

The Andy Griffith Show

(aka: "Andy of Mayberry")

US TV sitcom : 1960-68 : dir.

: CBS / Mayberry

: 249x 25 min

prod: Sheldon Leonard : scr:

: dir.ph.:

[Ronny Howard](#)

Andy Griffith; Don Knotts (first 100 episodes); Jim Nabors; Frances Bavier; George Lindsay; Howard McNair; Jack Burns; Howard Morris; Ken Berry; the Dillard brothers

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Source: indeterminate website

Halliwell's Television Companion review:

"Adventures of a small-town sheriff. Mid-American comedy, full of crackerbarrel philosophy and rural types. Last 100 editions in colour. It continued as **"Mayberry RFD"** when its star moved on to become **"The Headmaster"**. **"The New Andy Griffith Show"** was unsuccessful. * "

How Sweet it Was – Television: a Pictorial Commentary note:

"Andy was the sheriff of Mayberry, and Don Knotts played his deputy when this comedy series got going in 1960."

"...A third form of daytime programming has also become fashionable during the sixties – the re-runs of defunct or current night-time



Well at least now we know what the "miracle salve" was used for – see the Ronny Howard anecdote below.

The three boys pictured left and above are unidentified, but Howard is pictured right below.

Source: indeterminate website



series. Most of them are comedy shows such as "**I Love Lucy**", "**The Andy Griffith Show**", "**The Real McCoys**", and "**The Dick Van Dyke Show**", but some dramatic series have also been tried. "**Ben Casey**", for one, has been quite successful in daytime replays."

The History of Television comment:

"After Andy Griffith made a guest appearance in the late 1950s on "**The Danny Thomas Show**" as a rural sheriff, he was cast as Andy Taylor, sheriff of Mayberry, North Carolina, in "**The Andy Griffith Show**".

The unpretentious rural comedy of manners grew to be a remarkable chapter in television: the programme ran for eight years, spawned spinoff series, and inspired a great number of memorable character actors – but low-key, philosophical Andy was always the eye in the centre of the hurricane, playing a widower who lived with his Aunt Bee (Frances Bavier) and his young son Opie (Ronny Howard, later Ron Howard of "**Happy Days**").

The remainder of the cast through the years included Don Knotts as Andy's partner Barney Fife (as the deputy sheriff in a sleepy Southern town he was always imagining great plots and threats); Jim Nabors (Gomer Pyle); George Lindsay (Gooper Pyle); Howard McNair; Jack Burns; Howard Morris (Denver Pyle); the bluegrass-music Dillard brothers and Ken Berry, who eventually starred in the series' next-generation spinoff when Griffith retired – "**Mayberry RFD**". The Griffith Show, no matter how trivial the townsfolk's problems seemed, or how silly Barney's antics became, was warm and believable.

There is an interesting family tree of television of which "**The Andy Griffith Show**" was one branch. Sheldon Leonard, former movie heavy, was the producer of the Danny Thomas and Griffith shows, and, later, "**The Dick Van Dyke Show**", which starred Van Dyke and Mary Tyler Moore. Later she headed her own production company with a dozen of TV's

classic series. Tony Thomas, Danny's son (and brother of "**That Girl**"'s Marlo Thomas) produced shows like "**Soap**", "**Benson**" and "**The Golden Girls**".

Excerpt from **Historical Boys' Clothing** website biographical note on Ronny Howard:

"Red haired freckled-faced Ronny played the unforgettable little Opie, the sheriff's son on the "**Andy Griffith Show**" (1960-68). Few boys so captured the hearts of the American television audience. We all watched Opie grow up before us. He was such a good natured, but energetic little boy. Unfortunately, he never had any particularly interesting episodes.

Ron described his boyhood acting and explained he never had any adjustment problems because he wasn't allowed to have a swelled head. One of his parents were always with him on the set and they didn't stand for any foolishness. If he misbehaved he was punished. He said he recalled once after misbehaving (he didn't explain what he did), his father gave him a spanking right there on the set. He said there was a strained silence after the spanking. Finally Andy Griffith whispered to him, "You know Ronnie, you really deserved that!"

His best movie role was as Winthrop in "**THE MUSIC MAN**" (1962) in which he wore knee-length pants, the only interesting costume I ever saw him in. As he matured, he was one of the few child stars able to make the transition to teenage roles. After he left the "**Andy Griffith Show**" with Andy in 1968 he played some teenage movie parts..."

[no listing in "Television's Greatest Hits" or "25 Years of ITV - 1955-1980"]

No further information currently available. The other boys pictured with Howard are unidentified. Howard continued his homely kid-next-door type into his late twenties with the nostalgia sitcom "**Happy Days**", before making a successful segue into film directing.

See subject index under **POLICE / SOCIAL WORKERS** and **SITCOMS & SOAPS**.

