

Audra McDonald

McDonald in 2008

Audra McDonald (born July 3, 1970)^[1] is an [American actress](#) and [singer](#).

She played [Professor](#) Carla Bonatelle in the [television series](#) *The Bedford Diaries*, Dr. Naomi Bennett in *Private Practice*, and Jackie Brock in *Mister Sterling*. She was nominated for [Emmy Awards](#) for playing Susie Monahan in the TV movie *Wit* and Ruth Younger in the TV movie *A Raisin in the Sun*. She won an Emmy in 2015 for her part as Lucy in *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, a musical that was filmed for *Live From Lincoln Center*. She was also in the *Live From Lincoln Center* filmed musical *Passion* as Clara and played Grace Farrell in the TV movie *Annie* and Mother Abbess in *The Sound of Music Live!*. Her show *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*.

On Broadway she played Ayah in *The Secret Garden*, Carrie Pipperidge in *Carousel*, Sharon Graham in *Master Class*, Sarah in *Ragtime*, Marie Christine L'Adrese in *Marie Christine*, Lady Percy in *Henry IV*, Ruth Younger in *A Raisin in the Sun*, Lizzie Curry in *110 in the Shade*, Olivia in *Twelfth Night*, Bess in *Porgy and Bess*, [Billie Holiday](#) in *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*, and Lottie Gee in *Shuffle Along: Or the Making of the Musical Sensation of 1921 and All That Followed*. She won [Tony Awards](#) for *Carousel*, *Master Class*, *Ragtime*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Porgy and Bess*, and *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*, and was nominated for *Marie Christine* and *110 in the Shade*. She was also nominated for a Grammy Award for *Porgy and Bess*.

She also performed in the Broadway concert *Something Wonderful* and played Deena Jones in the Actor's Fund concert of *Dreamgirls*. She played Jenny in *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahoganny* at the Los Angeles Opera, and won two [Grammy Awards](#) for the cast album.

McDonald has also been in movies. She played Maureen in *Ricki and the Flash*, Sally in *Hello Again*, and Garderobe in *Beauty and the Beast*.

She has her own concert DVD, *Audra McDonald- Live at the Donmar London*, and has done lots of shows at [Carnegie Hall](#). She tours frequently. She also has five CDs- *Way Back to Paradise*, *How Glory Goes*, *Happy Songs*, *Build a Bridge*, and *Go Back Home*.

McDonald was born in [Berlin](#), [Germany](#) to American parents. She was raised in [Fresno, California](#).

References

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1. [↑] "[Audra McDonald](#)". TVGuide. Retrieved November 20, 2014.

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