



Taissa Farmiga

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Taissa Farmiga (/tɑːˈiːsə fɑːrˈmiːɡə/^[1] born August 17, 1994) is an American actress. She began her career in film in the drama *Higher Ground* (2011), and subsequently made her television debut in the FX series *American Horror Story: Murder House* (2011). Farmiga made her stage debut in the Off-Broadway revival of the drama play *Buried Child* (2016).

Farmiga has since appeared in *The Bling Ring* (2013), *Mindscape* (2013), *At Middleton* (2013), *The Final Girls* (2015), *6 Years* (2015), *In a Valley of Violence* (2016), and *Rules Don't Apply* (2016). She has voiced Raven in *Justice League vs. Teen Titans* (2016) and *Teen Titans: The Judas Contract* (2017).

Early life and family

Farmiga was born and raised in the Whitehouse Station area of Readington Township, New Jersey.^[2] She is the youngest of seven children born to Ukrainian American parents Lubomyra (née Spas), a schoolteacher, and Michael Farmiga, a systems analyst.^{[3][4]} Her older siblings are Victor, Vera, Stephan, Nadia, Alexander, and Laryssa; the latter of whom was born with spina bifida.^{[5][6][7]} Farmiga's maternal grandparents, Nadia (née Pletenciw; 1925–2014) and Theodor Spas (1921–1990), met at a displaced persons camp in Karlsfeld during World War II.^[8] She attended public school until fourth grade, after which she began homeschooling.^[9] Farmiga has stated that she understands the Ukrainian language but can only partially speak it. She is proficient in American Sign Language, having taken classes for four years.^[9]

Career

2011–2015: Beginnings

Taissa Farmiga



Farmiga at the Toronto International Film Festival on September 19, 2015

Born	August 17, 1994 <div> <u>Readington Township, New Jersey, U.S.</u></div>
Occupation	Actress
Years active	2011–present
Relatives	<u>Vera Farmiga</u> (sister) <div><u>Adriana Farmiga</u> (paternal cousin)</div>

Although Farmiga initially planned to become an accountant,^[10] she was persuaded to appear in her sister Vera Farmiga's directorial debut drama *Higher Ground*, playing the 16-year-old version of the lead character Corinne Walker.^[11] Shortly after its premiere at the 2011 Sundance, and following rave reviews for her performance,^[12] she was signed to talent agency ICM Partners.^[13] That same year, Farmiga starred in the first season of FX's anthology series *American Horror Story*, launching her to worldwide prominence.^[14] She portrayed Violet Harmon in *American Horror Story: Murder House*, the troubled adolescent daughter of Vivien (Connie Britton) and Ben Harmon (Dylan McDermott)^{[15][16]} – a role she secured in her first professional acting audition.^[17] Farmiga then joined the cast of Sofia Coppola's crime satire *The Bling Ring*, based on the real life group of the same name, portraying 17-year-old wild child Sam Moore.^[18] The film opened in Un Certain Regard at the 2013 Cannes Film Festival, to generally positive reviews.^[19]

Farmiga next portrayed Audrey Martin, an uptight teen touring a college campus, in the romantic comedy *At Middleton*, co-starring with her sister and Andy García.^[20] The film premiered at the 2013 Seattle International Film Festival, receiving a mixed to positive response from critics.^[21] She then returned to *American Horror Story* for the third season of the series, *American Horror Story: Coven* (2013–2014),^[22] portraying Zoe Benson, a young witch afflicted with a dark and dangerous power; she received acclaim for her performance.^[23] Farmiga had her first starring role as Anna Greene in Jorge Dorado's psychological thriller *Mindscape*,^[24] which premiered at the 2013 Sitges Film Festival. She then co-starred as Sarah, the main character's love interest, in the biographical crime drama *Jamesy Boy* (2014).^[25]

Farmiga subsequently starred in three films that premiered at the 2015 South by Southwest: the first was Todd Strauss-Schulson's horror comedy *The Final Girls*, in which she portrayed the lead role of final girl Max Cartwright.^{[26][27]} The second was Hannah Fidell's heavily improvised romantic drama *6 Years*, in which she starred as Melanie Clark.^{[28][29]} The third and final film was Pippa Bianco's short drama *Share*, in which she played Krystal Williams, a teenager who returns to school after an explicit video of her sexual assault goes viral.^[30] Her performances in all these films were acclaimed, and Farmiga was listed as one of the breakout stars of the festival.^{[31][32]} She next appeared as Karen McClaren, a young journalist who gets caught up in the hunt for a serial killer, in ABC's short-lived crime drama series *Wicked City* (2015).^[33] The series was cancelled after three episodes, with the remaining unaired episodes later debuting on Hulu.^[34]

