



Katherine Helmond

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Katherine Marie Helmond (born July 5, 1929)^[1] is an American film, theater and television actress and director. In her five decades of television acting, she is known her starring role as the ditzy matriarch, Jessica Tate, on the [ABC](#) prime time soap opera sitcom, *Soap* (1977–1981) and her co-starring role as feisty mother, Mona Robinson on *Who's the Boss?* (1984–1992). She also played Doris Sherman on *Coach* and Lois Whelan on *Everybody Loves Raymond*. She has also appeared as a guest on several talk and variety shows.

Career

After her stage debut in *As You Like It*, she began working in New York in 1955. She later ran a summer theatre in the [Catskills](#) for three seasons and taught acting in university theatre programs. She made her television debut in 1962, but would not achieve fame until the 1970s. She also acted on stage, earning a Tony nomination for her performance on Broadway in Eugene O'Neill's *The Great God Brown* (1973). Other Broadway productions include *Private Lives*, *Don Juan* and *Mixed Emotions*.^[2]

Helmond appeared in such feature films as *Family Plot* (1976) and *Brazil* (1985), playing the mother of [Jonathan Pryce](#)'s character. In 1983, she studied at the [American Film Institute](#)'s Directing Workshop, and went on to direct four episodes of the television series *Benson*, as well as one episode of *Who's the Boss?* (1984). She picked up Emmy nominations for her role as Mona Robinson in *Who's the Boss*, and as Lois Whelan in *Everybody Loves Raymond*. She has continued working, receiving acclaim for her stage performance in [Eve Ensler](#)'s *The Vagina Monologues*. (2001)

Helmond appeared in *The Legend of Lizzie Borden* (1975), as [Emma Borden](#), the title character's sister. She appeared in an episode of the short-lived 1976 CBS adventure series, *Spencer's Pilots*, starring [Gene Evans](#). Helmond gained prominence as Jessica Tate, the ditzy matriarch of the Tate family in *Soap* (1977–1981) on [ABC](#). From 1984 to 1992, she played the role of Mona Robinson on the

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Helmond at the [41st Primetime Emmy Awards](#) (1989)

Born	Katherine Marie Helmond <div>July 5, 1929</div> <div>Galveston, Texas, U.S.</div>
Occupation(s)	Actress, director
Years active	1955–present
Known for	<i>Soap</i> <i>Who's the Boss?</i>
Spouse(s)	George N. Martin <div>​(m. 1957; div. 1962)</div> David Christian <div>​(m. 1962)</div>

ABC sitcom *Who's the Boss?*. The show was a ratings success, running for eight seasons and finishing in the Nielsen 'Top 10' four straight years. In 1993, she appeared in one episode of the British version of *Who's the Boss?*, *The Upper Hand*.^[3] From 1995 to 1997, she starred in the ABC sitcom *Coach* as Doris Sherman, eccentric owner of the fictional *Orlando Breakers* professional football team. From 1996 to 2004, she had a recurring role on *Everybody Loves Raymond* as Lois Whelan (Ray Barone's mother-in-law). On July 25, 2010, she guest-starred on A&E's *The Glades*. She also guest starred as Caroline Bellefleur on HBO's *True Blood*.



Katherine Helmond in 1980

Personal life

Helmond was born on July 5, 1929 in *Galveston, Texas*, the only child of Joseph P. (March 11, 1904 – January 31, 1983) and Thelma (née Malone) Helmond (May 13, 1910 – October 10, 1981). She was raised by her mother and grandmother, both devout *Roman Catholics*. She attended a Catholic primary school^[4] and appeared in numerous school plays.

In 1957, Helmond married George N. Martin. After their divorce she married her second husband, David Christian and the couple have been together since 1962. She has no children. They have owned homes in Los Angeles, New York City, Long Island and London. She and her husband have a history as students of Zen.^[5]

