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Murphy Brown gives birth to a baby boy—and an election year controversy



Murphy Brown star Candice Bergen recalls TV motherhood

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An episode-by-episode guide to all 10 seasons of *Murphy Brown* is online at TV.com.

“**N**obody could have foreseen the inferno that came from Dan Quayle protesting Murphy’s choice to be a single mom. It certainly affected the [1992 presidential] election, and gave Quayle a political platform.

But it ended up being a huge backfire for Quayle. And I thought it was the right decision to make for Murphy to have a baby. A lot of care went into the conditions under which she became pregnant. The father was her ex-husband, not a haphazard, random choice at all.

However, once we had the baby, we had the baby. And for an actor, that can be a

nightmare. You’re terrified because you don’t know if you can get through your line without the baby crying. And the dynamic of the show changed so dramatically that we may have made a few bad choices in the way that Murphy mothered the baby in the first couple of years. It was very painful to me as a mom. So I used to harangue the writers and say, ‘She can’t not be there for his birthday—are you insane?!’ But things changed once we got Haley Joel Osment to play Avery. He was such a fantastic actor that it was wonderful to work with him. He was so much more professional than I was.”

— *Murphy Brown* star Candice Bergen