



THE DANDY

Definition

A “**DANDY**” is a man who places particular importance upon physical appearance and personal grooming, refined language and leisurely hobbies, pursued with an appearance of nonchalance in a **Cult of Self**.

A “**DANDY**” could be a self-made man both in person and persona, who emulated the aristocratic style of life regardless of his middle-class origin, birth, and background.



Logline

After escaping his past as a circus contortionist, a cunning orphan reinvents himself in 1900s New York high society—using charm and deception to climb the social ladder. But when a betrayal threatens to expose his sordid origins, he must outwit his enemies to keep his American Dream alive.



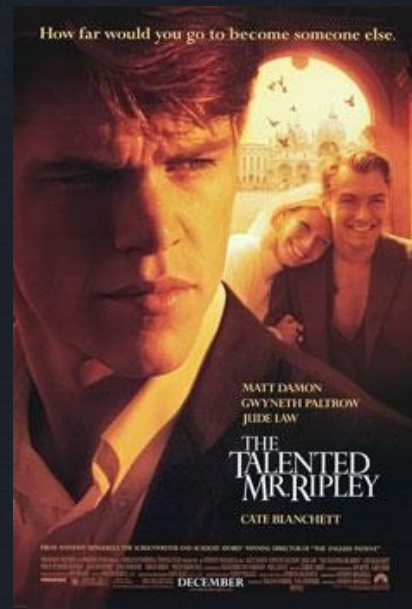
Show Cross



MEETS



MEETS



Premise

This serial limited series is an adaptation from my feature length screenplay, "BRIDGE OF SIGHS".

Jack Dandy follows the extraordinary true story of John "Jack" Rauschenbach, a resourceful immigrant orphan who escapes a brutal Baltimore orphanage to reinvent himself as a charismatic circus contortionist.

Fueled by ambition and charm, Jack rises from circus life to the dazzling heights of New York's Gilded Age elite, hiding a dark past. But betrayal and law enforcement threaten to expose him, forcing Jack to outwit his enemies to survive and protect his American Dream.

A life that measures how far it is to the top, and how fast it is to the bottom.

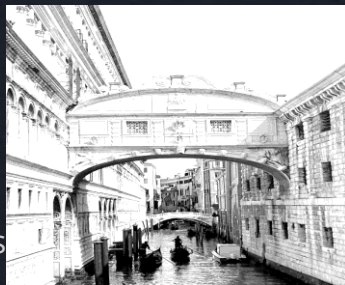


We meet Jack in 1905 New York City as a 25-year-old, at the top of his game, without a care in the world. Jack is unexpectedly arrested after having dinner at the Lambs Club. While in jail, Jack flashes back over his life and how he got into his present predicament.

After losing both parents Jack is cast upon the world a young immigrant orphan. Jack's chance to grab his golden ring, comes to town on a circus train. After Jack runs away from his orphanage, his teenage years are spent traveling and performing on the trapeze as an acrobat and contortionist, being mentored by circus owners Zimbo & Merlin. Here we meet both Milo Myers, Jack's nemesis, and Jack's love interest Mabel DeKuno. Milo's treachery force Merlin's circus to collapse, thrusting Jack back onto the harsh city streets.

Jack relocates to NYC and finds work with an upscale 5th Avenue Haberdashery. His clients include men like J.P. Morgan, John Rockefeller, Cornelius Vanderbilt. Jack uses his steady income, deception, duplicity, and deceit, to transform himself from circus "Human Snake" into "Jack Dandy."

Pilot



For Jack, life is a grand performance; living on New York's Riverside Drive, vacationing in Europe, surrounding himself with beautiful men and women. But deep within, Jack knows he is a fraud. His dual-life harbors dark secrets, and many of them belong to NYC's social elite.

Jack discovers that his employer hired Pinkerton Detectives to investigate him, risking the exposure of his sordid past and leading to his arrest and current confinement.

Like the original "Ponte dei Sospiri" in Venice Italy which Casanova himself crossed in 1755; NYC has its own "Bridge of Sighs" that perpetrators must cross to learn their Fate. Standing on that bridge, handcuffed and with local and federal charges pending, 25-year-old Jack realizes... all that glitters is not gold. By using his society secrets, old circus friends and reunited family, he forges a cunning plan to prevent his demise and obtain his revenge on Milo. But will it work?

Season One Episode Concepts

EPISODE 1: "THE FAMILY" (1888)

Nine year old "Jack " and his siblings lose both parents. Freddie, Ida and Jack wind up in a city run orphanage, while older sister Bertha goes to live with family friends in West Virginia.

EPISODE 2: "ASYLUM" (1888-1894)

Life goes on. Freddie, then Ida eventually leave the orphanage and Jack remains there, alone. Jack matures into a scholar athlete. He witnesses injustice, poverty, discrimination. He finds a part-time job and loses his virginity. Jack meets Milo in an alley fight.