Filmography

Film			
Year	Film	Role	Notes
1971	<i><u>Believe in Me</u></i>	Saleslady	
	<i><u>The Hospital</u></i>	Mrs. Marilyn Mead	
1975	<i><u>The Hindenburg</u></i>	Mrs. Mildred Breslau	
1976	<i><u>Family Plot</u></i>	Mrs. Maloney	
	<i><u>Baby Blue Marine</u></i>	Mrs. Hudkins	
1981	<i><u>Time Bandits</u></i>	Mrs. Ogre	
1985	<i><u>Brazil</u></i>	Mrs. Ida Lowry	
	<i><u>Shadey</u></i>	Lady Constance Landau	British film
1987	<i><u>Overboard</u></i>	Edith Mintz	
1988	<i><u>Lady in White</u></i>	Amanda Harper	Nominated — <u>Saturn Award for Best Supporting Actress</u> (1990)
1992	<i><u>Inside Monkey Zetterland</u></i>	Honor Zetterland	
1993	<i><u>Amore!</u></i>	Mildred Schwartz	
1994	<i><u>The Flight of the Dove</u></i>	Dr. Pamela Schilling	a.k.a. <i><u>The Spy Within</u></i>
1998	<i><u>Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas</u></i>	Desk Clerk at Mint Hotel	
2000	<i><u>The Perfect Nanny</u></i>	Mrs. McBride	
2001	<i><u>Living in Fear</u></i>	Mrs. Ford	
2002	<i><u>Black Hole</u></i>	Martha Truesdale	
2003	<i><u>Beethoven's 5th</u></i>	Crazy Cora Wilkens	<u>Direct-to-video</u> film
2006	<i><u>Cars</u></i>	<u>Lizzie</u>	Voice role



Katherine Helmond in 1979

2007	<i>The Strand</i>	Isabelle	Direct-to-video film
2011	<i>Cars 2</i>	Lizzie	Voice role
	<i>Collaborator</i>	Irene Longfellow	
2017	<i>Cars 3</i>	Lizzie	Voice role
Television			
Year	Title	Role	Notes
1962	<i>Car 54, Where Are You?</i>	Betty Lou Creco (uncredited)	1 episode
1972	<i>Gunsmoke</i>	Ena Spratt	1 episode
1973	<i>Adam's Rib</i>	Martha Layne	1 episode
	<i>The Bob Newhart Show</i>	Dr. Webster	1 episode
	<i>The ABC Afternoon Playbreak</i>	Liz Cunningham	1 episode
1974	<i>The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman</i>	Lady at House	TV film
	<i>The Snoop Sisters</i>	Cissy Prine	1 episode
	<i>Dr. Max</i>	Libby Oppel	TV film
	<i>Hec Ramsey</i>	Emily	1 episode
	<i>Larry</i>	Maureen Whitten	TV film
	<i>Mannix</i>	Martha Cole	1 episode
	<i>Locusts</i>	Claire Fletcher	TV film
	<i>Medical Center</i>	Rachel	1 episode
1974–75	<i>The Rookies</i>	Joyce Lanson / Molly Phillips	2 episodes
1975	<i>The Legend of Lizzie Borden</i>	<u>Emma Borden</u>	TV film
	<i>The Family Nobody Wanted</i>	Mrs. Bittner	TV film
	<i>Cage Without a Key</i>	Mrs. Little	TV film
	<i>The First 36 Hours of Dr. Durant</i>	Nurse Katherine Gunther	TV pilot
	<i>Barnaby Jones</i>	Edna Morrison	1 episode

	<u>Harry O</u>	Anne Kershaw	1 episode
	<u>The Six Million Dollar Man</u>	Middy	1 episode
1976	<i>The Blue Knight</i>		1 episode
	<u>James Dean</u>	Claire Folger	TV film
	<u>Petrocelli</u>	Nancy Berwick	1 episode
	<i>Joe Forrester</i>		1 episode
	<i>Wanted: The Sundance Woman</i>	Mattie Riley	TV film a.k.a. <i>Mrs. Sundance Rides Again</i>
	<i>Visions</i>	Aunt Sara	1 episode
	<i>Spencer's Pilots</i>	Elly	1 episode
1977	<i>Little Ladies of the Night</i>	Miss Colby	TV film a.k.a. <i>Diamond Alley</i>
	<u>The Bionic Woman</u>	Dr. Harkens	2 episodes
	<u>Meeting of Minds</u>	<u>Emily Dickinson</u>	2 episodes
1978	<u>Getting Married</u>	Vera Lesser	TV film
	<u>Pearl</u>	Mrs. Sally Colton, Madam	<u>TV miniseries</u>
1979	<i>\$weepstake\$</i>	Lynn	1 episode
	<i>Diary of a Teenage Hitchhiker</i>	Elaine Thurston	TV film
1980	<u>Scout's Honor</u>	Pearl Bartlett	TV film
1977–81	<u>Soap</u>	Jessica Tate	85 episodes Won — <u>Golden Globe Award for Best Actress – Television Series Musical or Comedy</u> (1980) Nominated — <u>Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series</u> (1978) Nominated — <u>Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series</u> (1979) Nominated — <u>Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series</u> (1980) Nominated — <u>Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series</u> (1981)

