

# HENRY WINKLER'S COOLEST ROLE IS HELPING KIDS *fly*

THE AWARD-WINNING STAR OF 'HAPPY DAYS' AND 'BARRY' RECEIVES THE ROSENDAHL PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD FOR HIS CHILDREN'S BOOKS

BY ALEX BEN BLOCK



Henry Winkler stands with the statue of the Fonz in Milwaukee.

Winkler has maintained a close relationship with actor and director Ron Howard, whom he starred with on "Happy Days."

**F**ifty years ago, Henry Winkler exploded as the hottest star on American TV by playing the super cool Arthur "Fonzie" Fonzarelli on "Happy Days"—for which he won two Golden Globes.

This past September, he won his first Emmy, for his role on the HBO show "Barry." At age 73, Winkler is enjoying a career renaissance, with critics applauding his performance as the complicated, tortured acting teacher Gene Cousineau.

Starting with his first screen appearances in 1974's *Crazy Joe* and *The Lords of Flatbush*, Winkler has been part of America's cultural consciousness. He appeared in three Adam Sandler films including playing Coach Klein in the ever popular *The Waterboy* and he directed Billy Crystal in *Memories of Me*. He starred opposite Michael Keaton in his first film role in Ron Howard's cult classic *Night Shift*.

Winkler's friendship with Howard goes way beyond the typical showbiz relationship. Winkler is godfather to Howard's children and the director had this to say about this evening's honoree: "You're a friend to the world. A world class friend. I love ya, man."

Yet despite the accolades, and the stints directing, writing and producing (the TV hit "MacGyver" is among his many credits), Winkler considers his greatest achievement—aside from staying married to his

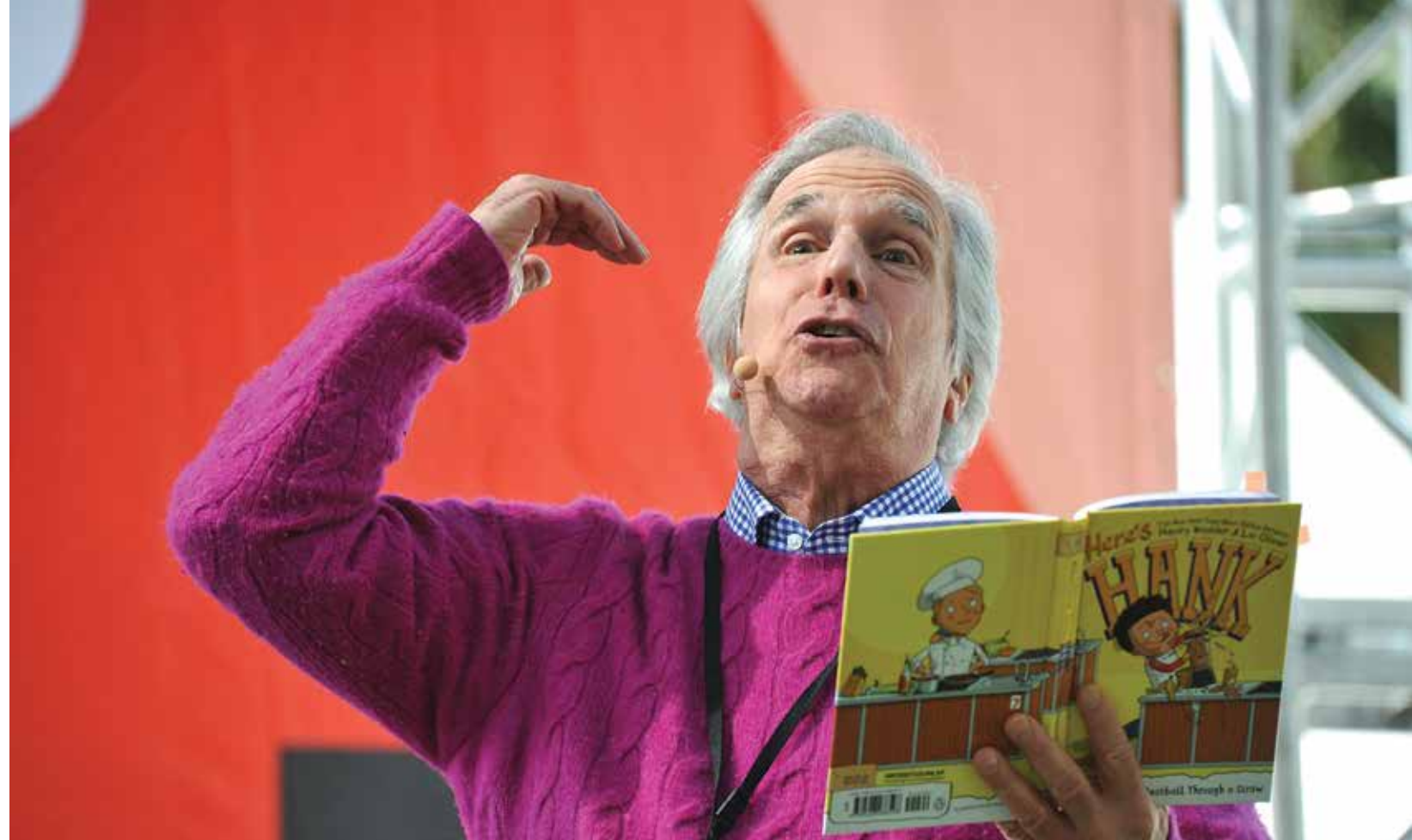


wife Stacey for more than 40 years, having three children and five grandkids—is being the co-author of 34 children's books, with more on the way.

