



# Kathy Najimy

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**Kathy Ann Najimy** (/nəˈdʒɪmi/ *nə-JIM-ee*; born February 6, 1957)<sup>[1]</sup> is an American actress. She is best known for voicing Peggy Hill on the animated television series *King of the Hill*, and her roles as Sister Mary Patrick in the comedy film *Sister Act*, Mary Sanderson in the comedy-fantasy film *Hocus Pocus*, and Olive Massery on the comedy series *Veronica's Closet*. Prior to her film work, Najimy was best known for two Off-Broadway shows with Mo Gaffney working as the duo Kathy and Mo. One of the shows became an HBO comedy special and garnered Najimy her first nationwide fan base.

## Early life

Najimy was born on February 6, 1957 in San Diego, California, the daughter of Lebanese American parents Samia (*née* Massery) and Fred Najimy, a postal worker.<sup>[2][3]</sup> She was raised Maronite Catholic<sup>[4]</sup> and attended Crawford High School.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Career

Najimy's film career began in the early 1990s, with a number of off-beat minor roles, but her first major role was in the 1992 comedy *Sister Act*, in the role of Sister Mary Patrick. She reprised this role in 1993 in *Sister Act 2*. She also starred in *Hocus Pocus* with Bette Midler and Sarah Jessica Parker as the Sanderson sisters. She appeared with Ellen Degeneres in three episodes of her sitcom *Ellen*, playing a different character each time (including a non-speaking cameo in the iconic "Puppy Episode") and in the TV movie *If These Walls Could Talk 2*. In 1997, she lent her voice to Warner Bros. Family Entertainment as Tilly the Hippo in the film *Cats Don't Dance*, alongside actors Scott Bakula, Jasmine Guy, John Rhys-Davies and Don Knotts, and has also played a role on the *Nightmare Ned* video game. In 1998, she made a cameo in *Bride of Chucky* as the maid who discovers Diane's and Russ's bodies. In 1999, she played the Stepmother in *CinderElmo*, a primetime special for *Sesame Street*. In 2001, she co-starred in the hit comedy film *Rat Race* alongside John Cleese, Rowan Atkinson, Cuba Gooding, Jr., Whoopi Goldberg, Jon Lovitz and Seth Green. She guest starred in *That's So Raven*. She has made four movies with Goldberg (*Soapdish*, *Sister Act 1* and *2*, and *Rat Race*).

From film, Najimy expanded into television roles, including a dramatic recurring role on *Chicago Hope*. Najimy was part of the cast of *Veronica's Closet* from 1997 to 2000. She co-created and starred in the hit Off-Broadway show and HBO specials "*Kathy & Mo*", with friend and actress Mo Gaffney. She appeared as Mae West in the

### Kathy Najimy

File:Kathy Najimy.jpg

Najimy in August 2007

<b>Born</b>	<div>Kathy Ann Najimy</div> February 6, 1957 <div><span><span></span></span> San Diego, California, U.S.</div>
<b>Occupation</b>	Actress
<b>Years<span> </span>active</b>	1985–present
<b>Known<span> </span>for</b>	<i>Veronica's Closet</i> <i>King of the Hill</i>
<b>Spouse</b>	<span>Dan Finnerty<span> </span><span>(</span>m.<span> </span>1998<span>)</span></span>
<b>Children</b>	1
<b>Website</b>	<span>www.kathynajimy.com</span> ( <span>http://www.kathynajimy.com</span> )

Broadway hit *Dirty Blonde*. She also portrayed Dr. Mildred Finch on *Numbers*. Najimy also provided the voice of the drama teacher, Miss Thespius, in the 1998 Disney show *Hercules: The Animated Series*.

In 2003, Najimy provided the voice of Margalo in *Stuart Little: The Animated Series*, taking over from *Melanie Griffith*. She is the co-creator and director of the musical revue *Back to Bacharach and David*, which ran in New York City in 1992 and 1993, and which she directed again in Los Angeles in April 2009. She also appeared in *Drop Dead Diva*. In October 2009, Najimy played a police officer investigating an attack on Wisteria Lane on an episode of *Desperate Housewives*.<sup>[6]</sup> In March 2010, she appeared in the *Ugly Betty* episode "Million Dollar Smile", portraying Betty's new orthodontist, Dr. Frankel. In July 2011, Najimy appeared in TNT's *Franklin and Bash* episode "Bangover", playing a judge. Premiering in August 2015, Najimy appeared in Disney's *Descendants* as the Evil Queen. In the movie, she makes references to her previous role as Mary Sanderson in *Hocus Pocus*.<sup>[7]</sup>

