

Broadway's My Beat Anthology

Broadway's My Beat Naming Standard

Disclaimer: Many documents in this certification set use the series name of Broadway Is My Beat. There has been no attempt to change any of these to the name chosen for the series, Broadway's My Beat.

The following is a representation of forum threads discussing the alternative naming of the CBS radio series, Broadway's My Beat, AKA Broadway Is My Beat

Initial intention by Dr Joe Webb to Ed Sehlhorst

I posted some responses on the otrr message board, i just posted a composite of my responses to the otr digest newsletter this will be interesting to see what comes back

Actual Group Posting:

Date: Mon, 8 Oct 2007 15:29:07 -0400

From: Joseph Webb

To: old.time.radio@oldradio.net

Subject: "Broadway Is My Beat" Series Name Mystery

There seems to be a question as to the title of one of radio's better 1950s shows much like the "Nightbeat" vs. "Night Beat" question of a few months ago.

The question is... is it "Broadway's My Beat" or is it "Broadway is My Beat"?

There appears to be adequate justification for BOTH names.

If one goes to the excellent newspaper listing site there may be some clues there. <http://www.ijonz.us/RadioLogs/index.htm>

I checked three dates in the NY Times: 7/7/49, 3/22/52, 7/25/54, and they are all list as "Broadway's" This is also true of another collector who did two spot checks and found the same for Wisconsin State Journal 1/19/51 and the Bridgeport Telegram 5/5/51.

Then that same collector found a NY Times article that included this comment: "Another CBS program, the mystery, 'Broadway Is My Beat', will resume on Saturday, Nov. 5, from 9:30 to 10 P.M."

Then this got yet muddier when he found "Broadway IS My Beat" in NY Times SUNDAY listing for 11/12/1949 show AND THEN "Broadway's My Beat" in the SATURDAY listing.

I decided to listen to one of the best sounding programs I have of the series, the episode of 7/24/54. I created a file of the instances where the series title is mentioned at the beginning, the middle break, and at the close.

I have posted this file at <http://download.yousendit.com/A75DF06E728F94AF>

I can't say it's conclusive.... the verbal journey from the "y" to the "s" is clearly "is" sometimes but not always. The mid-show break is clearly "IS" but the beginning and close are more naturally flowing speech, and from looking at the Audacity audio images, it sounds like "IS" but is pronounced so quickly that it comes out as the contracted "Broadway's".

Danny Clover always says "Broadway's my beat," but that is a common way of casual speaking, especially by NY cops, and New Yorkers, of whom I was related to the former, and am one as the latter. We always refer to things that way ("The East Side's the place I live," or "Brooklyn's where I grew up," but asked to give a more formal speech or to write it down, it would have "is.") I would not put a lot of weight on this dialogue as identifying the series title for that reason.

This should not be the first time that this question has been raised, but I suspect that it may be. This is interesting because recordings of the show have been around for at least the 35 years I've been in the hobby and I have never seen it mentioned in anyone's catalog as "Broadway's". It's always been "Broadway is My Beat." That does not mean we can't have perpetuated mistakes, of which there are many instances.

The reason I say this is that it should have come up at least once before. When collectors have recorded from the original electrical transcriptions, they have always had the practice of writing down the name of the series, the program name and/or number, and whatever dates would have been written

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on the label or disc jacket. Some are sloppier than others in this process, but there is usually such excitement or interest by the collector who has the privilege of copying from an original disc that they usually get it right.

The series has been in the hobby for a long time and did not come out as one "discovered set," but in drips and drabs of a few episodes here and a few episodes there over the years. Surely it would have shown up in collectors catalogs under both names at one time or another because of that, but I know I have never seen it.

This makes the question all the more puzzling...

I wonder if any of the California collectors who would have more familiarity with CBS' Hollywood operations, have light they could shed on this topic.

In my mind, I would leave it as "Broadway is My Beat" until someone comes up with a real photocopy of a few original script cover pages or images of ET labels from various points in the series. It appears that CBS was not consistent in the data it gave to the newspaper radio listings compilers, and in that case, if we don't know the show originators true intent, the rules of grammar should apply, much like the conclusion that "Night Beat" is the proper name for that show, even though NBC was inconsistent.

At worst, this curiosity should be documented as one of many radio shows unsolved mysteries. It's one of the things that makes the hobby so interesting.

JWW Following are the replies to the email inquiry from Dr Joe Webb:

Sent: Monday, October 8, 2007 6:44:39 PM Subject: Broadway is my beat

Joe, I would vote for "is" in the title; depending on how the radio listings are laid out in the newspapers, I assume we're talking about tight little grids or otherwise small type and to make it fit, I wouldn't doubt for a minute that an editor/typographer would shorten it to "Broadway's My Beat" ...in the same way I've seen "Truth or Consequences" shortened to "Truth," "T or C," and "Truth or Consq."

