

SHELLEY FABARES
ACTRESS/ACTIVIST

Shelley Fabares most recently starred as television newscaster “Christine Armstrong,” “Hayden Fox’s” beautiful and independent wife, in Universal Television’s hit comedy series *Coach* on the ABC Television Network. Well known for her starring roles in such popular series as *One Day at a Time* and *The Donna Reed Show*, she has enjoyed a long and successful career in both film and television.

Fabares was born in Santa Monica, CA, not far from the studios in which she began her acting career at the tender age of three. She literally grew up before the watchful eyes of the television audience on such early series as *Annie Oakley* and *Captain Midnight*. By age nine, Fabares had already guest-starred in a live TV special with Frank Sinatra as a little lost girl to whom he sang “Young at Heart.” She went on to appear with Frank Sinatra, Paul Newman, and Eva Marie Saint in a TV adaptation of *Our Town*, and soon added work on *The Mickey Mouse Club* to her credits. During this golden age of live television, Fabares also appeared in six productions of “Matinee Theatre” and on “Playhouse 90.” As a youngster, she co-starred with Rock Hudson in the feature film, *Never Say Good-bye*.

Fabares’s big break came when she was cast as the teenage daughter in *The Donna Reed Show*. Her fame from the series carried “Johnny Angel” (1962). Her teen-oriented films of the period include *Ride the Wild Surf* with Fabian, and *Hold On*, a musical with Herman’s Hermits. She also guested in other TV series including *Mr. Novak*, *Longstreet*, and *The Twilight Zone*, and made numerous appearances on *Love*, *American Style*. Fabares was also the only actress to co-star in three Elvis Presley films.

In 1971, Fabares came into her own as an adult actress with a role in the ABC Emmy Award-winning movie, *Brian’s Song*. Five years later, after many other television appearances, Fabares co-starred with Danny Thomas in *The Practice*. She later played one of her favorite characters, “Eleanor Majors,” in the *Forever Fenwood* series. After five years as “Francine Webster” on the hit series *One Day at a Time*, Fabares included feature film roles in her list of accomplishments and eventually landed her sixth television series role on *Coach*. In December 1984, Fabares wed actor Mike Farrell. She co-starred with Mike in the television movie, *Memorial Day*, and was directed by him in *Run ‘Till You Fall*, a movie for television which aired in 1989.

Recently, Fabares was diagnosed with autoimmune hepatitis that had destroyed her liver. After waiting one year and ten months for a donor, she underwent a complete liver transplant. She now advocates the importance of organ donation to those considering it, citing that each organ donor can give up to 50 people enhanced life or life itself.

Today, Fabares dedicates much of her time to the National Alzheimer’s Association. She became involved in the organization after caring for her mother throughout her nine year battle with the disease. A tireless spokesperson for the Association, she serves on its national board of directors, and has made several trips to DC to testify before a congressional committee on the need for increased funding for Alzheimer’s research and services. For more information please visit www.apbspeakers.com.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Growing Up in America's Living Room
- The Fight Against Alzheimer's Disease: A Caregiver's Journey