

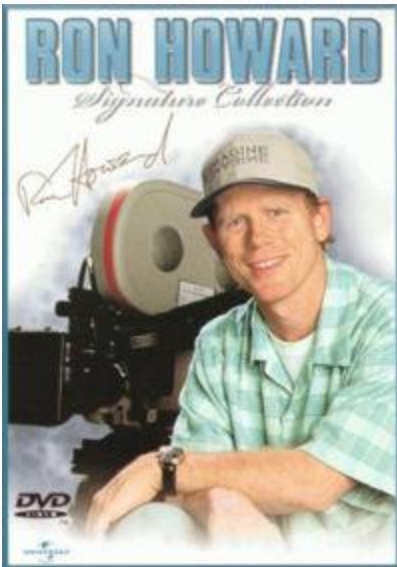
Ron Howard

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Ron Howard	
Birth name	Ronald William Howard
Born	March 1, 1954 Duncan, Oklahoma, USA
Spouse(s)	Cheryl Howard (1975-)
Academy Awards	
Best Director	2001 <i>A Beautiful Mind</i>

Ronald William Howard (born March 1, 1954) is a two-time Academy Award-winning American actor, film director, and producer.

Biography



Ron Howard Signature Collection DVD cover, featuring Ron Howard

Early life

Howard was born in Duncan, Oklahoma, to actors Rance Howard and Jean F. Speegle. He has Dutch, Scottish, English, Irish, German and Cherokee Indian ancestry. His younger brother, Clint Howard, is a well-known character actor. Howard attended the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts but did not graduate.

Career

Howard first earned recognition for playing Winthrop Paroo, the child with the lisp in the film version of *The Music Man* with Robert Preston and Shirley Jones. After *The Music Man*, he appeared in the role of Opie Taylor in the television series *The Andy Griffith Show*. There he portrayed the son of the local sheriff in the fictional town of Mayberry, North Carolina. The credits referred to him as "Ronny Howard".

Howard is also well known for his role as Richie Cunningham in television's *Happy Days* on which, beginning in 1974, he played the likable "buttoned down" boy, in contrast to Henry Winkler's Fonz. He attained film success with his role as Steve Bollander in George Lucas' teen movie *American Graffiti*. In 1977, while still starring on *Happy Days*, he directed his first film, a low-budget comedy/action film called *Grand Theft Auto*. After leaving *Happy Days* in 1980, he directed several TV movies. His big theatrical directing break came in 1982 when he directed the bigger budget film *Night Shift* featuring soon-to-be well-known actors such as Michael Keaton and Shelley Long, and reuniting Howard with his *Happy Days* co-star Henry Winkler.

He has since directed a number of high-visibility films, the most acclaimed of which include *Splash*, *Cocoon*, *Apollo 13* (nominated for several Academy Awards), *A Beautiful Mind*, for which he won the Oscar for Best Director, and *Cinderella Man*. His latest film, *The Da Vinci Code*, reteaming Howard with *Splash* and *Apollo 13* star Tom Hanks, has been a box office hit earning more than \$700 million at the box office. Howard is the co-chairman, with Brian Grazer, of Imagine Entertainment, a major film and television production company, which has produced notable projects like *Friday Night Lights*, *8 Mile*, *Inside Deep Throat*, and the television series *24* and *Felicity*. His last significant on-screen role was when he reprised his famous role as Opie Taylor in the 1986 TV reunion movie *Return to Mayberry* reuniting him with Andy Griffith, the now late Don Knotts, and most of the old cast.

Through his company Imagine Television, Howard continues to have a presence in television, most recently as the executive producer and uncredited narrator of the critically acclaimed FOX sitcom *Arrested Development*. The show, despite having won six Emmy awards and near-unanimous praise from critics, did not enjoy high ratings and was limited by Fox Television in 2006. A series finale took place in February, but Howard, on-screen for the first time in the show, suggested a movie version may be in the works.

Howard often casts his younger brother Clint with a minor role in most of his movies.

Personal life

Howard wed his high-school sweetheart, Cheryl, a writer, and they have been married for more than 30 years, they have four children and two of their daughters Bryce Dallas Howard and Paige Howard are both actresses. They live on a 35-acre estate in the exclusive gated community of Conyers Farm in Greenwich, Connecticut.

Howard in popular culture

- In the *The Simpsons* episode *When You Dish Upon a Star*, Homer meets and befriends Alec Baldwin, Kim Basinger and Ron Howard. Later in the episode Ron Howard is injured when trying to jump from a truck to the RV that Homer was driving. In the end, he pitches Homer's movie idea and gets it greenlit.
- When he hosted *Saturday Night Live* in the 1980s, Eddie Murphy called him "Opie Cunningham".
- In an episode of *South Park*, when Cartman "turns ginger" he asks a crowd of fellow ginger haired people to name great Americans with the hair color, the first named is "Ron Howard", when asked to name a second, after a short silence from the crowd, one responds "Ron Howard".
- On a VH1 special about the 100 greatest child stars, many of the interviewees considered Ron Howard to be the most successful child star of all time, considering his two major television acting roles and his directing career.

Selected directorial filmography

- *Grand Theft Auto* (1977)
- *Night Shift* (1982)
- *Splash* (1984)
- *Cocoon* (1985)
- *Willow* (1988)
- *Parenthood* (1989)
- *Backdraft* (1990)
- *Far and Away* (1992)
- *The Paper* (1994)
- *Apollo 13* (1995) - Academy Award nominee for Best Picture
- *Ransom* (1996)
- *EDtv* (1999)
- *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* (2000)
- *A Beautiful Mind* (2001) - Academy Award for Best Director and Best Picture
- *The Missing* (2003)
- *Cinderella Man* (2005)
- *The Da Vinci Code* (2006)
- *East of Eden* (2007)

Preceded by Steven Soderbergh for <i>Traffic</i>	Academy Award for Best Director 2001 for <i>A Beautiful Mind</i>	Succeeded by Roman Polański for <i>The Pianist</i>
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TV Cameos

- *The Simpsons: When You Dish Upon a Star* (1998: 10.05) and *Hello Gutter, Hello Fadder* (1999: 11.06) - Himself.
- *Arrested Development* (2006) - Himself.
- *M*A*S*H* (1973: 1.17) - Private Wendell (Walter) Peterson, an underage soldier. (Note: Credited as "Ronny Howard.")

- The Waltons (24 January 1974) - Seth Turner
- *The Twilight Zone* (30 October 1959) - *Wilcox Boy*, in episode "*Walking Distance*".
- *Family Guy*

Quotes

- "As a young adult trying to make the transition from sitcom actor to motion picture director, I was getting a lot of patronizing pats on the head. 'Hey, hang in there. In another ten or 15 years, I'm sure somebody will give you a chance to direct.' That's not what I wanted to hear at all."
- "I really believe that great creative ideas will find their way to the surface."