2016–present: Stage debut

In 2016, Farmiga made her stage debut as Shelly in the Off-Broadway revival of Sam Shepard's drama *Buried Child*,^[35] also starring Ed Harris and Amy Madigan.^[36] She then starred opposite Ethan Hawke and John Travolta in the Ti West-directed revenge Western film *In a Valley of Violence*, playing a motormouthed young innkeeper who befriends Hawke's character.^[37] The film premiered at the 2016 South by Southwest, and was met with positive reviews.^[38] Farmiga made her voice acting debut as the superhero Raven in DC Comics' *Justice League vs. Teen Titans*, directed by Sam Liu, which premiered at the 2016 WonderCon.^[39] She returned to *American Horror Story* for the sixth season of the series, *American Horror Story: Roanoke*, guest starring as Sophie Green in the November 2016 episode "Chapter 9".^[40]

Farmiga next co-starred as Sarah Bransford in Warren Beatty's ensemble romantic comedy-drama *Rules Don't Apply*, which premiered at the 2016 AFI Fest to mixed reviews.^[41] The project reunited Farmiga with her *Buried Child* co-stars Harris and Madigan, who portray her character's parents in the film.^[42] She reprised her voice role as Raven in *Teen Titans: The Judas Contract*, again directed by Sam Liu, which premiered at the

2017 WonderCon.^[43] Farmiga is set to play Emma Ertz, opposite Hilary Swank and Michael Shannon, in Elizabeth Chomko's drama film *What They Had*, which will premiere at the 2018 Sundance.^[44] She has been cast as the title character in Corin Hardy's horror film *The Nun*, set for release in July 2018.^[45]

Farmiga will portray protagonist Merricat Blackwood in Stacie Passon's film adaptation of Shirley Jackson's mystery novel *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*,^[46] and will re-team with director Hannah Fidell for the comedy film *The Long Dumb Road*, alongside Tony Revolori and Jason Mantzoukas.^[47]

Filmography

Film

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2011	<i><u>Higher Ground</u></i>	Teenage Corinne Walker	
2013	<i><u>The Bling Ring</u></i>	Sam Moore	
2013	<i><u>At Middleton</u></i>	Audrey Martin	
2013	<i><u>Mindscape</u></i>	Anna Greene	
2014	<i><u>Jamesy Boy</u></i>	Sarah	
2015	<i><u>The Final Girls</u></i>	Max Cartwright	
2015	<i><u>6 Years</u></i>	Melanie Clark	
2015	<i><u>Share</u></i>	Krystal Williams	Short film
2016	<i><u>In a Valley of Violence</u></i>	Mary-Anne	
2016	<i><u>Justice League vs. Teen Titans</u></i>	<u>Raven</u> (voice)	
2016	<i><u>Rules Don't Apply</u></i>	Sarah Bransford	
2017	<i><u>Teen Titans: The Judas Contract</u></i>	Raven (voice)	
2018	<i><u>What They Had</u></i>	Emma Ertz	In post-production
2018	<i><u>The Nun</u></i>	Sister Irene	In post-production
2018	<i><u>We Have Always Lived in the Castle</u></i>	Merricat Blackwood	In post-production
2018	<i><u>The Long Dumb Road</u></i>		In post-production

Television

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2011	<i><u>American Horror Story: Murder House</u></i>	Violet Harmon	11 episodes
2013–2014	<i><u>American Horror Story: Coven</u></i>	Zoe Benson	13 episodes
2015	<i><u>Wicked City</u></i>	Karen McClaren	8 episodes
2016	<i><u>American Horror Story: Roanoke</u></i>	Sophie Green	Episode: " <u>Chapter 9</u> "

Stage

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2016	<i>Buried Child</i>	Shelly	The New Group, Off-Broadway

Awards and nominations

Year	Association	Award	Work	Result	Ref(s)
2012	Online Film & Television Association Awards	Best Ensemble in a Drama Series	<i>American Horror Story: Murder House</i>	Nominated	[48]
2014		Best Ensemble in a Motion Picture or Miniseries	<i>American Horror Story: Coven</i>	Nominated	[49]
2015	Fright Meter Awards	Best Actress in a Leading Role	<i>The Final Girls</i>	Nominated	[50]

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