

# PARADE

BY JAMES BRADY

In Step  
With

## ROB LOWE

**Personal:**  
Born March 17, 1964, in Charlottesville, Va. Married to Sheryl Berkoff since 1991; two sons: Matthew, 8, and John, 6.

**Films:**  
Include *The Outsiders*, 1983; *Class*, 1983; *The Hotel New Hampshire*, 1984; *Oxford Blues*, 1984; *St. Elmo's Fire*, 1985; *Youngblood*, 1986; *About Last Night...*, 1986; *Square Dance*, 1987; *Illegally Yours*, 1988; *Bad Influence*, 1990; *Wayne's World*, 1992; *Contact*, 1997; *Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me*, 1999; *Austin Powers in Goldmember*, 2002.

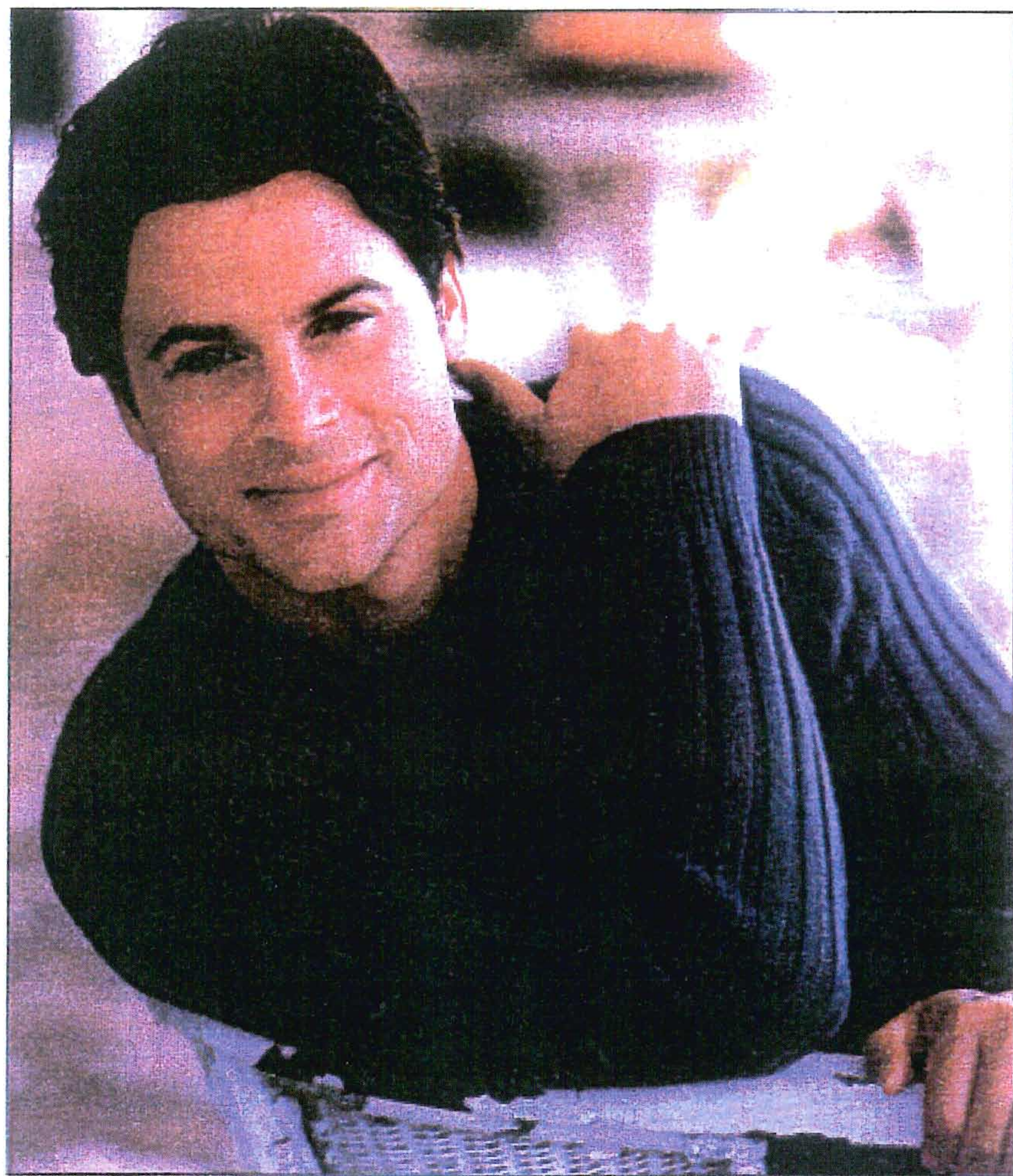
**Television:**  
Includes *A New Kind of Family*, 1979; *Thursday's Child*, 1983; *Suddenly, Last Summer*, 1993; *The Stand*, 1994; *Deserfs Edge*, 1997; *Atomic Train*, 1999; *The West Wing*, 1999—.

