

Remember Al Lewis?

You probably don't recognize the name. He played the grandfather on the TV show *The Munsters*. His acting career begins the well-documented portion of his life. He worked in burlesque and vaudeville theaters, then on Broadway in the dramas *The Night Circus* (1958) and *One More River* (1960) and as the character Moe Shtarker in the musical comedy *Do Re Mi* (1962).

His earliest television work includes appearances on the Beverly Garland crime drama *Decoy* and *The Phil Silvers Show*. From 1959-63, he appeared in four episodes of *Naked City*. But he is best remembered as "Grandpa" on *The Munsters*, which ran on CBS from 1964-66. Lewis' first well-known television role was as Officer Leo Schnauser on the NBC sitcom *Car 54, Where Are You?* from 1961-63. Lewis reprised the role in the 1994 movie of the same name).

In 1967, Lewis played the part of Zalto the wizard in the *Lost in Space* episode, "Rocket to Earth." His first role in a movie was as Machine Gun Manny in *Pretty Boy Floyd* (1960). He had small roles in *The World of Henry Orient* (1964), *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?* (1969), *They Might Be Giants* (1971). He appeared as Hanging Judge Harrison in *Used Cars* (1980) and had a minor role in *Married to the Mob* (1988). His last film role was in *Night Terror* (2002).

Lewis was a recurring guest on The Howard Stern Show. In 1987, during a "Howard Stern Freedom Rally" against the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that was broadcast live, Lewis repeatedly shouted "**** the FCC!" until Stern was able to take the microphone away from him. Stern and the station were not punished for Lewis' comments.

Unlike some actors, Lewis did not mind being typecast. He enjoyed acting out his "Grandpa" character—in the original costume—and got a surprising amount of mileage from such a short-lived role. In 1991, he appeared as Grandpa Munster in an episode of *Hi Honey, I'm Home* on ABC. In 1991, he appeared in *My Grandpa Is a Vampire*. From 1987-89, Lewis hosted *Super Scary Saturday* on TBS in his Grandpa Munster outfit. This would later be parodied in *Gremlins 2: The New Batch*.



He died on February 3, 2006, of natural causes. Following his body's cremation, his ashes were reportedly "placed in his favorite cigar box."

[[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Lewis_\(actor\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Lewis_(actor))]

