Julia Roberts's ascent to stardom was meteoric, with her breakthrough role in the 1988 film 'Mystic Pizza' leading to a standout performance in 'Steel Magnolias' (1989), for which she received an Academy Award nomination. Her role as Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie showcased her ability to embody both strength and vulnerability, earning her a Golden Globe for Best Supporting Actress and firmly establishing her as a talented actress with a promising future in Hollywood. The 1990 romantic comedy 'Pretty Woman' catapulted Julia Roberts into international fame, solidifying her as a Hollywood leading lady. Her portrayal of Vivian Ward, alongside Richard Gere, not only earned her a second Oscar nomination and a Golden Globe win but also became a cultural phenomenon. The film's box office success, with a gross of over $463 million worldwide, marked a defining moment in Roberts's career, making her an icon of the genre. Julia Roberts's performance in 'Erin Brockovich' (2000) showcased her versatility as an actress and earned her the Academy Award for Best Actress. The role of a determined legal assistant fighting against environmental pollution was a departure from her romantic comedy image, and it demonstrated her ability to lead a serious drama. Her portrayal was critical to the film's success, which grossed $256.3 million globally and cemented her status as a powerful actress capable of carrying a film both critically and commercially. Roberts's foray into television with the HBO TV film 'The Normal Heart' (2014) and the Amazon Prime Video series 'Homecoming' (2018) expanded her acting repertoire and garnered critical acclaim. Her performance in 'The Normal Heart' earned her a Primetime Emmy nomination, while 'Homecoming' marked her first regular role on television, further proving her adaptability and drawing new audiences to her work. Beyond acting, Julia Roberts has made significant strides as a producer through her company Red Om Films. She has used this platform to create opportunities for storytelling in projects like 'Eat Pray Love' and the American Girl film series. Her involvement in production demonstrates her commitment to shaping the entertainment industry and her interest in bringing diverse narratives to the screen. As one of the highest-paid actresses of the 1990s and early 2000s, Julia Roberts broke financial records with her $20 million and $25 million salaries for 'Erin Brockovich' and 'Mona Lisa Smile,' respectively. These groundbreaking figures highlighted the marketability of female leads in Hollywood and paved the way for future actresses to command higher paychecks. Roberts's influence extends beyond the big screen, as exemplified by her long-standing role as the global ambassador for Lancôme since 2009. Her association with the brand has not only influenced beauty trends but also underscored the power of celebrity in the world of luxury goods and cosmetics. Her endorsements and partnerships reflect her status as a global icon and a trusted face in the industry. Julia Roberts's philanthropic efforts are a testament to her commitment to social causes. Her work with UNICEF, particularly her visit to Haiti, highlighted her dedication to humanitarian work. Additionally, her involvement with campaigns like 'Chime for Change' and her advocacy for renewable fuels with Earth Biofuels showcase her engagement with issues of female empowerment and environmental sustainability. In her personal life, Roberts has experienced a journey of self-discovery and spiritual fulfillment, leading to her conversion to Hinduism. Her faith and devotion to Neem Karoli Baba have influenced not only her personal life but also her public persona, reflecting a holistic approach to her career and lifestyle choices. Julia Roberts's family history was further revealed on an episode of 'Finding Your Roots,' where she discovered her ancestors owned slaves and that her biological paternal great-great-grandfather's surname was Mitchell, not Roberts. This discovery added a new dimension to her personal narrative, connecting her to a complex and difficult part of American history.