

Ann B. Davis

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Ann Bradford Davis (May 3, 1926 – June 1, 2014) was an American actress.^{[1][2]} She achieved prominence for her role in the NBC situation comedy *The Bob Cummings Show* (1955–1959), for which she twice won the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series, but she was best known for playing the part of Alice Nelson, the housekeeper in ABC's *The Brady Bunch* (1969–1974).

Early life

Davis was born in Schenectady, New York, the daughter of Marguerite (née Stott) and Cassius Miles Davis.^[1] She had an identical twin, Harriet, and an older brother, Evans.^{[3][4]} When she was three, she and her family moved to Erie in northwestern Pennsylvania.^[2] She graduated from Strong Vincent High School and later from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.^[5] She originally enrolled as a pre-medical major; however, she changed her mind and went into drama after seeing her older brother's performance of *Oklahoma!*^[2] Davis graduated in 1948 with a degree in drama and speech.^[2]

Career

In the 1953–1954 season, Davis appeared as a musical judge on ABC's *Jukebox Jury*.^[6]

Davis's first television success was as Charmaine "Schultzy" Schultz in *The Bob Cummings Show*, 1955-1959.^[7] She auditioned for the role, because her friend's boyfriend was a casting director and recommended her for the part.^[2] She won the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series twice out

Ann B. Davis



Ann B. Davis, c. 1973

Born	Ann Bradford Davis May 3, 1926 <u>Schenectady, New York, U.S.</u>
Died	June 1, 2014 (aged 88) <u>San Antonio, Texas, U.S.</u>
Alma mater	<u>University of Michigan</u>
Occupation	Actress
Years active	1953–1997
Known for	<i>The Bob Cummings Show</i> <i>The Brady Bunch</i>

of four nominations for this role.^[7]

She appeared on January 23, 1958, as a guest star on *The Ford Show, Starring Tennessee Ernie Ford*. On February 9, 1960, Davis received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.^[8]

In the 1965–1966 television season, Davis appeared as Miss Wilson, a physical education teacher at a private girls' academy in John Forsythe's single-season NBC sitcom, *The John Forsythe Show*.^[9]

For a period in the 1960s and 1970s, Davis was known for her appearances in television commercials for the Ford Motor Company, particularly for the mid-sized Ford Fairlane models. Davis was also featured in commercials for Minute Rice in Canada until the mid-1980s.

From 1969 to 1974, Davis played housekeeper Alice Nelson in *The Brady Bunch* television series. She later returned to take part in various *Brady Bunch* television movies, including *The Brady Girls Get Married* (1981) and *A Very Brady Christmas* (1988). She also reprised her role as Alice Nelson in two short-lived *Brady Bunch* spin-off television series: *The Brady Brides* (1981) and *The Bradys* (1990), both of which lasted only six episodes. She also made a cameo appearance as a truck driver named "Schultz", a reference to her days on *The Bob Cummings Show*, in *The Brady Bunch Movie* in 1995. In 1994, Davis published a cookbook, *Alice's Brady Bunch Cookbook*, with *Brady Bunch* inspired recipes.^[10] The book also includes recipes from cast members.^[11]

In the early 1990s, Davis focused on theater. She performed in a production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and a world tour production of *Crazy for You*.^[12]

Davis never completely retired from acting; in her later years she was the celebrity spokeswoman in several Shake 'n Bake commercials, and later appeared in several disposable mop commercials for Swiffer.^{[3][13]} She also appeared in a number of *Brady Bunch* reunion projects, most recently TV Land's *The Brady Bunch 35th Anniversary Reunion Special: Still Brady After All These Years*. On April 22, 2007, *The Brady Bunch* was awarded the TV Land Pop Culture Award on the 5th annual TV Land Awards. Davis and other cast members accepted the award, and she received a standing ovation.

Personal life

In 1976, Davis sold her home in Los Angeles to move to Denver, Colorado, where she joined an Episcopal community led by Bishop William C. Frey.^[14] The community later relocated to Ambridge in Beaver County in far western Pennsylvania after Frey became dean of the seminary Trinity School for Ministry.^[2] Davis had long



Davis with Bob Cummings on *The Bob Cummings Show*, 1958



Davis' most famous role was as housekeeper Alice Nelson on the classic 70s sitcom *The Brady Bunch*.

been a volunteer for the Episcopal Church, working at the General Convention,^[15] attending services at churches around the country.^[14]

Davis never married nor was she publicly known to have been romantically linked to anyone.^[16]

Death

Davis died at the age of 88 on June 1, 2014, at a hospital in San Antonio, Texas. Earlier in the day, she had sustained a subdural hematoma from a fall in her bathroom in her San Antonio residence, in which she lived with Bishop Frey and his wife, Barbara.^{[17][18][19]} Sources close to her say she was in excellent health for a woman her age, and her death was a complete shock.^[20] She is interred in the Saint Helena's Columbarium and Memorial Gardens in Boerne, Texas.



