

ROSEANNE BARR

Biography

The brilliant comedic talents of award winning actress Roseanne Barr has dominated television and distinguished her among the funniest ladies on the air along side the legendary Lucille Ball, Mary Tyler Moore and Carol Burnett.

Her ability to elevate her life experiences to a heightened comedy level, and by so doing, bravely challenge television's status quo has been unparalleled.

She won the coveted Peabody Award, television's highest honor, an Emmy Award, two Golden Globes, two American Comedy Awards, six People's Choice Awards, the Nickelodeon Kids Choice Award, GLAAD Media Award, the Golden Apple Award and the distinguished Eleanor Roosevelt Award given by the American Democratic Association to outstanding American women. Twice, she received the distinguished Humanitas Award presented to programming that most truly communicates human values to their audience. Roseanne was honored with the Jack Benny Award and was the second woman ever to be roasted by the Friars Club. Her contributions as a writer and producer on the TV show "Roseanne" pivoted her to the power position and distinguished her contribution to the comedy world and creation of her own comic persona, she received the Lucy Award presented annually by Women In Film and named after Lucille Ball. She participated in the State of the World Forum at San Francisco's Masonic Temple where she moderated a panel in front of two thousand people with the theme "Rising from the Ashes." The participants consisted of young people from around the world who have been victims of war and political oppression. She was chosen as one of the "Ladies Home Journal's Most Fascinating People" in a special that aired on CBS and Ms. Magazine honored Roseanne on the Lifetime 25th anniversary special.

Roseanne grew up in Salt Lake City, Utah in a working class Jewish family that gave rise to her stand-up comedy career. At an early age, she gained a clear sense that she had the ability to make people laugh. After dropping out of high school and getting married while still in her teens, she moved to the mountains of Colorado and lived in an artists' colony. While working as a waitress, her hysterical remarks to customers turned into a

comedy act. Encouraged by her customers, she went to the comedy club in downtown Denver and began her career as a stand-up comic. Using her hilarious view of life as a working class woman as her act, she gained instant recognition from the locals and quickly became the Queen of Denver Comedy. She then toured nationally on the comedy circuit. Los Angeles comedians Louie Anderson and Sam Kinison encouraged Roseanne to audition for Mitzi Shore at the Comedy Store. She did and was instantly hired that same night was asked to appear on George Schlatter's ABC TV Special. "Funny." During rehearsal a talent scout from "The Tonight Show" saw her and booked her on the show – this was all in her first week in Los Angeles. She made well-received appearances on "The Tonight Show" and other late night talk shows before starring in her own comedy special on HBO. In 1986, the Carsey-Werner Company approached her with a proposal for developing a situation comedy based on her stand-up routines.

"Roseanne" debuted on ABC on October 18, 1988 and within a year overtook "The Cosby Show" as the #1 show on television. Her success on the show ensured her place as the reigning queen of prime time. Critics and viewers hailed her comedy as groundbreaking. "Roseanne Conner" was not the stereotypical television mom or wife. Pulitzer prize winning writer and Los Angeles Times television columnist Howard Rosenberg surmised that "Roseanne was enormously influential, changing the ways viewers regarded sitcom families and their relationship to the world they portrayed," adding that the series "matured into an extension of working class America." The series has gone onto become an award winning and internationally syndicated hit seen in 150 countries worldwide.

Immediately after "Roseanne" finished its run in May 1997, Roseanne left for New York to embark on a new challenge, portraying The Wicked Witch of the West in the Madison Square Garden production of "The Wizard of Oz". In a held-over six week run, the show sold over 300,000 tickets – more than any other show on Broadway that year.

Roseanne's television movie credits include "Backfield in Motion". Her feature film credits include "Blue in the Face" for Miramax Films, "Meet Wally Sparks" with Rodney

Dangerfield; “Even Cowgirls Get the Blues” with Uma Thurman and John Waters’ “Cecil B. Demented”, “She Devil” co-starring with Meryl Streep, “15 Minutes”, among others.

Roseanne also served as the Executive Producer of Saturday Night Special, a late-night, cutting edge, variety show for FOX-TV. The series described as “SNL meets MTV,” premiered in April 1996. It featured outrageous comedy antics, some of the most exciting musical acts in the world, innovative short films and off the wall novelty acts.

Roseanne’s autobiographies, “Roseanne My Life as a Woman” and “My Lives” (published in 1994) established her as a #1 best-selling author and she hosted her own talk show for Kingworld for two very successful seasons.

Roseanne remains actively involved in her own production company, Full Moon High Tide Productions and is currently in pre-production on a new TV show. She has recently set-up The Roseanne Foundation, a non-profit organization raising funds to develop and support programs with practical solutions, dealing with the affects of child abuse, working in conjunction and under the supervision of Dr. Colin Ross.