

Mischa Barton



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Mischa Anne Barton (born 24 January 1986)[1] is a British-American film, television, and stage actress, and occasional fashion model. She began her acting career on the stage, appearing in Tony Kushner's *Slavs!* and took the lead in James Lapine's Twelve Dreams at New York City's Lincoln Center. She made her screen debut with a guest appearance on the American soap opera All My Children (1996). She then voiced a character on the Nickelodeon cartoon series KaBlam! (1996–97). Her first major film role was as the protagonist of Lawn Dogs (1997), an acclaimed drama co-starring Sam Rockwell. She continued acting, appearing in major box office pictures such as the romantic comedy, *Notting Hill* (1999) and M. Night Shyamalan's psychological thriller, The Sixth Sense (1999). She also starred in the critically acclaimed indie crime drama Pups (1999).

Barton later appeared in the independent drama, Lost and Delirious (2001) and guest-starred as Evan Rachel Wood's girlfriend on ABC's *Once and Again* (2001–02). She is known for her role as Marissa Cooper in the Fox television series *The O.C.* (2003–07), for which she received two Teen Choice Awards. The role catapulted Barton into mainstream fame, and Entertainment Weekly named her the "It Girl" of 2003.

Barton has since appeared in the comedy remake *St Trinian's* (2007), the Richard Attenborough-directed drama Closing the Ring (2007) and Assassination of a High School President (2008). She returned to television, starring in the short-lived Ashton Kutcher-produced CW series, The Beautiful Life: TBL (2009). In 2012, she returned to the stage, performing in the Irish production of Steel Magnolias.

Early life

Mischa Barton Barton in London, 2006 Born Mischa Anne Barton 24 January 1986 Hammersmith, London, England Citizenship Ireland, United Kingdom, United States Occupations Actress · fashion model · fashion designer

1995-present

Years active

Barton was born in Hammersmith, [2] London, [1][3] to an Irish mother, [2] Nuala (née Quinn), [4] a photographer, and an English father, Paul Marsden Barton, [4] a foreign exchange broker from Manchester. [2] Barton's grandfather on her mother's side was an Irish language professor at the University of Belfast. [5] She has two sisters, younger Hania Barton and elder Zoe, a barrister in London. [6] Barton has stated that she briefly attended St. Paul's Girls' School in Hammersmith, [7] but her father's work took the family to New York City when Barton was five years old. In 2006, ten days after her twentieth birthday, [2] she became a <u>naturalised</u> citizen of the United States. She has retained her <u>British citizenship</u>. She has stated, "I like people to discern that I'm an English-Irish girl who grew up in New York City and who moved around a lot with her dad's job." [2]

Barton graduated from the <u>Professional Children's School</u> in <u>Manhattan</u> in 2004, and took a summer short course called Acting Shakespeare at The <u>Royal Academy of Dramatic Art</u> in London, in June and July 2006, [9] at Sir <u>Richard Attenborough's urging</u>, [10][11] after he directed her in <u>Closing the Ring</u>.

Career

1994-1997: Stage roles

Barton began acting at the age of eight, co-starring in the Off-Broadway premiere of the 1994 play, Slavs!, written by Tony Kushner. Vincent Canby of The New York Times praised Barton's "so fine" and "chillingly authoritative" performance. New York magazine also praised her as "a darling little girl, [that] exhibits consummate charm". She appeared in several other Off-Broadway productions, taking a lead role in James Lapine's Twelve Dreams alongside Marisa Tomei at Lincoln Center. Canby again praised Barton, noting that she "has a sweet gravity as the doomed Emma". In 1996 Barton had a supporting role in Catherine Butterfield's Where the Truth Lies which opened at New York's Irish Repertory Theatre. The New York Times also remarked that "the winning child actresses Brittany Boyd and Mischa Barton are already smart enough not to overplay the naivete and precocity of their respective characters." In 1997, she appeared alongside Diane Wiest at The Public Theater in Naomi Wallace's One Flea Spare. The New York production went on to win the OBIE Award for Best Play.