Davis in November 2007

Works

Film

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1955	<i><u>A Man Called Peter</u></i> ^[21]	Ruby Coleman	Uncredited
1956	<i><u>The Best Things in Life Are Free</u></i>	Hattie Stewart	Uncredited
1960	<i><u>Pepe</u></i> ^[21]	Ann B. "Schultzy" Davis	
1961	<i><u>All Hands on Deck</u></i> ^[21]	Nobby	
1961	<i><u>Lover Come Back</u></i>	Millie	
1994	<i><u>Naked Gun 33⅓: The Final Insult</u></i>	Alice Nelson	Credited as playing herself
1995	<i><u>The Brady Bunch Movie</u></i>	Trucker (Shultz)	

Television

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1953–1953	<i><u>Jukebox Jury</u></i>	Herself/Judge	Musical series
1956	<i><u>Matinee Theater</u></i>	Peg Miller	Episode: "Belong to Me"
1956	<i><u>Lux Video Theatre</u></i>	Miss Killicat	Episode: "The Wayward Saint"
1955–1959	<i><u>The Bob Cummings Show</u></i>	Charmaine "Schultzy" Schultz	153 episodes
1960	<i><u>Wagon Train</u></i> ^[22]	Mrs. Foster	Episode: "The Countess Baranof Story"

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1962	<i><u>The New Breed</u></i>	Elizabeth MacBaine	Episode: "Wherefore Art Thou, Romeo?"
1962	<i><u>Here's Hollywood</u></i>	Herself	Celebrity interview program
1963	<i><u>McKeever and the Colonel</u></i>	Sgt. Gruber	Episode: "Too Many Sergeants"
1963	<i><u>The Keefe Brasselle Show</u></i> ^[23]	Herself	3 appearances on summer replacement series for <i><u>The Garry Moore Show</u></i>
1964	<i><u>Bob Hope Presents the Chrysler Theatre</u></i>	Matha	Episode: "Wake Up, Darling"
1965–1966	<i><u>The John Forsythe Show</u></i>	Miss Wilson	29 episodes
1966	<i><u>The Pruitts of Southampton</u></i>	Mrs. Derwin	Episode: "Phyllis Takes a Letter"
1968	<i><u>Insight</u></i>	Pat	Episode: "The Late Great God"
1970/1973	<i><u>Love, American Style</u></i> ^[22]		2 episodes
1971	<i><u>Big Fish, Little Fish</u></i>	Hilda Rose	Movie
1973	<i><u>The World of Sid & Marty Krofft at the Hollywood Bowl</u></i>	Audience member	Uncredited
1969–1974	<i><u>The Brady Bunch</u></i>	Alice Nelson / Cousin Emma	117 episodes
1974	<i><u>Only with Married Men</u></i>	Mola	Movie; uncredited
1976–1977	<i><u>The Brady Bunch Hour</u></i>	Alice Nelson	9 episodes
1980	<i><u>The Love Boat</u></i> ^[22]	Agnes	Episode: "Invisible Maniac/September Song/Peekaboo"
1981	<i><u>The Brady Girls Get Married</u></i>	Alice Nelson	Movie
1981	<i><u>The Brady Brides</u></i>		6 episodes
1988	<i><u>A Very Brady Christmas</u></i>		Movie
1989	<i><u>Day by Day</u></i> ^[22]		Episode: "A Very Brady Episode"
1990	<i><u>The Bradys</u></i>		4 episodes
1991	<i><u>Hi Honey, I'm Home</u></i> ^[22]		Episode: "SRP"
1997	<i><u>Something So Right</u></i> ^[24]	Maxine	Episode: "Something About Inter-Ex-Spousal Relations"
2004	<i><u>The Brady Bunch 35th Anniversary Reunion Special</u></i>	Herself	TV special

Stage

Year	Title	Role	Venue	Notes
1972–1973	<i><u>No, No, Nanette</u></i>			
1992–1996	<i><u>Crazy for You</u></i>	Mother		
1996	<i><u>Arsenic and Old Lace</u></i>	Abby Brewster		

Awards and nominations

Davis received four Primetime Emmy Award nominations, resulting in two awards, for her portrayal of Charmaine "Schultzy" Schultz on *The Bob Cummings Show*.

Television Season	Award	Category	Television Program	Result	Notes
<u>1955–1956</u>	Emmy Award	<u>Best Actress in a Supporting Role</u>	<i>The Bob Cummings Show</i> (Episode: "Schultzy's Dream World")	Nominated	Lost to Nanette Fabray (<i>Caesar's Hour</i>)
<u>1956–1957</u>	Emmy Award	<u>Best Supporting Performance by an Actress</u>	<i>The Bob Cummings Show</i>	Nominated	Lost to Pat Carroll (<i>Caesar's Hour</i>)
<u>1957–1958</u>	Emmy Award	<u>Best Continuing Supporting Performance by an Actress in a Dramatic or Comedy Series</u>	<i>The Bob Cummings Show</i>	Won	
<u>1958–1959</u>	Emmy Award	<u>Best Supporting Actress (Continuing Character) in a Comedy Series</u>	<i>The Bob Cummings Show</i>	Won	

On February 9, 1960, Davis also received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at 7048 Hollywood Boulevard. She also received TV Land Awards in 2004, 2006, and 2007 for her portrayal of Alice Nelson, the housekeeper on *The Brady Bunch*.

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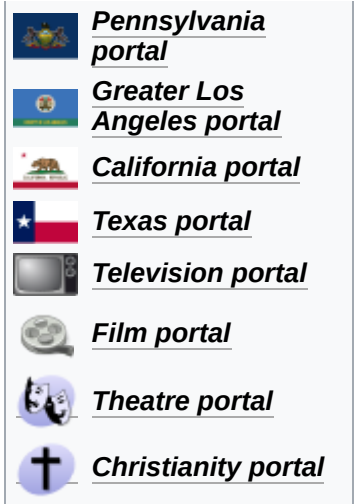


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