



BIOGRAPHIES

Writers and Producers



Teresa L. Thome: Co-founder and Managing Partner

Teresa is a two-time Emmy Award winning producer, writer and director. Prior to co-founding Fubble Entertainment, she served as President of Enthusiastic Productions and Executive Producer for the multiple-Emmy and Telly Award winning Children's Television show *Come On Over!* She also served as Executive Director of the Grand Rapids Children's Museum for eleven years. During her tenure, she and the Museum received numerous awards and honors. The Museum garnered the Governor's Award for Outstanding Cultural Organization and Teresa was chosen as one of 35 museum professionals from around the world to attend the Museum Management Institute, an offering of the Getty Leadership Institute. Teresa served as a participant in a Raising Capital Creatively round table at Johns Hopkins University representing her work with Enthusiastic Productions.

Teresa is currently Vice President of the Grand Rapids Downtown Improvement District Board. She has performed in and directed more than 20 shows in Michigan. She was a founding member of Last Minute Improv and currently presents her one-woman show, *Warm Cheese*.

Patrick W. Ziegler: Co-founder and Managing Partner

Patrick is a two-time Emmy Award winning producer, writer, director and actor. After studying Theater and Communications at Western Michigan University, Patrick trained at the National Shakespeare Conservatory in New York City. He then went on to work at the New York Joseph Papp Theatre, Shakespeare in the Park and the Tony Award winning Roundabout Theatre. As a producer he worked with the Emmy® Winning production house Wunderfilm Design and helped produce main titles for *The Jamie Foxx Show*, *Cable Guy* and *The Wayan Brothers*. He founded, performed and directed the HBO Comedy Festival finalist comedy troupe, *The Hollywood Players* after his training at the famed The Groundlings Improv in Los Angeles.

With his vast background in Theatre, Patrick produced and directed the *I Love Lucy 50th Anniversary Stage Show* with CBS, Lucyfan Enterprises and the oversight from Desilu, too, LLC. Patrick splits his time between Michigan and Chicago where he teaches improv and acting classes. Patrick is an Emmy® Award and Telly Award winning producer for his work on *Come On Over!* He was also honored by Western Michigan University as inductee into the distinguished Outstanding Alumni Academy.



Cast

Ed Asner: Bob Hoyer

Versatile, committed, eloquent and talented are all adjectives that describe actor/activist 7-Time Emmy Award, Edward Asner who starred as Carl Fredricksen in Pixar's 2009 box-office-hit *UP!*, which won Best Animated Feature Film and Best Original Score -Motion Picture, at the 67th Annual Golden Globe® Awards as well as receiving The Outstanding Animated Film Award at the 82nd Oscars.

Asner is currently touring the country as Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the critically acclaimed one man show *FDR* which he has been doing for over three years.

Asner most recently completed guest star appearances on the CBS primetime series *Hawaii Five-O* starring Alex O'Loughlin and Scott Caan where he reprised his role from 25 years ago; and also guest spot on TV Land's *Hot In Cleveland* with Betty White and completed a guest starring role on the ABC series *The Middle* starring Patricia Heaton and went on to guest star as Henry Winkler's father on USA Network's *Royal Pains*.

Ed also stars opposite Carol Kane in the upcoming indie feature film *Should've Been Romeo* a slice of life drama also starring Paul Ben Victor and just premiered at The Newport Film Festival and is touring the festivals across the country.

Ed also stars in the short film *Good Men* opposite Mark Rydell (On Golden Pond) directed by Brian Connors and is touring festivals across the country.

Asner also portrayed Warren Buffet in the critically acclaimed HBO telefilm drama *Too Big To Fail* starring William Hurt, Paul Giamatti, James Woods, Topher Grace and Tony Shalhoub and directed by Curtis Hanson.

Asner also starred in the CMT primetime sitcom series *Working Class* as Hank Krasny, the local butcher also starring Melissa Peterman and Patrick Fabian.

Asner also stars in the upcoming indie feature *Let Go*, a comedy drama in which he portrays an ex-con on parole opposite David Denman, Jack Carter, Garrett Morris directed by Brian Jet who wrote the film and *Elephant Sighs* directed by Ed Simpson. He also was featured in the comedy *Not Another B Movie* directed by John Wesley Norton.

