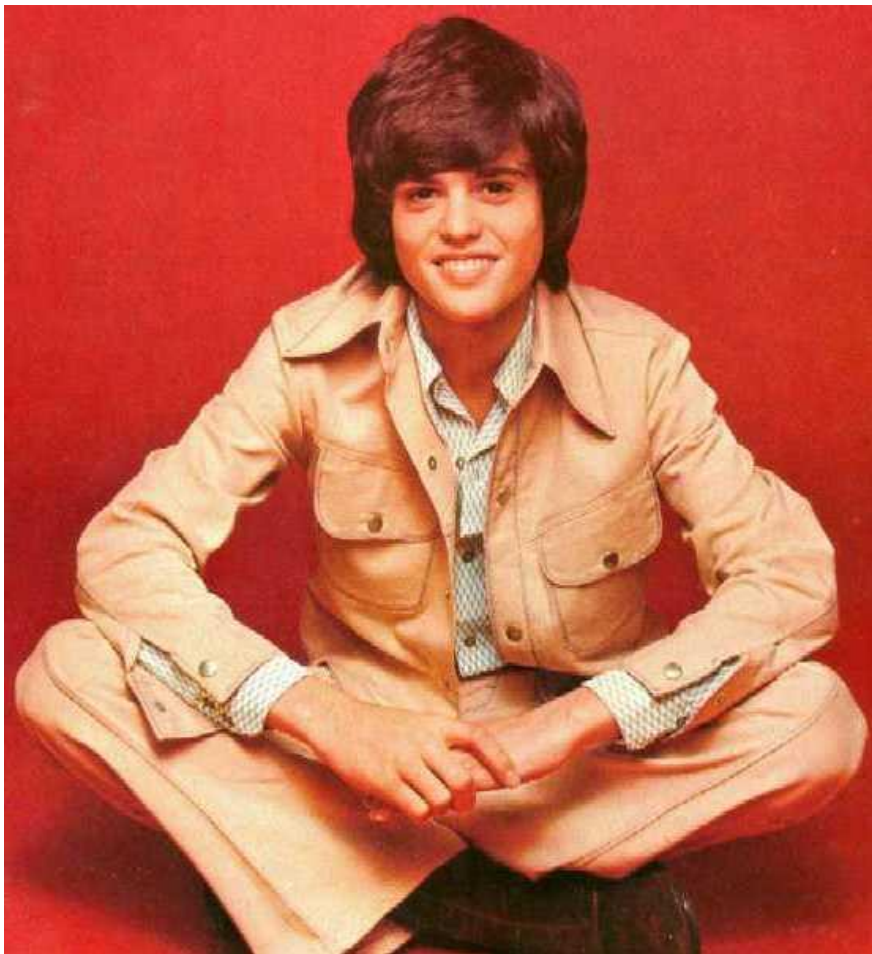


Donny Osmond

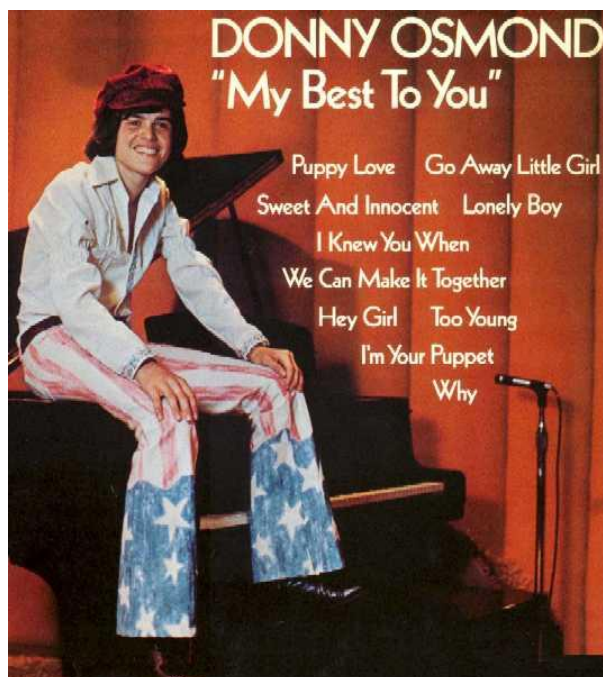
Titles: 3 Sources: 0 Stills: 9

Born: Salt Lake City; Utah



Source for all stills: various fansites

Toothsome youngest brother and lead singer of The Osmonds Mormon singing clan, who went from being a fixture on **"The Andy Williams Show"** to 70s teen pop idol status equalled only by The Jackson Five and David Cassidy. If the enigma of Presley's career was why his agent ever pushed him in the direction of Hollywood, then the enigma of Donny's boyhood fame is why he never ventured into acting (as both his younger and less photogenic siblings, Marie and Jimmy, did). Donny Osmond, at 12-16, was pretty beyond belief, almost too pretty to qualify for the word beautiful. His looks, rather than his singing or performing talent, were his stock in trade (as was even more true of Leif Garrett, who appeared in numerous films and TV series). Donny's face, when performing, or gazing out from the forest of teen glamour



