

JON "BOWZER" BAUMAN BRIEF BIO

The stunning disparity between mild-mannered Jon Bauman and his creation and alter ego, the inimitable "Bowzer," has raised a lot of eyebrows in the entertainment industry. That's because Jon's portrayal of "Bowzer," star of "Sha Na Na" for fourteen years, was so convincing that the casual observer was certain this hilarious, gangly greaser actually stalked the streets of Brooklyn when he wasn't appearing with the group.

Jon, like "Bowzer," was born in Brooklyn, but there the resemblance ends. Jon was something of a child prodigy at the piano, and started classical lessons at age seven. He attended the prestigious Juilliard School beginning age 12 and ultimately graduated Magna Cum Laude from equally prestigious Columbia College in New York.

In 1969, Jon joined several of his Columbia classmates in "Sha Na Na" and created the character of "Bowzer." With "Bowzer" the dominant character on stage, Jon was a major force in leading the group to their successful TV series. At its peak, "Sha Na Na" was the #1 syndicated show in America, and was also seen in 32 foreign countries. The series ran for four years first-run and another three in syndicated strip.

While remaining the star of "Sha Na Na," Jon branched out on his own and made over 150 solo appearances. He also appeared with the group in the phenomenally successful movie, "Grease," and sang the "Born To Hand Jive" number on the "Grease" album, then the biggest selling soundtrack album of all time.

Since leaving Sha Na Na, Jon has hosted dozens of TV shows, including the "Match Game-Hollywood Squares Hour" and the last three PBS Doo-Wop pledge break specials. He produced, wrote and hosted "The Story of Rock 'n' Roll" for TV syndication, and produced and wrote "The Golden Age of Rock 'n' Roll" for the Arts & Entertainment Channel. He also spearheaded the Truth in Music project, passing a law in 34 states to protect consumers from impostor musical groups.

Jon lives in Los Angeles and Santa Ynez, CA with Dr. Mary Bauman, his wife of almost 45 years, who is Clinical Director of School Programs at the H.E.L.P. Group, specializing in the education of young people on the autism spectrum. They have two children, Nora and Eli, and a granddaughter, Carla June, who is a little over a year old. One thing's for sure — after more than 50 years in show business, there is simply no telling what this multifaceted musician, actor, producer, writer, activist will turn up doing next!