1997-2003: Feature films and television

She made her film debut in <u>Lawn Dogs</u>, which won <u>awards</u> at <u>film festivals</u> around the world. Barton won critical favour for her role, with <u>Janet Maslin</u> of <u>The New York Times</u> praising her "poised" performance^[17] and <u>Empire</u> celebrating her "hypnotic central performance". Barton then appeared in <u>Notting Hill</u> (1999) and <u>The Sixth Sense</u> (1999). Both films were critically and commercially successful, respectively earning \$363,889,700 and \$672,806,292. She also starred in <u>Pups</u>, a "<u>Bonnie and Clyde</u> for the MTV generation", alongside <u>Burt Reynolds</u>; along with her co-star Cameron Van Hoy, film critic <u>Roger Ebert called their work in the film "two of the most natural and freed performances I have seen by actors of any age."</u>

Barton first appeared on television in 1994, playing a young Corvina Lang in flashbacks in the <u>soap opera All My Children</u>. In 1996, she returned to the show, replacing <u>Michelle Trachtenberg</u> in the role of Lily Benton Montgomery. She guest-starred in eight episodes of the television series <u>Once and Again</u> as Jessie Sammler's (<u>Evan Rachel Wood</u>) girlfriend, Katie Singer. In 2001, she returned to film and starred in the independent Canadian drama, <u>Lost and Delirious</u>, based on the novel <u>The Wives of Bath</u> by <u>Susan Swan</u>. The film was met with mixed reviews, but the performances of Barton and her co-stars <u>Piper Perabo</u> and <u>Jessica Paré</u> were widely praised. She also starred in <u>Julie Johnson</u> (2001) alongside <u>Lili Taylor</u> and <u>Courtney Love</u>, playing the daughter of a woman in a <u>lesbian</u> relationship. Barton also had a supporting role in the independent teen drama <u>Tart</u> (2001) with Brad Renfro and Dominique Swain.

Other television appearances include an episode of the <u>Fox</u> series <u>Fastlane</u> (2003). She also appears as the love interest in <u>James Blunt</u>'s music video "<u>Goodbye My Lover</u>" (2005)^[23] and in <u>Enrique Iglesias</u>' music video "Addicted" (2003).^[24]

2003-2006: The O.C.

In August 2003, Fox premiered the television series <u>The O.C.</u>, about affluent teenagers with stormy personal lives who reside in scenic <u>Orange County, California</u>. The show became an overnight success due to its large fanbase, and resulted in Barton's fame being increased through her role as <u>Marissa Cooper</u>. Barton departed from the show in the third-season finale in May 2006. During her time on the show, Barton garnered several <u>Teen Choice Awards</u>. She was also celebrated by <u>Glamour</u> as the "Next Big Thing" and as <u>Entertainment Weekly</u>'s "It Girl 2003" in the magazine's "It List" for top Creative People in Entertainment. <u>[26]</u> The O.C. dropped in ratings dramatically during its third and fourth seasons, and ended in early 2007.

2006-present

In July 2006, Barton appeared on the British comedy variety show <u>The Friday Night Project</u> as a guest host. [28] In 2007, Barton appeared in the films <u>The Oh in Ohio</u> and the comedy film <u>Virgin Territory</u> with <u>Hayden Christensen</u>. She also joined <u>Shirley MacLaine</u> and <u>Christopher Plummer</u> in <u>Richard Attenborough</u>'s war drama <u>Closing the Ring</u>. Attenborough praised her, saying "her ability to convey pain and sadness, hopefulness and fear, is riveting". *The Independent* also noted that "she lends her character a beguiling vulnerability." [29]