Asner is best known for his comedic and dramatic crossover as the gruff but soft-hearted journalist Lou Grant, the role he originated on the landmark TV news room comedy *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* and continued in the newspaper-set drama *Lou Grant*, which earned him five Emmys and three Golden Globe Awards. Asner received two more Emmy and Golden Globe Awards for the mini-series *Rich Man, Poor Man* and *Roots*. His prolific and much honored acting career demonstrates a consummate ability to transcend the line between comedy and drama.

One of the most honored actors in the history of television; Edward Asner has been the recipient of seven Emmy Awards and 16 nominations, as well as five *Golden Globe Awards* and served as National President of the Screen Actors Guild for two terms. He was inducted into the TV Academy Hall of Fame in 1996. Asner received the Ralph Morgan Award from the Screen Actors Guild in 2000, presented periodically for distinguished service to the Guild's Hollywood membership. In March 2002, he was again honored by The Guild as the 38th recipient of the prestigious Life Achievement Award for career achievement and humanitarian

accomplishment, presented annually to an actor who fosters the highest ideals of the profession.

In 2012, Asner was the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from The Garden State Film Festival, and also honored and received the 2nd Annual Betty White Award for Actors and Others for Animals.

In addition to his professional versatility, Edward Asner has consistently served and committed himself to the rights of the working performer in addition to advocating for human rights, world peace, environmental preservation and political freedom. A passionate and informed spokesperson for the causes he supports, Asner is a frequent speaker on labor issues and a particular ally for the acting industry's older artists. Some of the many honors he has received throughout his career include the Anne Frank Human Rights Award, The Eugene Debs Award, Organized Labor Publications Humanitarian Award, ACLU's Worker's Right's Committee Award and the National Emergency Civil Liberties Award.

Edward Asner has more than 100 TV credits, which include starring in the series *Off the Rack*, *The Bronx Zoo* and *Thunder Alley*. Numerous guest appearances include roles in *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *ER*, *Arliss*, *The Practice* and a recurring role on *Studio 60 On The Sunset Strip*. Besides commercials and numerous books on tape, he has lent his voice to popular cartoon shows such as *The Simpsons*, *Spiderman* and *Boondocks*. Asner's dozens of motion pictures include *They Call Me Mister Tibbs!*, *Fort Apache the Bronx*, *JFK*, and the European production of *Giovanni XXIII* - the highest rated television mini-series in the history of Italian TV as well as the box office hit, *Elf* with Will Farrell and James Caan. Asner has done several Hallmark movies and was nominated for another Emmy for *The Christmas Card* in addition to his Emmy nominated guest appearance on *CSI/NY*.

Marion Ross: Imelda Hoyer

The lovely, continuously upbeat and iconic All-American mom from the classic *Happy Days* (1974) TV sitcom had fervent desires of becoming an actress while growing up in her obscure Minnesota town. Born Marian Ross (with an "a") in 1928, she grew up in her native state and, at one time, worked as a teenage au pair in order to earn money for drama lessons at the MacPhail Center in Minneapolis. The family eventually relocated to San Diego (she was in her late teens) and Marion attended and graduated from Point Loma High School.

Changing her stage moniker to Marion (with an "o") Ross because it read classier to her, the young hopeful enrolled at San Diego University and appeared in the theater department's various productions. Graduating in 1950, Marion worked in summer theater in and around the San Diego area, including the Old Globe Theatre. She then managed to land a Paramount Studio contract with the assist of an old college professor and found a few unbilled parts to play as various actress, tourist and girlfriend types in a variety of films such as *The Glenn Miller Story* (1954), *Secret of the Incas* (1954), *Sabrina* (1954) and *Pushover* (1954). At the same time, she won a regular role as the Irish maid Nora in the Victorian-TV comedy *Life with Father* (1953) which ran a couple of seasons and was headed by Leon Ames and Lurene Tuttle. This program happened to be the first live color series for network Hollywood TV. Not your conventional leading lady type, Marion landed slightly larger parts in such movies as *The Proud and Profane* (1956), *Lizzie* (1957), *Teacher's Pet* (1958) and *Operation Petticoat* (1959), but any and all attempts to move further up the Hollywood film ladder proved a long-lasting frustration. Marking her Broadway debut in 1958 with a role in *Edwin Booth* starring José Ferrer, Marion nevertheless continued to focus on TV work.