magazines, was always transfixed in an insipid, dazzling grin that did nothing to dispel the folksiness of the family's "cleaner than clean" image. It all fell apart in late adolescence, and his career and fame evaporated overnight. He has only recently made a highly successful comeback, in shows like "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat", and now, looks still undented by encroaching middle age, has recovered much of his former popularity, when one music magazine had written venomously of him in the Seventies, "It was a bad day for Rock 'n' Roll when Donny Osmond was born".

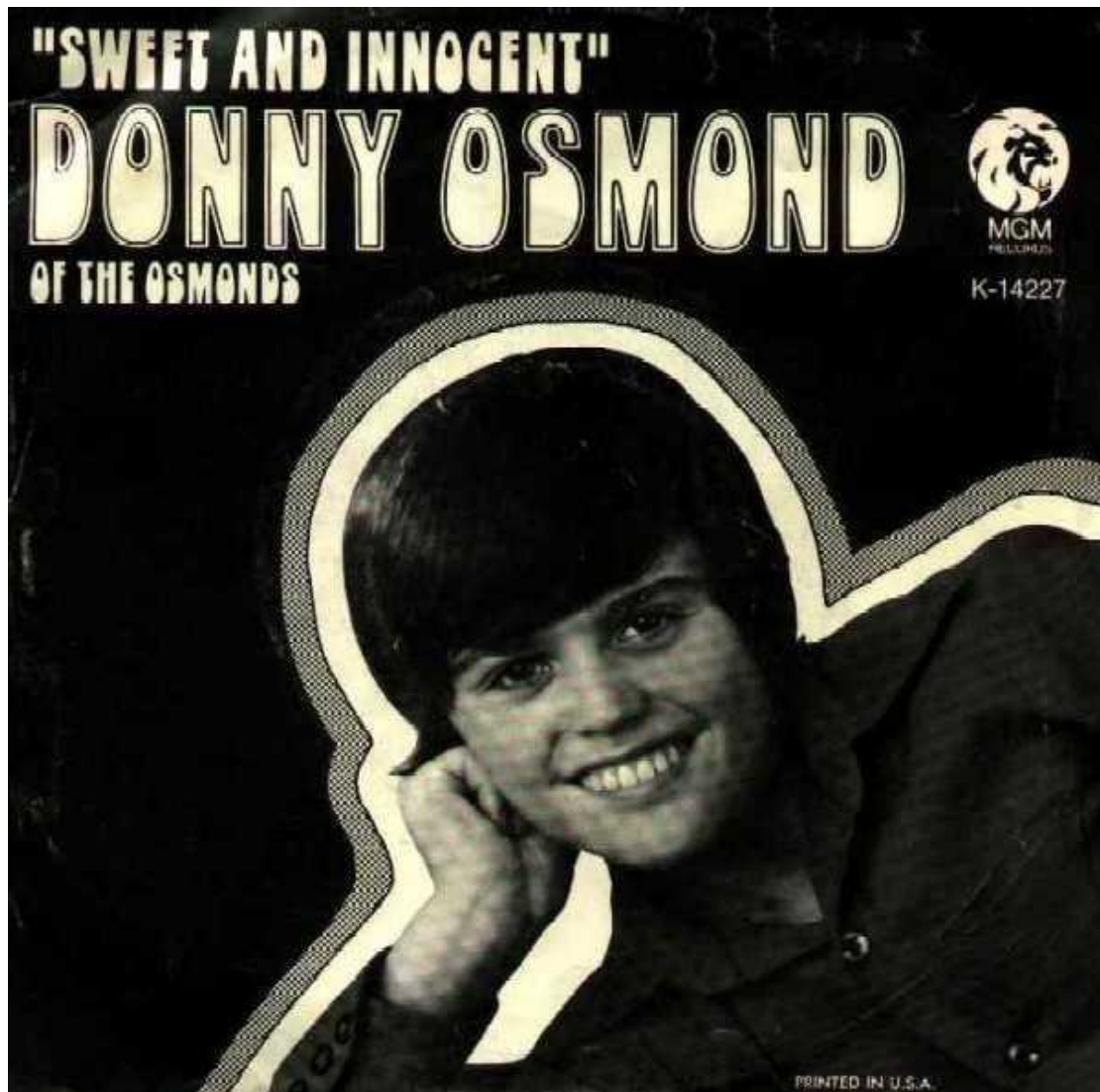
Whereas contemporary Michael Jackson (undeniably the more talented of the two) evolved into a baroque pillory of tabloid hatred and a quixotic Howard Hughes figure with a Jesus complex and a passion for unnecessary plastic surgery, the adult Donny Osmond seems refreshingly well-balanced and self-mocking, unembittered by the fickleness of fame. (That said, he did engage in a grudge celebrity boxing match with former **"Partridge Family"** regular Danny Bonaduce, and complained bitterly when the match was awarded against him.)

