

## Mary Tyler Moore - April 18, 2022

**The Dick Van Dyke Show** - Coast To Coast Big Mouth  
(Aired September 15, 1965)

*The Dick Van Dyke Show* aired on CBS from October 3, 1961, to June 1, 1966, with a total of 158 half-hour episodes over five seasons.

The show was created by Carl Reiner. The series won 15 Emmy Awards.

*The Dick Van Dyke Show* was filmed before a live audience at Desilu-Cahuenga Studios in Hollywood, California, with audience "sweetening" performed in post-production.

Carl Reiner wrote the character as Rob "Peetry", but when Dick Van Dyke pronounced it as Petry, it stayed that way.

Dick Van Dyke and Carl Reiner both said this was Mary Tyler Moore's best show and that she should have gotten an Emmy Award for her performance.

Some of the toupees on Alan Brady's desk were Carl Reiner's personal toupees. Reiner also said that he was doing a Shelley Berman type of voice in the toupee scene.

Richard Deacon was a very charitable person to his friends according to Carl Reiner.

In 1997, the TV Guide ranked "Coast To Coast Big Mouth" number 8 on its "100 Greatest Episodes of All Time" list. In 2002 this

series was ranked number 13 on TV Guide's 50 Greatest TV Shows of All Time.

**Robert "Rob" Simpson Petrie** (Dick Van Dyke)

**Laura Petrie** (Mary Tyler Moore)

**Maurice "Buddy" Sorrell** (Morey Amsterdam)

**Sally Rogers** (Rose Marie)

**Richard "Ritchie" Rosebud Petrie** (Larry Mathews)

**Melvin "Mel" Cooley** (Richard Deacon)

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**The Mary Tyler Moore Show** - Chuckles Bites The Dust  
(Aired October 25, 1975)

"TV Guide" rated this the greatest TV episode of all time.

This episode won an Emmy Award for Outstanding Writing in a Comedy Series.

Mary Tyler Moore Show was filmed on Stage 2 (the same stage as Gilligan's Island) at the MTM Studios on Radford Avenue in Studio City. This was the site of The Mack Sennett Studios from 1928 to 1933.

Mary works at "WJM-TV News." The W.J.M. stands for "Wild" Jack Monroe, the station owner.

After seven long seasons, the producers (including Mary Tyler Moore herself) decided to end the series while it was still performing strongly in the ratings, rather than carrying on, risking a loss in popularity and then getting cancelled.

The *Mary Tyler Moore Show* broke several grounds in 1970s television, apart from being downright enjoyable to watch. It took home a total of 29 Emmys during its seven-year run. These wins included three awards for Outstanding Comedy Series.

### **MTM Opening Credits:**

IDS Center downtown is where the escalator scene was filmed.

The gray-haired man with whom Mary has lunch at Basil's restaurant and later takes an evening walk, is Mary Tyler Moore's then-husband Grant Tinker, president and co-founder of MTM.

The show's co-creator James Brooks and Producer David Davis are the two joggers running past Mary by the lake.

Hazel Ruth Koehler Frederick was at the time, the 61-year-old woman, whose quizzical look was accidentally preserved for television audiences as Mary Tyler Moore tossed her beret into the air. "It was her day off and she went down to Dayton's," says Carol Berg, Hazel's granddaughter. "She saw the crowd and was curious...walked up and there she was." But Frederick's identity remained a mystery to nearly everyone else until 1996, when Moore was in the area for a book signing. Moore invited Frederick to join her on stage and introduced her to 5,000 people as "my co-star."

The kitten at the end of each show over the MTM logo was named Mimsie, who was rescued from an animal shelter. It took an entire day and six reels of film to get some usable footage of this cat. The meow heard at the end was a dubbed in meow from the sound effects library. Milk was put in the cat's paw so

that she would lick it to make the mouth movement. Mimsie lived to be almost 20 years old.

**Mary Tyler Moore** - wore a wig for the first season of the show, to make her look less like Laura Petrie, her character on *The Dick Van Dyke Show*.

**Ed Asner** - For the part of Lou Grant, the producers were considering Shelly Berman for the role. They also wanted Jack Klugman, but he was under contract for *The Odd Couple*. That's when Ed Asner brought in for the role.

The photo of Edward Asner playing football on Lou Grant's office wall is the same photo that was used in an episode of *The Fugitive* (1963) ('Three Cheers for Little Boy Blue') in which Asner guest starred. This photo is from 1947 when Asner played football at Wyandotte High School in Kansas City, Kansas.

**Gavin MacLeod** - Allan See started losing his hair at age 18, while he was studying drama at New York's Ithaca College. By the time he graduated he was pretty much bald, which limited his roles as an actor. He changed his name to Gavin MacLeod. Jessica Tandy had given him some advice when she told him take what you think is your liability and make it your asset. His bald head and 260 pound weight helped him maintain a fairly steady career playing heavies and tough guys.

MacLeod played Seaman Joseph "Happy" Haines for the first two seasons of *McHale's Navy*.

Upon arriving in Los Angeles in 1957, he met an actor named Tadeus Wladyslaw Konopka who suggested that Macleod get a manager. They both wound up hiring the same manager. This

was the beginning of a friendship between the two actors. Tadeus Wladyslaw Konopka, changed his name professionally to Ted Knight.