She also appeared in the British comedy <u>St Trinians</u> (2007), appearing as a former head girl of that school advising current senior pupils on fashion and style. <u>[29]</u> Later in 2007, Barton was cast in the international film produced by the Russian band <u>t.A.T.u.</u>, called <u>You and I</u>. The film premiered at the <u>Cannes Film Festival</u> in May 2008 and was released theatrically in Russia in 2011. She appeared in <u>Assassination of a High School President</u> (2008), co-starring <u>Bruce Willis</u>, which premiered at the <u>2008 Sundance Film Festival</u>. <u>The Hollywood Reporter</u> praised Barton's "captivating" performance. <u>[30]</u>

She also starred in the <u>horror film Walled In</u>, which was released <u>straight-to-DVD</u> in March 2009. It received mixed reviews, but her performance was praised, with <u>IGN</u> calling her performance "terrific". Her next horror project, <u>Homecoming</u>, received a limited release in July 2009. Barton did not attend the premiere of the psychological thriller due to a medical issue. She also starred in the 2009 film <u>Don't Fade Away</u>. In early 2009 she began filming alongside <u>Martin Sheen</u> in <u>Bhopal: A Prayer for Rain</u> a biopic of the <u>Bhopal gas</u> tragedy. The title is currently in post-production and slated for a 2013 release.

In a December 2007 interview, she indicated that she would return to television for the right project; "It's not that I dislike doing television at all. It would be interesting having more creative control over where the storylines go or the characters. But for the right thing, of course." In 2009 she starred as one of the main characters on *The Beautiful Life* a new series on *The CW*. The series was subsequently cancelled on 25 September 2009 after televising 2 episodes. In December 2009, the technology company HP became the show's sponsor and began airing the show's five episodes on YouTube.

She guest starred on a <u>Law & Order: Special Victims Unit</u>, played an endangered prostitute in an episode that aired on 3 March $2010.^{\boxed{[38]}}$ She has since mainly filmed horror and thriller projects, taking roles in <u>The Sibling</u>, <u>Cyberstalker</u>, a Lifetime television film and <u>Apartment 1303 3D</u>, the English-language remake of

the Japanese horror film, <u>Apartment 1303</u>. [41] Barton's most recent film appearance was as the protagonist in Mark Edwin Robinson's supernatural romance thriller, *Into the Dark*. [42]

In May 2012, Barton discussed her recent preference for the horror genre, following roles in *Homecoming, Apartment 1303* and *Sibling* "I literally became obsessed with that genre. I can't tell you. Because I never watched it when I was younger; it used to be way too terrifying for me." However Barton added that, "I think I've gone through my little phase, for the moment." In June, Barton appeared in the new music video of Noel Gallagher's *Everybody's on the Run*. Gallagher's *Everybody's on the Run*.

In July 2012, it was revealed that Barton would make her stage return in an Irish production of <u>Steel Magnolias</u>. Barton will play Shelby in the production, which will premiere at the <u>Gaiety Theatre</u>, <u>Dublin</u> in September and will be followed by a nationwide tour. [45][46] After the premiere on 12 September, Barton received praise for her performance. The <u>Evening Herald</u> wrote "Barton sparkles from the moment she steps on stage...Barton's Shelby is instantly magnetic". [47]

She is scheduled to begin filming the independent drama, *Fast Life* in Los Angeles in summer 2013. [48]

On 8 March 2016, Barton was announced as one of the celebrities who will compete on the <u>22nd season</u> of <u>Dancing with the Stars</u>. She was paired with professional dancer <u>Artem Chigvintsev</u>. On 4 April 2016, Barton and Chigvintsev were eliminated from the competition and finished in 11th place.

