

The Bob Newhart Show

The Bob Newhart Show - 6 seasons - 142 episodes

Filmed on Stage 17 at MTM Studios in Studio City, California

The Hartley's lived in Chicago and that's where the apartment building is in real life. **The Thorndale** is located at **5901 N. Sheridan Avenue** in Chicago's Edgewater neighborhood. His office was located at **430 N. Michigan Ave.**, Near North Side, Chicago, Illinois. Today it is the home of the **National Association of Realtors**.

Going home from work: First, Bob leaves his River North office building on Michigan Avenue, adjacent to the Wrigley Building. He crosses the river on foot and hops on a El train in the Loop. The train, presumably a Purple Line Express train (though, in 1972, this would have been called the Evanston Express), rumbled northward over the Wells Street bridge. We then see Bob exit the train at the Isabell Street station, a now-defunct stop which sat at ground level on the suburban Evanston-Wilmette border. It was torn down in 1973, soon after the first season of *The Bob Newhart Show*. Bob then walks up to his apartment tower — which sits 6.8 miles to the south.

For years, Chicagoans have ribbed Newhart about this continuity problem. When Bob Newhart appeared on Conan O'Brien's show, the host asked the comic to address the critics of his former commute.

"The station is about 55 blocks from our apartment," Newhart explains before joking, "I do this every day... Now, would you want a therapist who missed his stop every day?"

Episode for class: Over The River and Through The Woods
Aired November 22, 1975

Bob Newhart - has cited comedians George Gobel, Ray Goulding and Bob Elliott as his main influences in developing his comedy style.

He was raised in the vicinity Chicago and enrolled at the Loyola University Chicago where he graduated in 1952 with a bachelor's degree in business management.

In 1958, Newhart was hired as an advertising copywriter for a Chicago-based production company. To entertain himself, he started exchanging "long telephone calls about absurd scenarios" with a friendly co-worker. He had the idea to try his hand as a comedian and developed a comedy routine based on the telephone calls. He recorded his routine into audition tapes and send them to radio stations where his routine was met favorably. The following year, Newhart started performing as a stand-up-comedian in nightclubs and signed a contract with Warner Bros. Records, a subsidiary of the film studio Warner Bros.

In 1961, NBC offered him his own variety television show, the short-lived *The Bob Newhart Show*. The show won the 1962 Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Comedy Series, but was canceled anyway.

Newhart appeared as a guest star in television over the following years, but had very few film roles. He did appear in the tobacco-smoking-themed satirical film *Cold Turkey* in 1971.

From 1972 to 1978, he starred in the hit sitcom *The Bob Newhart Show* as Robert "Bob" Hartley, Ph.D., a Chicago psychologist as the straight man who is surrounded by a cast of eccentric patients, work colleagues, friends and family members.

From 1982 to 1990, Newhart starred in a second hit sitcom called *Newhart*. He played the character Dick Loudon, a Vermont-based innkeeper who finds himself surrounded by a collection of strange employees, neighbors and competitors.

From 1992 to 1993, he starred in his third sitcom, *Bob*. He played the character Bob McKay, a veteran comic book writer and artist from the 1950's. Now retired, McKay is hired by a corporation to produce a revival of his classic character, the superhero "Mad-Dog". The first season introduced a large cast of eccentric co-workers. By the second seasons, many of these characters were gone and had McKay was serving as the President of a company producing greeting cards. The series suffered from low ratings and was canceled at the end of its second season. Only 33 episodes were produced.

From 1997 to 1998, Newhart starred in his fourth sitcom *George & Leo* where he played the character George Stooky, a bookstore owner who finds himself offering hospitality to a professional magician and part-time criminal (played by Judd Hirsch), who recently robbed a Mafia-owned casino. The humor was based on the strong contrast between the two men, but the series failed to find an audience after only 22 episodes.

By 2013, Newhart was playing a recurring character Arthur Jeffries ("Professor Proton") in *The Big Bang Theory*. Arthur was a scientist who long ago had served as the host of a science show for children. Arthur's scientific career ended in disgrace, his television days are long over and he was reduced to earning a meager living as a party entertainer. The role of Arthur Jeffries won Newhart his first Primetime Emmy Award.

