

# DIGITAL CITY

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## Ventriloquist Carla Rhodes' Partner, Cecil the Dummy, Shares About His Dirty Job

Dec 31st 2009 2:01PM  
By Corn Mo

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Cecil is a dummy. He's lucky Carla Rhodes is his ventriloquist handler. Otherwise, no one would go see him.



Hanna Toresson

He would be tucked away in the basement of a hardware store, the kind owned by a person who never wanted a hardware store but thought it would provide a quiet place to write a novel while making a living. Then, he would rot with mold and termites would devour him. If he saw you, he would claim it was syphilis, just to show off.

Instead, he's given a chance to perform. Now, he's in a show called "The Continuing Story of Carla Rhodes." He talked to me about it while Carla drank a glass of sunshine.

**What does Carla pay you?**  
Deluxe Licorice Sticks and a lifetime subscription to *Longfellows' Monthly*.

**Why do you love licorice so much?**  
Harrumph! Why do wild teenagers imbibe in marijuana cigarettes? And why do hep cats inject junk before playing a drollish, repetitive two hour jam? Exactly, Sir!

**Can you tell me the recipe for your showtime Licorice Cocktail?**  
Ab-so-lute-ly not!

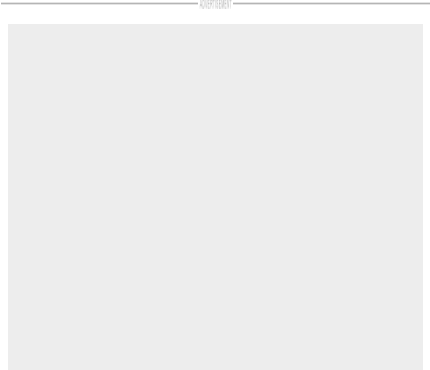
**And you like Cracker Jacks as well?**  
More than I love watching monkeys ride elephants!

**What's the coolest thing that you've found in a box of Cracker Jacks?**  
A great grizzly's paw from Yellowstone National Park.

**How old are you?**  
I'm only as old as the girl I feel. This week, I'm 15 years old.

**Why have you been locked in a suitcase for an indescribable amount of time?**  
I had an affair with an over-aged chorus girl. Unfortunately, she was the sister of B.F. Keith, and I was promptly thrown off the circuit and locked up shortly thereafter, my good man!

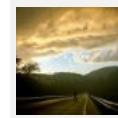
**What killed vaudeville?**  
The Talkies! The dreadful talkies! And women's suffrage!



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### What's your favorite Talkie?

"The Caterpillar and the Cocoon" starring Haggity Swanson (Caterpillar) and Flippity McPharsons (the Cocoon).

### What is Carla to you?

A real bug-eyed Betty! Carla Rhodes is a flapper with a bad haircut! Please send her to Yolanda's Lady Salon located on Graham Avenue in glorious Brooklyn, New York.

### Have you ever done it with her? And by "done it" I mean "had sex with".

What do you think this is?! A bull session?!

### How do you keep your wood? And by "keep your wood" I mean your pinocchio.

I keep my wood in ship-shop shape by avoiding termites and keeping it dry whilst in storage!

### And can you move your eyes when you get a woody?

Beat it, dew-dropper! What kinda rag are you writing for, anyways?

### Are you looking forward to the big show?

No! It's going to be absolutely dreadful.

### If there's one thing you could change about the show, what would you change?

I would stay at home and not do it! It's the recession! Who is going to blow \$8 on a ventriloquial extravaganza anyways?! You could buy a 78rpm record player and a bag of saltwater taffies for that sum of money!

### Are there any special guests?

Sadly, yes. I hear there is a new chap named Herschel Ragbottoms that will be making an appearance. Carla found him in a trash can. She aims high. She was born in a trash can, so I suppose she visits them regularly.

### Who do you consider the most attractive woman on the planet?

Eleanor Roosevelt! I bounced her up in down in my rumble seat way before Franklin D. Roosevelt got his dirty paws on her!

### Who does your hair?

I regularly patronize Yolanda's Lady Salon located on Graham Avenue in glorious Brooklyn, New York. Yolanda specializes in the latest finger wave styles.

### What's more enjoyable: a pack of licorice in a closed suitcase or Eleanor Roosevelt in a lighted room?

Eleanor Roosevelt in a lighted suitcase.

You can see Cecil in "The Continuing Story of Carla Rhodes" at Arlene's Grocery on January 14.

For more info go to [www.carlarhodes.net](http://www.carlarhodes.net)

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