



'MEET THE PEETES' **Cast Bios**

HOLLY ROBINSON PEETE – Actress, author, talk show host, activist and philanthropist Holly Robinson Peete has been touched by the entertainment industry almost of her life. Her career as an actress dates back more than three decades and has led her to becoming a voice for her father, her son and her community.

She can currently be seen at the center of Hallmark Channel's new and very first primetime family docu-series, "Meet the Peetes."

Robinson Peete had her first experience in front of the camera at the age of four when she appeared on television opposite her father, Matthew Robinson, who served as a producer and portrayed the original beloved character of Gordon on the iconic children's program "Sesame Street." While she knew even at that young age her calling was to be an actress, Robinson Peete opted to lead a typical childhood rather than searching to be the next child star.

However, upon finishing her college education, Robinson Peete's heart led her back to entertainment. In 1986, she landed a starring role on the FOX television drama "21 Jump Street" opposite unknown cast members including Johnny Depp. She went on to star in many other successful television series including "Hangin' With Mr. Cooper," "For Your Love" and "One on One." Robinson Peete's successful television career places her as one of only a handful of actresses to star in four shows in syndication. In addition, she had a recurring role on hit comedy series "Mike & Molly" as well as NBC's hit drama series "Chicago Fire".

In 1997, Robinson Peete and her husband, former NFL quarterback Rodney Peete, formed the HollyRod Foundation, inspired by her father's courageous battle with Parkinson's disease, with the mission to help improve the quality of life of people with Parkinson's. Then in 2005, inspired by their eldest son's autism diagnosis, HollyRod Foundation's mission expanded to provide support and resources to those affected by an autism diagnosis. Through the HollyRod Foundation and her family's personal experiences, Robinson Peete has become one of the most trusted advocates for consistent and reliable education, outreach and support for both Parkinson's and autism.

Her autism advocacy also extends to her book co-written with daughter, Ryan Elizabeth Peete, entitled My Brother Charlie (Scholastic): a bestselling, NAACP Image Award-winning children's book about autism from the sibling's perspective. With her first book Get Your Own Damn Beer, I'm Watching the Game: A Women's Guide to Loving Pro Football (2005, Rodale), Robinson Peete won the 2006 Quill Literacy Award. The follow-up to the children's book entitled "Same But Different- Teen Life On The Autism Express" which was co authored by her twins Ryan Elizabeth & RJ- was released in spring 2016.

(more)

HALLMARK CHANNEL – 'MEET THE PEETES' – CAST BIOS/Page 2

Her longevity and visibility in the entertainment community has led Robinson Peete to a successful career as a brand ambassador/spokesperson for some of the country's biggest brands. Robinson Peete's consumer and mom friendly personal brand has partnered with Target, Toys 'R' Us, Colgate, Skechers, Epipen and Carnation, AARP among others.

Robinson Peete's singing talents have been displayed on theme songs for both "21 Jump Street" and "Hangin' With Mr. Cooper." She also did her own singing as Diana Ross in the miniseries "The Jacksons: An American Dream." Robinson Peete says fondly that singing is her "first love and passion."

In addition to her philanthropic work through the HollyRod Foundation, Robinson Peete has become involved with other organizations as well. She currently serves as a member of the board of her alma mater Sarah Lawrence College and the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine's Board of Overseers.

Robinson Peete's philanthropic efforts have earned her numerous awards and honors including: Ford's Freedom Sisters, American Mentor Award, The Southern California Broadcasters' Association Community Service Award, Gerald R. Ford People Helping People Award, The March of Dimes Healthy Babies, Healthy Futures Award, USC Woman of Distinction Award, Anheuser Busch John E. Jacob Community Service Award, The Genii Award, The Girls Inc. Mentor Award, A Place Called Home Humanitarian Award, McDonald's 365 Black Award, Los Angeles Magazine's Most Inspirational Women Award, and many more.

Born in Philadelphia and raised in Los Angeles from the age of nine, Robinson Peete was voted "most talented" in high school alongside fellow classmate and future actor Rob Lowe. She did her undergraduate studies at the prestigious Sarah Lawrence College where she majored in Psychology and French. She spent her junior year studying abroad at Sorbonne University in France and became fluent in the language. Robinson Peete and husband of 20+ years, Rodney Peete, are the proud parents of four children ages 12-20. They currently reside in Los Angeles.

###

RODNEY PEETE – NFL veteran quarterback Rodney Peete, best known for his leadership and a winning attitude. Born in Mesa, Arizona, Peete excelled in all sports and activities. At Sahuaro High in Tucson, Arizona, Peete led his teams to state championships in basketball and baseball and he was named Arizona High School Athlete of the Year as well as an Academic All-American.

