



Bob Newhart's career began as a stand-up comic known for holding one-sided phone conversations. In 1959, he had a 'man-in-the-street' interview show in Chicago, and the following year released *The Buttoned-Down Mind of Bob Newhart*, which became the first comedy album to reach the top of the LP charts. Then, in 1961, he starred in his first television series, *The Bob Newhart Show*, a comedy/variety show that garnered an Emmy and a Peabody Award. From 1972-1978, Newhart starred in his first sitcom, also titled *The Bob Newhart Show*, as a psychologist who must deal with the neuroses of both his patients and friends. This became his trademark character type—the last sane man encircled by madness. He repeated this sure-fire formula in his third series, *Newhart*, broadcast from 1982-1990. Bob, his fourth series in the 1992-1993 season, again pitted Newhart against the abnormalities of everyday life.

Aside from his television career, Newhart has had mild success on the silver screen, including films such as Don Siegel's *Hell Is for Heroes* in 1962, 1968's *Hot Millions*, Mike Nichols' *Catch-22* in 1970 and Norman Lear's *Cold Turkey* in 1971. In 1980, Newhart had a starring role as the U.S. President in *First Family*, and then he provided the voice of the lead mouse Bernard for Disney's animated *The Rescuers* in 1977 and its sequel *The Rescuers Down Under* in 1990.

Over his career, Newhart's seven comedy albums have sold more than 3 million copies, and he was inducted into the Comedy Hall of Fame in 1993.

## Bob Newhart

### Speech Topics

- ☐ Humor
- ☐ Celebrity

