

BILL HAYES

BILL HAYES burst onto the national television scene in Olsen & Johnson's 1949 madcap series *Fire-Ball Fun-for-All*. From there he was tapped to be a featured singer on *Your Show of Shows* starring Sid Caesar and Imogene Coca (1950-1954).

Bill made his Broadway debut in Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Me and Juliet* (1953-1954), and followed with a gold record for "The Ballad of Davy Crockett" (over 4,000,000 sold; still selling), voted Best Record of 1955.

Hayes's feature films: the Warner Bros. farce *Stop! You're Killing Me* (1953), Otto Preminger's *The Cardinal* (1963) and the award-winning *Wrestling with God* (1989).

He was national spokesman for Oldsmobile for four years (1956-1960) and took *Bye Bye Birdie* on its one-year national tour (1961-1962).

Growing up with television, Bill's early career glittered with variety TV performances, including: Kate Smith (1956, 13 episodes), Ed Sullivan (1953), Perry Como (1955), Milton Berle (1955), Ernie Kovacs (1956-1957, 19 episodes), Patti Page (1957, 6 episodes), Jo Stafford (1958), Jack Paar (1957), Bing Crosby (1958), and the *Bell Telephone Hour* (1959 & 1960). In addition to singing and dancing, he starred as a straight actor in such dramatic shows as *U. S. Steel Hour* (1957), *Hallmark Hall of Fame* (1957 & 1958), Carol Burnett's *Once Upon a Mattress* (1964).

His 64-year career has also included vaudeville turns at the Chicago Theatre (1951 & 1955) and New York's Roxy (1953); and cafés such as the Blue Angel (1950) and the St. Regis Hotel in New York (1958 & 1959), the Drake Hotel in Chicago (1961), and the Fontainebleau in Miami (1954).

Theater tours included *Student Prince*, *Anything Goes*, *Camelot*, *On a Clear Day*, *Pajama Game*. And, in addition to the Broadway

revival of *Brigadoon* (1968), Bill's considerable regional theater appearances included *On the Town*, *Of Thee I Sing*, *Merry Widow*, *Miss Liberty*, *Music in the Air*, *Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, *South Pacific*, *Out of This World*, *Fanny*, *Dark of the Moon*, *Good News*, *Oklahoma!*, *Girl Crazy*, *Who Was That Lady?*, *Where's Charley?*, *Foxy*, *Sunday in New York*, *Green Grow the Lilacs*, *She Loves Me*, *Moon is Blue*, *Fantasticks*, *Carousel*, *Song of Norway*, *Desert Song*, *Guys & Dolls*, and *George M!* His list totals over 100 musicals and 30 straight plays.

Since 1970 Bill Hayes has portrayed "Doug Williams" on NBC's Emmy-award-winning *Days of our Lives* (over 2,000 episodes!), for which he garnered two Emmy nominations and several Best Actor Awards.

Bill also appeared as a regular on *Hollywood Squares* and as a talk-show guest with Johnny, Phil, Dinah, Merv, Geraldo, Regis, Oprah and Martha.

In the 90s, Bill guest-starred in TV's *Matlock*, *Hooperman* and *Cop Rock*. His 1992 stints with Ann Blyth at the Dunes in Vegas and *Rainbow and Stars in Manhattan* drew raves from the critics ("Not only does Hayes still belt 'em out, he can tap!").

His more recent stage work has included *Amadeus* (1985), *42nd Street* and *Same Time Next Year* (1987), *La Cage aux Folles* (1988), *Harvey* (1989), *Oliver!* (1993), *Damn Yankees* (1995), *I Do I Do* (1986, 1996 & 1999), *Glad to Be Unhappy* (2000), *Mame* (2002-2003), *I Remember You* (2005), *Follies* (2007) and *Chicago* (2008).

He guest-starred on *Frasier* in 2002, headlined *The Palm Springs Follies* in 2004. Bill's 2004 CD is titled "This is BILL HAYES," and his 2005 memoir, co-authored with his wife Susan Seaforth Hayes, is titled *Like Sands Through the Hourglass*. His most recent boffo success was a series of concerts with jazz great Dick Hyman (Dec. '09 – Jan. '10): *The Musical Magic of Hayes and Hyman*.