EPISODE 3: "THE BIGTOP" (1894-1896)

Jack runs away and joins a traveling Circus. Merlin & Zimbo mentor Jack, training him to be a contortionist. They travel by train performing through the Western U.S.

EPISODE 4: "MABEL & MILO" (1896-1899)

Jack meets and falls for Mabel. Milo sabotage's Jack's equipment. When confronted, Milo steals the payroll and runs off, resulting in the Circus closing down.

EPISODE 5: "NEW YORK, NEW YORK" (1899-1902)

Jack relocates to NYC searching for Freddie & Ida. They search for Bertha. He lands work in a 5th Ave Habadashery. He transforms from "Human Snake" into "Jack Dandy".

EPISODE 6: "NYC to EUROPE" (1902-1904)

Jack is a rising star in NYC society. Moves into a Riverside Drive apartment, travels to Europe on steamship with W.A. McLaughlin to purchase the latest fashion. Nonstop rotation of women, drink, and drugs and an illicit windfall.

EPISODE 7: "CRASH & BURN" (1905)

McLaughlin hires Pinkerton detectives and DA SDNY is also investigating him. Jack is arrested leaving the Lambs Club and thrown in the Tombs. He eventually gets out on bail.

EPISODE 8 FINALE: "PONTE DEI SOSPIRI" (1906)

Twenty-five year old Jack enlists Zimbo and old circus chums to set Milo up for a fall. Jack believes he has a deal to weasel out of doing jail time. But must cross the "Bridge of Sighs" to make one final court appearance.

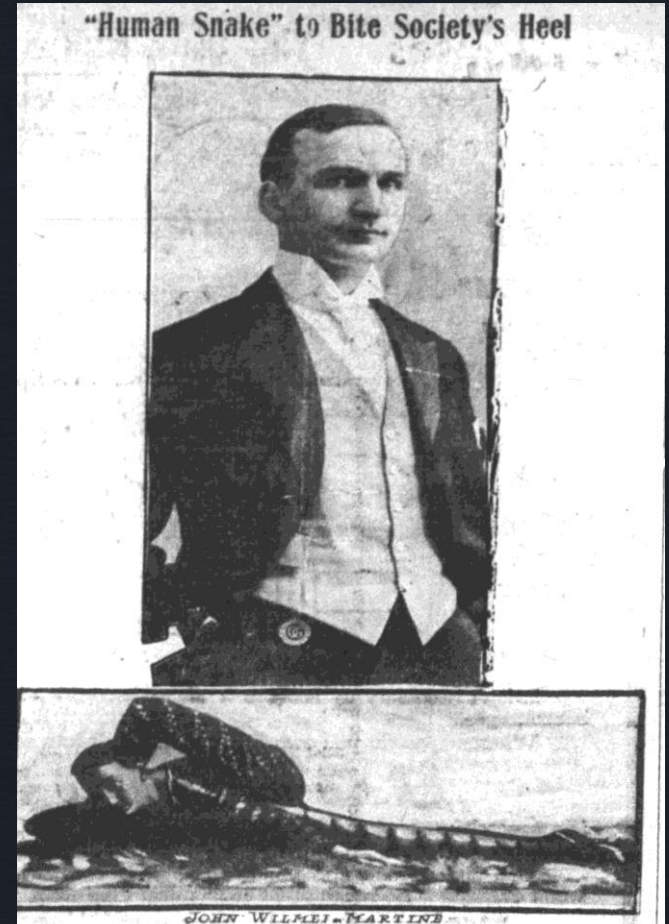
Jack Dandy aka "Martine"

MAIN CHARACTER

Jack (9-25) is the youngest of 4 siblings.

His primary narrative in the beginning of season one is as an immigrant orphan that feels abandoned; by his parents, his siblings, and his confusing new society.

However, he discovers that his entire existence can be altered by simply creating an elaborately fabricated lie to live by. He learns his own strength.



Milo Myers



MAIN CHARACTER

Milo (17-28) is a dark, dirty player. This man is out for himself and no one else.

Fate served Milo a cold plate similar to Jack, but nothing nor no one right has entered his life, so he resents Jack's inclusion and his successes.

Milo can't get a break and has convinced himself he deserves one. He'll burn the house down before he letting someone he didn't like, get a good nights sleep.

Mabel DeKuno



MAIN CHARACTER

Mabel (17-26) is a rising equestrian star in a competitor's circus when she and Jack first meet.

She was raised in Minnesota but left home after boarding school.

During the early years of their relationship, she is torn by her love of Jack and the desire to have her own career and not have to depend on any man to take care of her.

