



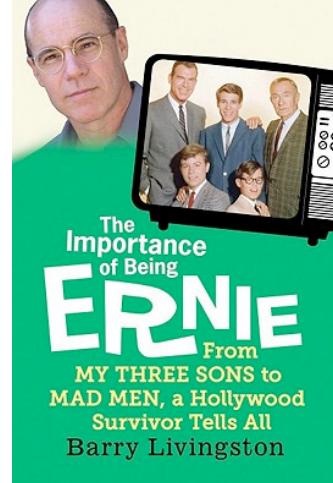
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BARRY LIVINGSTON

(<http://theimportanceofbeingernie.com/index.html>)

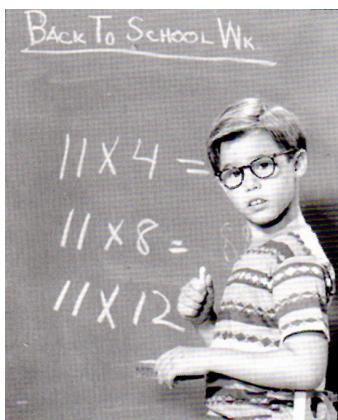
A true Hollywood survivor, Barry Livingston is one of the few child stars who turned early success into a lifelong career. As "Ernie" on the 1960s sit-com My Three Sons-Barry became instantly recognizable for his horn-rimmed glasses and goofy charm — America's prototype Nerd.

Five decades later, after working on hits like Mad Men, Desperate Housewives, and The Social Network, this one time child star beat the odds and survived the dark side of the Hollywood dream factory—with charm, wit, determination and big horn-rimmed glasses.



Barry Livingston Interview topics include:

- **Why do some child stars lose everything—their money, their reputations, even their lives?**
- **What was it like growing up as Ernie Douglas – America's prototype nerd?**
- **How co-star William Frawley, encouraged his young cast mates to pull pranks on former I Love Lucy co-star, Vivian Vance, on the set of The Lucy Show.**
- **How Paul Newman crawled inside a TV Set to help a young Barry with a scene.**
- **Working with legends Elvis, Jerry Lewis, Debbie Reynolds, Mickey Rooney, Lucille Ball, Jackie Gleason, Ozzie Nelson, Myrna Loy etc – The good, the cruel & the beautiful.**
- **By the time he made his first Blooper appearance on the Dick Van Dyke Show at age 9, he was halfway to qualifying for his SAG pension.**
- **Winning a Broadway role in his very first New York audition.**
- **Finding success in the industry he helped pioneer on such TV shows as Mad Men, Two and Half Men, Grey's Anatomy, Desperate Housewives, Monk, Big Love, Crossing Jordan, Will and Grace, the West Wing, and many others, as well as feature films like The Social Network.**



BARRY LIVINGSTON was seven years old and living with his family in Los Angeles when a talent agent at a community swimming pool spotted him. Slightly crossed eyed and buck-toothed, Barry was the epitome of the All-American boy. Within days of being spotted, Barry was cast as one of Paul Newman's children in the 1958 comedy Rally Round the Flag, Boys. Much to the consternation of the movie's director, comedy legend Leo McCarey (The Marx Brothers' 1933 classic Duck Soup) Barry's eyes seemed to have a mind of their own and ruined take after take. It was discovered that he had astigmatism and he was promptly fitted with big tortoiseshell glasses—giving him an owlish but unmistakably adorable and appealing look, and one that caught the attention of casting directors.

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At the age of eight, Barry was suddenly in demand as the "kid next door" and was featured on such popular situation comedies as *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet* and *The Dick Van Dyke Show* and in such movies as *My Six Loves* with Debbie Reynolds. He also appeared on two episodes of *The Lucy Show* 1963, starring America's favorite redhead, Lucille Ball. In one, Lucy attempts to give Barry a haircut, with disastrous results. Barry remembers, "To a nine-year-old- kid, there was nothing more terrifying than to have Lucille Ball coming at you with a giant pair of scissors."

Thompson Douglas, the adopted son of Steve Douglas (Fred MacMurray). Barry's older brother, Stanley, was already appearing on the show as middle son, Chip. Rounding out the cast were Don Grady as Robbie, the eldest Douglas son, and veteran character actor William Frawley, the original grumpy old man, known the world over for his portrayal of landlord Fred Mertz on *I Love Lucy*. Barry remained with the show for the next ten years, until it was canceled by CBS in 1972.

In late 1963, shortly after his ninth birthday (and already a TV veteran) Barry joined the cast of the hugely popular situation comedy *My Three Sons*, already in its third season. Barry played Ernie



He had decided, by this time, to make acting his career, always a risky proposition in even the best of times. Though he did manage to land parts in a few TV series and made-for-TV movies, he found himself typecast as Ernie Douglas and the calls stopped coming. Like many child stars who are big stars one day and has-beens the next, no longer in demand by Hollywood, Barry turned to drugs, yet another casualty in an industry that was littered with the ghosts of child stars who could make the transition to adulthood and steady employment. Except Barry refused to give up. In 1976, he moved to New York City, took acting classes, and appeared in a prestigious production of Thornton Wilder's *The Skin of Our Teeth*.

Returning to Hollywood, he found his career still at a dead-end. Ultimately, however, he would not give up on his chosen profession. As he grew older, his hairline began to recede and as a result he was no longer remembered as the nerdy, baby-faced Ernie Douglas. Now, at the age of 57, he has firmly established himself as a hard-working and always reliable character actor. He has appeared on such TV shows as *Mad Men*, *Two and Half Men*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *Desperate Housewives*, *Monk*, *Big Love*, *Crossing Jordan*, *Will and Grace*, *the West Wing*, and many others. He is a favorite of director David Fincher and had a featured role in the box office smash *The Social Network*. Adam Sandler, also a fan, cast Barry in *Don't Mess With the Zohan*.





Barry was four years old when he was cast as Paul Newman's son in the film, *Rally Round The Flag Boys*. Unfortunately, he was fired after production began because his eyes developed astigmatism, which required him to wear glasses. As fate would have it, his new horn-rimmed spectacles became his trademark and established him as a new type of child actor: a prototype nerd with big glasses, buckteeth and unruly hair.

After a recurring role on *The Adventures of Ozzie & Harriet*, Barry found huge national fame when he was cast as Ernie Douglas for eight years on the classic TV series, *My Three Sons*, which ran for a phenomenal twelve years all together.

After *Sons* was canceled, Barry went to New York to be in the Broadway production of *The Skin Of Our Teeth* directed by Jose Quintero. Other stage roles followed in *Cause Celebre* at the Ahmanson Theatre in Los Angeles, *Bertesgaden* off-Broadway, *The Third Day Comes* directed by John Cassavetes and the musical, *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*.

After establishing himself as a stage actor, Barry continued his work on TV appearing in such classics as *Room 222*, *The Streets of San Francisco* and *Ironside* in the seventies, *Simon & Simon*, *Hart to Hart* and *Doogie Howser, M.D.* in the eighties and *The Nanny*, *Alley McBeal* and *Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman* in the nineties.

Picking up steam in the new millennium, Barry guest starred in *Will & Grace*, *West Wing*, *Crossing Jordan*, *Two and a Half Men*, *NCIS*, *Desperate Housewives*, *Big Love* and the Emmy winning series, *Mad Men*. On the big screen, he was in *Dickie Roberts, First Daughter*, *Zodiac* (directed by the acclaimed director David Fincher) and Adam Sandler's hit, *You Don't Mess With The Zohan*. Most recently, Barry worked for David Fincher, again, in the Academy Award Winning film, *The Social Network*.



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