This commitment to books and children has prompted the Los Angeles Press Club to present Winkler tonight with the Bill Rosendahl Public Service Award for Contributions to Civic Life.

What makes the award special to Winkler is that he never imagined he could write any book. Winkler is dyslexic, something he discovered at age 31, during his fourth year on "Happy Days," after his son was diagnosed. All three of his children suffered from learning disabilities, and all are now grown and functional adults.

In his books for elementary age children, Winkler uses comedy to provide what he



Shawn Mill



Top, reading at a book festival in 2016;  
Left, a discussion with his books partner, Lin Oliver;  
Above, An avid fly fisherman in Idaho.

calls, "a direct line to the reluctant reader."

He works with a partner on the books, Lin Oliver, but provides the vision and the voice.

"This is a story I understood," says Winkler. "It was a story I knew and it was easy to get into the 8-year-old who failed all the time. Even now at 70 plus, I was able to access that."

His books carry a positive message to challenged children that there is greatness inside each and every one of them. When children tell him their stories of dealing with learning disabilities, Winkler relates to what they face.

"I'm not a professional," he explains. "But in my way I support the child who learns differently and talk to children who don't have learning challenges and say, 'Your life will be so much better when you see a kid in your class who's got a problem you know you can solve, and you help him.' That kid feels good. You feel good. It's a win-win."

Winkler started traveling the world to sell books by telling his personal story. Instead, it changed his life. He recalls one of his first promo trips, to Lancaster, Penn., when he was accompanied by his wife. Winkler remembers arriving for the night.

**PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD HENRY WINKLER**



Above: Directing "All the Kids Do It," an after school special on drinking and driving that earned Winkler an Emmy.

Right: Getting his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1981, with wife, Stacey.



"We get out of the car and go into the hotel," says Winkler, "and the bellman who was about 20 comes flying out from behind his desk and says, 'Oh, I read every one of your books. They got me through.'"

"That happens more and more to me now," continues Winkler. "I meet these children and young adults who tell me that ours was the first book they ever read."

"Henry doesn't just dabble in do-gooding," says Chris Palmeri, president of the Los Angeles Press Club. "He puts serious and creative time into ways to support people

with disabilities.

"Winkler has gone on reading tours of schools and donated books to the needy, among the many charitable efforts he has made," adds Palmeri.

His Emmy-winning co-star on "Barry," Bill Hader (who also co-created, writes and produces the hit show), plays a conflicted hit man studying acting with Cousineau. Hader says his co-star lives the life he preaches.

"He's just a very selfless person," says Hader, who is presenting the award to Winkler tonight, "He really does live by—and I

CreativeArtistsAgency  
congratulates our client

**HENRY WINKLER**

The Bill Rosendahl Public Service Award Honoree

CAA



Penguin Young Readers  
congratulates

**HENRY  
WINKLER**

on the  
**Public Service  
Award for  
Contributions  
to Civic Life**

*Your work  
for children  
is an inspiration  
to us all.*





Left, above: Bill Hader and Henry Winkler with their Emmy awards for their roles on HBO's show, "Barry."

Left: Winkler has appeared in three movies with Adam Sandler.

Above, left to right: Henry's family — Stepson Jed Weitzman, wife Amanda, younger daughter Lulu; Henry with Jules, son of daughter Zoe, who holds son August, and husband Rob (behind her) with Ace; Henry's wife, Stacey; Weitzmans' daughter Indya; and son Max.

## Bills & Stoll LLP

congratulates  
our dear friend and client

# Henry Winkler

Honoree, The Bill Rosendahl  
Public Service Award  
for Contributions to Civic Life  
and salutes

all of the nominees and honorees at the

Los Angeles Press Club's  
61st Annual Southern California  
Journalism Awards Dinner

BILLS + STOLL

know it sounds corny—but he likes to bring a lot of happiness into the world.

"His kind of preset is compassion and a lot of heart," adds Hader. "He's just very genuine and he kind of radiates it."

Hader believes that comes through in Winkler's performance on "Barry."

"On our show he has to play kind of a bad person, but he can't help but infuse that guy with some sort of compassion and something that makes you feel for him," said Hader. "You can't teach that."

Winkler continues working to overcome his disability. Even on "Barry," his challenges are obvious at times, particularly during the first read through of a script.

"At table reads," says Hader, "he has to take his time. We're reading the script and he has to memorize while the rest of us are just reading, so it's harder for him to cold read stuff."

"He is always apologizing like, 'Hey, I'm really sorry. I know I'm slow. I messed this up or whatever,'" says Hader. "And we're like, 'Henry, you're dyslexic. Don't worry about it. You're fine.' But he puts a ton of work into it."

