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## News: Carol Burnett to receive SAG honor

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Monday, July 20, 2015



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### Carol Burnett to be Honored with 2015 SAG Life Achievement Award

52nd Annual Accolade to be Presented during the 22nd Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards®,  
Simulcast Live on TNT and TBS on Saturday, Jan. 30, 2016

**Carol Burnett** – comedic trailblazer, actor, singer, dancer, producer and author – has been named the 52nd recipient of SAG-AFTRA's highest tribute: the **SAG Life Achievement Award** for career achievement and humanitarian accomplishment. Burnett will be presented the performers union's top accolade at the [22nd Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards®](#), which will be simulcast live on **TNT** and **TBS** on Saturday, Jan. 30, 2016 at **8 p.m. (ET), 7 p.m. (CT), 6 p.m. (MT) and 5 p.m. (PT)**. Given annually to an actor who fosters the "finest ideals of the acting profession," the SAG Life Achievement Award will join Burnett's exceptional catalog of preeminent industry and public honors, which includes multiple Emmys®, a special Tony®, the Presidential Medal of Freedom and both a Kennedy Center Honor and its Mark Twain Prize for Humor.



In making today's announcement, SAG-AFTRA President Ken Howard said, "Carol Burnett is a creative dynamo and a comedic genius. She embodies the generosity and courage that the greatest actors use in creating enduring and memorable characters. From her heartbreakingly hilarious Starlet O'Hara to the adorably inept Eunice and alarmingly funny Miss Hannigan, Carol has delighted and inspired millions of viewers and thousands of comedic actors. She took risks as a performer and through her courage, encouraged fellow actors to try new things and always, always reach for the sky. Her innate love of actors led to the creation of an ensemble cast that made *The Carol Burnett Show* a masterpiece

of variety programming."

The public and her peers treasure Carol Burnett for her comedic and dramatic roles on television, film, and Broadway, most notably *The Carol Burnett Show*. Named in 2007 by TIME magazine as one of "100 Best Television Shows of All Time," and by *Variety* in 2011 as one of "The 25 Shows That Changed Television," *The Carol Burnett Show* ran for 11 years, averaged 30 million viewers per week, and received 25 Emmy Awards, making it one of the most honored shows in television history.

An inductee into the Television Hall of Fame and the California Museum's Hall of Fame, Burnett's many accolades also include a Peabody Award, the Television Critics Association's Career Achievement Award, five Golden Globe Awards, five American Comedy Awards, 12 People's Choice Awards, an Ace Award, an Horatio Alger Award, both Crystal and Lucy Awards from Women in Film, the TV Land Legend Award, the Jimmy Stewart Museum's Harvey Award and a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. In 2013, the City of Los Angeles named the intersection of Highland Ave. and Selma directly adjacent to Hollywood High School, Burnett's alma mater, Carol Burnett Square.

Born in San Antonio, Texas, in 1933, Burnett, her mother, and grandmother moved to a less-than-glamorous section of Hollywood in the late 1930s. Raised in a small studio apartment by her grandmother, but with no financial means, Burnett could only dream of college. After receiving an anonymous donation of \$50 to pay for her tuition to UCLA, she enrolled. While studying journalism, she took an acting class, and the rest is history.

After moving to New York City, Burnett staged a musical revue, featuring her out-of-work roommates from The Rehearsal Club, a theatrical boarding house, performing material by unemployed writers and composers. Soon, offers for summer stock and 13 weeks' work on Paul Winchell's television show followed. While performing at the Blue Angel nightclub, she was spotted by talent bookers from both *The Jack Paar Show* and *The Ed Sullivan Show* and was invited to perform her infamous rendition of "I Made a Fool of Myself Over John Foster Dulles," written by Ken Welch. Shortly thereafter, she landed the leading role of Princess Winifred in the original Broadway musical production of *Once Upon a Mattress*, which earned her a Tony® nomination. In 1959, after guest spots on Garry Moore's morning television show she became a permanent cast member on *The Garry Moore Show*, taping the show during the day and performing *Mattress* at night for the remainder of its Broadway run. She remained a regular on *Garry Moore* for the next four years.

