

# Everyone should go Gaga for Pee-wee

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If Lady Gaga is allowed to parade around in public in nothing but a meat suit, society should have no qualms about letting a 58-year-old man perform in a skinny gray suit, red bow tie, white platforms and lipstick.

Pee-wee Herman is back after an almost 20-year hiatus, and he should be welcomed back wholeheartedly.

Paul Reubens, the creative mastermind behind the classic '80s man-child, is reviving his career by bringing his playful alter ego to Broadway.

Though reviews have generally been positive, some people are still too wrapped up in Gaga-esque artificiality to truly appreciate an innovative performer of Reuben's caliber.

As The New York Times laments, "The stage show featured little in the way of adventure, which is to say plot. A string of unrelated diversions can be perfectly pleasing in a half-hour dose, but after 90 minutes I began to feel like a fidgety kid in need of an Adderall fix."

And yet people find a Madonna wannabe who dresses in bubbles and latex entertaining? At least Reubens created a world his fans could become lost in. Pee-wee invites his audiences into a world so completely and uniquely his own that they forget their real grown-up problems and catch

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themselves mimicking his playful mannerisms. Pee-wee is endearing, has charm and a unique brand of wit.

Lady Gaga has gravity-defying shoes, the speaking voice of an 80-year-old chain smoker, immeasurable feigned European pretension and the uncanny ability to copy artistic performers of the past.

So why does society drool over Lady Gaga and underappreciate Pee-wee Herman?

In interviews, the people behind these infamous personas admit to being self-proclaimed oddballs during adolescence.

Gaga told everyone from Barbara Walters to Ellen DeGeneres that she felt "like a freak" during high school, and Reubens said he felt like a misfit during his childhood. Gaga makes no secrets about her drug use and the fact that she used cocaine as songwriting inspiration. Reubens was arrested after exposing himself in an adult movie theater.

And yet, despite these illegal activities, the public largely sees one of these people as a brilliant entertainer and the other one as a

creep or a pedophile. The fact of the matter is that the public is applauding the wrong performer.

Lady Gaga's entire schtick is unoriginal, down to her name, which was extracted from the Queen song "Radio Gaga." She wears outlandish costumes, makes outrageous statements and uses publicity to further her career.

Does nobody remember when Madonna; David Bowie and Elton John did the same things mere decades ago, before Lady Gaga was even born?

By stark contrast, Reubens built his performance persona from the ground up — a testament to his creative mind and performing talent.

He had no model to refer back to in creating Pee-wee, because the character of Pee-wee had never been done before.

Should Reubens and Gaga ever meet face to face, Reubens should stand proud knowing he has built a legacy.

The person on the other end of the handshake achieved inauthenticity before her 25th birthday.

## Jeter

season and is not expected to get any better. This point is amplified when the Yankee captain's age is taken into account. The man is 36 years old. That's not old, but in baseball years, it's time to start looking into retirement homes.

At the rate of \$15 million per season, on a three-year contract, the Yankees are already willing to overpay a now less-than-average player nearing the end of his career.

As citizens of a developed nation and benefactors of an advanced society, Americans are entitled to live

well. But, it's the gross excess some exemplify that borders on disgusting, and sometimes far surpasses it.

So what does it say about New York's "good guy," when \$45 million just isn't enough?

Everyone's got their own idea, but it goes to show that no one is immune to greed.

Whether it's people camping outside of Best Buy hoping to save 50 bucks on an LCD TV they don't really need, or Jeter scoffing at the notion of a measly \$45 million paycheck, every single person is a victim of the human

impulse known as selfishness.

Yes, money is nice. It generally makes living a whole lot easier, but it's not the thing that will ultimately make anyone happy at the end of the day.

Could professional athletes live off a couple hundred thousand a year? Sure they could. In fact, that might still be overpaying them.

Could most people survive without the things on their Christmas lists? Yes. Everyone enjoys gifts, but the Christmas season has become an annual corporate heyday.

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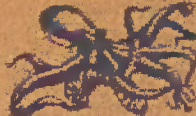
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