

Paul Petersen

Titles: 3 Sources: 1 Stills: 2

Born: US; September 23rd 1945

TV boy actor, long of “**The Donna Reed Show**”, whose only cinema outing was as Cary Grant’s light-fingered “lamebrain” son (13) with a serious crush on Sophia Loren, in “**HOUSEBOAT**”. He had a vague look about him of a boyhood Elvis. Petersen did not accomplish the career transition from boy actor to teen idol and fell by Fame’s wayside. He grew so insensed at this abrupt withdrawal of childhood celebrity, and the consequent chaos of his early adult life, that he became a founder member of “A Minor Consideration” – a pressure group of former child-players who monitor very closely the welfare and handling of today’s juveniles, offering counselling to child performers in personal difficulties based upon their own background in Hollywood and (more preponderantly) television. Regrettably, their approach and analysis as a group seem to mesh too snugly with that of the American child abuse industry, and the “victim culture” in general, for them to be commended as impartial champions of the child’s best interests. They are passionate, however, on the industry’s – and parents’ – exploitation of child players.



10350-88
A fleeting moment of good temper in **HOUSEBOAT**

Source: 50 Years of the Movies



The Donna Reed Show – the all-American suburban family red in tooth and claw

The History of Television comment on "The Donna Reed Show":

“Television comedy was still thriving despite the onslaught of action shows... There was Groucho Marx, who held forth on **"You Bet Your Life"**, a seemingly spontaneous but well-rehearsed game show; **"The Ann Sothern Show"**; **"The Eve Arden Show"**; and **"The Donna Reed Show"**, another entry in the homogenised-suburban sitcom sweepstakes. Reed, a former Oscar winner, starred with Carl Betz as her husband Dr Alex Stone and, as her children, Shelley Fabares and Paul Petersen. After the fashion of Ricky Nelson, who must have lived in the same neighbourhood, the teenagers each became recording stars apart from the show.”

FILMOGRAPHY

Year	Age	Title	Role
- -	13	The Mickey Mouse Club	US TV ch show, as a "Mouseketeer"
58		HOUSEBOAT	as David Winters, 13
		with Charles Herbert, Mimi Gibson	
58-66		The Donna Reed Show	US TV sitcom, as Reed's son
		with Shelley Fabares	