

Cheers, The Cosby Show, Andy Griffith Show, The Lucy Show, Dick Van Dyke Show, Get Smart, The Flying Nun, The Patty Duke Show.

Cheers was iconic. Set in a bar and no one needed to move. Conversation and situations. Humour and the mundane.

The Cosby Show. Life in a Bill Cosby family, simple humour and situational irony. Same with The Andy Griffith Show, except for the physical humour of Don Knotts.

Then there is Lucy, the queen of physical humour, facial expressions, making mistakes and surviving the consequences. Same with Dick Van Dyke.

We cannot forget The Flying Nun, Sally Field's first role and really, it was awful. The twist of The Patty Duke Show was the fact that she played both characters. The storylines not much better than The Nun but watchable never the less.

There are many more but the best, the all-time best was and is and remains The Carol Burnett Show. With a supporting cast of Lyle Waggoner, Harvey Korman and Vicki Lawrence. Original episodes ran from 1967 to 1978. In 1975, frequent guest star Tim Conway became a regular, so even if this does not meet the credentials of a 60s sitcom, I am claiming it as the best.

Take the dentist scene, where Harvey Korman and Tim Conway tackle the life experience of having to go to the dentist. Their willingness to throw out the skit in order to test their ability to make each other laugh and succeed. They made us laugh, not giggle, not chortle, but from the gut, beyond guffaw. Laugh out loud laugh, tears streaming down our face. That kind of cathartic laugh.

The same laughter, the same kind of uncontrollable laughter came about when Carol showed up wearing the velvet curtains with the curtain rod still in place. Yes, as Scarlett O'Hara. Maybe the skit was noteworthy for other humorous lines, however, who remembers?

When you teach composition, the basic essay has five paragraphs, an intro, three proofs and a conclusion. Yes, there should be a third sketch mentioned and there probably is. Yet, these two skits, these two moments in TV lore are standouts, much like Lucy making wine or bread. Who can forget Lucy and the chocolate assembly line. These, however, were part of a 50s sitcom, thus not really eligible. Still voting for Carol, though.