He has been married to his wife, Ginny for 60 years. She is the daughter of Bill Quinn, best remembered as Mary Richards' father on *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*.

Suzanne Pleshette (Emily Hartley) - was born in New York and attended New York City's High School of the Performing Arts. She dropped out of college to take acting lessons from the well known teacher Sanford Meisner at the Neighborhood Playhouse.

She made her Broadway debut in 1957 as part of the supporting cast for the play *Compulsion* in 1959. She eventually took over the ingénue role during the play's run.

Pleshette was the female lead opposite Jerry Lewis in his 1958 comedy, *The Geisha Boy*. On Broadway, she replaced Anne Bancroft in the Broadway hit *The Miracle Worker* in 1962. Her best remembered role was as Annie Hayworth in Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds* in 1963.

Pleshette achieved television immortality in her role as Bob Newhart's wife in *The Bob Newhart Show*. For her role as Emily Hartley, she was nominated for the Emmy Award twice, in 1977 and 1978.

Newhart and his producers had picked her for the role of Emily in after watching her appearances with Johnny Carson on *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson*, where she showed herself to hold her own with Newhart's friend Carson, it was felt she would be a perfect foil as Newhart's TV wife.

After *The Bob Newhart Show*, she worked mostly in movies for television. In 1984, she starred in her own series titled *Suzanne Pleshette Is Maggie Briggs*. The show was not a success. She also co-starred with Hal Linden in another *The Boys Are Back* in 1994. Pleshette also had recurring roles in *Good Morning, Miami*, *8 Simple Rules* and *Will & Grace*.

Peter Bonerz (Dr. Jerry Robinson) - is best known for his co-starring role as Jerry Robinson, an eccentric dentist on *The Bob Newhart Show* comedy series. He also directed 29 episodes of the series. He reprised his role in a cameo appearance in the final, unaired episode of Bob Newhart's third series, *Bob*.

His first network television appearance was in 1965 on *The Addams Family* in the episode "Morticia, The Writer".

His post-*The Bob Newhart Show* career has been behind the camera as he has directed over 350 episodes of various shows, including series like *Murphy Brown* (93 episodes), *Home Improvement* (29 episodes), *E/R* (22 episodes), *Friends* (12 episodes) and many others. Bonerz has also directed feature films such as *Nobody's Perfect* and *Police Academy 6: City Under Siege*.

Bill Daily (Howard Borden) - After five seasons as Roger Healy on the hit series *I Dream of Jeannie*, Daily struck gold again as the ever present neighbor to Dr. Robert Hartley on *The Bob Newhart Show* for six seasons.

Daily started his professional life as a musician playing bass with a local jazz combo called 'Jack and the Beanstalks'. He worked briefly as an announcer and staff director for NBC and in time developed his own stand-up comedy act which he took to nightclubs across the mid-west.

By 1960, Daily wrote material for comedic sketches to Westinghouse Broadcasting for use in popular variety shows hosted by Mike Douglas, Merv Griffin and Steve Allen. He was on his way to accumulating the credentials to becoming a top comedy writer when Sidney Sheldon noticed him in his TV debut in a small supporting role in *Bewitched*.

In 1980, he was offered his own show called *Small 5 Frye*. The show featured Daily as a neurotic doctor. Unfortunately, it lasted only three months before being canceled. Daily also guest starred on *ALF* as Lawrence "Larry" Dykstra, a psychiatrist. ALF said he learned about psychiatry from watching *The Bob Newhart Show*.

During the 1980's and early 1990's, Daily reprised his *I Dream of Jeannie* role of Roger Healey in two made-for-TV reunion movies: *I Dream of Jeannie... Fifteen Years Later* in 1985 and *I Still Dream of Jeannie* in 1991. That same year, he reprised the role of Howard Borden in *The Bob Newhart Show: The 19th Anniversary Special*. In 1997, he was a guest star on *Caroline in the City*.