## Other work

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Najimy, an outspoken feminist, is also noted as an activist for human rights and gay rights. She uses her celebrity status to donate money to charities by appearing on game shows. She appeared as a contestant on a celebrity version of *The Weakest Link* where she won \$50,000 (beating *Anthony Anderson*) for *The Feminist Majority Foundation's Campaign to Stop Gender Apartheid in Afghanistan*. She has appeared three times on *Celebrity Poker Showdown* and won the season six tournament, donating the \$100,000 to *V-Day*, an organization that helps stop violence against women and girls. She was also crowned Grand Champion on CBS's *Gameshow Marathon* in 2006, donating the \$100,000 winnings to *Girls Best Friend*, a charity that helps empower girls. She's also worked with *PETA* on a number of animal welfare issues and posed with *Todd Oldham* for the "I'd Rather Go Naked Than Wear Fur" campaign.<sup>[8]</sup> In 2013, she was a contestant on *Rachael vs. Guy: Celebrity Cook-Off* on Team Rachael where she was playing for PETA, cooking only vegetarian food. She was eliminated on the Feb. 3 episode, reaching third place.<sup>[9]</sup> PETA awarded her their Compassionate Action Award in 2014.<sup>[10]</sup>

In 1981, she was a contestant on *Family Feud*, which was used as the finale in *Gameshow Marathon*. Najimy and her family were winners on both shows. In the 1981 *Feud* episode they won by 230 points, and in the *Marathon* version they scored 202 points to give Najimy the win. Najimy also appeared on the *\$25,000 Pyramid* as a civilian contestant, on the episode dated July 31, 1985. Her celebrity partners were *Constance McCashin* and *LeVar Burton*. She failed to reach the bonus round, although she did win a *Commodore 64* computer. She claimed, on the Pyramid show, that she also had been on *American Bandstand*. She returned to the "Pyramid" (*The \$100,000 Pyramid*) on the June 26, 2016, episode as a celebrity guest opposite *Rosie O'Donnell*.<sup>[11]</sup> She appeared once again in Season 2, Episode 7 on July 23, 2017 to play against *Alexandra Wentworth*, helping her contestant partner win the \$150,000 grand prize.<sup>[12][13]</sup>

Najimy is also very vocal about issues regarding weight and body imaging among females. In August 2006 Najimy voiced her opinions over a remark made by *Heidi Klum* on the television series *Project Runway* after Klum said one model's outfit made her look plus sized.<sup>[14]</sup>

## Personal life

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In August 1998, Najimy married actor/singer [Dan Finnerty](#).<sup>[15][16]</sup> [Gloria Steinem](#) officiated the ceremony.<sup>[15]</sup> Najimy and Finnerty have one daughter, named Samia,<sup>[17]</sup> born in 1996.

## Filmography

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### Film

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1991	<i><a href="#">The Hard Way</a></i>	Lang's "Girl Friday"	
1991	<i><a href="#">Soapdish</a></i>	Tawny Miller	
1991	<i><a href="#">The Fisher King</a></i>	Crazed Video Customer	
1992	<i><a href="#">Topsy and Bunker: The Cat Killers</a></i>	Marge	
1992	<i><a href="#">This Is My Life</a></i>	Angela	Credited as Kathy Ann Najimy
1992	<i><a href="#">Sister Act</a></i>	Sister Mary Patrick	
1993	<i><a href="#">Hocus Pocus</a></i>	Mary Sanderson	
1993	<i><a href="#">Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit</a></i>	Sister Mary Patrick	
1994	<i><a href="#">It's Pat</a></i>	Tippy	
1995	<i><a href="#">Jeffrey</a></i>	Acolyte	
1997	<i><a href="#">Cats Don't Dance</a></i>	Tillie Hippo (voice)	
1997	<i><a href="#">Nevada</a></i>	Ruth	
1998	<i><a href="#">Hope Floats</a></i>	Toni Post	
1998	<i><a href="#">Zack and Reba</a></i>	Mrs. Simpson	
1998	<i><a href="#">Bride of Chucky</a></i>	Tabby, Motel Maid	
1998	<i><a href="#">The Jungle Book: Mowgli's Story</a></i>	Chil (voice)	Direct-to-video
2000	<i><a href="#">Attention Shoppers</a></i>	Penelope	
2001	<i><a href="#">The Wedding Planner</a></i>	Geri	
2001	<i><a href="#">Rat Race</a></i>	Beverly 'Bev' Pear	
2006	<i><a href="#">Say Uncle</a></i>	Maggie Butler	
2006	<i><a href="#">Brother Bear 2</a></i>	Aunt Taqqiq (voice)	Direct-to-video
2008	<i><a href="#">WALL-E</a></i>	Mary (voice)	
2010	<i><a href="#">Step Up 3D</a></i>	Moose's Mom	
2012	<i><a href="#">BearCity 2: The Proposal</a></i>	Rose	
2012	<i><a href="#">The Guilt Trip</a></i>	Gayle	
2013	<i><a href="#">A Madea Christmas</a></i>	Kim	
2015	<i><a href="#">Descendants</a></i>	The Evil <a href="#">Queen Grimhilde</a>	
2016	<i><a href="#">No Letting Go</a></i>	Dr. Nancy Harris	
2017	<i><a href="#">A Change of Heart</a></i>	Ruthie	