During this period, Burnett met Julie Andrews and the two became close friends. After the duo appeared in their Emmy-winning special *Julie and Carol at Carnegie Hall*, CBS took notice of this emerging new talent and signed her to a ten-year contract. On September 11, 1967, *The Carol Burnett Show* premiered on CBS. With a talented ensemble featuring Harvey Korman, Tim Conway, Vicki Lawrence, and Lyle Waggoner, costumes by Bob Mackie and musical sketches by Buz Kohan, Bill Angelos, Artie Malvin, and Ken and Mitzie Welch, the show became a hit. Guest stars included many of the greatest performers from music, stage and screen including Lucille Ball, Lana Turner, Rita Hayworth, Jimmy Stewart, Gloria Swanson, Ronald Reagan, Betty White, Cher, Jim Nabors, Ella Fitzgerald, Ray Charles, Liza Minnelli, The Carpenters, Rock Hudson, Dick Van Dyke, Alan Alda, and many, many more. Her portrayal of "Starlet" O'Hara in "Went With The Wind," a parody of *Gone With The Wind*, is always counted among the top 10 greatest moments in television history. The Bob Mackie designed "curtain-rod" dress, as it is known, now resides at The Smithsonian. In 2012 Time Life released *The Carol Burnett Show* on DVD and set a record, selling more than 4 million DVDs in six months.

After the show concluded in 1978, Burnett immersed herself in numerous projects. She wrote three *New York Times* bestsellers: *Carrie and Me: A Mother-Daughter Love Story* and *This Time Together: Laughter and Reflection*, which both received Grammy® nominations for best spoken word, and her autobiography, *One More Time*. She added playwright to her credits when she and her daughter, Carrie Hamilton, wrote *Hollywood Arms*. Sadly, Carrie passed away four months prior to the play's premiere at

the Chicago Goodman Theatre in April 2002. Directed by Hal Prince, *Hollywood Arms* premiered on Broadway on October 31, 2002. An anniversary concert reading of *Hollywood Arms* will be performed on September 21, 2015 at the Kaufman Music Center in New York (under the auspices of the Sundance Institute Theatre Program) directed by Mark Brokaw and starring Tyne Daly, Emily Skeggs, Sydney Lucas and Michele Pawk.

Burnett's film credits include playing Miss Hannigan in the film version of the musical, *Annie*, directed by John Huston; *Noises Off*, directed by Peter Bogdanovich; *A Wedding*, directed by Robert Altman; and *Four Seasons*, directed by Alan Alda. On Broadway she recently starred in A.R. Gurney's *Love Letters* (2014), opposite Brian Dennehy, *Fade Out, Fade In*, with book and lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green with music by Jule Styne; Stephen Sondheim's musical review *Putting It Together*; and Ken Ludwig's farce *Moon Over Buffalo*, starring with Philip Bosco. She produced and starred in numerous television specials and guest starred on several television series, including *Glee*, *Hot in Cleveland*, *Hawaii 5-0* and *Law and Order: SVU*. She also starred in the television series *Fresno* and *Carol & Co.*, as well as the highly acclaimed made-for-television movies *Friendly Fire*, *Life of the Party: The Story of Beatrice*. In 2005 she returned to her *Once Upon a Mattress* roots, appearing in a television special, this time playing the evil Queen Aggravain.

Currently, Burnett is focused on three major projects. The first is the long awaited release of the initial five seasons of *The Carol Burnett Show*. These "lost episodes" have never been seen nor distributed since their initial broadcast and will be for the first time combined with the already available episodes from Seasons 6 - 11. Rollout commences August 2015. On the filmed entertainment front, Burnett is in active development with CBS Films on a theatrical project originated by her late daughter, Carrie, entitled *Sunrise in Memphis*. In the publishing arena, Burnett is in the midst of writing her fourth book entitled *In the Sandbox*, which is a poignant love letter to the golden era of television while simultaneously dissecting the elements of what made *The Carol Burnett Show* the iconic success that it was. This publication is scheduled for release in November 2016.

When not performing or occasionally presenting her Q & A format "Laughter & Reflection," she enjoys spending time with her husband Brian, her two daughters Erin and Jody, her grandsons, and her cat, Nikki. As a passionate supporter of the arts and education, she established several scholarships around the country, including the Carol Burnett Musical Theatre Competition at her alma mater, UCLA, and the Carrie Hamilton Foundation, to honor her daughter's memory. She is a Lifetime Director of the Hereditary Disease Foundation Among the other arts, health and youth charities to which she lends her support are the Sundance Institute, Young Playwrights Inc., the Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation, Girls Inc. of Greater Santa Barbara and the Hereditary Disease Foundation for which she has been named a Lifetime Director.