Most recently she has been critically recognized for her performance in <u>Deserted</u>, a psychological survival story written and directed by Ashley Avis. Barton plays Jae, a young woman recently released from prison who goes on a soul-searching journey into the desert with her brother Robin, played by <u>Jackson Davis</u>. "Barton is well-cast, grounded and burdened," and "...delivers one of her best performances in years." [52]

Modelling, fashion design, and endorsements

Barton has been in many television commercials and print <u>advertising</u> campaigns. Barton has modelled for companies <u>Calvin Klein</u>, <u>bebe stores</u>, <u>Aéropostale</u>, Monsoon Accessorize, <u>Dooney & Bourke</u>, JC (Jeans and Clothes), European clothing line <u>Morgan de Toi</u>, Jaspal, and <u>Neutrogena</u> skincare products. She became the <u>spokesperson</u> for <u>Keds</u> Sneakers, substantially increasing their sales. [53] In Australia, she appears in commercials for teen magazine *Famous* and was the guest of honour at retail giant <u>David Jones</u> Tahitian Summer Collection launch. [54] She has also endorsed <u>Chanel</u> jewelry, appearing at a number of events for the brand. In a 2005 interview, she stated that she liked the Chanel brand because they produced a large number of clip-on earrings suitable for women who did not have pierced ears, as she did not at the time. In 2009, having had her ears pierced especially for her role in <u>The Beautiful Life</u>, she modeled jewelry for the company Inspired Creations, including pierced earrings and their Waxing Poetic range of charms. [56]

In 2008, she won the *InStyle* "icon of the year" award from <u>Karl Lagerfeld</u> at the Viper awards in Berlin. Lagerfeld spoke about Barton; "So many girls want to look like Mischa Barton. She is a fashion role model for an entire generation. I am so happy to be able to present her with the VIPer Award." [57]

Barton also became a <u>spokesperson</u> for the SAFE (Skin Awareness for Everyone) campaign in 2007. [58] In addition, she lent her name to the TRAID campaign (Textile Recycling for Aid and International Development) in association with Visa Swap. [59] Barton was photographed in April 2007 for the Fall 2007/2008 advertising campaign for Italian clothing brand Iceberg, modelling with Nicolas Bemberg. [60]

In July 2008, she created a 14-piece handbag collection for online retailer, ASOS.com. [61] Barton was reportedly very involved in the line which retails from £20 to £145. She told ASOS magazine that she first discovered the website through her sister. [62]

In December 2008, Barton premiered her line of headbands released on the Stacy Lapidus line. The headbands cost from \$90 to \$200. She also has a handbag line for London-based Ri2k, which is sold in the United Kingdom and Australia only. [63] In early 2009, she became the "new face" of Herbal Essences. [64]

In June 2010 she was announced as the face of <u>Philipp Plein</u> couture. Plein revealed, "Being in the limelight for a young and beautiful girl, the looks of course always get a lot of attention, Mischa Barton got a lot and learned to live with her fame. For me it was the big challenge to again show her as a Diva, a Rock ´n` Roll Goddess". The campaign will be circulated in international editions of leading fashion magazines. [65][66]

In October 2011 she appeared in a controversial photoshoot for <u>Tyler Shields</u> that was showcased at the <u>Imitate Modern</u> Gallery in London. <u>[67]</u> <u>Artinfo</u> remarked at the "sense of subjugation" in the raw-meat inspired shoot, "Barton is naked, lipsticked, and icily coiffed like a Duran Duran-era object of desire." <u>[68]</u>

In December 2011 it was reported that Barton plans to open a clothes and shoes store in Shoreditch, the store has the working title of 'Mischa's Closet'. [69] In March 2012 she debuted a new line of clothing, accessories, cosmetics, and bath products on the internet called Mischa's Place. Barton has plans to expand Mischa's Place beyond the internet and is set to open a Mischa's Place flagship store in London at Spitalfields Market. [70]

In November 2012, she became the face of UUNIQUE LONDON, which makes be spoke iPhone cases and also launched her own range. [71]

Personal life

Barton purchased a house in Los Angeles at age nineteen, which she shares with her parents; [7] she splits her time between there and apartments in London and New York. [5][7]

