



Andy Griffith by: E.D.

Growing Up...

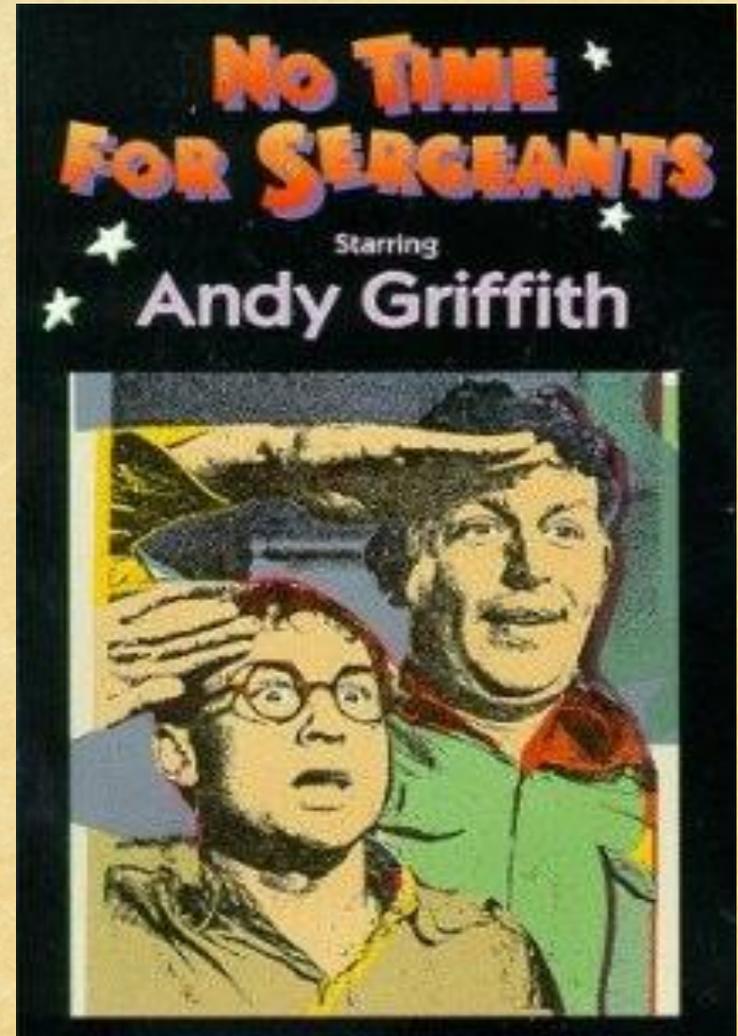


Andy Griffith was born June 1st 1926 in Mount Airy, North Carolina. When Andy was little he stayed with different relatives until his parents could afford to buy a house. When Andy was 3 his father purchased a house for \$500 dollars, which his father thought was expensive in those days. Growing up Andy's father worked as a carpenter and his mother ran a hot dog stand which quickly became Andy's favorite food. While in high school Andy participated in the drama program. Andy was raised Baptist but his role model was the pastor of a Moravian church who taught him to sing and play the trombone.

After graduating Andy played different roles in *The Lost Colony* by Paul Green for many years. Andy attended UNC Chapel Hill and graduated with a bachelor's degree in music in 1949. Andy had been studying to be a Moravian preacher but then switched his major. After college graduation he taught music and drama at Goldsboro High School.

After teaching music and drama Andy began working as a monologist and gained fame for his monologue *What it was, was Football*. Afterwards Andy starred in the teleplay *No Time For Sergeants*, then went on to perform it on Broadway, and then reprised his role in the film version. Andy had more roles thereafter but his next popular movie was *A Face in the Crowd*. In 1960 Andy had a role as a county sheriff in a episode of *Make Room for Daddy* which is considered the backdoor pilot for the Andy Griffith Show.

Career Kickoff!



BLOODHOUND OF THE LAW

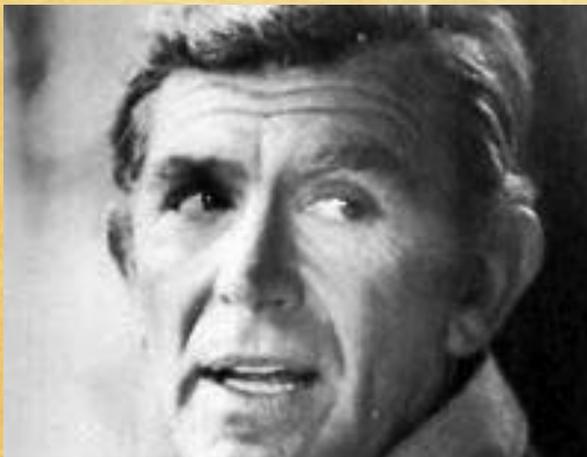


The Andy Griffith Show!

The Andy Griffith Show was one of Andy's most popular shows he was know for. It also starred Don Knotts whom Andy had previously worked with in *No Time For Segreants*. The two developed a close friendship and remained that way even after Don had left the show. After the conclusion of the Andy Griffith Show there were 3 reunions (which most of the cast, including Don Knotts appeared). It was based on the fictional town of Mayberry and it's inhabitants (which were loosely based on the people in Mount Airy).

