

Paul Petersen



What an interesting life! Paul Petersen began performing at age 8 as one of the original “Mousketeers” on the “Mickey Mouse Club”. He also appeared in such movies as “*The Monolith Monsters*” and “*Houseboat*” with Cary Grant and Sophia Loren before landing the role as Donna Reed’s son on her popular sitcom. “*The Donna Reed Show*” also starred Carl Betz and Shelley Fabares - the show became the ideal family for late 50’s and early 60’s viewers. By his teens, the good-looking, dark-haired lad had become a formidable heartthrob. Fan clubs sprouted up everywhere. So popular were both Paul and Shelley that they spun off into recording careers. She scored with the #1 hit “*Johnny Angel*” and he had hits that included “*My Dad*”, “*She Can’t Find Her Keys*” and “*Keep Your Love Locked*”.

When his TV show ended in 1966, Paul’s All-American teen typecast didn’t fit the bill as the dissonant Vietnam counterculture took hold. Though he made movies and had many TV appearances, audiences couldn’t get past his TV character, Jeff Stone. Paul enrolled in college and started writing adventure novels (16 books in all). For 10 years, he ran his own limousine service.

Paul’s biggest accomplishment to date has been to give back selflessly to an industry that unceremoniously turned it’s back on him. He is the President of the non-profit organization A Minor Consideration which oversees the emotional, financial and legal protection of kids and former kids in show business. Among the issues Paul deals with are better education and stricter laws regarding a 40-hour work week. For those who have “been there, done that” and are experiencing severe emotional and/or substance abuse problems, he offers a solid hand in helping them find a renewed sense of purpose. Today, Paul is rightfully considered “the patron saint of former child actors”.

All audiences will find Paul’s presentations interesting, entertaining and informative whether he’s discussing child advocacy, workplace safety, aging, drug abuse or his life as an author and star of movies and television.