

Film News: Carl Reiner of ‘The Dick Van Dyke Show,’ Dies at 98

Submitted by [PatrickMcD](#) [1] on June 30, 2020 - 10:51am

- [All of Me](#) [2]
- [Carl Reiner](#) [3]
- [Film News](#) [4]
- [HollywoodChicago.com Content](#) [5]
- [Mary Tyler Moore](#) [6]
- [Mel Brooks](#) [7]
- [Neil Simon](#) [8]
- [Ocean's 11](#) [9]
- [Patrick McDonald](#) [10]
- [Rob Reiner](#) [11]
- [Sid Caesar](#) [12]
- [Steve Martin](#) [13]
- [The 2000 Year Old Man](#) [14]
- [The Cleveland Show](#) [15]
- [The Dick Van Dyke Show](#) [16]
- [The Jerk](#) [17]
- [Your Show of Shows](#) [18]

LOS ANGELES – If there ever was a living embodiment of show business history from the mid 20th Century to now, it was Carl Reiner. The producer, director, writer and sometimes actor worked in the business from 1938 to the present, and is probably best known for creating “The Dick Van Dyke Show” (1961-66). He died of natural causes in Los Angeles on June 29th, 2020.

Reiner touched all forms of media, up to and including the modern social media, where he was active on Twitter (read one of his last tweets below). His incredible resume includes film director (“Oh, God” and “The Jerk,” among others), TV series creator (two Dick Van Dyke shows, “Lotsa Luck”) and movie/TV performer (Alan Brady on “Van Dyke,” “It’s a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World,” The Ocean’s Eleven Series and “The Cleveland Show”).



Carl Reiner in a Recent Publicity Picture

Photo credit: Carl Reiner

Carl Reiner was born in the Bronx, New York, and first tried theater as a 16-year-old during the Depression (1938). He was drafted into the Army Air Forces during World War II and eventually landed into Special Forces, entertaining the troops until his honorable discharge in 1946. He went back to New York City to begin his professional career.

He was performing on Broadway in the early 1950s, when he was brought onto the staff of Sid Caesar's "Your Show of Shows" as a performer and writer. That famous writing staff (which included the show "Caesar's Hour") included Mel Brooks, Neil Simon, Larry Gelbart and Woody Allen. Reiner would later team with Mel Brooks for their famous 1960s comedy bit the "2000 Year Old Man," where he played the straight man.

In 1959, he wrote a TV pilot for CBS called "Head of the Family," and was the title character when the pilot was shot. CBS-TV wouldn't risk an unknown as star, so Reiner morphed the series into "The Dick Van Dyke Show" two years later. The iconic series has since ran in perpetuity in reruns, and has been revived during the holidays in colorized versions.

He moved into film direction after the rigors of TV production (he wrote an entire season of Van Dyke episodes) and teamed with Steve Martin for the hilarious "The Jerk" (1979), "Dead Man Don't Wear Plaid" (1982), "The Man with Two Brains" (1983) and "All of Me" (1984). As an actor, he had a revival in all three "Ocean's" films, and made appearances on TV in series as diverse as "The Carol Burnett Show," "Frasier," "Mad About You" (reprising Alan Brady), "The Larry Sanders Show" and "Two and a Half Men." His final role was a voiceover in "Toy Story 4," as Carl Reineroceros.



Carl Reiner on colorized "The Dick Van Dyke Show"
Photo credit: