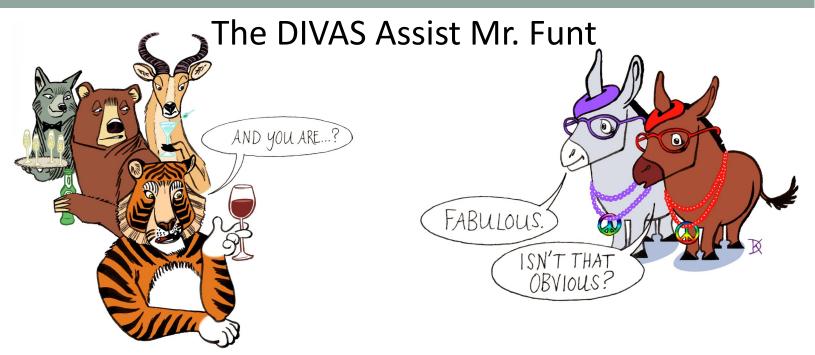




The DIVAS Dish—Animal Advice from the Wise Asses



Dear Donkey Divas,

At the request of my employer, Mr. L. E. Funt, I am contacting you in regard to the upcoming International Wildlife Film Festival in Missoula, at which is screening his current film offering.

As I'm sure you're aware, Mr. Funt is a global star of mammoth proportions. He is a highly soughtafter guest, not only at film premieres, but at dinner parties and literary salons. You also know Mr. Funt as a cover model for *Vogue* and *GQ*, and as *People Magazine's* "Sexiest Pachyderm Alive" for 2004. Who doesn't, after all, want this particular elephant in the room?

Mr. Funt is currently at his winter home in the South of France. As much as he would love to travel to Montana to meet-and-greet his fans, there is a "hitch in the giddy-up," as you would say "out west." His private plane, outfitted to his rather sizable dimensions, and therefore, his sole means of international travel, is "in the shop," as you would so quaintly put it.

Would you, by chance, be available to stand in for Mr. Funt?

Sincerely, Ms. Ro Dent. Assistant to Mr. Funt Our Dear Ms. Ro Dent,

How fortuitous that we should receive your letter today. We were just discussing the upcoming International Wildlife Film Festival over breakfast this morning and brainstorming ways to turn its global lens onto Dunrovin Ranch, where we hold court as its most recognized representatives (some use the term *mascot*, to which we Divas take unreserved offense - our stage is the world, not a basketball court).

And yet it comes as no surprise that the illustrious Mr. Funt would have you contact us for this highly visible request. We are, after all, held in a sort of particular esteem in this region, being by far the most fashionable and worldly. Why, on any given day, we might visit the local post office or super-market and be swamped by screaming fans. Most of the time, a bottle or pacifier will quiet them down, but commotion is sure to follow us the rest of our days. That is simply what it means to be famous.

Normally, our schedules would not allow a single moment for such considerations, but our hearts were moved to pity when we heard the plight of a fellow celebrity. Therefore, we accept Mr. Funt's request to attend the screening in his stead, and we'd be happy to extend that to any associated dinners, luncheons, brunches, tea-times, and cocktail parties, as well.

However, under no circumstances will we dress up as another animal. Not that it was suggested, but we must head this sort of thing right off. It would be impolite, indecent, not to mention improper. We are donkeys and proud of it. We reserve the right to dress and strut as we please, and we imagine Mr. Funt will respect our wishes.

We also reserve the right to market ourselves to potential business partners. While attending premieres on Mr. Funt's behalf, we hope to meet producers, directors, talent agents, etc. There is no doubt that our presence will cause a stir, but we will do our best to remind fans that the true star of this moment is the magnanimous Mr. L. E. Funt. It won't be easy, but we'll do our best.

Do pass along our best wishes to Mr. Funt, and assure him that he could not have made a better choice in seeking us out.

Sincerely, Miss Gertie Min Maude



Caption Contest

Email caption suggestions and animal letters to DunrovinDivas@gmail.com

Identify suggested captions by month and year of contest: April 2019

Selected entries will be published in future issues.