

# Helen Marketti's Music Corner



By Helen R. Marketti



## Micky Dolenz of The Monkees

In two short seasons of their television series (1966-1968), The Monkees became a household name and recorded many memorable hits, Daydream Believer, Steppin' Stone, Last Train to Clarksville, I'm A Believer, Pleasant Valley Sunday, Valleri, Mary Mary and more!

Original member, Micky Dolenz took a moment to remember those days as well updating us on current projects while under the pandemic.

Micky was a childhood actor, playing the role of Mickey Braddock from 1956 to 1958 on his first TV series, Circus Boy. Micky then went on to guest star on a number of television shows. He was one of 400 applicants who tried out for the show about a rock band later known as The Monkees. He showed up that day in 1965 to audition for a part by playing and singing a Chuck Berry tune, Johnny B. Goode. He got the part and started working with his fellow actors, Peter Tork, Davy Jones and Mike Nesmith.



"The audition for The Monkees just clicked and the four of us clicked together. I like to call it lightening in a bottle."

It's been over 50 years since The Monkees have been on television, yet the series is still being shown in reruns. When asked why he thought the show was still popular, Micky said, "I think the producers Bob Rafelson and Bert Schneider stayed away from anything that was controversial...so what we did back then still applies. We were a band that never made it but we kept at it. As far as the 60s in general, it was a time that still resonates with all ages."

The well-known history and documented neighborhood of Laurel Canyon in Los Angeles was home to many famous musicians during its heyday. "I lived in Laurel Canyon and so did Peter Tork, Joni Mitchell, Graham Nash, Alice Cooper and all the rest. We were a music community and that is what drew so many."

Fans may enjoy a drink called, The Micky D! "It's a drink I created. It was first published in Mark Bego's, Eat Like A Rock Star." Mark Bego also wrote Micky's biography, I'm A Believer.

The current pandemic has forced tours to be cancelled and artists must create other outlets for their work. "This time has given me a break to unpack my suitcase which I haven't done in years. The Mike & Micky LIVE album has been released and we have been promoting it as best we can under the circumstances. Mike and I were supposed to start touring this past April of 2020 but obviously that was cancelled and re-set for next year, 2021," he explains.

Davy Jones and Peter Tork are no longer with us but we remember them as part of a group with memorable music and appearance. "They are the brothers I never had," said Micky. "I think about them and miss them every single day."

Micky is keeping himself motivated and inspired with new projects. He said it's harder to catch a moving target.

"I would like to ask fans to please check my web site for the new re-set days. And 7A Records from England recently released some of my solo work."

[www.mickydolenz.com](http://www.mickydolenz.com)

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