Marcia Wallace (Carol Kester Bondurant) - While she was in high school, a teacher encouraged her to consider a career in acting after she did well in a school play. After performing for a year in a Greenwich Village nightclub, she and four fellow entertainer friends formed an improvisational group called The Fourth Wall.

Wallace was a semiregular on *The Merv Griffin Show*, appearing over 75 times. When the show moved to Los Angeles, Wallace moved with it at Griffin's request. One of these appearances in March 1972 led to a phone call from TV producer Grant Tinker, who offered her a supporting role on *The Bob Newhart Show* on the recommendation of CBS founder Bill Paley. The role of Carol Kester, the sarcastic receptionist to Dr. Robert Hartley, was written specifically for her.

When *The Bob Newhart Show* ended in 1978, Wallace began three decades of television appearances on game shows, including *Match Game*, *Hollywood Squares*, *Crosswits*, *The \$25,000 Pyramid*, *Win, Lose or Draw*, *Tattletales* and *To Tell the Truth*.

After *The Simpsons* started in 1989, Wallace joined the voice acting cast as the voice of Edna Krabappel, whom she played until her death in 2013. In 1992, she received a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Voice-Over Performance for the episode "Bart the Lover".

Jack Riley (Elliot Carlin) - was a semi-regular in the cast of the 1960's sitcom *Occasional Wife*, a short-lived show on NBC in which he played Wally Frick. Riley was perhaps most famous for playing Elliot Carlin, the neurotic and selfish patient on *The Bob Newhart Show*.

Riley often provided voiceovers for television and radio commercials, most notably in spots for Country Crock margarine.

He continued to make guest appearances during the 1990s in popular sitcoms, showing up in episodes of *Seinfeld*, *Friends*, *Coach*, *The Drew Carey Show*, *That '70s Show* and in a gag appearance, as an unnamed but obvious Mr. Carlin in an episode of *Newhart*. He made a cameo appearance on the November 23, 2013, episode of *Saturday Night Live*, as a subway passenger during the sketch "Matchbox 3". That episode would be his final acting role.

Janet Meshad/Wells (Elaine) - began her professional acting career in Atlanta, Georgia, as a star performer at the "Wit's End Cabaret Theater". She starred in musicals and plays with the Alliance Theatre, Theatre Under the Stars and the Horizon Theater including *Promises, Promises* and *Norman Is That You?* While living in Los Angeles, she worked in radio, movies and television, with guest starring roles on *The Bob Newhart Show*, *WKRP in Cincinnati*, *The Dukes of Hazard*, *The Tony Randall Show* and more. Movie credits include *Being There* and *The God's Must Be Crazy*.

Since 1986, Janet has been teaching comedy improv and voice-over technique and leading improv workshops for actors.

David Himes (Delivery Guy) - With nearly 30 credits, he has made several television appearances on programs including *Wonder Woman*, *Quincy M. E.*, *The Bionic Woman*, *Lou Grant* and *Three's Company*.

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Newhart

October 25, 1982 to May 21, 1990 - 184 episodes
Episode for class: Malling In Love Again - Season 7
(aired May 22, 1989)

The show was videotaped in the first season, later episodes were filmed. The show was filmed on Stage 17 at MTM Studios in Studio City, California.

The show's theme song was composed by Henry Mancini who won multiple Academy Awards, Golden Globes and Grammy Awards.

Vermont residents complained that the opening scenes are of New Hampshire, not Vermont. The opening credits are outtakes from *On Golden Pond* in 1981. If you look closely, you can see Henry Fonda and Katharine Hepburn in the car. William Lanteau, who had the recurring role of Chester in the series, was also in *On Golden Pond*. The five names on the sign are the following New Hampshire locations: Sandwich Notch, Mead Base, Holderness, Ashland and Plymouth.

Exterior scenes of the Stratford Inn were really those of the Waybury Inn in East Middlebury, Vermont. It's still in business, complete with an autographed photo of Bob Newhart in the lobby and a few assorted props from the show on display.

Mary Frann (Joanna Loudon) visited several Vermont inns to do research and brought back the Pfaltzgraff dishes that are seen as props in the Stratford Inn.