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### **About the 22nd Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards®**

Lauded by critics for its style, simplicity and genuine warmth, the [Screen Actors Guild Awards®](#) (SAG Awards®) annually celebrates the outstanding performances in motion pictures, television, cable and new media programs from the previous calendar year. Of the top industry honors presented to actors, only the SAG Awards are selected entirely by performers' peers in SAG-AFTRA. The SAG Awards was the first televised awards show to acknowledge the work of union members and the first to present awards to the cast of a motion picture and to television drama and comedy ensembles, reflecting the fundamental principle that acting is a collaborative art.

The **22nd Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards** presented by SAG-AFTRA with Screen Actors Guild Awards, LLC will be produced by Avalon Harbor Entertainment, Inc. and will be **simulcast** on **Saturday, Jan. 30, 2016 at 8 p.m. (ET) / 5 p.m. (PT)** on **TNT and TBS**. **Kathy Connell** is the

executive producer. **JoBeth Williams, Daryl Anderson, Shelley Fabares, Jason George** and **Woody Schultz** are producers for SAG-AFTRA. **Gloria Fujita O'Brien** and **Benn Fleishman** are producers. **Mick McCullough** is consulting producer. **Rosalind Jarrett Sepulveda** is executive in charge of publicity. **Jon Brockett** is supervising producer. **Cynthia Kistler** is coordinating producer. **Maggie Barrett Caulfield** is talent producer. 22nd Annual Screen Actors Guild Award **Nominations** will be **announced** on **Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2015**.

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### About SAG-AFTRA

**SAG-AFTRA** represents more than 160,000 actors, announcers, broadcaster journalists, dancers, DJs, news writers, news editors, program hosts, puppeteers, recording artists, singers, stunt performers, voiceover artists and other professionals. SAG-AFTRA members are the faces and voices that entertain and inform America and the world. With national offices in Los Angeles and New York and local offices nationwide, SAG-AFTRA members work together to secure the strongest protections for media artists into the 21st century and beyond

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### About TNT & TBS

**TNT** is television's destination for drama. Seen in 95 million households and ranking among cable's top networks, TNT is home to such original drama series as [Rizzoli & Isles](#), [Major Crimes](#), [Falling Skies](#), [The Last Ship](#), [Murder in the First](#), [Legends](#), [The Librarians](#), [Proof](#) and the upcoming [Public Morals](#), [Agent X](#) and [The Alienist](#). TNT also features the unscripted investigation series [Cold Justice](#) and the upcoming [Cold Justice: Sex Crimes](#). In addition, TNT is the cable home to popular dramas like [Castle](#), [Bones](#), [Supernatural](#) and [Grimm](#); primetime specials, such as the [Screen Actors Guild Awards®](#), the [Live Nation Music Awards](#) and the [iHeartRadio Music Awards](#); and championship sports coverage, including the NBA and the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship.

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**Watch TNT app available for iOS and Android devices.**

**TBS** is basic cable's #1 entertainment network among young adults in primetime. Available in 96 million households, TBS features such original comedies as [American Dad!](#), [Your Family or Mine](#), [Clipped](#) and the upcoming [Angie Tribeca](#), [The Detour](#) and [Wrecked](#), along with unscripted originals like [Meet the Smiths](#) and the upcoming [Funny Or Die Presents America's Next Weatherman](#) and [Separation Anxiety](#). In late night TBS is home to the Emmy®-winning series [CONAN](#), starring Conan O'Brien. The TBS lineup also includes the popular contemporary comedies [The Big Bang Theory](#) and [Family Guy](#); blockbuster movies; and championship sports coverage of Major League Baseball's regular and post-season play and the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship.

**Website:** <http://www.tbs.com>

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TNT and TBS are part of [Turner Broadcasting System, Inc.](#), a [Time Warner](#) company. Turner Broadcasting creates and programs branded news; entertainment; kids and young adult; and sports media environments on television and other platforms for consumers around the world.

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## Media Info

Photos are available at <http://www.sagawards.org/media-pr/photos-and-artwork> or email SAG Awards Digital Publicity Coordinator Gina Steward at [awardsphotos@sagawards.org](mailto:awardsphotos@sagawards.org).

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Media credential applications for the 22nd Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards® nominations and ceremonies will be available online Oct. 1 through Oct. 30 at [www.sagawards.org](http://www.sagawards.org).

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## Publicity Contacts

### **Pamela Greenwalt, SAG-AFTRA Communications**

(323) 549-6872

[pamela.greenwalt@sagaftra.org](mailto:pamela.greenwalt@sagaftra.org)

### **Rosalind Jarrett Sepulveda, SAG Awards® Publicity**

(323) 549-6612

[rjarrett@sagawards.org](mailto:rjarrett@sagawards.org)

