



RAY ROMANO
(Ray Barone)

Ray Romano admits that he always knew he could make his friends laugh, but he never really gave standup comedy any serious thought until one fateful open-mike night at a New York comedy club in 1984. He did well, the bug bit hard and Romano was smitten. After several odd jobs, including futon mattress delivery boy by day and journeyman comedian by night, he decided to pursue comedy full time, eventually winning a standup comedy competition that same year.

Following that success, Romano's regular appearances at comedy clubs throughout the country led to guest spots on **The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson**, then with Jay Leno and finally on the **Late Show with David Letterman**, on the CBS Television Network, where host David Letterman recognized his talent and offered him a development deal with his production company, Worldwide Pants Incorporated. From that association, **Everybody Loves Raymond** evolved.

Romano has since performed for President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore at the White House Correspondents Dinner, headlined the Toyota Comedy Festival at New York's Carnegie Hall, guest-hosted **Saturday Night Live**, appeared (and won \$125,000 for charity) on **Who Wants to Be a Millionaire** and appeared on **The Grammy Awards**.

For his role in **Everybody Loves Raymond**, Romano won the 2002 Emmy Award for "Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series." He was also nominated in 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2003. He was nominated for a Golden Globe Award for "Best Performance by an Actor in a Comedy Series" in 2000 and 2001 and for the 2002 AFI "Actor of the Year" Award for a Male in a Series. He won the 2002 and 2003 People's Choice Award for "Favorite Male TV Performer."

The role has also earned him nominations for two Screen Actors Guild Awards for "Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Comedy Series" and he won the 2003 Screen Actors Guild Award for "Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series."

He won a *TV Guide* Award for "Actor of the Year in a Comedy Series," an American Comedy Award as the "Funniest Male Lead in a TV Series" and the 1999 Television Critics Association Award for "Outstanding Individual Achievement in Comedy."

He is the author of the book [Everything and a Kite](#), based on his comedy. He released a CD titled "Ray Romano: Live at Carnegie Hall" and donated all of the proceeds to the September 11 Fund. The CD was nominated for a Grammy Award.

His feature film credits include **Eulogy** and **Welcome to Mooseport**. He can also be heard as the voice of Manny the Woolly Mammoth in all three **Ice Age** films.



Romano, who is originally from Forest Hills, NY, lives with his wife and four children in Los Angeles. His birth date is Dec. 21.