Maybe there could be some backtracking through fan magazines or other biographies of Frank Lovejoy to see how the show is listed there.

Regards, Bob Cockrum

Sent: Monday, October 8, 2007 6:34:36 PM Subject: Broadway's My Beat

First Generation Radio Archives sells two sets of Danny Clover's police drama, with shows they've taken from original transcription discs and cleaned up (<http://www.radioarchives.org/CDSets.htm>). Sometimes they have pictures of the discs in their description of the shows, but that's not the case here. Sill, they refer to it as "Broadway's My Beat," making me suspect that that's what it says on the ETs. Perhaps you should ask them directly?

As for the inconsistency in the newspapers...that comes with the territory. They weren't trying to be accurate. Even today, my TV listings are often woefully inaccurate. I'm sure "The New Adventures of Nero Wolfe" was typically called "Nero Wolfe," while "The Adventures of Superman" was typically called "Superman." And for that matter, "The Lucky Strike Program" was commonly known as simply Jack Benny! If the errors did come from CBS, well that's no surprise either. The folks writing up the ad copy weren't the same people creating the shows.

Kermyt

Sent: Monday, October 8, 2007 6:50:48 PM Subject: Broadway's My Beat

Joe, I once wondered about the correctness of the program title Broadway's My Beat (vs. Broadway is My Beat). I went to writer Mort Fine's home and looked at his scripts. The solution: Broadway's My Beat. Some of the confusion might come from transcription labels, but the authors didn't prepare them. I'll go with the scripts. I've also sent this info to the OTR Digest.

Dan Haelele

Posted: Mon Oct 8, 2007 5:44 am (PST)

This piqued my interest this morning, for sure. There is adequate justification for BOTH names, and this should be documented as one of the series' curiosities, just like the ongoing "Nightbeat" vs. "Night Beat" one.

I instant messaged a bit with Ben Kibler this morning. He referred me to the newspaper listing site that has been so excellently done.<http://www.ijonz.us/RadioLogs/index.htm>

I checked three dates in the NY Times: 7/7/49, 3/22/52, 7/25/54, and they are all list as "Broadway's" Ben found the same for Wisconsin State Journal 1/19/51 and the Bridgeport Telegram 5/5/51

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I would leave it as Broadway is My Beat until someone comes up with a real photocopy of a few original script cover pages or images of ET labels from various points in the series.

But I would also document it as the CBS Network couldn't make up its mind, and that this mystery is one of the things that make the hobby so interesting.

JWW

Date: Mon, 8 Oct 2007 23:12:32 -0400

From: Larry Groebe

Subject: "Broadway Is My Beat" Series Name

The question is... is it "Broadway's My Beat" or is it "Broadway is My Beat"?

Although for some reason I can't lay my hands on the actual original script in our files at this moment, according to our catalog notes the title for the series, as typed on the script, was "Broadway's My Beat" -- or at least it was in August of 1951.

--Larry Groebe

Generic Radio Workshop

<http://www.genericradio.com>

Date: Wed, 10 Oct 2007 00:12:58 -0400

From: Harlan Zinck Subject: Broadway/Broadway's

As to whether it is "Broadway is My Beat" or "Broadway's My Beat," when we were compiling two CD sets of shows from the series, our research determined that it was indeed "Broadway's". We didn't have access to the scripts, though, so it's good to read that the always-reliable Dan Haefele from SPERDVAC has seen them and can confirm the spelling.

BTW, disc labels aren't always helpful -- and are, in fact, often incorrect. Check out the following label scans and you'll see what I mean:

<http://www.radioarchives.net/lowres/12855.jpg>

<http://www.radioarchives.net/lowres/19083A.jpg>

Our two Premier Collection CD sets - taken from the original discs and featuring excellent liner notes by Ivan G. Shreve, Jr. - can be found here:

<http://www.radioarchives.org/sets/PC36.htm>

<http://www.radioarchives.org/sets/PC52.htm>

Harlan Zinck, First Generation Radio Archives

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Thu Oct 11, 2007 4:50 pm (PST)

In OldTimeRadioResearchersGroup@yahoogroups.com, "Ed Sehlhorst" ed_sehlhorst@yahoo.com. wrote: There seems to be adequate justification for changing the name of the series from "Broadway Is My Beat" to: "Broadway's My Beat" If anyone has exception to this change, please contact the writer and provide your explanation. Thanks ed

While I agree that when listening to 'Broadway Is My Beat' I usually hear Larry Thor say 'Broadway's My Beat', I am afraid that I have some evidence to put forward that may cause the proposed name change to be re-examined. Let me explain:

Today I was listening to Phillip Marlowe (episode 30 - Cloak of Kamahameha; April 23, 1949) and at around the 14:30 mark of the show Roy Rowan (the show's announcer) delivers a promo for some other detective shows in that night's lineup - one of those programs mentions the show in question. During that promo, he very distinctly said 'Broadway Is My Beat'.