Bob Newhart got the idea for *Newhart* while dining in the restaurant of a Hilton hotel in Seattle. After observing the various visitors for a while, he concluded that hotel guests are just as nonsensical as the patients Bob Hartley used to treat on *The Bob*

Newhart Show. "I function well with a bunch of crazies around me I can react to," Newhart told the Los Angeles Times in 2008. He pitched the idea to Barry Kemp, who'd previously worked as a writer on *Taxi* and the two worked together on a pilot script. Kemp eventually suggested setting the show in Vermont; Newhart agreed, as "after you've done three or four rain jokes, you've kind of run out of material as far as Seattle is concerned."

The trio of backwoodsmen known as Larry, Darryl and Darryl actually made their first appearance in the series' second episode. Dick hired their "company," Anything For A Buck, to unearth the 300-year-old body of a woman buried in the Stratford Inn's basement. The audience's great reaction to the brothers was noticed by Newhart and co-creator Kemp. They were one of the first additions to the regular cast when *Newhart* underwent a makeover after season two. Some people associated with the series say the characters Larry, Darryl and Darryl may have gotten their names from the main character of the book "The Razor's Edge", by W. Somerset Maugham. The character, Larry Darrell, traveled the world looking for the meaning of life. The series creator Barry Kemp says the names for the trio were his idea.

To keep the tabloid press from finding out the real surprise ending, Bob Newhart leaked a "false ending" story for the series, before the final episode was aired. In the "false ending", after being hit on the head by a flying golf ball, Dick Loudon would wake up in Heaven, where he would meet God, to be played by either George Burns or George C. Scott.

It was revealed in the final episode that the entire series was a dream of Robert Hartley's (Bob Newhart's character from his previous series *The Bob Newhart Show*). NOTE: Newhart has said that this idea was "dreamed up" by his wife at the start of Season

6 when he was upset with CBS for constantly changing the show's time slot and talked about ending the show that season.

Newhart repeated his "true story of how this show ended, "that it was his wife, while the couple was attending a party in Beverly Hills along with Suzanne Pleshette, who first brainstormed the finale's definitive moment: after a surreal setup in which all of the townspeople became wealthy and even more eccentric when the region surrounding the Stratford Inn was bought up by Japanese investors, much to Dick's befuddlement — he wakes up in the familiar bedroom of *The Bob Newhart Show* next to Pleshette as Emily Hartley, revealing that the entire second series was just a bad dream had by his original TV character. (Newhart's executive producers have publicly disputed Newhart's version of events, claiming the inspiration as their own).

The biggest feat was keeping Pleshette's appearance secret — from the studio audience, from the press, and even from many in the cast and crew. "Suzie was two soundstages over, brought in at the last minute. No one knew she was there," recalled Newhart. When a floater panel was finally moved to reveal the bedroom set during filming, "the audience began to applaud — they were applauding the bedroom set! They didn't know Suzie was in bed or I was in bed," laughed Newhart. "To me, it was a Monty Python kind of moment, that we knew the audience, they knew us, and it was kind of a wink-wink nudge-nudge and that's the way they took it. You'd hear people, 'Yeah! Yeah! Yeah! Yeah!'"

The Cast

Mary Frann (Joanna Loudon) - was born Mary Frances Luecke on February 27, 1943 in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1966, she made her film debut in *Nashville Rebel* starring Waylon Jennings. Her agent suggested that she change her name to something more

appealing. She found the name Jennifer Douglas in a phone book. She moved to Los Angeles to appear (as Jennifer Douglas) in the TV series *My Friend Tony*. The series only lasted for 16 episodes, so she went back to Mary Frann as her professional name. She also had a starring role on the soap opera *Days Of Our Lives* from 1974 until 1979. Mary lost the role of Sue Ellen Ewing to Linda Gray on *Dallas* in 1978. She also guest starred in numerous television shows including *Fantasy Island*, *The Rockford Files* and *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*. In 1982, she beat out two hundred other actresses for the role of Joanna Loudon, Bob Newhart's wife in the television comedy *Newhart*.