1982	<u>World War III</u>	Dorothy Longworth	TV miniseries
	<u>For Lovers Only</u>	Bea Winchell	TV film
	<u>Rosie: The Rosemary Clooney Story</u>	Frances Clooney	TV film
1979–83	<u>Benson</u>	Jessica Tate	2 episodes also as director
1983	<u>Faerie Tale Theatre</u>	Jack's mother	1 episode
	<u>Fantasy Island</u>	Laura Walters / George Walters	1 episode
1984	<u>Not in Front of the Kids</u>	Millie Rosen	TV film
1985	<u>Comedy Factory</u>	Mildred Deegan	1 episode
1981–86	<u>The Love Boat</u>	Vivian / Harriet Darnell Stevens	3 episodes
1986	<u>Charmed Lives</u>	Mona Robinson	1 episode
	<u>Girls on Top</u>	Goldie DuPont	1 episode
	<u>Christmas Snow</u>	Widow Mutterance	TV film
1988	<u>Save the Dog!</u>		TV film a.k.a. <i>Go for Broke</i>
1990	<u>When Will I Be Loved?</u>	Barbara Patterson	TV film
1991	<u>The Perfect Tribute</u>	Farm Woman	TV film
	<u>Deception: A Mother's Secret</u>	Geena Milner	TV film a.k.a. <i>Tell Me No Lies</i>
1984–92	<u>Who's the Boss?</u>	Mona Robinson	196 episodes Won — <u>Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actress – Series, Miniseries or Television Film</u> (1989) Nominated — <u>Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actress – Series, Miniseries or Television Film</u> (1986) Nominated — <u>Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series</u> (1988) Nominated — <u>Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series</u> (1989) Nominated — <u>TV Land Award for Favorite Mother-in-Law</u> (2005)

1992	<i>Grass Roots</i>	Emma Carr	TV film
	<i>Batman: The Animated Series</i>	Connie Stromwell	1 episode Voice role
1993	<i>The Elvira Show</i>	Aunt Minerva	Unknown episodes
	<i>The Upper Hand</i>	Madame Alexandra	1 episode
1995	<i>Liz: The Elizabeth Taylor Story</i>	Hedda Hopper	TV film
1995–97	<i>Coach</i>	Doris Sherman	11 episodes
1997	<i>Ms. Scrooge</i>	Maude Marley	TV film
1999	<i>The Wild Thornberrys</i>	Dugong	1 episode Voice role
	<i>Providence</i>	Rose Bidwell	2 episodes
2000	<i>Strong Medicine</i>	Cicely Nordeco	1 episode
	<i>How to Marry a Billionaire: A Christmas Tale</i>	Shatzie	TV film
2002	<i>Mr. St. Nick</i>	Queen Carlotta	TV film
1996–2004	<i>Everybody Loves Raymond</i>	Lois Whelan	14 episodes Nominated — <u>Emmy Award for Outstanding Guest Actress in a Comedy Series</u> (2002)
2007	<i>A Grandpa for Christmas</i>	Roxie Famosa	TV film
2010	<i>The Glades</i>	Evelyn	1 episode
	<i>Melissa & Joey</i>	Mrs. Geller	1 episode
2011	<i>True Blood</i>	Caroline Bellefleur	1 episode
2011	<i>Harry's Law</i>	Mrs. Gold	1 episode
2012	<i>Cars Toons: Mater's Tall Tales</i>	Lizzie	Episode: "Time Travel Mater"

Award nominations

She was nominated for Broadway's 1973 Tony Award as Best Supporting or Featured Actress (Dramatic) for Eugene O'Neill's *The Great God Brown*. She was nominated for an Emmy for her role on *Soap* four times in a row (1978–1981) as Best Actress in a Comedy Series. In 1988 and 1989, she was nominated as Best Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series for her role on *Who's the Boss?*. In 2002, she was nominated as Guest Actress in a Comedy Series for her role in *Everybody Loves Raymond*.

References

1. "khelmond" (<http://www.genealogymagazine.com/khelmond.html>). Retrieved 22 July 2016.
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3. "The Upper Hand Tunnel of Love (1993)" (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0737951>). IMDb.com. 1993-02-22. Retrieved 2009-04-20.
4. Katherine Helmond profile at movies.yahoo.com (<https://movies.yahoo.com/movie/contributor/1800020753/bio>)
5. "The Victoria Advocate - Google News Archive Search" (<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=861&dat=19860518&id=Uo1dAAAAIBAJ&sjid=a1wNAAAAIBAJ&pg=5379,5540174&hl=en>). Retrieved 22 July 2016.

External links

- Katherine Helmond (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001340/>) at IMDb
- Katherine Helmond (<https://www.ibdb.com/broadway-cast-staff/72782>) at the Internet Broadway Database
- Katherine Helmond (<http://www.iobdb.com/CreditableEntity/9302>) at the Internet Off-Broadway Database
- Katherine Helmond (<https://interviews.televisionacademy.com/interviews/katherine-helmond>) at The Interviews: An Oral History of Television

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