Interviewed by Michael Parkinson in March 2003, he was gently candid about the boot camp regime he and his brothers had endured from their ex-army sergeant father, but without a hint of rancour or allegation. "I certainly had my fair share of spankings" he admitted, "but always given in love". It is piquant to learn now that, fame or no fame, 70s boy icons Jackson and Osmond were both spanked at home, just as Shirley Temple was in the 1930s. The discrepancy between the public image and the private truth emerges in the fullness of time.

The Osmonds' musical style veered from Barber-shop quintet to faux heavy metal and back to lyrical ballad, but at the apex of their fame they were no more than an affable hometown boy group with Elvis jumpsuits and immaculate dentition. Their contribution to music was nil. Since he has evidently displayed some acting talent in later life, it's interesting to speculate whether Donny would have played as well as he looked in some film vehicles of his own. Had they been made, of course, they would have been facile rubbish, as most of Elvis' vehicles were, and the film outings of all British pop stars of the day, but the fact remains that Donny was a delight to look at, if not in fact to listen to.

His TV career was launched by Andy Williams at 5, he made a guest appearance on **"The Lucy Show"** as a teenager, and was joint host of **"The Donny and Marie Show"**, funded by their Church of Latterday Saints, but otherwise even his TV appearances seem to have been few. In a recent websearch (March 2003) I trawled through thirty pages of Donny Osmond site links, and found next to no material on his early career, even on his own site, www.donny.com or the Osmond Family site.

