "dedicated to promoting the 'SENSUAL LIBERATION' of women and men around the world":

Orgasm Marathon:

Major Women's Magazine is looking for cute couples ages 25-39 in the NYC area to participate in an "Orgasm Marathon". Couples will be given a clicker and for 2 weeks, women must count their orgasms. Couples will be interviewed afterwards on how it affected their relationship, did it strengthen the relationship, was it fun, was what the best part, etc. If interested contact Melissa at meldlc@nyc.rr.com for more details.

—*Sridhar Pappu*

5. Stop e-mailing ex-romantic partners.
6. Instruct pets to find their own food.
7. Spend two hours less per day at current job looking for new job.
8. Worry about Jennifer, not Brad.
9. Before bed, lay out socks and underwear for next day.
10. Walk faster.

—*Stephen F. Milioti*

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