

Shelly Long



[Wikipedia](#)  
[IMDB](#)

Shelley Long began her extensive acting career studying drama at Northwestern University, alma mater of many other Second City folks, such as [Stephen Colbert](#), [Julia Louis-Dreyfus](#), and [Susan Messing](#). Long soon joined The Second City and appeared in three consecutive Mainstage revues between 1976-77, all directed by [Del Close](#). In 1975, Long began writing, producing, and co-hosting the television program *Sorting It Out*, which went on to win three Regional Emmys. She landed her first big role in 1979 in the TV movie *The Cracker Factory* starring Natalie Wood. Long went on to guest star on *Family*, *Trapper John M.D.*, and *M.A.S.H.*. In 1980 she started appearing in feature films such as, *A Small Circle of Friends*, *Losin' It*, and *Night Shift*.

At this point in her career, Long was already renown for her role on Cheers, in which costarred fellow Second City alum [George Wendt](#), though she left after season five. While simultaneously appearing on Cheers, she continued starring in several motion pictures. In 1984, she was nominated for a Best Leading Actress Golden Globe for her performance in Irreconcilable Differences. She then starred in a series of comedies, such as The Money Pit, Outrageous Fortune, and Hello Again.

Long's first post-Cheers project was Troop Beverly Hills, a comedy feature film co-starring [Betty Thomas](#), though she soon returned to television for the ABC miniseries The Lives of Truddi Chase, receiving critical acclaim. In 1992, Long starred in Fatal Memories: The Eileen Franklin Story, a television drama. She also appeared in A Message From Holly. Long returned to Cheers for the season finale in 1993, and guest-starred again as "Diane" in the spin-off series Frasier, both projects earning her an Emmy nomination, and the latter a win. Long appeared as "Carol Brady" in the 1995 hit film The Brady Bunch Movie, a campy take on the popular television show directed by [Betty Thomas](#), appearing in the later sequel as well. She went on to appear on the films Sabrina the Teenage Witch, Vanished Without a Trace, and Dr. T and The Women, and the television series 8 Simple Rules, Yes Dear, Strong Medicine, Boston Legal, and Modern Family. In 2016, Long produced and starred in the feature film Different Flowers.

FROM ROBERT MENDEL:

I worked with Shelly on "Troop Beverly Hills" as the DGA Trainee. Here are video links of me at work There!:

[https://youtu.be/7bdr5O8B7JA?si=\\_90sSSrY9IAVUidu](https://youtu.be/7bdr5O8B7JA?si=_90sSSrY9IAVUidu)

[https://youtu.be/AyYZuYyBWKQ?si=UBeh1WUX71npx\\_YZ](https://youtu.be/AyYZuYyBWKQ?si=UBeh1WUX71npx_YZ)

[https://youtu.be/J7\\_yxXSe3c8?si=\\_Ha\\_4VBYMnSnIDLB](https://youtu.be/J7_yxXSe3c8?si=_Ha_4VBYMnSnIDLB)

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0098519/?fbclid=IwY2xjawM0L8VleHRuA2FlbQlXMAbicmlkETFEakRKQkdocXV>

[QTVNtNjJQAR5noi6xK\\_tahEpM7Ro5YqQk7D16DWtPVjeuGDjv2Gg\\_8DZ1J5M19wBoV7f1iw\\_aem\\_MiGsmYqCgKAO34Sh3MG6yg](#)

"I had no idea that I'd end up in Second City—at that time I was awed by the performances and saw no connection between myself and comedy."

Long, originally from Ft. Wayne, Ind., was an NU theater major from 1961 to 1964 but left without her bachelor's degree. "I wanted more experience on stage and in the business. I felt I needed an opportunity to act at NU, but I felt that professional experience would be more valuable than any other."

Long co-hosted the WMAQ-TV show "Sorting it Out," with Bob Smith for two years. The show, in magazine format, focusing on Chicago, won two Emmys while she was co-host. Her appearance on the "Homemakers" furniture ad campaign was her last at that job.

"I've enjoyed my work over the past few months with Second City," she says. "I'm performing as well as writing, and I'm doing all the time." Long is currently in Second City's "Wells-a-Poppin'" revue.

When Shelley Long visited NU as a Cherub she went to see David Steinberg and Avery Schrieber at Second City. However, she never suspected that one day, she too, would be performing on that same stage.