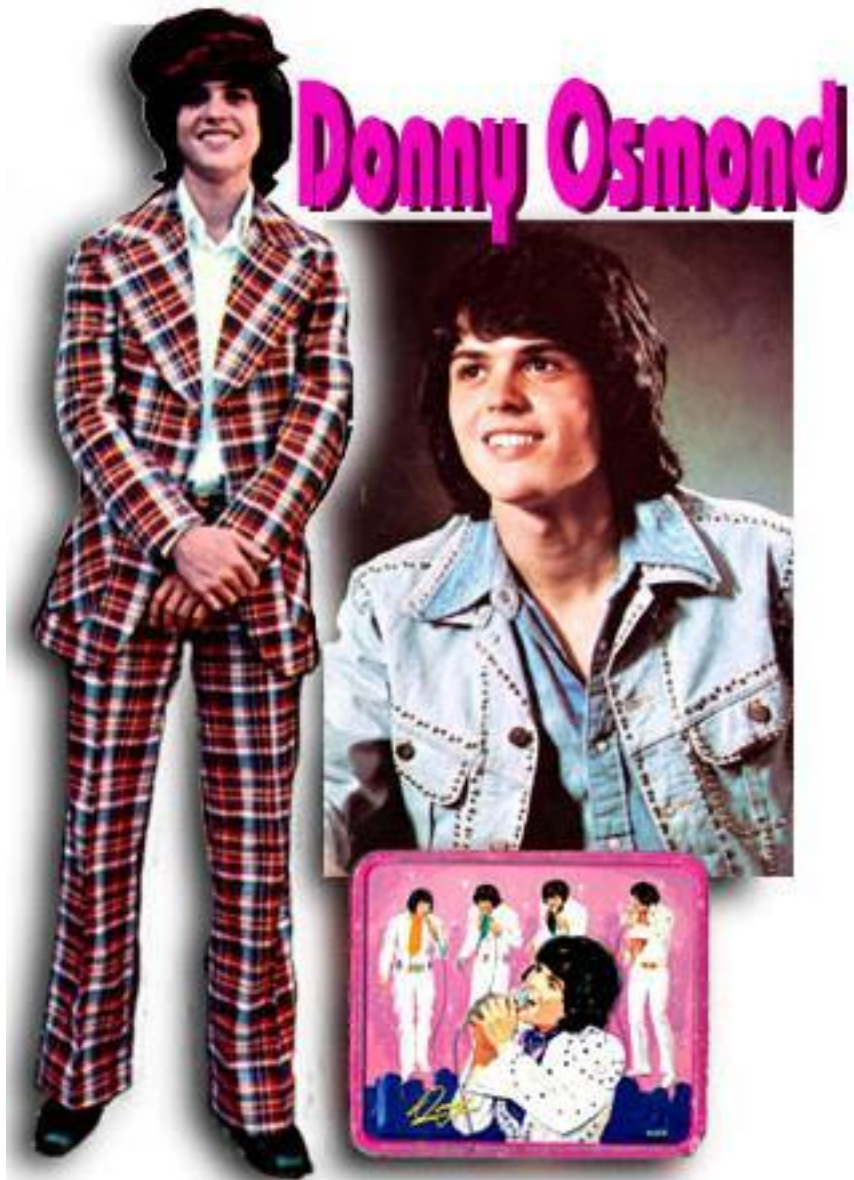


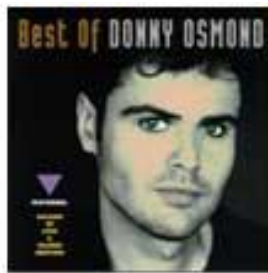


FILMOGRAPHY

Year	Age	Title	Role
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- | | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------|--|
| - | - | The Andy Williams Show | |
| - | - | The Lucy Show | |
| - | - | The Donny and Marie Show | |







DONNY




"WE'RE NOT ONLY BROTHERS. WE'RE THE BEST OF FRIENDS."

Millions of records have been sold, because they have carried the name and the voice of this young man. Yet — one would never expect him to be anything more than a straight "A" student of electrical engineering and orphology.

His constant smile accompanies him wherever he goes. In his own shy, well-mannered way, he's the picture of youth and the epitome of a professional entertainer. His name, Donny!

He's a self-starter — an innovator. He uses his talents and abilities to their fullest and then pushes harder to reach an even greater capacity. He puts heart and soul into every performance, and simplicity and meekness into personal, everyday encounters.

He's an electrical genius. How else could he do the wiring for the control console in the family's own recording studio. From a bar that goes up and down on electrical currents, curtains that open and close at the touch of a switch, and even a clock that — comes down out of the ceiling (his own invention). Donny's done 'em all in the family's own home.

What does he do as part of this famous brother act? Just sit back, watch and listen! He's not just on the stage — he's all over it!