

# Wayne Rogers

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**William Wayne McMillan Rogers III**<sup>[1]</sup> (born April 7, 1933) is an American film and television actor, best known for playing the role of "Trapper John" McIntyre in the CBS television series, *M\*A\*S\*H*.

He is a regular panel member on the Fox News Channel stock investment television program *Cashin' In*, as a result of having built a highly successful and lucrative second career as an investor, investment strategist and advisor, and money manager.

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**Wayne Rogers**



Rogers as Trapper John in *M\*A\*S\*H*, 1972

<b>Born</b>	William Wayne McMillan Rogers III April 7, 1933 Birmingham, Alabama, U.S.
<b>Alma mater</b>	Princeton University
<b>Occupation</b>	Actor, director, screenwriter, investor, television personality
<b>Years active</b>	1959–present
<b>Spouse(s)</b>	Mitzi McWhorter (1960–1983) Amy Hirsh (1988–present)

## Life and career

Rogers was born in Birmingham, Alabama. He attended Ramsay High School in Birmingham and is a graduate of The Webb School in Bell Buckle, Tennessee. In 1954, he graduated from Princeton University with a history degree and was a member of the Princeton Triangle Club and the Eating Club Tiger Inn. Rogers served in the United States Navy before he became an actor.

Prior to the role of Trapper John, Rogers appeared on television in various roles in both dramas and sitcoms such as *The Invaders*, *The F.B.I.*, *Gunsmoke*, *Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.*, *The Fugitive*, and had a small supporting role in the 1967 movie *Cool Hand Luke*.

In 1959, he played Slim Davis on the soap opera *Search for Tomorrow*. Rogers also played a role in *Odds Against Tomorrow* which was nominated for a Golden Globe Award in 1960 as Best Film Promoting International Understanding. He guest starred on an episode of the CBS western, *Johnny Ringo*.

Rogers co-starred with Robert Bray and Richard Eyer in the western series *Stagecoach West*, on ABC from 1960

to 1961.

## *M\*A\*S\*H* (1972–1975)

When Rogers was approached for *M\*A\*S\*H*, he planned to audition as Hawkeye Pierce. However, he found the character too cynical and asked to screen test as Trapper John, whose outlook was brighter. Rogers was told that Trapper and Hawkeye would have equal importance as characters. This changed after Alan Alda, whose acting career and résumé up to that point had outshone that of Rogers, was cast as Hawkeye, and proved to be more popular with the audience. Rogers did, however, still enjoy working with Alda and the rest of the cast as a whole (Alda and Rogers quickly became close friends), but eventually chafed that the writers were devoting the show's best humorous and dramatic moments to Alda.

When the writers took the liberty of making Hawkeye a thoracic surgeon in the episode "Dear Dad" (December 17, 1972) even though Trapper was the unit's only thoracic surgeon in the movie and the novel, Rogers felt Trapper was stripped of his credentials.

On the *M\*A\*S\*H 30th Anniversary Reunion Television Special* aired by Fox-TV in 2002, Rogers once spoke on the differences between the Hawkeye and Trapper characters, "Alan (Alda) and I both used to discuss ways on how to distinguish the differences between the two characters as to where there would be a variance... my character (Trapper John McIntyre) was a little more impulsive (than Hawkeye)".

Rogers considerably reduced his Alabama accent for the character of Trapper.<sup>[2]</sup>

He succeeded Elliott Gould, who had played the character in the Robert Altman movie *MASH*, and was himself succeeded by Pernell Roberts on the *M\*A\*S\*H* spin-off *Trapper John, M.D.*.

Preceded by <b>Elliott Gould</b>	<b>"Trapper John" Actor</b> 17 September 1972 - 18 March 1975	Succeeded by <b>Pernell Roberts</b>
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## Departure from *M\*A\*S\*H*

After three seasons, Rogers grew weary of the Trapper character being treated as more of a sidekick than an equal to Hawkeye, and decided to leave the show (as had McLean Stevenson, who had played Lt. Colonel Blake).

## *House Calls* (1979–1982) and other roles

Later he appeared as a FBI agent in the critically acclaimed 1975 NBC-TV movie *Attack on Terror: The FBI vs. the Ku Klux Klan*, and as civil rights attorney Morris Dees in 1996's *Ghosts of Mississippi*. He also starred in the short-lived but critically lauded 1976 period detective series *City of Angels* and the 1979–1982 CBS series *House Calls*, first with Lynn Redgrave, and then later with actress Sharon Gless, who went on to co-star in the CBS-TV crime drama series *Cagney and Lacey* with actress Tyne Daly (coincidentally, one of the *House Calls* co-stars was Roger Bowen who played the original Colonel Henry Blake in the *MASH* movie). Rogers also appeared in the 1980s miniseries *Chiefs*.