Zimbo

MAIN CHARACTER

He is the Ringmaster. At 50, he is the glue keeping the Circus alive. Hard but fair, he appreciates that a job well done, is measured in Effort.

He serves as a father figure for Jack.

As second in command, he is all eyes and ears. He drinks a bit much and his drink of choice is Vin Mariani... a popular wine with a cocaine additive that is taking a toll.

Having seen his better days, he worries what the future has in store for him.



Ida

MAIN CHARACTER

Ida (11-27) is the youngest daughter.

In the beginning of season one she experiences the family tragedy along with her siblings and attends the orphanage with them.

Her experiences and challenges can be easily explored as a "B" storyline.

Freddie

MAIN CHARACTER

Freddie (13-29) is Jack's older brother.

He has an uncompromising vision that all will work out in the end, just work harder!

Level-headed, honest, he has carved out a career as an acrobat and comedic monologist on Vaudeville.

He beats himself up that he left Jack at the orphanage.

Bertha

MAIN CHARACTER

Bertha (16-31) is the oldest of the 4 siblings.

As first born, many responsibilities found their way to her. Try as she might, she couldn't keep the children together and the orphanage wouldn't accept her. She was old enough to go to work.

She bore the burden in her heart that she wasn't there for them.

SUPPORTING CHARACTERS

MERLIN

Merlin is tired. At 55+ years old, working & living the Circus life has taken a toll on him. He loves his performers and loves his audience. Don't start no shit, won't be no shit.

W.A.MCLAUGHLIN

W.A. is all business. On top of the latest men's fashion in NYC and Europe. In his mid 30's, he is protective of his clients

DA HENRY STIMSON

Henry loves power and loves politics. He and his staff have the pulse of the City, and its scoundrels. His investigators and prosecutors are feared.

HERR SCHMIDT (HEADMASTER)

Schmidt appears stern and demanding, but really is concerned about the less fortunate in life and determined to lighten their load in his position at the Orphanage.

ROSCOE & ANGEL (CONTORTIONISTS)

Roscoe & Angel are performers closing in on 40. Wanting an exit ramp, but willing to train and pass on their trade secrets.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

Overworked & under paid, he still carries idealist visions of his worth and impact in the legal battles he wages.

JACK'S CLIENTS

John D. Rockefeller, J.P. Morgan, Carnegie, Vanderbilt and dozens of the City's wealthiest men. He values their business, fellowship, and perhaps more importantly that of their wives.

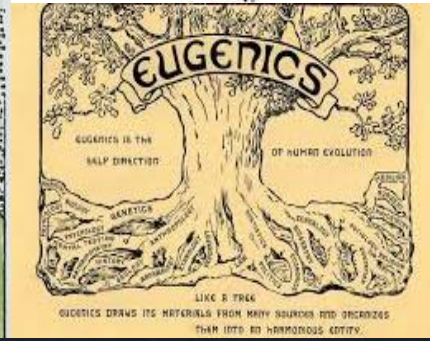
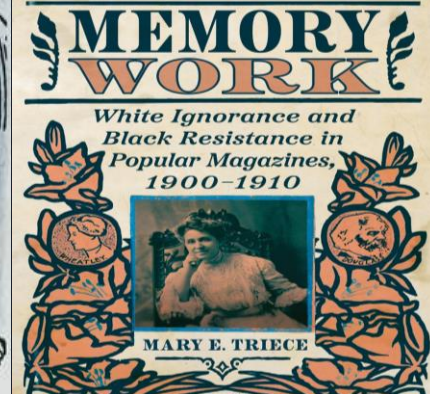
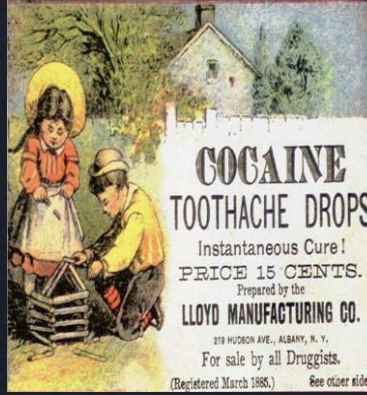
JACK'S WOMEN

Minor players, all looking for a way up. Mistresses, courtesans, social climbers... they can't resist Jack, especially between the sheets. Hell, Jack doesn't mind being a stepping stone, he'll offer them a helping hand up.

Tone

Vaudeville, stage productions, and circus's were a place to escape from life's misery. A nickel was a ticket to another world. Set during the Progressive Era, this was a time of awakening for the conciousness of American society.

Alcoholism, domestic violence, prejudice and crime were prevalent. You had to have a hustle, or life would grind you up and spit you out... even if you were looking.



Themes & Style

Style:

A visually rich, atmospheric series that blends gritty realism with moments of glamour and theatricality. The show balances tense suspense with intimate character drama, evoking the mood of *Peaky Blinders* and *The Crown*.

