

World's Funniest Joke



The joke that was once voted “World’s Funniest” begins “A dog, a prissy English banker, a Nazi stormtrooper, a midget from Amarillo, a cross-dressing member of Japan’s parliament, and Groucho Marx all go into a bar.” It was so funny that in 1970 Paramount Pictures committed to making a movie based solely on the joke. A studio location was secured; sets were designed; a producer, animal trainer, cameraman, costume designer, caterer, stuntman, and six actors were hired; and on the first day of shooting before an energized cast and crew that numbered eighty-five, the director yelled “Action!” Trouble was, “Cut!” followed a minute later because no one could remember the joke’s punch line. Not the scriptwriter, not the art director, not the gaffer, not the actor who played Groucho, not even “JokeWorld Las Vegas,” the purveyor of the “World’s Funniest” designation. And yet *everyone* somehow remembered it as being a real knee-slapper. To this day, both joke and movie remain unfinished. So anyone who knows the punch line should phone (323) 956-5000 soonest. Reward.