

Pat Byrnes

It may not take a rocket scientist to draw cartoons, but Detroit native Pat Byrnes erred on the side of caution by getting his Aerospace degree at the University of Notre Dame in 1981. He joined General Dynamics–Convair as the first pre-design engineer (the brainstorming guys) they had ever taken directly out of undergrad. Despite this honor, he knew his calling was elsewhere. For a time, he honed his creative skills writing ad copy for big agencies like W. B. Doner in Detroit and J. Walter Thompson in Chicago. He scripted ads for everything from cheese to menstrual relief products, and won buckets of awards, from the Addy to the Clio. During this time, the late '80s, he moonlighted with experimental comedy acts, to much critical acclaim (even notoriety) in Chicago's then crackling night club scene. In '91, he left copywriting for voiceover acting. Between auditions, he finally found time to answer his above-mentioned calling. Cartooning. Since 1998, Pat has been a regular contributor to *The New Yorker*. He is also a staple in *Reader's Digest*, *Wall Street Journal* and *America Magazine*. For three years, he created the syndicated comic strip, "Monkeyhouse.". In 2002, he won the National Cartoonists Society Award for advertising illustration. He also writes musicals. He has won awards for his sonnets. And he used to paint when he had the time. His gag cartoons appeared for the first time in book form in *What Would Satan Do?* (Harry N. Abrams, 2005), and again in *Because I'm the Child Here and I Said So* (Andrews-McMeel, 2006). His most recent book is *Eats Shoots & Leaves — Illustrated Edition* by Lynne Truss (Gotham 2008) of which he is the illustrator. He is married to Lisa Madigan, who, in addition to being charming and beautiful, is also the Attorney General of the State of Illinois. They live a surprisingly quiet life with their delightful daughters, Rebecca and Lucy, on the banks of the Chicago River.

