The Perils Of Peter and Peanut

#1

This week's episode:
Is this the End of Peter and Peanut?

WALTER WINCHELL

*There is terror in the land! Famine!*

*Pestilence! The threat of all-out war!*

And so, from the distant shores of Puppula, a ship sails! To cross the great distance that divides their world from ours! Aboard is the last great hope of our troubled world! The unlikeliest of heroes -- Peter and Peanut!

OUR STORY BEGINS:

"The unsteady clip-clop, clip-clop of falling feet and the rustle of strings of a busy *avenue de faire*. Above, the crinkled, near-majestic paper-mache of the night skyline of Paris.

"If we can be excused in hoping that the mind's eye of the audience is drawn by our humble puppet play, then it is drawn now to the theatre billboard, looming in our gaze for a single instant before leaping away to allow us to venture into the hallowed halls of *Le Palladium*, the finest of puppet theatres in Paris, in France, perhaps in all of Europe, on this late day in June of 1956.

"The billboard rushing past reads: 'Le Trouillard du Far West.'"

PETER (V.O.)
If my story has a beginning, then it begins here. For it is here that Peanut and I first tested the great
gift of my people that would either be
your salvation, or, I darest not even
whisper or think it, your devastation!
   (a whisper)
...laughter...

"In this grand theatre of old, where Kings and Queens have
viewed the work of self-appointed ‘dignitaries’ and ‘visionaries’
with approval and most often scorn, where once a puppet was
ceremoniously knighted and at once beheaded, every puppet eye
of the capacity crowd is trained upon the screen."

    PETER
    Wake up, Peanut, wake up.

"Perhaps, out of the corner of an eye, we catch a glimpse of a
young puppet in over-sized suit and tails, standing anxiously
in the wings, seeming to coax his pocket to wakefulness.

"Perhaps not. For the great strings swiftly take us to the
only possible vision. Six giant red letters."

    T H E   E N D

    PETER
    (urgent now)
    This is it, Peanut! You must wake up!

"The little puppet's words are worthless, for they are suddenly
drowned out by gunshots. You see, this show is not yet over..."

    LEWIS
    We're not ready for 'The End' yet!

"A French translator growls from the wings, startling Peter and
his still unseen collaborator.

"On the screen, two men fire at the final letters, destroying
them one by one. They holster their pistolas and address the audience."

LEWIS
We have something to say to you, right Dean?

MARTIN
We sure do, Jer. We want you folks to know we sure enjoyed workin' for ya, and we hope you enjoyed the picture.

LEWIS
Yeah, and we hope you'll keep coming to see us because we like seeing you.

"The giant reflections of men now link arms and walk away down the dusty celluloid street as the soundtrack blares "Side By Side" and the suddenly raspy-voiced translator's words trickle out into the stunned theater.

"For a moment, silence. Then the creak of mis-placed weight, the shudder of a hand spasm, and finally the rustle of the evening edition of Le Puppet Press floating to the theatre floor.


CROWD
A sigh....

"Splitsville. Kaput. Sayanora and farewell, Mssrs. Dean and Jerry."

CROWD
A heavier sigh...

"Pause, please, dear puppet-lover, for a moment, as you relive
this terrible moment. Please pause, if you can, as you ponder this unthinkable tragedy no less shocking after nearly 50 years have passed.

"Pause, please pause! And consider this. That this, and only this, may be the worst possible moment in the history of worst possible moments for a young puppet and his tiny partner, still sleeping in his breast-pocket, to make their professional debut as the:

ALL-SINGING, ALL-DANCING, DARING DUO OF PETER AND PEANUT!"

PETER
We're on, little brother!

MUSIC STING!

WALTER WINCHELL
And so our brave heroes take the stage! How will their act be received by this devastated crowd? Will they win their hearts? Will they be booed and pelted with the rotten simuli of fruit?

MUSIC STING!

WALTER WINCHELL
Never mind! There is only one question that matters -- how will this young puppet save our world! His journey will take him from France to Los Angeles, from Las Vegas to the Bahamas, from Nicaragua to the Top Of The Marks in London England! And ultimately to the Top of The World! He'll meet the most powerful men in the world, and sometimes he'll perform
for them! And what of his partner?
The one who sleeps now in his breast-
coat partner?

TUNE IN NEXT WEEK:

AS THE PERILS OF PETER AND PEANUT CONTINUE
WITH:

"Dance With a Madman"