

Beat: Local

## COMIC STRIP HEROINE BRENDA STARR IS STAGING COMEBACK IN NEW MYSTERY NOVEL SERIES

### POP CULTURE ICON BRENDA STARR

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**USPA NEWS** - For 70 years, the melodramatic romantic adventures of Brenda Starr, Reporter captivated newspaper readers. Now, like every other character of yesteryear, pop culture icon Brenda Starr is staging a comeback...

For 70 years, the melodramatic romantic adventures of Brenda Starr, Reporter captivated newspaper readers. Now, like every other character of yesteryear, pop culture icon Brenda Starr is staging a comeback. This time around, America's favorite comic strip heroine will headline a mystery novel series created by USA Today bestselling author J.J. Salem. The first title, Black Orchid Murders, is set for publication in Spring 2016.

Brenda Starr's creator, Dale Messick (1906-2005), shattered the glass ceiling for female cartoonists and adventure-seeking heroines in the daily and Sunday comic sections.

The 21st century version finds the character in her early 40s working as a TV pundit and visiting college professor. She returns to hard news at a digital start-up when a series of murders targeting Chicago's elite hits too close to home, all while navigating the complexities of modern life with a younger lover, a tycoon ex-husband and a head-strong, college-aged daughter showing signs of becoming Brenda Starr 2.0.

Renowned pop culture historian Trina Robbins (Babes In Arms: Women in the Comics During World War II) views Brenda Starr as an important feminist figure. 'Lois Lane was pretty but pesky and always needing Superman to rescue her,' Robbins said. 'Brenda Starr was the heroine of her own stories. She got out of dangerous scrapes using her courage and intellect.'

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