2017	<i><u>Dating My Mother</u></i>	Lisa	
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## Television

Year	Work	Role	Notes
1985	<i><u>The \$25,000 Pyramid</u></i>	Herself (contestant)	Celebrity Guests: <u>Constance McCashin</u> & <u>LeVar Burton</u> <sup>[18]</sup>
1985	<i><u>Walls of Glass</u></i>		
1994	<i><u>In Search of Dr. Seuss</u></i>	Kathy Lane	Television movie
1994	<i><u>Ellen</u></i>	Theresa / Lorna Irons / Woman in Gay Bar	3 Episodes: "So Funny" (Season 2) / "Go Girlz" (Season 3) / "The Puppy Episode, Part 2" (Season 4)
1994	<i><u>ExtraTERRORestrial Alien Encounter</u></i>	Dr. Femus	Short
1996	<i><u>Adventures from the Book of Virtues</u></i>	The Old Woman (voice)	1 episode
1997–1999	<i><u>Hey Arnold</u></i>	Madame Blanche (voice)	2 episodes
1997–2000	<i><u>Veronica's Closet</u></i>	Olive Massery	67 episodes
1997–2010	<i><u>King of the Hill</u></i>	<u>Peggy Hill</u> (voice)	258 episodes
1997	<i><u>Early Edition</u></i>	Psychic	Episode: "Psychic"
1997	<i><u>Shantay</u></i>	Toyota Carter	Short
1998–1999	<i><u>Hercules</u></i>	Thespis the Muse (voice)	2 episodes
1998–2000	<i><u>Pepper Ann</u></i>	Coach Doogan / Margot LaSandre (voice) / Additional Voices	5 episodes
1999	<i><u>The Wild Thornberrys</u></i>	Ostrich #1 / Sand Grouse (voices)	Episode: "Have Yourself a Thornberry Little Christmas"
1999	<i><u>The Sissy Duckling</u></i>	Mother Duck #1 (voice)	Television film
1999	<i><u>CinderElmo</u></i>	Elmo's Stepmother	Television movie
2000	<i><u>If These Walls Could Talk 2</u></i>	The doctor in the made-for-TV movie's "2000" segment	Television movie
2000	<i><u>Leaving Peoria</u></i>	Dr. Albright	Short
2000–2001	<i><u>Little Bill</u></i>	Mrs. Shapiro (voice)	2 episodes; succeeded <u>Madeline Kahn</u> , the original voice of Mrs. Shapiro, shortly after her death in 1999.
2001–2003	<i><u>Oswald</u></i>	Bingette Bunny (voice)	4 episodes
2001	<i><u>The Legend of Tarzan</u></i>	Dania (voice)	1 episode
2002	<i><u>The Scream Team</u></i>	Mariah	Television movie

