



“The Fonz” Triumph Trophy TR5



1065. HENRY WINKLER “ARTHUR ‘THE FONZ’ FONZARELLI” SIGNATURE TRIUMPH TROPHY TR5 MOTORCYCLE FROM HAPPY DAYS. (Paramount TV 1974-84) This is the motorcycle that helped make Arthur Fonzarelli, “The Fonz,” The icon of cool – the 1949 Triumph Trophy 500 Custom (frame number TC11198T). Originally a bit player, Fonzie/Winkler, became the breakout star of *Happy Days* — the long running ABC sitcom watched by some 40 million Americans at its ratings peak. The bike was originally owned by Hollywood stuntman, racer and provider of bikes to the studios Bud Ekins (it was Ekins who actually jumped the barbed-wire fence in *The Great Escape*, doubling for his friend Steve McQueen). This ‘49 Triumph is one of three Triumph motorcycles “The Fonz” used during the show’s 10-year run on ABC. According to Bud Ekins, all three Triumphs used on the show were 500cc Trophy models of various years – two of which went missing/stolen, or raced to the ground and sold for parts. Eventually, when the show ended, Ekins sold the third and only remaining “Fonzie” Triumph to friend and motorcycle collector Mean Marshall Ehlers where it resided since 1990. Designed to accommodate Henry Winkler’s inability to ride larger bikes, Ekins had supplied Paramount’s show producers with the beat-up Scrambler, yanking off the front fender, bolted on a set of buckhorn handle bars and spray painted the fuel tank silver. It is often rumored that Winkler was frequently pushed on the bike by stage-hands, confirmed by his own admissions due to his inability to ride a motorcycle. Fonzie’s silver Triumph became a pop culture icon, appearing on countless lunchboxes, posters, t-shirts, model kits and magazines. When the show was cancelled, one of Fonzie’s signature brown leather jackets was gifted to The Smithsonian Institution. The “cool factor” of this Triumph is impossible to quantify or duplicate. The bike measures 82 in. long x 43 in. tall and remains untouched since appearing on television screens over 30 years ago. The motorcycle was awarded to the prior owner at a Seminole Indian casino by Henry Winkler, himself. **\$100,000 - \$150,000**