HENRY WINKLER’S COOLEST ROLE IS HELPING KIDS

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

BY ALEX BEN BLOCK

Fifty 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.”

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

What makes the award special to Winkler is that he never imagined he could write any books by telling his personal story.

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.

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.”

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. Love ya, man.”

Yet despite the accolades, and the stints on television and the big screen, 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. Love ya, man.”

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

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.”

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


“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 congratulate our client HENRY WINKLER The Bill Rosendahl Public Service Award Honoree

Creative Artists Agency congratulates our client

HENRY WINKLER

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.
Bill Hader had the switch from being a master impressionist on "Saturday Night Live" to creating, directing, writing, producing and starring as a burned-out assassi-nin trying to break into the LA theater scene in HBO’s “Barry.”

In 2018’s first season, the series received 13 Emmy nominations, including victory 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 category.

Hader is co-creator of HBO’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 Trainspotting, 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 prime time 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 focus 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, ASPiR, 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 tech-nology for basketball players that helps track player and ball movement; Jopwell is a diversity and hiring recruiting plat-form; Walker & Company Brands develops health and beauty products for people of color; and the Latino-fueled media brand and digital network, MiFu, connects Latin content cre-ators 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