

# Silver Spoons

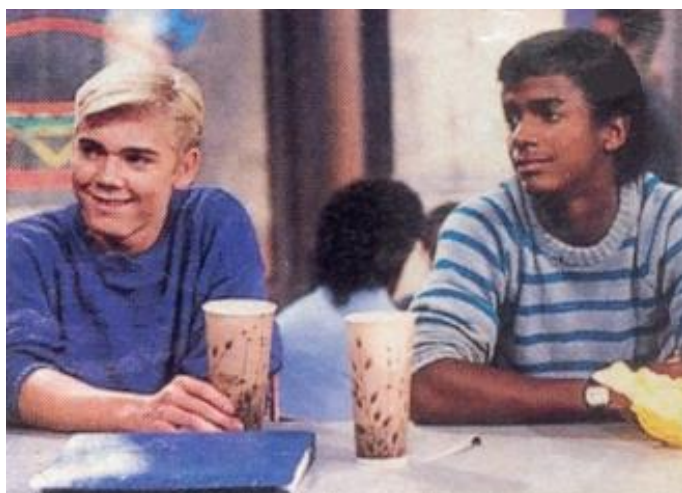
US TV sitcom : 1982-86 : dir. : NBC : ? x 25 min  
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:  
[Ricki Schroder](#); [Jason Bateman](#); [Alfonso Ribeiro](#) .....  
 Joel Higgins; Amanda Peterson; John Houseman; Pearl Bailey

| Ref:  | Pages | Sources | Stills | Words | Ω □ € Z ☺ | Copy on VHS | Last Viewed |
|-------|-------|---------|--------|-------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| 3300a | 2½    | 3       | 2      | 980   | 3 - - - - | No          | Unseen      |



Schroder "sharpens up his comic timing". The orang utang keeps his thoughts to himself.

Source: indeterminate website



*Four years is a long epoch in any boy's life – as we see. Possibly with Alfonso Ribeiro right.*  
Source: *Radio Times*

#### Halliwell's Television Companion review:

"A spoiled, childish rich man is joined by his almost-forgotten 12-year old son from an old marriage. Not much of a premise, but with the help of other juvenile characters and an occasional irascible grandfather (played by John Houseman) it became a long runner. Creators: David W Ducion, Ron Leavitt, Michael G Moye, Howard Leeds, Ben Starr & Martin Cohan."

NAMBLA Bulletin - vol. 6/6 - media note (July/Aug 85):

"YOUTH CULTURE: A Chicago Tribune column used TV to point out how the kid-parent role has changed in the last generation. **"Father Knows Best"**, for example, featured parents in authority roles kids looked up to. I would add **"Gentle Ben"** and **"Lassie"** as examples. Now we have **"It's Your Move"**, where a 13- year-old wheeler-dealer cons everyone in sight to take care of his divorced mother; **"Silver Spoons"**, where the father still plays with elaborate toys; **"Punky Brewster"**, who always get her way by charming the tears out of authorities; **"Charles in Charge"** of a brood abandoned at home by working parents; **"Kate & Allie"**, **"Webster"**, **"Family Ties"**, **"Cosby"**, etc."

Excerpt from **The Moving Picture Boy** entry on Schroder:

"Both Richard Schroder Jr and his elder sister Dawn modelled and did TV commercial work from early childhood. Their father was Brooklyn district manager of the New York Telephone Company.

When Franco Zeffirelli chose Ricky to play the Jackie Cooper role in his updated Florida remake of **"THE CHAMP"**, everyone's advance reaction was: "Far too pretty, far too cute". But Zeffirelli worked hard to remove the professional cuteness, and having done so regarded Schroder as more spontaneous than Cooper...

In 1984 he started a long run in the TV sitcom **"Silver Spoons"**. In this - as the pampered but unspoilt son of a quaint young millionaire (Joel Higgins) whose chief pastime is playing with toy trains - he had an amusing script and a chance to sharpen up his comic timing. Needless to say, he proved as professional in this genre as in his previous ones. Though he was allowed some poignant moments, not a tear was shed..."

Excerpt from **The Moving Picture Boy** entry on Bateman:

"Handsome Jason, son of a film producer, made a modest start at the age of ten in an educational film. His shrewdest move, though, was to become Ricky Schroder's tormentor, Derek, in the TV sitcom **"Silver Spoons"** - a schoolboy master of sneak and smarm.

He then got his own series, co-starring with David Garrison in **"It's Your Move"**, and was

the elder brother of Jeremy Licht and Danny Ponce in the more entertaining "**Valerie**", transmogrified after the departure of its star, Valerie Harper, to "**The Hogan Family**", with Sandy Duncan as the new matriarch...

Jason was a keen sportsman: when he was twelve, for instance, he went to Australia as a member of the American Youth Soccer Organisation team. His sister Justine became a successful actress, in "**Family Ties**" and other TV series."

NAMBLA Bulletin vol. 4/5 media note:

"1983: A TV Guide article on Ricky Schroeder [sic] tells us: Ricky contributes ideas to "**Silver Spoons**" scripts; his mom is with him constantly; he's naive about things like off-colour jokes; and he got in trouble riding his bike over the collapsible bridge at the "**JAWS**" lake..."

NAMBLA Bulletin vol. 5/9 - November 84 - media note:

"Portrait: Alfonso Ribeiro, 13, stars in "**Silver Spoons**" in Hollywood, but started with the First All Children's Theater in New York. His dad's a lieutenant at a Westchester prison, his mom's a nurse. His two older brothers used to throw him around. Even while playing "**THE TAP DANCE KID**" he continued in public school in the Riverdale section of the Bronx. His hero's Michael Jackson, and he likes baseball, video games, breakdancing, pizza, and boating."

[no listing in "History of Television" or "Television's Greatest Hits"]

No further information currently available. Unseen in the UK or continental Europe before the advent of satellite TV, there's little else one can add. Ricky Schroder was 12 at the start of the series. For some reason, although his acting talent was never in question, after an early handful of maudlin features – "**THE CHAMP**", "**THE EARTHLING**", "**THE LAST FLIGHT OF NOAH'S ARK**" – he found himself relegated to the actor's graveyard of TV movies. He failed to land any more feature film roles, even well after puberty, by which time he had reinvented himself as a hard guy, frequently in menacing or disturbed roles. It's hard to avoid the conclusion that Schroder's long-term career prospects were scuppered by such early typing as the pretty platinum blond with the supercharged tear ducts.

Jason Bateman, also 13 in 1982, was a regular prince of the TV screen. His series included "**Little House on the Prairie**", "**It's Your Move**", "**Valerie**" (later "**The Hogan Family**") and "**Family Ties**", as well as TV movies like "**THE FANTASTIC WORLD OF D.C. COLLINS**" (83), "**POISON IVY**" (85 – the summer camp one, not the Drew Barrymore vehicle) and "**THE THANKSGIVING PROMISE**" (86). To date, his only notable foray into feature work has been the by-the-numbers sequel "**TEEN WOLF TOO**" (87). His sister, actress Justine Bateman, did for him what Marie Osmond did for Donny (work it out for yourself).

See subject index under **SITCOMS & SOAPS** and **TOYS / MODELS / DOLLS**.