Throughout the 1960s, she appeared in a fairly steady amount of shows, both comedies and dramas, including *Father Knows Best* (1954), *Rawhide* (1959), *Route 66* (1960), *The Outer Limits* (1963), *Felony Squad* (1966) and *The Brady Bunch* (1969). By the end of the decade, however, she was still disillusioned, but now she was divorced from her husband of 18 years, Freeman Meskimen, and struggling to raise two children. Middle-aged stardom came to her (in her 46th year) with the nostalgic sitcom series *Happy Days* (1974), which arrived on a wave of 50s popularity triggered by the huge box-office reception to the film *American Graffiti* (1973). The show starred *Graffiti* lead Ron Howard and co-starred Henry Winkler as The Fonz. Marion was ideally paired with Tom Bosley, who expertly played her beleaguered hubby. The series became a certifiable hit and Marion's ever-pleasant Marion Cunningham the new, slightly blended version of Lucille Ball's ditzzy and Barbara Billingsley's pristine perfect moms. Two Emmy nominations came Marion's way during the show's long tenure (ten seasons).

Following the demise of such an exalting hit, many actors often find themselves either resting on their laurels or witnessing a sad decline in their career. Not Marion. She continued to pursue her career assertively and challengingly and the critics kept taking notice. She earned terrific reviews for her recurring *The Love Boat* (1977) role in 1986, and enjoyed standard guest turns on *Night Court* (1984), *MacGyver* (1985), *Burke's Law* (1963) and (the revived) *Superman*. One of Marion's finest hours on TV occurred with her role as the obstinate, iron-willed Jewish matriarch in the *Brooklyn Bridge* (1991) series, which neatly deflected any broad, daffy stereotype she might have incurred from her *Happy Days* (1974) role. Irritating yet ingratiating at the same time, Marion's fine interpretation garnered the veteran actress two more Emmy nominations

While never making a strong dent in films, an excellent supporting turn for Marion came in the form of her moving portrayal of Shirley MacLaine's loyal housekeeper and confidante in *The Evening Star* (1996), the long-awaited sequel to the Oscar-winning *Terms of Endearment* (1983). Critics predicted an Academy Award nomination for the actress but, surprisingly, it did not pan out. Other films over the years have included *Colossus: The Forbin Project* (1970); *Grand Theft Auto* (1977), which starred *Happy Days* (1974) son Ron Howard (who also made his directorial debut); and, more recently, *Music Within* (2007) and the silly spoof *Superhero Movie* (2008). In her post-*Happy Days* years, Marion reinvigorated her career on the stage. As a result, she earned renewed acclaim and respect for her roles in *Arsenic and Old Lace* (which brought her back to Broadway), *Steel Magnolias*, *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Pippin* and *Barefoot in the Park*, among others. She also toured with her one-woman show as poet Edna St. Vincent Millay entitled *A Lovely Light*. On TV, Marion found recurring flinty-like roles on *Touched by an Angel* (1994) (a fifth Emmy nomination), *That '70s Show* (1998), *The Drew Carey Show* (1995), *Gilmore Girls* (2000) and *Brothers and Sisters* (2006) and also provided a voice in the cartoon *Spongebob Squarepants* as *Spongebob's* grandmother.

The ever-vital copper-haired octogenarian continues to reside at her country-style home she calls the *Happy Days Farm* in California's San Fernando Valley.

Vicki Lewis: Nilah Hoyer

Vicki is perhaps best known for her role as Beth the secretary on the hit NBC series *Newsradio*. She also starred in the NBC series *Three Sisters* with Diane Cannon.

She has had recurring and guest starring roles on *How I Met Your Mother*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *The Middle*, *Bones*, *Dirt*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *'Til Death*, *Surviving Suburbia*, *Sonny With A Chance*, *Melissa and Joey*, *Caroline In The City*, *Norm*, *The Five Mrs. Buchanans*, *Phenom*, *Murphy Brown*, *Grace Under Fire*, *Seinfeld* and *Home Improvement*.

Her films include *The Ugly Truth*, *Den Brother*, *The Last Day Of Summer*, *California Dreamin'* (Dave Foley and Lea Thompson), *Godzilla*, *Mousehunt* (Nathan Lane, Lee Evans and Christopher Walken), *Pushing Tin* (John Cusack, Billy Bob Thornton, Angelina Jolie and Cate Blanchett), *I'll Do Anything* (Nick Nolte, Albert Brooks), *The Huntress*, *Bye, Bye Birdie* (Tyne Daly, Jason Alexander) and *Breakfast Of Champions* (Bruce Willis, Nick Nolte).

