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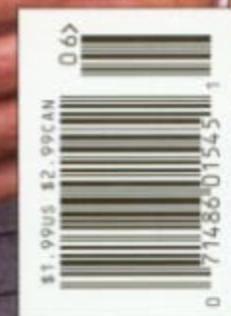
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Remembering

By Jim Colucci

Peter Boyle

1935–2006



Boyle with TV wife Doris Roberts on *Everybody Loves Raymond*.



Veteran actor Peter Boyle became a household name thanks to his role as the crusty patriarch on *Everybody Loves Raymond*.

**"If you portray family life truthfully and show that people can stick together even though they drive each other nuts, it's very powerful."
—Peter Boyle**

Prior to playing Frank Barone on CBS' long-running hit *Everybody Loves Raymond*, Peter Boyle had enjoyed a respected, three-decade-long character actor's career in film. At age 60, he became a household name as the crusty sitcom patriarch—but ironically, Boyle, who died in December of multiple myeloma and heart disease, had originally set out to become a different type of father altogether.

Born in 1935 to an Irish-Catholic family, Boyle spent three years as a novice monk in the order of Christian Brothers before leaving the monastery and his native Philadelphia (where his father Francis was known locally as children's TV host "Uncle Pete") to find his own path in showbiz.

Boyle quickly became known for playing monsters—literally, in 1974's *Young Frankenstein*, but most often figuratively: in his first starring role, as a hippie-hating hard hat in 1970's *Joe*, as a New York gangster in 1974's *Crazy Joe*, and most recently

as Billy Bob Thornton's racist father in 2001's *Monster's Ball*. And while *Raymond's* Frank Barone had his ornery side as well, he was, thanks to Boyle, always ultimately lovable—a quality which his costar Brad Garrett says only hinted at the true nature of the actor sitting in that recliner. "He was one of the gentlest, kindest people," Garrett remembers. "He loved children, and would welcome our kids when they came on the set by getting down on the ground, rolling around and doing voices for them."

With his wife, Lorraine, a former *Rolling Stone* writer whom he met on the *Frankenstein* set and married in 1977, Boyle was himself the father of two daughters, Amy and Lucy, and his real-life paternal experience made him value his sitcom brood all the more. "I think [the show is] proof that if you portray family life truthfully and show that people can stick together even though they drive each other nuts, it's very powerful," he told the Archive of

American Television in November 2005.

During his nine seasons on *Raymond*, Boyle was nominated seven times for the Best Supporting Actor Emmy. (He never won, but did score a statue in 1996 for a guest-starring role on *The X-Files*.)

In 1999, he suffered a mild heart attack on the *Raymond* set, but bounced back in just two weeks, ready for more. "I'm a tough guy," Boyle joked in his

Archive interview. But Brad Garrett respectfully begs to differ, instead describing Boyle as a sensitive man who captivated his castmates with stories about close friend John Lennon, the best man at his wedding.

Ray Romano says it best: "Peter had a great way of dumbing things down. I'll always have amazing memories of a courageous man who got what life is all about." **U**

What could be funnier? Boyle (top left) with *Raymond* costar Ray Romano (bottom right).

