

# Greg Brady remains groovy

By Zach Everson

Arts and Entertainment Editor

One of the grooviest guys ever to appear on television spoke, sang and danced in Pugh Auditorium Jan. 25. Barry Williams, who played the oldest son on "The Brady Bunch" delighted a crowd of about 100 people with anecdotes and video clips from the TV show that made him famous.

"The Casanova of Clinton Avenue" also made himself available for an interview before the show in his dressing room. Needless to say, being a famous star has not gone to his head the way it did to Greg when he became a new singer under the guise "the new Johnny Bravo."

The numbers for the Brady family are incredible: six TV series, five musical albums, four decades, three TV specials, two movies and one cartoon show.

The longevity of the show is more amazing considering "The Brady Bunch" was cancelled after only a few seasons on the air. "I firmly believe our show will outlast the O.J. Simpson trial," Williams said.

Much of the material in Williams' show is contained in his book, *Growing Up Brady: I was a Teenage Greg*. The show adds a lot to the book, however, as it included video clips, singing and acting, as well as Williams inviting members of the crowd on stage so he could teach them the dance steps they need to know in order to "become the Brady they always wanted to be."

A fair amount of time was spent on the spinoffs of "The Brady Bunch," as the cast was the basis for six different series.

A clip of the Brady family doing the hustle was shown from "The Brady Bunch Variety Hour." "I don't think you've lived until you've seen the Bradys shake their collective booties," Williams said.

Williams even commented on his off-screen relationship with Florence Henderson, who played his mother, Carol Brady, on the show. "Florence Henderson and I had sex only once," Williams said, before adding, "She was not there at the time."

In all seriousness, Williams admitted to having a crush on Henderson for the duration of the time that they worked together. He acted on his feelings once, when he took her on a date, which ended with a kiss.

Henderson was not the only female Brady for whom Williams had affections. He and Maureen McCormick, who played Marcia, hit it off when the show was filming in Hawaii.

Much to Williams' chagrin, nothing ever came of their romantic moonlit walk on the beach.

Williams also expressed his opinion on the recent movies about the Brady family. "The first one was funny and the second sucked," Williams said. "When the hell did I become a dork?"

The funniest part of the evening occurred when Williams showed clips from the MTV music awards. Instead of showing actual clips from the shows that were nominated for the best picture award, MTV showed the Brady's interpretations of scenes from "A Few Good Men," "The Bodyguard" and yes, even "Basic Instinct" (you can guess what scene).

Williams filled the crowd in on what has become of his co-stars. Robert Reed, who played Mike, the patriarch of the family, passed away four years ago.

The rest of the family, however, is doing fine and talk with one another frequently.

At the end of the show, Williams took questions from the audience ranging from whatever happened to the Brady's dog Tiger, who failed to make an appearance after the first couple of episodes (a flower truck turned him into road kill), to Williams' opinion of Cousin Oliver, who appeared at the end of the series. "Cousin Oliver was a big network mistake," Williams said.

According to Williams, there are no definite plans for another reunion. "A Very Brady sequel killed it into the ground," he said. "I'll probably know better within a year."

Williams is unsure of the cause of the continued success of "The Brady Bunch." From what he has heard from fans, however, he believes that the show is popular for a variety of reasons. With such a large family it provides at least one character to whom people can relate.

Also, Williams did not consider "The Brady Bunch" to be a pretentious show. "It had some morals, but didn't hit you over the head with them," Williams said. It contained genuine family values. Finally, Williams viewed "the super groovy fashion statements that we made" an integral part of the show's lasting popularity.

Williams spends over 200 nights a year on the road, away from his home in Malibu. While Williams does enjoy performing in front of college audience, it is only a small portion of his work. "Most of my work is in musical theatre," Williams said.

This past year, Williams headlined at the Star Dust Hotel in Las Vegas, sang the national anthem for both the Los Angeles Dodgers and New York Yankees and filmed a TV show called "Perversions of Science." He hosted a "Nick at Nite" special the evening before he spoke here. He has also starred on Broadway and been in the first national tour of the play "City of Angels."

He will be hosting VH-1's "7 Days of 70s," a two hour special that examines television shows and other cultural aspects of that era.

Williams, who was generally considered the most musically inclined of all the Brady children, has considered releasing an album. "I do so much singing, I would love to put together an album," he said. He has talked about issuing a Christmas album at some point.

If a CD is released, rest assured that it will be credited to Barry Williams and not "the new Johnny Bravo."

---

Go back to [front page](#) of this week's [OG&B Electronic Edition](#).