Peete holds a B.A. in Communications from University of Southern California where he was a First Team All-American, Winner of the 1988 "Johnny Unitas Award" for Best Senior Quarterback, and the 1988 Pac-10 Player of the Year. He spent 16 successful years in the NFL. During those 16 seasons, Peete was named to various All-Rookie teams, led two different franchises to the playoffs, had a winning record as a starting QB and retired after his NFC championship season and SuperBowl XXXVIII appearance with the Carolina Panthers.

(more)

HALLMARK CHANNEL – 'MEET THE PEETES' – CAST BIOS/ Page 3

Peete went right from the gridiron to co-hosting The Best Damn Sports Show, Period on Fox. Peete . He appeared for 2 seasons on ABC's Sports Zone on Saturday nights. He is currently hosting the daily popular radio show "Lunchtime With Roggin & Rodney" on AM 570 LA Sports.

Along with wife Holly, he is co-founder of the HollyRod Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization established to generate funds to fight Parkinson's disease, children suffering from autism and improve the quality of life for those in need.

In March 2010, Peete authored his first book titled Not My Boy: A Father, A Son and A Family's Journey with Autism. Peete is a member of the Arizona Sports Hall of Fame, The USC Hall of Fame.

Peete made a smart acquisition of his own on June 10, 1995, when he married the lovely television star Holly Robinson (21 Jump Street, Hangin' with Mr. Cooper, For Your Love). The Peetes are proud parents to four beautiful children, twins Ryan Elizabeth and Rodney Jackson, Robinson James and the youngest, Roman Matthew. The family resides in Los Angeles.

#

DOLORES ROBINSON – Dolores has worn many hats through her storied career—teacher, talk show host, PR director, talent manager—and, of course, proud mother and grandmother to the entire Robinson-Peete clan!

After years on the East Coast, Dolores found herself suddenly single in 1974. She packed up her two kids (Holly and Matt) and headed west in a Volvo station wagon. She landed a job as a receptionist in a talent agency, quickly working her way up to a full-fledged agent. Just two years later, she founded her own management company, Dolores Robinson Entertainment, helping to launch the careers of Martin Sheen, Mark Wahlberg, Jada Pinkett, Tea Leoni, Emilio Estevez, Mariska Hargitay and, of course, her own daughter, Holly Robinson Peete. Dolores still dabbles in talent management now and again, recently taking on Little League Baseball phenom Mo'ne Davis and helping her granddaughter break into the music business. To quote Dolores: "There are so many twists and turns in the road. It's a real skill to take what's bad and turn around and make it good. That strong survival instinct is the key to everything."

#

RYAN ELIZABETH PEETE – Ryan is a student at NYU in the Tisch School of Arts/ Clive Davis Institute of Recorded Music. She was raised in Los Angeles, California, but has traveled extensively as a student ambassador with the global travel organization "People to People" and "Students on Ice." With these programs, Ryan has explored India, Peru, Vietnam, Cambodia and

(more)

HALLMARK CHANNEL – 'MEET THE PEETES' – CAST BIOS/ Page 4

Antarctica, with more exciting world destinations to come. Ryan is interested in service and advocacy for children with special needs. She co-authored her first book, entitled My Brother Charlie (Scholastic), at the age of 12, to help share awareness about autism among school-aged children. Her second book, Same But Different, was released in Spring 2016. Ryan also enjoys singing, songwriting, photography and filmmaking.

#

RODNEY JACKSON PEETE – Rodney Jackson, or R.J., is an employee with the Los Angeles Dodgers, working in the Clubhouse. He is also a mentor at the Speech and Language Therapy Center in Los Angeles, which he attended as a young child. He provides support and help to other young children on the autism spectrum. R.J. loves making rap music, modeling, watching sports and dedicates his spare time to help spread autism awareness by traveling with his mom speaking to families about his experiences living with autism. R.J.'s mantra is: "I may have autism, but autism doesn't have me." R.J. is so proud to have co-authored his first book, Same But Different, with his mother and twin sister, which was published in 2016 through Scholastic Press.

#

ROBINSON JAMES PEETE – Robinson (15) just started high school and a highly gifted, passionate athlete excelling in baseball, is also an aspiring rap artist. Robinson loves hanging with his friends, watching listening to music, as well as making it and studying Japanese. His dream is to play professional baseball...in Japan!

#

ROMAN MATTHEW PEETE – Roman is 12 and loves hanging with his friends, playing flag football, basketball, listening to music, playing video games and investigating his genetic roots. His favorite travel spot is Fiji. In his spare time, he loves to spend time with his brothers and sister and, of course, "G-Money"—Dolores Robinson, his grandmother.

– HALLMARK CHANNEL –