Her voice can be heard in Pixar's animated blockbuster *Finding Nemo* as well as *Alpha and Omega*, *Wonder Woman*, *Justice League – The New Frontier*, *Doctor Doolittle: Million Dollar Mutts*, *Scooby Doo*, *Ben 10: Alien Force*, *Betsy's Kindergarten Adventures*, *King Of The Hill*, *Rugrats*, *An Extremely Goofy Movie*, *Phineas and Ferb*, and she voices Wonder Woman in *Batman – The Brave and The Bold* for Warner Brothers.

She starred as Velma Kelly in the Broadway and Las Vegas productions of *Chicago*. She played Gloria Thorpe in the Tony nominated *Damn Yankees* she performed as a soloist in *An Evening With the Pops* at Carnegie Hall (with the late great Skitch Henderson) and in *Pal Joey* (opposite Patti Lupone and Peter Gallagher) for Encores.

She received the Ovation Award for her performance in the world premiere of Michael John LaChiusa's *Hotel C'est L'Amoure* at The Blank Theatre in Los Angeles, and was nominated for an Ovation Award for her performance in *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying* (directed by Marcia Milgrim Dodge) for the Reprise Theatre Company. Also for Reprise – *I Love My Wife*, *My One and Only*, *City of Angels* and *Carol Burnett In Conversation*. Vicki starred in *Funny Girl*, *Into The Woods*, *Gypsy* and the upcoming *Anything Goes* for California Music Circus. *East of Midnight*, her debut album, which she wrote and produced with Junior Burke, and which was orchestrated by Stephen Taylor, is available on iTunes.

Gregory Jbara: Kip Amato

Gregory currently appears as DCPI Garrett Moore on the CBS police drama *Blue Bloods*.

Mr. Jbara won the 2009 Tony Award®, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Award® for Featured Actor in a Musical as Dad in *Billy Elliot the Musical*.

Jbara also originated the roles of André Thibault in the Broadway musical *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Drama Desk nomination), Squash Bernstein in *Victor/Victoria* starring Julie Andrews, and the role of the dim-witted catcher Sohovik in the Broadway revival of *Damn Yankees!* with Vicki Lewis, Bebe Neuwirth, Victor Garber, and Jerry Lewis. Jbara was the second actor to star on Broadway as Billy Flynn in the Tony Award winning revival of *Chicago*.

Off-Broadway credits include Chick Clark in *Wonderful Town* for City Center Encores!, the Broadway revival of *Born Yesterday* with Ed Asner and Madeline Kahn, *Serious Money* with Alec Baldwin and Kate Nelligan, *Privates on Parade* with Jim Dale and Simon Jones, *Forever Plaid*, *Das Barbecu* and *Have I Got a Girl for You!*

Mr. Jbara received the BackStageWest Garland 2000 Award for his performance in the West Coast Premiere of George Furth's *Precious Sons* with Nora Dunn under the direction of Daniel Henning. Other Los Angeles stage credits include Mr. Bunder in the West Coast premiere of Michael John LaChiusa's *Little Fish*, the title role in Jason Connor's *There's Someone Living in the House That Jack Built*, Vinnie in the Geffen Playhouse Premier of Neil Simon's *Felix and Oscar*, Ike/Bess Truman in the West Coast premiere of Michael John LaChiusa's *First Lady Suite*, Clark Gable in The Blank Theatre Company's "the living room series" presentation of Mark Saltzman's new play, *Mr. Shaw Goes to Hollywood*.

Mr. Jbara's film credits include *Big Miracle*, directed by Ken Kwapis; *Remember Me*, directed by Alan Coulter; *Out of Step*, written and directed by Eileen Connors; *Exit Speed*, produced and written by Michael Stokes, produced and unit production managed by Sally Helppie, and directed by Scott Ziehl; *Enchanted*, from Disney, directed by Kevin Lima; *Ira and Abby*, with Chris Messina and Jennifer Westfeldt, written and directed by Westfeldt; *Project: 96B* with Alice Ripley, Meredith Bishop, and Chad McKnight, produced by Marissa Messier, written by Katie Alender, and directed by Chris Alender; *The First 20 Million is Always the Hardest*, directed by Mick Jackson for 20th Century FOX, and the indie feature *The Sure Hand of God*. Adrian Pasdar's feature directorial debut, *Cement*, also starring Chris Penn, Sherilyn Fenn, Titus Welliver and Jeffrey Wright; *The Out of Towners* starring Goldie Hawn and Steve Martin; and Michael Hoffman's film adaptation of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Michelle Pfeiffer, Kevin Kline, Rupert Everett, Calista Flockhart, Stanley Tucci, Bill Irwin, among others.

