



# Rebecca Ferguson

**Rebecca Louisa Ferguson Sundström** (born 19 October 1983)<sup>[3]</sup> is a Swedish actress. She began her acting career with the Swedish soap opera *Nya tider* (1999–2000) and went on to star in the slasher film *Drowning Ghost* (2004). She came to international prominence with her portrayal of *Elizabeth Woodville* in the British drama *The White Queen* (2013), for which she was nominated for a *Golden Globe* for *Best Actress in a Miniseries or Television Film*.

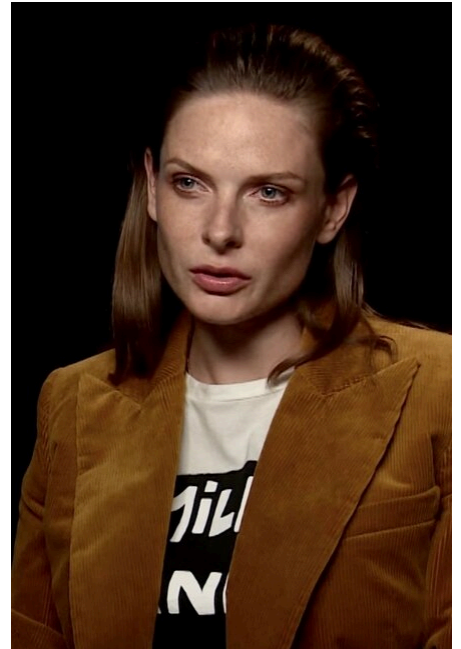
Ferguson starred as MI6 agent Ilsa Faust, opposite *Tom Cruise*, in three of the *Mission: Impossible* films: *Rogue Nation* (2015), *Fallout* (2018), and *Dead Reckoning Part One* (2023). She played *Jenny Lind* in the musical film *The Greatest Showman* (2017), starred in the horror films *Life* (2017) and *Doctor Sleep* (2019), and had supporting parts in the comedy-drama *Florence Foster Jenkins* (2016), the thriller *The Girl on the Train* (2016), and the science fiction films *Dune* (2021) and *Dune: Part Two* (2024). She also starred in the *Apple TV+* science fiction series *Silo* (2023).

## Early life and education

Ferguson was born in *Stockholm* and grew up in the *Vasastan* district in central *Stockholm*.<sup>[3]</sup> Her mother, *Rosemary Ferguson*,<sup>[4]</sup> is English,<sup>[5][6]</sup> and moved from Britain to Sweden at the age of 25.<sup>[5]</sup> Her mother helped *ABBA* translate the lyrics from their 1974 album *Waterloo* into English<sup>[7]</sup> and also appeared on the sleeve of the band's 1975 self-titled album.<sup>[8]</sup> Her father, *Olov Sundström*, is a Swedish businessman.<sup>[4][9]</sup> Ferguson took her mother's surname as her stage name.<sup>[10]</sup> Her maternal grandmother is Northern Irish,<sup>[6]</sup> and her maternal grandfather is Scottish.<sup>[6]</sup>

Ferguson attended an *English-medium school* in Sweden and was raised bilingual, speaking *Swedish* and *English*.<sup>[11]</sup> She attended the *Adolf Fredrik's Music School* in *Stockholm* and graduated in 1999.<sup>[12]</sup>

### Rebecca Ferguson



Ferguson in 2018

<b>Born</b>	Rebecca Louisa Ferguson Sundström <sup>[1][2]</sup> 19 October 1983 <sup>[3]</sup> <div>Stockholm, Sweden<sup>[4]</sup></div>
<b>Alma<span> </span>mater</b>	<i>Adolf Fredrik's Music School</i>
<b>Occupation</b>	Actress
<b>Years<span> </span>active</b>	1999–present
<b>Spouse</b>	<span>Rory St. Clair Gainer (m.<span> </span>2018)</span>
<b>Partner</b>	<span>Ludwig Hallberg (2005–2015)</span>
<b>Children</b>	2

From the age of 13, she worked as a model and appeared in magazines and on television commercials for cosmetic, apparel, and jewellery advertisements.<sup>[13]</sup> Ferguson has danced from a very early age; she danced ballet, tap-dancing, jazz, street funk and tango. She taught Argentine tango at a dance company in Lund, Sweden for a few years<sup>[14]</sup> while she continued her work on several short art film projects.<sup>[15]</sup> Unsure if she wanted to act, Ferguson had other jobs, such as working at a daycare centre, as a nanny, at a jewellery shop, at a shoe shop and at a Korean restaurant.<sup>[16]</sup>

## Career

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Ferguson alongside Steven Gätjen at the world premiere of *Mission: Impossible – Rogue Nation* in Vienna in 2015