**Theater:**  
Includes *A Little Hotel on the Side*, 1992.

**A**CTOR ROB LOWE, who puts so much of the juice into that enormously successful TV series *The West Wing*, was in Manhattan to plug not himself or the show but cancer research. He wanted to talk about new drugs and treatments intended to ameliorate the harmful side effects of chemotherapy. We met over coffee in the lobby of a hotel.

After spending time with Lowe, you realize he's not just another celebrity do-gooder. His own family has been wracked by cancer, and his dad—still alive and doing pretty well—has battled both the disease and the effects of chemo.

Lowe and his Wednesday-night series, for which he won an Emmy nomination last year, recently finished their third season on NBC. After three years, Lowe has some pretty strong feelings about the show and about politics. "It's about the power behind the power," said Lowe about his role on *The West Wing*. "I'm a hopeless political junkie." We talked about politicians we both knew and about politics, and then I asked how Lowe got so deeply involved in the cancer cause. He explained that both his grandmother and great-grandmother died from breast cancer, and his father has non-Hodgkin's lymphoma but is in remission.



Rob Lowe talks about his smash NBC show, *The West Wing*, but says he's focused these days on research into the cancer that has hit his family.

Lowe has been working with the biotech firm Amgen on raising awareness of infection and other side effects of chemotherapy through a multimedia education program that operates the *ByMySide.com* Web site. According to Lowe, the problem with chemotherapy is that, while it kills off the cancer cells, it also kills off the white blood cells that provide the body's immunity from infection.

"I'm not endorsing any medicine," said Lowe. "What I do say is, 'Talk to your doctor about infection,' because my dad didn't."

I'd seen Lowe and his father,

Chuck, on TV that very morning, and I remarked how vigorous his dad looked. "Dad's an amazing specimen," said Lowe. "Very strong, very much a fighter."

Lowe sounded optimistic about his father's future—and the battle to cure cancer. "We are closer to curing cancer than President Kennedy was [to success] when he pledged to put a man on the moon," said Lowe. "I feel affiliated with the frontier of hope."

For more on Rob Lowe, visit [www.parade.com](http://www.parade.com).

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### Brady's Bits



Rob Lowe, his wife, Sheryl, and their sons live about an hour and a half outside L.A. "My wife and the boys are great," he told me. Lowe is due to be in three new movies: In January, we'll see him in *A View From the Top*, with Gwyneth Paltrow and Candice Bergen. He'll also be in a TNT film called *Framed*, with Sam Neill, sometime next year. "I also made a quick appearance in *Goldmember*," Lowe told me about the new *Austin Powers* flick, due out later this month. What's his role? "It's incredibly bizarre and hilarious," he said, but other than that, he's apparently sworn to silence. Clearly, Lowe likes the people on *The West Wing*, with its great ensemble cast headed by Martin Sheen as the President. And Lowe said all the right things about co-star Allison Janney, who plays the press secretary. "My nickname for Allison is 'The Magnet,'" said Lowe. "Because, if there's an award out there anywhere, she'll win it."