Year	Work	Role	Notes
2003	<u><i>The Mummy</i></u>	Calliope / Aglaophone #2 (voices)	1 episode
2003	<u><i>Stuart Little: The Animated Series</i></u>	Margalo (voice)	Episode: "The Meatloaf Bandit"
2003	<u><i>Ozzy &amp; Drix</i></u>	Loretta Epstein (voice)	1 episode
2004	<u><i>Higglytown Heroes</i></u>	Photographer Hero (voice)	1 episode
2004	<u><i>Rocket Power</i></u>	Patsy (voice)	1 episode
2005	<u><i>Wayside</i></u>	Mrs. Jewls (voice)	Television movie
2005	<u><i>Getting Played</i></u>	Dr. Heidi Z. Klemmer	Television movie
2005	<u><i>Balto III: Wings of Change</i></u>	Dipsy (voice)	Video
2006	<u><i>Scooby-Doo! Pirates Ahoy!</i></u>	Sunny St. Cloud (voice)	Video
2006	<u><i>Tom and Jerry: Shiver Me Whiskers</i></u>	Blue Parrot Betty (voice)	Video
2006	<u><i>Rugrats</i></u>	Goosey (voice)	1 episode
2006	<u><i>That's So Raven</i></u>	Lora Stelladora	Episode: "The Dress Is Always Greener"
2006–2007	<u><i>Numbers</i></u>	Dr. Mildred Finch	9 episodes
2007	<u><i>The Suite Life of Zack &amp; Cody</i></u>	Principal	Episode: "First Day of High School"
2008	<u><i>Tinker Bell</i></u>	Minister of Summer (voice)	Video
2009	<u><i>Drop Dead Diva</i></u>	Claire Porter	Episode: "The Magic Bullet"
2009	<u><i>Desperate Housewives</i></u>	Detective Denise Lapera	Episode: "Careful the Things You Say"
2010	<u><i>Ugly Betty</i></u>	Dr. Frankel	Episode: "Million Dollar Smile"
2010–present	<u><i>American Dad!</i></u>	Barbara "Barb" Hanson (voice)	
2010	<u><i>RuPaul's Drag Race</i></u>	Herself (Guest Judge)	Episode: "Country Queens"
2011	<u><i>Mr. Sunshine</i></u>	Myrna	Episode: "Employee of the Year"
2011	<u><i>Five</i></u>	Rocky	Television movie
2011–2012	<u><i>Make It or Break It</i></u>	Sheila / Sheila Baboyon / Kelly's Mom	5 episodes
2012	<u><i>Men at Work</i></u>	Sasha Ryan	Episode: "Heterotextual Male"
2012	<u><i>How to Fall in Love</i></u>	Kim	Television movie
2012	<u><i>Stars in Shorts</i></u>	Sid's Mother	
2013	<u><i>Rachael vs. Guy: Celebrity Cook-Off</i></u>	Herself	Season 2 participant (Team <u>Rachael</u> )
2013	<u><i>The Big C</i></u>	Therapist	4 episodes
2014–2015	<u><i>Inside Amy Schumer</i></u>	Herself	2 episodes

Year	Work	Role	Notes
2014–present	<i><u>Veep</u></i>	Wendy Keegan	10 episodes
2015–present	<i><u>Younger</u></i>	Denise Heller	5 episodes
2015–2016	<i><u>Unforgettable</u></i>	Sandra Russo	Series regular, 10 episodes
2015	<i><u>A Christmas Melody</u></i>	Sarah	Hallmark television movie
2015	<i><u>Difficult People</u></i>	Carol Donato	Episode: "The Children's Menu"
2016	<i><u>Harvey Beaks</u></i>	Hanzi / Angry Bride	4 episodes
2016–present	<i><u>Graves</u></i>	Sylvia Miller	4 episodes
2016–2017	<i><u>The \$100,000 Pyramid</u></i>	Herself (celebrity guest)	Season 1, 2 episodes: Kathy Najimy vs. Rosie O'Donnell; Season 2, Episode 7 vs. Alexandra Wentworth
2017	<i><u>Elementary</u></i>	Rayna Carno	Episode: "Rekt in Real Life"
2017	<i><u>BoJack Horseman</u></i>	Marcie (voice)	Episode: "Commence Fracking"
2017	<i><u>The President Show</u></i>	Ivana Trump	Episode: "I Came Up with Christmas: A President Show Christmas"
2018	<i><u>Rapunzel's Tangled Adventure</u></i>	Mother (voice)	Episode: "Freebird"

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## External links

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- *Kathy Najimy* (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001562/>) at *IMDb*
- *Kathy Najimy* (<https://www.ibdb.com/broadway-cast-staff/77943>) at the *Internet Broadway Database*
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- *Kathy Najimy* ([https://web.archive.org/web/\\*/https://www.tcm.com/tcmdb/person/138581%7C\\*](https://web.archive.org/web/*/https://www.tcm.com/tcmdb/person/138581%7C*)) at the *TCM Movie Database*
- *Kathy Najimy* (<https://www.allmovie.com/artist/p51753>) at *AllMovie*
- *Kathy Najimy* ([https://www.rottentomatoes.com/celebrity/kathy\\_najimy](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/celebrity/kathy_najimy)) at *Rotten Tomatoes*
- *Official website* (<http://www.kathynajimy.com/>)