**Ted Knight** - Jack Cassidy was offered the role of Ted Baxter. He turned it down because he didn't want to be in the supporting cast of a female-led show. Cassidy later guest starred on the show as Ted Baxter's brother. Ted had been planned to be Mary's love interest. Originally they were thinking of Lyle Waggoner for the role. John Aniston also auditioned for the part of Ted Baxter. Aniston is the father of *Friends* star Jennifer Aniston.

Ted Knight didn't want to be seen as a schmuck and thought about quitting the show. In tears while speaking with MTM Show Co-Creator Allan Burns and writer Ed Weinberger, Knight felt the public thought he was stupid. Burns and Weinberger were finally able to ease the Knight's concerns. Just after Knight had been reassured, MTM Show Co-Creator James Brooks (unaware of Knight's feelings and the talk with Burns and Weinberger) innocently walked into Burns office and said, "Ted Knight! How does it feel to be one of the greatest schmucks of all time?" Knight fell apart all over again.

The men eventually calmed Knight down again and he did stay with the show until its completion.

**Betty White** - The role of Sue Ann Nivens was not specifically written for White, but script #73 of the series called for an "icky sweet Betty White type". The casting director decided to approach the star herself, who, with husband Allen Ludden, was already good friends with Mary Tyler Moore and her then husband, MTM producer Grant Tinker. Producers were aware of Moore and White's friendship and were hesitant to audition White

for the role, afraid of the awkwardness that might ensue if White wasn't right for the part.

White played up Sue Ann Nivens' cheerful, home-and-hearth loving persona—a sharp contrast to the character's backbiting, sexually voracious true nature. Her first appearance in episode one of season four was intended to be a one-time guest role, but series creator James L. Brooks gave White a friendly post-show warning: "Don't make too many plans."

**Georgia Engel** - Georgette is the somewhat ditzy girlfriend (and later wife) of news anchor Ted Baxter. Mary Tyler Moore described her as a cross between Stan Laurel and Marilyn Monroe. She and Mary get along great.

Among her many other television credits were recurring roles on *Everybody Loves Raymond*, *Coach* and *Hot in Cleveland*.

In 2001, Georgia Engel toured in a supporting role with Barbara Eden as Florence Ungar and Rita McKenzie as Olive Madison in the female version of *The Odd Couple*.

**Frank Adamo** was Dick Van Dyke's personal assistant and not an actor. He made 50 appearances as an extra on *The Dick Van Dyke Show* and numerous times on *The New Dick Van Dyke Show* usually as a delivery boy, party guest or waiter. In addition, he made several appearances on *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* as an extra. He also can be seen as a subway passenger in Mary Tyler Moore's 1982 feature film, *Six Weeks*.

**Monty O'Grady** - began his film career in the silent movie era of the mid-1920's as a child actor who's best known as a member of the Our Gang comedies along with an appearance in *Laurel &*

Hardy's comedy *You're Darn Tootin'*. He also worked in films with Mary Pickford and Marie Dressler. Upon reaching adulthood, O'Grady went on to become a popular extra who can be spotted in many films and television shows usually in uncredited roles such as reporters, waiters, party guests or passengers in bars, nightclubs or restaurants. His career as an actor lasted for seven decades.

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### **After The Mary Tyler Moore Show**

**Mary** (1978) (September 24 to October 8, 1978)

**3 episodes** - It followed the same formula used in such shows as Carol Burnett. There were comedy sketches, musical numbers, and behind-the-scenes sketches. Mary performed a comedy routine or a musical number.

Supporting Cast: David Letterman, Judith Kahan, James Hampton, Michael Keaton, Swoosie Kurtz and Dick Shawn.

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**The Mary Tyler Moore Hour** (March 4 to May 13, 1979)

**11 episodes** - Mary Tyler Moore played Mary McKinnon, who starred in a variety show. Each week she had to deal with her producer over what to do on that week's episode.

Supporting Cast: Dody Goodman, Michael Keaton, Ron Rifkin, Joyce Van Patten, Michael Lombard and David Letterman.

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**Mary** (December 11, 1985 to April 8, 1986)

**13 episodes** - Moore portrayed 40-something divorcee Mary Brenner who, after the fashion magazine she was writing for goes out of business, is reduced to writing a consumer advice column called Helpline for The Chicago Eagle.

Supporting Cast: James Tolkan, John Astin, James Farentino, David Byrd, Carlene Watkins and Katey Sagal.

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**Annie McGuire** (October 26, 1988 to January 1989)

**10 episodes** - The newlyweds Annie and Nick both have kids from previous marriages and are trying to balance their respective jobs (she's in politics, he's in engineering).

(Post Brady Bunch 1969-1974)

Supporting Cast: Dennis Arndt, Eileen Heckart and John Randolph.

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**New York News** (September 28 to December 1995)

**13 episodes** - The story of a New York City newspaper, headed by Louise Felcott (Mary Tyler Moore) and her team of reporters as they work on stories and deal with their private lives.

Supporting Cast: Melina Kanakaredes, Harold Perrineau, Gregory Harrison, Madeline Kahn, MTM and Kelli Williams.

**Mary and Rhoda** (February 7, 2000)

This was intended as a pilot for a revival series. Although the movie was the most-watched program that night, fans and critics were disappointed. Plans for a series were scrapped.

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## **REFERENCES**

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