Along with helping children from all over the globe, Winkler was also able to help his own children with the advice that he has learned to live by, and has shared so many times.

"I said, as long as you try, what grade you bring home doesn't matter," says Winkler. "Here's what I've learned as a parent and from meeting all these wonderful children: Their destiny is already inside them. Our job is to help them fly." 🐣

# 2019 PRESENTERS



**CHÉR CALVIN** is a five-time Emmy Award winner who co-anchors the KTLA 5 News at 6, 10 and 11 p.m. weeknights alongside Micah Ohlman. She joined KTLA in 2005 and is currently Vice President of the Los Angeles Press Club.

With a deep connection to her community in Los Angeles, she serves as Mistress of Ceremonies for the annual YWCA Pasadena Foothill Valley Women for Racial Justice Awards, which creates a venue for women fighting for racial justice to discuss how they work to eliminate racism. Calvin also hosts the annual Miss Philippines USA pageant in Los Angeles, giving young Filipino-American women the confidence and community support they need to advance themselves and give them a voice. An avid traveler, she has visited more than 45 countries. In the last six months her travels have brought her to Japan, Philippines, Cuba and China.



Mexico City native, **ANDREA GONZÁLEZ** is an award-winning news anchor for Univision 34 at 6 and 11 p.m.

González began hosting TV Azteca Noreste's morning news, in Monterrey, Mexico, in 2009. She wrote for "Weekly Info7" and hosted the "Mujeres de Éxito" segment (Women of Success), which earned her two journalism awards. After returning to Mexico City to become a Univision news correspondent, in 2016, González became the news anchor at Noticias Univision 34 in Los Angeles, where she started a special segment, "Latinas de Éxito", featuring interviews with successful Latinas in California. In 2018, her interview with Tamara Mena was nominated for a Southern California Journalism Award.

In July 2018, the 11:00 p.m. edition of Univision Los Angeles won the Emmy Award for Best Nightly News in Southern California.



**BILL HADER** made the switch from being a master impressionist on "Saturday Night Live" to creating, directing, writing, producing and starring as a burned-out assassin trying to break into the LA theater scene in HBO's "Barry."

In 2018's first season, the series received 13 Emmy nominations, including victories for Best Actor and co-star Henry Winkler for Best Supporting Actor. By the recently concluded second season, "Barry" only got darker, funnier and more addictive. "Barry" also received an AFI Award and a Peabody Award as well. Hader is a member of the unofficial "Four Guild Club" (actor, writer, director and producer guilds), receiving nominations or awards in each one.

Hader is co-creator of IFC's "Documentary Now!" named one of the best TV shows of 2015 by the *New York Times*. Hader spent eight seasons on "Saturday Night Live" for which he received four Emmy Award nominations.

Starring in such films as *Trainwreck*, *Superbad*, *Pineapple Express* and *Tropic Thunder*, he segued to a dramatic role in 2014's critically-acclaimed *The Skeleton Twins* opposite his former SNL castmate, Kristen Wiig. He will next be seen in *It Chapter Two*, the sequel to the 2017 hit *It*, which will be released in September.



**PAT HARVEY** is the co-anchor of CBS 2's weekday 5 and 11 p.m. newscasts. She joined CBS 2 following 20 years with sister station KCAL 9 as one of the original anchors of the nation's first nightly three-hour primetime newscast. Harvey, who received the Joseph M. Quinn Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Press Club in 2004, regularly reports on issues of concern to Southern California and the world.

Her reporting has ranged from filing live reports at the inauguration of President Barack Obama to following the story of a homeless painter from the streets of Los Angeles to a gallery in Paris. Harvey is a 22-time Emmy winner, the most recent for Outstanding Feature Reporter. Other awards include being named Best News Anchor by the Associated Press and seven Golden Mikes.



**EARVIN "MAGIC" JOHNSON** has successfully parlayed his skills and tenacity from the basketball court into the business world as Chairman and CEO of Magic Johnson Enterprises (MJE). MJE provides high-quality products and services that focuses on ethnically diverse and underserved urban communities.

In 2012, Johnson made history by becoming co-owner of the Los Angeles Dodgers. He also co-owns the Los Angeles Sparks of the Women's National Basketball Association, Major League Soccer's Los Angeles Football Club, and eSports franchise Team Liquid. His many businesses include: EquiTrust Life Insurance Company, ASPiRE, an African-American television network and SodexoMAGIC, a food service and facilities management company.

The Lansing, Michigan, native remains relevant in a dynamic digital age: Johnson is investing in infrastructure improvement in the U.S. and is one of the leading investors in a number of minority-owned technology companies. Uncharted Power uses their renewable kinetic energy solutions to generate clean, consistent, and cost-efficient power for communities, facilities, and the Internet of Things; ShotTracker makes wearable technology for basketball players that helps track player and ball movement; Jopwell is a diversity and hiring recruiting platform; Walker & Company Brands develops health and beauty products for people of color; and the Latino-fueled media brand and digital network, MiTú, connects Latin content creators with viewers around the world.

**ROBERT KOVACIK** is the past three-term President of the Los Angeles Press Club. He is an Anchor/Reporter for NBC4