Themes:

- Reinvention and identity
- The American Dream and its costs
- Class struggle and social mobility
- Loyalty, betrayal, and survival

Visual & Narrative Style:

- Cinematic, moody visuals combining the grit of street life with the elegance of the Gilded Age and early 20th-century society.
- Use of flashbacks and voiceover reveals Jack's backstory and internal conflicts.
- A balance of suspenseful action sequences, intimate character moments, and lavish social settings.

Audience & Marketing

Set during America's Progressive Era—a time of profound social, economic, and political upheaval—the series explores themes of ambition, identity, inequality, and the quest for the American Dream, issues that resonate strongly today.

Comparisons include:

- **Economic inequality:** Vast wealth disparities shape destinies then and now, with Jack's rise mirroring contemporary struggles for economic mobility.
- **Immigration and identity:** Jack's reinvention highlights enduring questions about assimilation, belonging, and the immigrant experience in America.
- **Corruption and reform:** The era's battles against political corruption and corporate excess parallel today's debates on social justice and regulatory reform.

Contrasts include:

- **Technological change:** Just as industrialization transformed Jack's world, today's digital revolution disrupts society and opportunity in profound ways.
- **Social movements:** The Progressive Era's labor and suffrage movements laid groundwork for ongoing civil rights efforts echoed in modern activism.

By weaving these parallels, *The Dandy* offers a compelling lens through which audiences can examine contemporary challenges—making the story both timeless and urgently relevant.

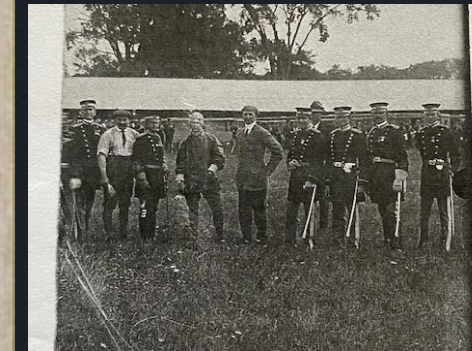
FUTURE SEASONS

SEASON 2 (1906-1912)

Granted a new lease on life, Jack fabricates new careers in theater, import /export of Italian marble, travel. Jack travels through Europe, builds roller-skating rinks in Scotland, witnesses Louis Bleriot's flight across the English Channel in 1909. Jack survives a 7,000' hot air balloon crash while learning to fly.

SEASON 3 (1912-1918)

Jack is an aviator, flying expositions. Upon return from a trip to Europe, Jack is arrested on charges of Grand Larceny, faces a second trial in New York. He does time in Sing Sing Prison. Rumours of WAR tease us for a Season 4.



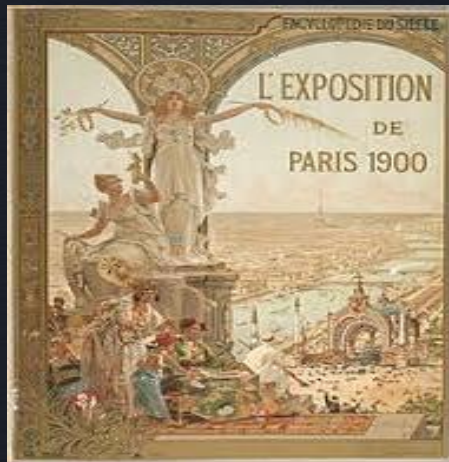
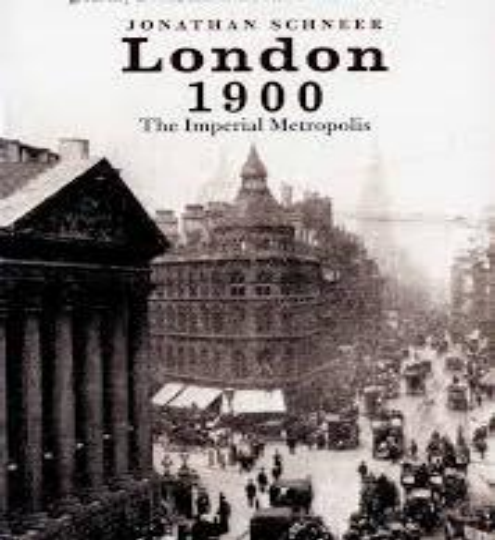


**YES, I'M A
CONTORTIONIST**



**NO, I'M NOT
BENDING
FOR YOU**





JACK'S WORLD



America's Oldest Professional Theatrical Club
Founded in New York City in 1874.

The Lambs® is a social club that nurtures those active in the arts, as well as those who are supporters of the arts, by providing activities and a clubhouse for its members. We are an active community of show business professionals. The Lambs is NOT a similarly named Times Square theme bar.

