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Danica McKellar

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Danica Mae McKellar (1975 -) American actress, mathematician and author.

As a child, McKellar landed the important rôle of Winnie Cooper on the TV show *The Wonder Years*. After that, she studied mathematics at UCLA, where she coauthored a paper on the “Percolation and Gibbs states multiplicity for ferromagnetic Ashkin-Teller models on \mathbb{Z}^2 ” for the *Journal of Physics* with Prof. Lincoln Chayes and a classmate, earning McKellar <http://planetmath.org/ErdHosNumberErdős> number 4 through Chayes. After college, McKellar returned to television with a few recurring rôles on shows like *The West Wing*. As an actress, she is connected to Kevin Bacon through Marin Hinkle, who was with her in *The Year That Trembled* and with Bacon in *Rails & Ties*. She has written two bestselling books, *Math Doesn't Suck: How to Survive Middle-School Math without Losing Your Mind or Breaking a Nail* and *Kiss My Math: Showing Pre-Algebra Who's Boss*.

References

- [1] Kenneth Chang, “Between Series, an Actress Became a Superstar in Math” *New York Times*, July 19, 2005
- [2] ABC News staff, “Life After Child Stardom: Not by the Numbers” *20/20* November 24, 2006