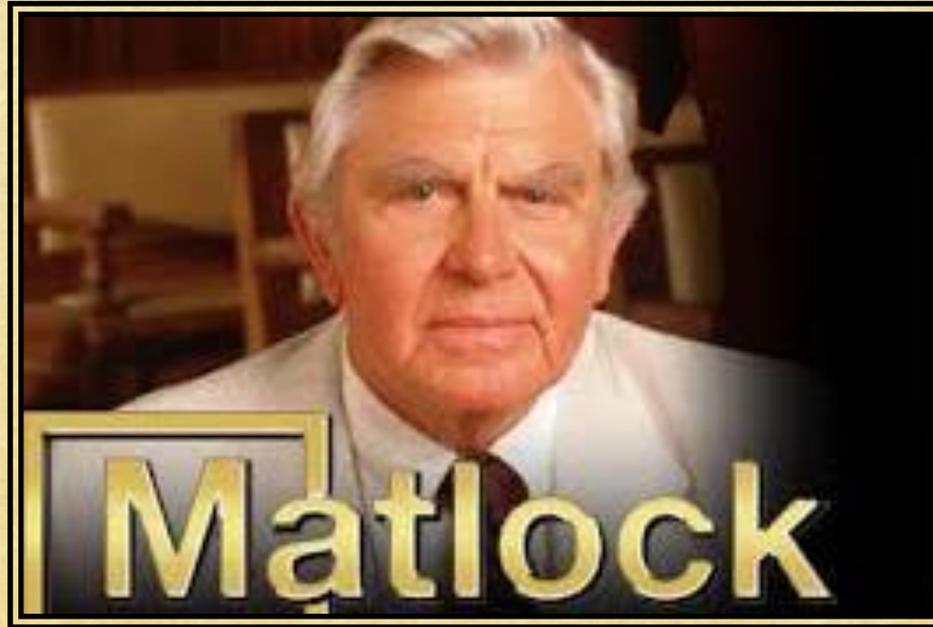
Post TAGS

After *The Andy Griffith Show* Andy created his own production company called **Andy Griffith Enterprises** in 1972. Andy also starred in other TV shows that weren't as popular such as *Headmaster* (1970), *The New Andy Griffith Show* (1971),



Adams of Eagle Lake (1975), *Salvage 1* (1979), and *The Yeagers* (1980).

In 1983 Andy Griffith was diagnosed with Guillian-Barré syndrome which paralyzed him from the knees down for 7 months.



Matlock

After spending time in rehab working on his leg paralysis Andy returned to TV starring as Ben Matlock, a country lawyer in Atlanta, GA solving cases (and always winning). Don Knotts had a reoccurring role on Matlock as well. Andy won a People's Choice Award for his role as Matlock in 1987.

Later Life



After *Matlock* ended Andy made television appearances but never had any other TV series where he was the main character. Andy also starred in movies . In November 2005 Andy was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President George W. Bush. Andy's last film role was playing Grandpa Joe in *Play the Game*(2008).

Death:



On July 3rd, 2012 at 7 a.m. Andy Griffith died of a heart attack at his home on Roanoke Island, North Carolina, he was 86 years old. Andy left behind his 3rd wife, Cindi and his daughter, Dixie.

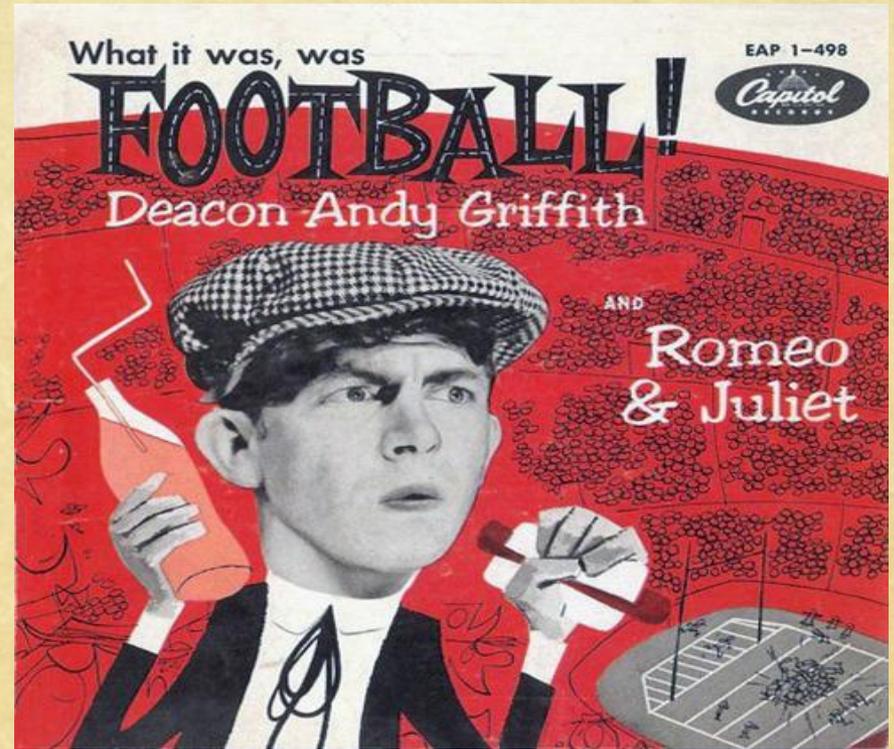
Why Andy Griffith Was a Great American

In my opinion Andy Griffith was a great American because he showed people that with perseverance you can accomplish many things. If you were to ask anybody something they learned or liked about Andy Griffith or his show they would probably say: Andy's personality or the life lessons he taught. That alone is a good reason why he was a great American.





Andy with the famous Andy and Opie statue out front of the Andy Griffith Playhouse.



Andy's famous monologue





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Thank you!