

Leave it to Cleaver



“Leave it to Beaver” was a family-oriented television program of the early 1960s, however it started out as anything *but* a situation comedy. Early episodes revolved around the misadventures of Beaver Cleaver’s mother, June, a psychotic woman who had a penchant for turning her surname into a verb. Once when she was directed to hug her on-stage husband, she instead hacked him to pieces – unintentionally, of course (or so she claimed). Fearing repercussions from a squeamish television audience, the writers gentled June’s character through the use of Librium and Nembutal, and the show morphed into the annoying American comedy that Baby Boomers today mistakenly recall with gratuitous affection.