Rogers then guest-starred five times on CBS's *Murder, She Wrote*. He has served as an executive producer and producer in both television and film, and as a screenwriter, and a director. In addition, he has achieved some recognition as an investor, appearing frequently on Fox News Channel business shows. He also starred in *Race Against the Harvest*.

He also starred in several movies. In 1981 he played the role of an art forger in Roger Vadim's *The Hot Touch*. Then, in the movie *The Gig* (1985), alongside Cleavon Little, as a jazz musician-hobbyist whose group has an opportunity to play a Catskills resort and must confront failure. Also in 1985, he starred opposite Barbara Eden in the televised reunion movie *I Dream of Jeannie... Fifteen Years Later* based on the 1960s situation comedy *I Dream of Jeannie*. Rogers took on the role of Major Tony Nelson which was originally portrayed by Larry Hagman (of the CBS-TV soap opera *Dallas* fame) in the television series when Hagman was unavailable to reprise the character he had originated. In 1986, Rogers hosted the short-lived CBS television series *High Risk*.

## Fox News' *Cashin' In*

Rogers, who began to test the stock and real estate markets during his tenure as a *M\*A\*S\*H* cast member, appears regularly as a panel member on the Fox Business Network cable TV stocks investment/stocks news program *Cashin' In*, hosted by Fox News anchor Eric Bolling. In August 2006, Rogers was elected to the Board of Directors of Vishay Intertechnology, Inc.,<sup>[3]</sup> a Fortune 1000 manufacturer of semiconductors and electronic components. He is also the head of Wayne Rogers & Co., a stock trading investment corporation.

## Later developments

On April 23, 2012 Wayne Rogers signed on as the new spokesman for Senior Home Loans, a direct reverse mortgage lender headquartered on Long Island, New York. The national campaign is headed by industry veteran Jason Levy, CEO. Levy's past experience includes managing the Robert Wagner reverse mortgage campaign.

## Awards

Rogers received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2005.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Personal life

As a young actor, Rogers met actress Mitzi McWhorter in New York City in the late 1950s. They married in 1960 and divorced in 1983, producing two children from the relationship. They had been separated for almost four years prior to the divorce. In 1986, Rogers fathered a child, a boy named Luigi Calabrese, with then-girlfriend Melinda Naud.<sup>[5]</sup> Rogers has been married to his second wife, the former Amy Hirsh, since 1988.

His two children from his marriage to McWhorter are Laura Rogers and William (Bill) Rogers IV. Both reside in California. Wayne's grandchildren include Laura's children: Xander and Daniel Bienstock, and Bill's children: William V and Anaïs.

## References

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- ↑ Comments made by Rogers on *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson*.
- ↑ "Wayne M. Rogers Profile — Forbes.com" (<http://people.forbes.com/profile/wayne-m-rogers/94094>). *people.forbes.com*. Retrieved 2 May 2010.
- ↑ "'M-A-S-H' star Wayne Rogers gets star on Hollywood walk of fame" ([http://www.usatoday.com/life/people/2005-12-13-rogers\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/life/people/2005-12-13-rogers_x.htm)). USA Today. Associated Press. 2005-12-13. Retrieved 2009-08-15.
- ↑ Reynolds, Matt (August 21, 2013). "Ex Sues M\*A\*S\*H Actor for Love Child" (<http://www.courthousenews.com>

/2013/08/21/60471.htm). *http://www.courthousenews.com*. Retrieved 22 August 2013.

## External links

- Wayne Rogers (<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0737257/>) at the Internet Movie Database
- Wayne Rogers (<http://www.ibdb.com/person.asp?ID=24077>) at the Internet Broadway Database
- Vishay Technology names Wayne Rogers to its Board, 8/10/2006 ([http://www.thestreet.com/\\_yahoopi/newsanalysis/techsemis/10303103.html?cm\\_ven=QUIGO&cm\\_cat=FREE&cm\\_ite=NA](http://www.thestreet.com/_yahoopi/newsanalysis/techsemis/10303103.html?cm_ven=QUIGO&cm_cat=FREE&cm_ite=NA))



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