After eight seasons, *Newhart* came to an end in 1990, she continued to act and made guest appearances on *Diagnosis Murder* and *Lois And Clark*. In her spare time she enjoyed gardening, reading and going to garage sales.

Tom Poston (George Utley) - was a longtime personal friend of Bob Newhart's who would occasionally pop up on *The Bob Newhart Show* as Bob's old college roommate and partner-in-juvenile-pranks, "The Peeper." Poston landed a regular co-starring role on *Newhart* as George Utley, the seemingly bumbling handyman who also exhibited unexpected moments of brilliant insight. Barry Kemp originally had Jerry Van Dyke in mind for the role of George, but in the end Newhart convinced Kemp that Poston, whose trademark was subtly underplaying a character, was a better overall fit for the character than Van Dyke's broad style of comedy.

His biggest break was on *The Steve Allen Plymouth Show*. He, Louis Nye, Don Knotts and other members of Allen's stock company became famous for their hilarious characters in Allen's famed sketch sequences. Poston himself would be best

remembered as the "Man on the Street" interviewee who could never remember his own name.

Poston appeared as a panelist on quiz shows such as *To Tell The Truth*. He gave a very funny supporting performance as an intoxicated playboy in the Dick Van Dyke comedy *Cold Turkey* in 1971. On stage, he could be seen in light comedy theater plays such as *Forty Carats*, *Come Blow Your Horn*, *Plaza Suite* and *Mary, Mary*. Poston was also in a few musicals, *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum* and *Fiddler On The Roof*.

William Sanderson (Larry) - graduated from Memphis State University with a BBA and JD, but the acting bug bit him before he sat for the bar exam. Despite this educational pedigree, Sanderson remained very much a good ol' Memphis boy at heart. While working on *Newhart* he sipped Jack Daniels and read the Bible in his dressing room between takes. Also, he constantly chewed tobacco and had a habit of leaving his spittle cups all over the set, to the disgust of his co-workers.

Sanderson partially attributed his success to the lucky coin he'd worn in his ear at the audition (and which he continued to wear while in character on *Newhart*), because he'd done the same when he had auditioned for *Coal Miner's Daughter*.

Among the television shows Sanderson has done guest spots on are *The Practice*, *ER*, *The X-Files*, *Walker*, *Texas Ranger*, *Matlock*, *Married... With Children*, *Knight Rider*, *Coach*, *The Dukes Of Hazzard* and *Starsky and Hutch*.

As of 2017, he is semi-retired from acting and residing in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He and his wife bought a house there to be closer to her family and now live there full time.

Tony Papenfuss (First Darryl) and **John Voldstad** (Second Darryl) are both classically trained actors who had years of stage experience on their resumes when they landed their *Newhart* parts. Both of the actors' agents advised them against accepting the roles, since they were non-speaking parts. One aspect the two were less enthusiastic about was the fact that MTM Enterprises, who owned the characters, would not let the actors appear in public in character, nor were they allowed to talk to the press.

Peter Scolari (Michael Harris) - was discovered acting at the age of 16 while performing in a high school production of *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. He has credited Bob Newhart as his favorite acting mentor and best friend.

He and Tom Hanks were cast in the sitcom, *Bosom Buddies*, as men who disguise themselves as women to live in an affordable apartment in a women's-only residence.

Scolari appeared on Broadway in *Wicked*, *Sly Fox*, *Hairspray* and *Lucky Guy* with his *Bosom Buddies* co-star Tom Hanks.

Scolari was a juggler and occasionally showed his talents on television, including a performance during the 1982 *Circus Of The Stars* and in talk-show appearances.

Scolari received three Emmy nominations for his work on *Newhart* and won the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Guest Actor in a Comedy Series for his recurring role as Tad Horvath on *Girls* in 2016.

Julia Duffy (Stephanie Vanderkellen) - Her early career included parts in soap operas such as *One Life To Live*, *The Doctors* and *Love Of Life*. She appeared in a first season episode of *Cheers*.

She had been considered for the role of Diane Chambers. Shelley Long was hired instead.