Mr. Jbara co-starred in the Paul Rudnick comedy screenplay *In and Out*, directed by Frank Oz. He is featured as Angelique, the preoperative transsexual lesbian in the film version of Paul Rudnick's hit play *Jeffrey*. Additional film and TV credits include *Treme*, *Nurse Jackie*, *Law and Order*, *Monk*, *The Unit*, *Twenty Good Years*, *Conviction*, *American Dad*, *Come on Over*, *World Trade Center*, *All My Children*, *The Pied Piper*, *One Fine Day*, *Married to It*, *The House on Carroll Street*, *Crocodile Dundee II*, *Friends*, *Century City*, *The West Wing*, *Without a Trace*, *Touched by an Angel*, *Crossing Jordan*, *Providence*, *Ally McBeal*, *Malcolm in the Middle*, *Yes Dear*, *That's Life*, *Frasier*, *Suddenly Susan*, *The Drew Carey Show*, *Family Guy*, *Rocket Power*, *Cybill*, *The Closer*, *The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles*, and *Newhart*.

On the web, Jbara played the title role in the faux docu-series *The Other Hef*. Jbara sings the role of Willie 3 and sings the title song in the Alan Menken animated musical *Home on the Range* for Disney. He also sang Randy Newman's *You've Got a Friend In Me* from *Toy Story* for U.S. Olympic ice skater Michelle Kwan's *75 Years of Disney Music/TV Special*. Jbara appeared as Kenny in the Carnegie Hall concert version of *Very Warm for May* with Jon Lovitz for conductor/director John McGlenn. He sang a tribute medley to the late Mr. Rogers for the second *Television Night at the Hollywood Bowl* concert at which he was joined onstage by the 16 member Carousel Kids and David Newell with Glen Roven conducting the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra.

Recordings include the Broadway cast recordings of *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Victor/Victoria* and *Damn Yankees!*; *First Lady Suite* on PS Classics; *Brigadoon* and *Annie Get Your Gun* on EMI; *Little Fish* on Ghostlight; *A Broadway Christmas*, *Unsung Musicals II*, *Unsung Berlin*, *Peter Pan*, and *Drat the Cat!* on Varese/Sarabande; *Enchanted* and *Home on the Range* for Disney. Jbara can also be heard as the narrator for the syndicated TV series *Ripley's Believe it Or Not*.

Born and raised in suburban Detroit Mr. Jbara transferred from the University of Michigan School of Music musical theatre program to complete his BFA in acting at the Juilliard School. He resides with his wife Julie and sons Zachary and Aidan in New York and Los Angeles.

Patrick Ziegler: Clayton Croft

See writer / producer above. In addition to his credits above, as an actor, Mr. Ziegler has appeared in the film *Extras*, and on television, *All My Children* and *Bold and The Beautiful*. He also has a strong background in theatre, having performed in *The Impostor* with Luis Avalos and *Here and Now* with Estelle Getty in Los Angeles; *Fifth of July* and *A Woman Of No Importance* at the National Shakespeare Conservatory in New York City; *Angels In America* in Chicago; and *Orphans* and *Noises Off* in Michigan.

Danny Salles: Director

Danny Salles is a veteran director/showrunner of numerous genre-bending comic reality shows including Bravo's *Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D-List* (Emmy Nomination), Fox's *My Big Fat Obnoxious Fiance* (director), Spike's *Joe Schmo Show* (director), WeTV's *Joan and Melissa: Joan Knows Best?* (EP), VH1's *I Want to Work for Diddy* (EP), VH1's *Dice Undisputed* and MTV's *Faking the Video* (creator, EP).

A graduate of USC's School of Cinema-Television (MFA) and Princeton University (BA), Danny is currently enjoying an overall deal with Nancy Glass Productions, where he consults on the hit series *Tanked* (Animal Planet) and *Dangerous Grounds* (Travel Channel). In his spare time, Danny enjoys writing edgy, unproduced comedies like sitcom pilot *The Other Mall* (ABC Family) and feature film *Inner Beauty, My Ass* (MGM). He is currently developing an animated series with Joan Rivers and his friends at Fubble Entertainment. Danny had the pleasure of working with Patrick and Teresa on *Come on Over!* and *Backstage Drama* and he looks forward to many collaborations to come – so long as they include casts as inspiring as the one on *Kalamazoo*.

Danny is the proud father of 7-year-old twins, and can't wait until they can take care of him in his waning years.