



MAKING MAGIC: 100 YEARS OF DISNEY

Freaky Friday

Mickey's Rival

Directors: Wilfred Jackson, Graham Heid
USA 1936
8 mins

Freaky Friday

Director: Gary Nelson
Production Company: Walt Disney Productions
Producer: Ron Miller
Associate Producer: Tom Leetch
Production Manager: Tom McCrory
Assistant Director: Ronald R. Grow, Cheryl Downey
Screenplay: Mary Rodgers
Based on the novel by: Mary Rodgers
Director of Photography: Charles F. Wheeler
Special Effects: Eustace Lycett, Art Cruickshank, Danny Lee
Editor: Cotton Warburton
Art Directors: John B. Mansbridge, Jack Senter
Set Decorator: Robert R. Benton
Costumes: Chuck Keehne, Emily Sundby
Title Design: John Jensen, Art Stevens
Music: Johnny Mandel
Sound Supervisor: Herb Taylor
Sound Recording: Ron Ronconi
Sound Editor: Raymond Craddock
Technical Adviser: Larry Meddock
Cast:
Barbara Harris (*Mrs Andrews*)
Jodie Foster (*Annabel Andrews*)
John Astin (*Mr Andrews*)
Patsy Kelly (*Mrs Schmauss*)
Dick Van Patten (*Harold Jennings*)
Vicki Schreck (*Virginia*)
Sorrell Boone (*Mr Dilk*)
Alan Oppenheimer (*Mr Joffert*)
Ruth Buzzi (*opposing coach*)
Kaye Ballard (*Coach Betsy*)
Marc McClure (*Boris Harris*)
Marie Windsor (*Mrs Murphy*)
Sparky Marcus (*Ben Andrews*)
Ceil Cabot (*Miss McGuirk*)
Brooke Mills (*Mrs Gibbons*)
Karen Smith (*Mary Kay Gilbert*)
Marvin Kaplan (*carpet cleaner*)
Al Molinaro (*drapery man*)
Iris Adrian (*bus passenger*)
Barbara Walden (*Mrs Benson*)
Shelly Juttner (*Hilary Miller*)
Charlene Tilton (*Bambi*)
Lori Rutherford (*Jo-Jo*)
Jack Sheldon (*Lloyd*)
Laurie Main (*Mr Mills*)
Don Carter (*delivery boy*)
Fuddle Bagley (*bus driver*)
Fritz Feld (*Mr Jackman*)
Dermott Downs (*Harvey manager*)
James Van Patten (*cashier*)
USA 1976
98 mins

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Wouldn't it be nice if someone could switch places with you and know exactly how you feel? In Disney's 1976 film *Freaky Friday*, that's exactly what happens: a power-struggling mother and daughter magically switch places when they both wish the other to walk in her shoes for a day. Teenage troublemaker Annabel suddenly has to deal with the challenges of running a household while mother Ellen is back in junior high! Mary Rodgers – daughter of composer Richard – wrote the novel and the screenplay for the film, which showcased the inspired casting of a then 14 year-old Jodie Foster and theatre star Barbara Harris, who both received Golden Globe nominations for their performances.

Foster, who started her acting career at age two in a suntan lotion commercial, was already a professional child actress in feature films by *Freaky Friday*. A self-proclaimed Disney kid, she starred in family-friendly fare such as *Napoleon and Samantha* (1972) and *One Little Indian* (1973), but had also built an impressive repertoire with decidedly more mature performances in films like *Taxi Driver* (1976) and *Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore* (1974). During an interview around the opening of *Freaky Friday*, Foster commented, 'I think it's important for my career that I make all different kinds of films. I'm proud that I made *Freaky Friday*. I shouldn't make one kind of picture like so many child stars of the past did. And I thought the idea of *Freaky Friday* was terrific. A lot of my friends think it's my best picture. I really like working for Disney.' It was her loyalty to her Disney contract that prevented Foster from accepting another role, that of Princess Leia in *Star Wars* (1977). As the story goes, George Lucas decided to make Leia older once it was confirmed that Foster would not be cast. Jodie ended up making *Candleshoe* (1977) instead, with co-stars Helen Hayes and David Niven.

Barbara Harris is better known for her theatre work; a pivotal founding member of The Second City improvisational troupe, she went on to Broadway and earned two successive Tony nominations, winning one for her role in *The Apple Tree* in 1967. Some of her notable film performances include working with Jason Robards in *A Thousand Clowns* (1965), an Oscar®-nominated Best Supporting performance in *Who Is Harry Kellerman and Why Is He Saying Those Terrible Things About Me?* (1971) with Dustin Hoffman, and Robert Altman's *Nashville* (1975). In the 80s, she delivered memorable supporting roles in *Peggy Sue Got Married* (1986) and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (1988).

The waterskiing subplot was an addition to the screenplay by Rodgers, presumably at the behest of Walt Disney who loved the inclusion of playful stunts like this. Foster and Harris, however, did no actual waterskiing: close-up shots were achieved filming the actresses against a green screen, and professional skiers were used for long shots.

Freaky Friday has been remade twice: as a TV movie starring Shelley Long and Gaby Hoffman in 1995, and with Jamie Lee Curtis and Lindsay Lohan in 2003. Foster was reportedly contacted for the Curtis role in the remake, but declined.

Classic television fans will recognise a lot of the *Freaky Friday* cast, including John Astin from *The Addams Family* (1964-66) and Dick Van Patten of *Eight Is Enough* (1977-81). But wait! There's more! Why it's none other than 'Boss Hogg' from *The Dukes of Hazzard* (1979-85). Sorrell Boone pops up, too, as does Ruth Buzzi from many years of *Laugh-in* (1968-73)

and even Charlene Tilton of the legendary soap *Dallas* (1978-91).

Eleanor Quin, Turner Classic Movies