

MURDER 101

CAST BIOS

DICK VAN DYKE (Dr. Jonathan Maxwell) - With his starring role as Rob Petrie on the comedy series "The Dick Van Dyke Show," whose theme song any baby boomer can hum, and eight seasons as crime-solving physician Dr. Mark Sloan on the mystery series "Diagnosis Murder," Emmy Award® winner Dick Van Dyke is a beloved television icon. Oddly enough, before landing his career-defining role on "The Dick Van Dyke Show," it looked as if his network TV career had fizzled out without going anywhere. It took a breakthrough Tony Award®-winning role on Broadway in the long-running hit musical *Bye Bye Birdie*, to make television producers recognize his unique talent.

Born in Missouri and raised in Danville, Illinois, the actor began his broadcast career in radio while serving in the Air Force. Back in civilian life in Danville, after a brief stint in advertising, he formed a pantomime act, "The Merry Mutes," with another local talent, which landed them a daytime TV spot in Atlanta. In 1955 his Air Force mentor, Byron Paul, now a television director, brought him to New York, where CBS put him under contract. The network started him out as host of their morning show, where he worked with Barbara Walters, Walter Cronkite and Merv Griffin, then tried him out in a variety of genres including a children's cartoon show, a talk show, a game show, and a series pilot. He also was a guest star on popular series of the day like "The Phil Silvers Show." But nothing seemed to fit his distinctive performing style. Finally he was released from his contract in 1958, four years early, to pursue other opportunities.

Director/choreographer Gower Champion saw the struggling actor in a short-lived stage revue, *The Boys Against the Girls* and signed him to star opposite Chita Rivera in *Bye-Bye Birdie*, where he performed the show stopper "Put on a Happy Face" and won a Tony Award® in 1960. When producer/writers Sheldon Leonard and Carl Reiner caught the show, they knew they had found the star for a series they were developing about the life of a television comedy writer. "The Dick Van Dyke Show" premiered in 1961, ran five seasons and won Van Dyke three Emmy® Awards.

The series was still a ratings winner when it left the air, but in the meantime Van Dyke's movie career was booming. While on hiatus, he had reprised his Broadway role in the motion picture version of "Bye Bye Birdie" and starred opposite Julie Andrews in the classic "Mary Poppins." He went on to star on the big screen in "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang," "Lt. Robin Crusoe, USN," "Divorce American Style," "The Comic," "Some Kind of Nut," "Cold Turkey" and "The Runner Stumbles," among others. This past December, he starred in "Night at the Museum" with Robin Williams and Ben Stiller.

He returned to series television in 1970 with "The New Dick Van Dyke Show," which ran three seasons. He then demonstrated his dramatic acting abilities in an Emmy®-nominated performance as a PR executive whose life and career is destroyed by alcoholism in the 1974 television movie, "The Morning After."

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Following an eclectic career path, he starred in thirteen "Van Dyke and Company" variety specials (for which he picked up another Emmy[®], this time as a producer), played a troubled priest in Stanley Kramer's final feature film, "The Runner Stumbles," and appeared on stage in a Broadway revival of *The Music Man* and a road tour of *Damn Yankees*. He starred in the 1982 special "Wrong Way Kid" and along with several other television movies, mini-series and specials, including "Drop Out Father," "Found Money," "Breakfast with Les and Bess," "The Country Girl" and "Strong Medicine."

Van Dyke introduced television audiences to Dr. Mark Sloane in an episode of "Jake and the Fat Man" in 1991. He returned to star as the sleuthing physician in the series "Diagnosis Murder" in 1993, playing the role for eight seasons and in two television movie sequels. Like "The Van Dyke Show," "Diagnosis Murder" continues to air in worldwide syndication.

In 2003 Van Dyke and Mary Tyler Moore teamed up again, first to play two lonely retirees in the PBS Hollywood Theater production of the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama "The Gin Game" and then to reprise their roles as Rob and Laura Petrie in the 2004 special "The Dick Van Dyke Show Revisited."

In "Murder 101," Van Dyke's character, criminology professor Dr. Jonathan Maxwell, shares Van Dyke's passion for high-tech toys and vocal harmony. The actor's barber shop quartet, the Vantastix, made its debut in 2001 and has performed at numerous charitable events.

Van Dyke's personal charity is the Midnight Mission in Los Angeles, for which he helped raise millions for a new mission which opened in April 2005. He's been serving meals to the homeless at the mission on Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter for the past 15 years.

In addition to his Emmy[®] and Tonys[®], Van Dyke received the Lifetime Achievement Awards from the American Comedy Awards and the Television Critics Association, the Disney Legend Award and a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. In 1995, he was inducted into the Television Academy Hall of Fame.

Van Dyke has two sons, two daughters, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

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BARRY VAN DYKE (Mike Bryant) – Best known for playing Detective Steve Sloane for eight seasons on the popular mystery series "Diagnosis Murder," Barry Van Dyke is the second oldest of Dick Van Dyke's four children.

He was born in Atlanta, where his father was appearing on local television, and spent much of his early childhood in New York City. After moving with his family to Los Angeles, he made his television debut on the classic television series "The Dick Van Dyke Show," playing a nine-year-old violinist.

Barry has starred on series television in the action series "Airwolf II" and as Sergeant Dwight Stryker on "The Redd Foxx Show." He also starred in the series "Gun Shy," "Galactica 1980" and "Tabitha," the follow-up to "Bewitched." In his first series pairing with his father, he played the owner of a small regional theater in the comedy "The Van Dyke Show."

He reprised his role as Detective Sloane in two "Diagnosis Murder" television movies, "A Town without Pity" and "Without Warning." His credits also include the feature film "Foxfire Light" and the television movies "The Canterville Ghost," "Casino," "Conquest of the Earth," "It Happened at Lakewood Manor" and "Stalk the Wild Child." He has been seen frequently in guest star roles on television series.

The actor is an avid motorcyclist, dirt biker and surfer. He has participated in protest rides to preserve the rights of motorcyclists to fair use of public lands. He also loves to surf and once rescued a drowning person from the ocean off Baja.

He met his wife Mary when he was a 16-year old movie theater ticket taker and married her seven years later. They have four children: Carey, Shane, Wes and Taryn and five grandchildren.

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SHANE VAN DYKE (BEN MANNERS) – Shane Van Dyke is the second oldest son of Barry Van Dyke. Born and raised in the small town of Agoura Hills, California, Shane did a little bit of acting in his grandfather's television shows when he was still in high school, but didn't take the business seriously until he started doing theater productions while a student at Moorpark College in California.

His credits include a co-starring role in "Arizona Summer" directed by Joey Travolta and a recurring role in "Diagnosis Murder."