I really don't care either way (I already have my DVD/CDs labeled and was not planning on re-labeling them based on the proposed name change), but Ed did ask for replies with evidence against officially changing the series name.

Jim

Date: Thu, 11 Oct 2007 17:50:33 -0400 From: Frank McGurn <f.mcgurn29@sbcglobal.net> To: <old.time.radio@oldradio.net> Subject: Broadway a Beat

Who is right 's or is well I went in my vault and dusted of 3 or 4 episodes of Larry Thor's police drama and listened to episode # 2 .7/21/49, #15 12/24/49 & #188 10/28/53. At the beginning of each episode Larry Thor Says "Broadway's My Beat from Times Square to Columbus Circle" After theme music the announce, Bill Anders comes in and says "Broadway's my beat with Larry Thor as Danny Clover" all the shows I listened to says BROADWAY'S . At the end when the case is solved Larry say dramatically says "Broadway, my beat. The announcer at the closing repeats " Broadway's My Beat." all very dramatic.

In my data base and all my labels on my cassettes, the program is "BROADWAY IS MY BEAT" because all the reference material and Log showed that way. Either way the title is the same. Now out of curiosity, I wonder how the original the scripts had it? Did the actor and announcer take liberties with the name of the program?

I'm sure I didn't settle any thing , but I enjoyed hearing 3 episodes on cool cloudy Fall afternoon.

Frank McGurn

Date: Thu, 11 Oct 2007 22:52:42 -0400 From: Jim Widner <jwidner@woh.rr.com> To: old.time.radio@oldradio.net Subject: Re: Broadway's (Is) My Beat

I asked the people at the Mort Fine collection at UCLA to look at some scripts to see how the scriptwriters titled their stories. Unfortunately, it was a toss up. Here is their reply:

" I've checked boxes 9-11 of the Mort Fine Papers (Collection 347). The title of the series appears as both "Broadway is my beat" and "Broadway's my beat" on various title pages of the scripts, which date from 1949-1952."

So it looks like either title is correct.

Jim Widner

Date: Fri, 12 Oct 2007 10:40:36 -0400 From: "Derek Tague" <derek@afb.net> To: <old.time.radio@oldradio.net> Subject: Random Follow-Up Thoughts X-Converted-To-Plain-Text: from multipart/alternative X-Converted-To-Plain-Text: Alternative section used was text/plain

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WHO'S WHO IN "THE SHADOW": I've been enjoying the ongoing Kent Allard/Lamont Cranston discussion. JohnOlsen posted

>In the pulps, we had all The Shadow's main secret agents: Moe Shrevnitz, Clyde Burke, Harry Vincent, Cliff Marsland and Hawkeye. We had his contact men: Claude Fellows (soon replaced by Rutledge Mann) and Burbank. <snip>

John went on to mention more of the Shadow's friends, confidants, and law-enforcement colleagues...about two dozen in total. It seems to me that this prevailing "can't tell the players without a scorecard" scenario is crying out for a new book "The Shadow Encyclopedia."

BROADWAY'S NOT MY BEAT: Harlan Zinck, Don Haefer, and others make an overwhelming case that the show I've come to love, "Broadway Is My Beat," was officially titled "Broadway's My Beat." Bummer. This is such a "Thor" point with me and totally screws up the haiku I wrote in tribute to it:

"Broadway is my beat: Times Square, Columbus Circle, And points in between."

Cue the theme music "I'll Take Manhattan." Oops, I forgot, that song's title is officially "Manhattan."

PHASED-OUT CHARACTERS: Charlie (Cnorth6311) noted that many main characters on "The Great Gildersleeve" were later marginalized. I think the classic text-book example of this is the minimal part "Amos Jones" played in later episodes of "Amos 'n' Andy." True, George "Kingfish" Stevens was a more interesting character for Freeman Gosden to portray, but I think the responsibilities of providing for a family kept Amos largely out of the picture. He was too busy driving his cab and just didn't have time to horse around with Andy and the Kingfish.

FOTR: I'll be there.

Yours in the ether,

Derek Tague