Duffy joined the main cast of *Newhart* during its second season in 1983. She earned Emmy Award nominations for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series for the role every year from 1984 through 1990.

After *Newhart*, On *Designing Women*, she replaced Delta Burke, the show's star, who was fired after quarrels with producers.

In 2009, Duffy co-starred with Kelly McGillis in a stage production of *The Little Foxes* at the Pasadena Playhouse. She later appeared again at the Playhouse in *The Heiress* starring Richard Chamberlain.

She has had recurring guest roles on the series *Shameless* and *Looking*. , Duffy also appeared in a supporting role in the drama *Camp X-Ray*.

John Hammil (Todd) - From 1985 to 1999, he has 27 credits for roles in films and television such as *A Chorus Line*, *Kindergarten Cop*, *Murphy Brown* and *Days Of Our Lives*.

Craig Bierko (Dirk) - played traveling salesman Professor Harold Hill in the Broadway revival of Meredith Willson's *The Music Man* in 2000. He was later nominated for a Tony for best performance by a leading actor in a musical that same year.

Bierko was originally cast as Chandler in *Friends*, but turned down the role and was replaced by Matthew Perry. His other television roles include *Ally McBeal*, *Sex And The City*, *Boston Legal*, *Blue Bloods*, *Hot In Cleveland* and *The Mentalist*.

Steven Culp (Brett) - is NOT related to Robert Culp. His career began in 1982 with guest appearances on soap operas *Another World* and *One Life To Live*. His other television appearances include *Murphy Brown*, *L. A. Law*, *Father Dowling Mysteries*, *Diagnosis Murder* and *Beverly Hills 90210*.

Mary Ellen Quinn (Stacy) - her very brief career was appearing on three episodes of *Newhart*.

Jane Millmore (Jennifer) - was a producer and writer, known for *Daddy Dearest*, *Anything But Love* and *Sydney*. She was also the co-author with Billy Van Zandt of 23 plays published worldwide with Samuel French, Inc. including off-Broadway comedies. On camera, Millmore could be seen in *CHiPs*, *The Hughleys* and *Martin*.

J. J. Wall (Floyd D. Barber) - could be seen in roles on *Cheers*, *Arrested Development*, *Blossom* and *7th Heaven*.

Linda Sorenson (Florence) - From 1969 to 2018, she has appeared in films and television programs such as *McCabe & Mrs. Miller*, *Adventures in Babysitting*, *A.L.F.*, *Thirtysomething* and *Murphy Brown*.

Bob Newhart as Dr. Bob Hartley Statue on next page

Bob Newhart as Dr. Bob Hartley Statue

The Newhart sculpture was provided and paid for by TV Land. It was unveiled to the City of Chicago on **July 27, 2004** at The Plaza of The Americas at 420 North Michigan Avenue and then immediately was moved outside of the building at 430 North Michigan Avenue in Chicago, Illinois which was seen during the show's opening credits. It now can be seen about a mile east to **Navy Pier located at 600 E. Grand Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.**

The plaque reads "Bob Newhart as Dr. Bob Hartley - award winning comedian - beloved entertainer - sparkling one-way conversationalist"

The other commemorative statues to immortalize TV characters as part of the on-going "TV Land Landmark" project included bus driver, Ralph Kramden (Jackie Gleason) at NYC's Port Authority; Mary Richards (Mary Tyler Moore) in Nicollet Mall in Minneapolis; Sheriff Andy Taylor (Andy Griffith) walking with his son, Opie in Raleigh, North Carolina and (as of 2005) good witch, Samantha Stephens (Elizabeth Montgomery) in Salem, Massachusetts.

Like previous statues dedicated by TV LAND, the Bob Hartley bronze was created by Studio EIS, a three-dimensional design and sculpture studio in New York founded by brothers Ivan and Elliot Schwartz.

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Fun Facts About Newhart by Kara Kovalchik

Orange Coast Magazine - February 1987

Emmy TV Legends interview with Suzanne Pleshette,

Telephone interview with Terry Bolo, Julia Duffy's stand-in for six seasons.