Relationships

Barton's previous boyfriends have included <u>Cisco Adler, [72] Taylor Locke, [73] Jamie Dornan, [74] DJ Ali Love, [75] Brett Simon, [76] and Brandon Davis (grandson of <u>Marvin Davis</u>). <u>[77][78] In December 2008</u>, there were reports that she was dating <u>The Kooks frontman Luke Pritchard. [79] The reports were confirmed during the relationship by Pritchard; Barton only confirmed the relationship after the pair split in March 2009, writing on her blog: "I think Luke is a great guy, but the type better suited as a friend. We have a surprising amount of mutual friends in England and I don't regret our time together, I just couldn't keep it going." <u>[80][81][82]</u> In 2017, Mischa revealed that two of her ex-boyfriends, Jon Zacharias and Adam Spaw, had been trying to sell a sex tape of her. In 2017, she got restraining orders against both Zacharias and Spaw. <u>[83]</u></u></u>

Charitable affiliations

Barton is currently the spokesperson for Climate Star, an organization that fights <u>global warming</u> through social and legislative activism. Barton has worked with the home shopping company <u>QVC</u> to raise funds for women's cancer research. [85]

In 2006, Barton also became a spokesperson for the SAFE (Skin Awareness for Everyone)^[86] campaign and also lent her name to the TRAID campaign (Textile Recycling for Aid and International Development) in association with Visa Swap.^[87] Barton is an ambassador for <u>Save the Children</u> and the "One Water" campaign which brings water to remote locations in <u>Africa</u>, and is on the board of the "Lupus Research Committee" in Los Angeles.^[88]

Legal troubles

Barton was arrested on suspicion of <u>driving under the influence</u>, possession of <u>marijuana</u>, and driving without a valid license on 27 December 2007. [89]

She was stopped by the police during the early morning hours in <u>West Hollywood, California</u> when she was seen "straddling the lanes and failing to signal for a turn". Police discovered during the traffic stop that Barton "was an unlicensed driver and was driving while under the influence of an alcoholic beverage". She was detained and released later the same morning from the West Hollywood Sheriff Station on <u>US\$10,000</u> bail. On 11 January 2008, Barton called into <u>Ryan Seacrest</u>'s syndicated radio show <u>On Air with Ryan Seacrest</u> and said, "I was pulled over... just that. Obviously, I'm 100 percent responsible for my actions in this case and I'm really disappointed in myself... I don't know what to say about it, except that I'm not perfect and I just don't ever intend to do something this stupid again." [90]

Barton was subsequently charged with two misdemeanors: driving without a valid license; and a DUI. [91]

On 21 January 2010, Barton was sued by her New York landlord for refusing to pay three months of \$7,000 per month rent on her apartment. [92]

In August 2015, Barton sued her own mother for "breach of contract" and "theft" over a house they own in Beverly Hills, California. [93]

Psychiatric confinement

In July 2009, after seeking medical attention for a tooth infection, Barton was <u>sectioned</u> for two weeks under a <u>5150</u> that allows a psychiatrist to involuntarily confine a person deemed to have a mental disorder that makes them a danger to themselves and others. She said of the incident, "If they feel you are depressed or a danger to yourself they can hold you on a 5150. I am terrified of needles and they wanted to pump me full of drugs and I said, "No, absolutely not. I don't want to be here," and got into a fight with the nurses, and that led to my 5150." [94]

In January 2017, Barton was found screaming on her backyard fence and voluntarily taken to the hospital for a mental health evaluation with help from police and firefighters that were called to the scene. [95]

Barton has since spoken out on the Dr.Phil show on 3 April 2017 in relation to her mental health issues and her involuntary confinement, stating that her parents and management team admitted her to the Cedars-Cinai facility because they felt she wasn't equipped to continue working. Barton added that her team had been giving her prescription pills to help her meet her work commitments and the resulting exhaustion and anxiety of a hectic work schedule, in a year where she had only had 8 days off. [96][97]

Filmography

Film

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1995	Polio Water	Diane	Short film
1997	Lawn Dogs	Devon Stockard	
1999	Pups	Rocky	
1999	Notting Hill	12-Year-Old Actress	
1999	The Sixth Sense	Kyra Collins	
2000	Paranoid	Theresa	
2000	Skipped Parts	Maurey Pierce	
2001	Lost and Delirious	Mary 'Mouse' Bedford	
2001	Julie Johnson	Lisa Johnson	
2001	Tart	Grace Bailey	
2003	Octane	Natasha 'Nat' Wilson	
2006	The Oh in Ohio	Kristen Taylor	
2007	Closing the Ring	Young Ethel Ann	
2007	St Trinian's	JJ French	
2007	Virgin Territory	Pampinea	
2008	Assassination of a High School President	Francesca Fachini	
2009	Walled In	Sam Walczak	
2009	Homecoming	Shelby Mercer	
2010	Don't Fade Away	Kat	
2011	You and I	Lana	
2012	Into the Dark	Sophia Monet	
2012	Ben Banks	Amy	
2012	Apartment 1303 3D	Lara Slate	
2013	Bhopal: A Prayer for Rain	Eva Gascon	
2013	A Resurrection	Jessie	Also producer ^[98]
2014	Zombie Killers: Elephant's Graveyard	Toni	
2014	Mining for Ruby	Jessica King	

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2014	Hope Lost	Alina	
2015	L.A. Slasher	The Actress ^[99]	
2015	Checkmate	Lauren Campbell	
2015	The Hoarder	Ella	
2015	Swat Unit: 877	Agent Melanie Hamlin	
2015	American Beach House	Ms. Maureen	
2015	Starcrossed	Kat	
2015	Operator	Pamela Miller	
2016	Deserted (2016 film)	Jae	
2016	Father	Jennifer	
2017	The Basement	Kelly Owen	
2017	Monsters at Large	Katie Parker	
2017	The Executor	Tara	

Television

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1995	All My Children	Lily Montgomery	1 episode
1996	New York Crossing	Drummond	Movie
1996–97	KaBlam!	Betty Ann Bongo (voice)	Recurring role (15 episodes)
2000	Frankie & Hazel	Francesca 'Frankie' Humphries	Movie
2001–02	Once and Again	Katie Singer	Recurring role (8 episodes)
2002	A Ring of Endless Light	Vicky Austin	Movie
2003	<u>Fastlane</u>	Simone Collins	Episode: "Simone Says"
2003–06	The O.C.	Marissa Cooper	Main role (76 episodes)
2009	The Beautiful Life: TBL	Sonja Stone	Main role (5 episodes)
2010	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Gladys Dalton	Episode: "Savior"
2012	Cyberstalker	Aiden Ashley	Movie
2016	Recovery Road	Olivia	Episode: "Parties Without Borders"
2016	Dancing with the Stars	Herself	Contestant on season 22
2017	The Joneses Unplugged	Rebecca Jones	Movie

Music videos

Year	Title	Role	Artist
2003	"Addicted"	Love Interest	Enrique Iglesias

2005	"Goodbye My Lover"	Girlfriend	James Blunt
2012	"Everybody's on the Run"	Girl	Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds
2014	"Coming Through"	Herself	Willis Earl Beal
2017	"Turn It Off" [100]	Girl	Deap Vally

Theatre

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1995	Slavs!	Vodya	
1995	Twelve Dreams	Emma	
1996	Where the Truth Lies	Cinda	
1997	One Flea Spare	Morse	
2012	Steel Magnolias	Shelby	Gaeity Theatre

Awards and nominations

Year	Association	Category	Work	Result
2004	Teen Choice Awards	Choice Breakout TV Star – Female		Won
		Choice TV Actress – Drama/Action Adventure	The O.C.	Nominated
2005		Choice TV Actress: Drama	The O.C.	Nominated
		Choice TV Chemistry with Ben McKenzie	The O.C.	Nominated
		Choice Red Carpet Fashion Icon: Female		Nominated
2006	Choice Red Carpet Fashion Icon: Female			Won

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