Ferguson came to prominence as upper-class girl Anna Gripenhielm in the Swedish soap opera *Nya tider* (1999–2000).<sup>[16]</sup> She went on to later play Chrissy Eriksson in the Swedish-American soap *Ocean Ave.* (2002).<sup>[17]</sup> In 2004, she made her feature film debut in Mikael Håfström's horror film *Drowning Ghost* and later had a guest role in *Wallander* (2008).<sup>[17]</sup> Swedish director Richard Hobert spotted her at the Simrishamn town market in 2011, which led to her starring in his film *A One-way Trip to Antibes*,<sup>[1][18]</sup> which earned her a nomination for the Rising Star award at the Stockholm International Film Festival.<sup>[1]</sup> In 2013, she co-starred in the film *VI* alongside Gustaf Skarsgård.<sup>[19]</sup>

In August 2012, it was announced Ferguson had been cast to play Elizabeth Woodville in the ten-part BBC historical television drama *The White Queen* (2013),<sup>[20]</sup> based on Philippa Gregory's *The Cousins' War* novels about the women of the Wars of the Roses.<sup>[21]</sup> Ferguson's performance in *The White Queen* was met with critical praise,<sup>[22]</sup> and earned her a Golden Globe Award nomination for Best Actress in a Miniseries or Television Film.<sup>[23]</sup>

In 2015, Ferguson gained wider recognition for her portrayal of MI6 agent Ilsa Faust, the female lead in the fifth *Mission: Impossible* film, *Mission: Impossible – Rogue Nation*, for which she received critical acclaim.<sup>[24][25][26][27]</sup> Tom Cruise handpicked Ferguson to star opposite him in the film after watching her in *The White Queen*.<sup>[1][28][29]</sup> and noticing a resemblance between Ferguson and Ingrid Bergman.<sup>[4]</sup> She reprised her role in the sixth *Mission: Impossible* film, *Mission: Impossible – Fallout*, released in 2018—her biggest commercial success, grossing over \$790 million worldwide<sup>[30][31]</sup>—and reprised it again in the seventh film, *Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One*, in 2023.<sup>[32]</sup>

In 2016, she played the dual roles of Katya and Lauren in the Cold War espionage thriller directed by Shamim Sarif, *Despite the Falling Snow*, opposite Sam Reid and Charles Dance.<sup>[33]</sup> For her performance in the film, she won the Best Actress award at the 2016 Prague Independent Film Festival.<sup>[34]</sup> Later that same year, Ferguson appeared in Stephen Frears's *Florence Foster Jenkins* opposite Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant,<sup>[35]</sup> and Tate Taylor's thriller book adaptation *The Girl on the Train* starring Emily Blunt.<sup>[36]</sup> In 2017, Ferguson played the female lead in Daniel Espinosa's sci-fi horror *Life*, opposite Jake Gyllenhaal and Ryan Reynolds,<sup>[37]</sup> co-starred in Tomas Alfredson's crime

thriller *The Snowman*, alongside Michael Fassbender and Charlotte Gainsbourg,<sup>[38]</sup> and starred as Swedish opera singer Jenny Lind in the musical film *The Greatest Showman*, with Hugh Jackman and Michelle Williams.<sup>[39]</sup>

In 2019, Ferguson had several major film roles. She co-starred in *Doctor Sleep*, the adaptation of Stephen King's novel of the same name;<sup>[40]</sup> played the villain Morgana in Joe Cornish's adventure film *The Kid Who Would Be King*;<sup>[41]</sup> and co-starred as Riza Stavros in F. Gary Gray's science fiction comedy film *Men in Black: International*.<sup>[42]</sup> In 2021, she co-starred in Lisa Joy's science fiction thriller *Reminiscence*.<sup>[43]</sup> She also played Lady Jessica in Denis Villeneuve's film adaptation of Frank Herbert's science fiction novel *Dune*.<sup>[44]</sup> She reprised the role in the sequel, *Dune: Part Two* (2024).<sup>[45]</sup> In 2023, Ferguson starred in and was also an executive producer in the Apple TV+ science fiction series *Silo*.<sup>[46]</sup>



Rebecca Ferguson at *Mission: Impossible – Fallout* Red carpet Paris, 2018

## Personal life

In 2007, Ferguson gave birth to her first child, a son, with her then-boyfriend Ludwig Hallberg,<sup>[47]</sup> a psychosynthesis therapist.<sup>[48]</sup> After her soap opera success and the birth of her son, she moved with Hallberg to Simrishamn, on the Swedish southeast coast.<sup>[49]</sup> In 2012, Ferguson and Hallberg taught tango together in Österlen.<sup>[49]</sup> The couple separated in April 2015.<sup>[49]</sup>

Since 2016,<sup>[50]</sup> Ferguson has been in a relationship with businessman Rory St. Clair Gainer,<sup>[4][51]</sup> with whom she has a daughter who was born in May 2018.<sup>[52]</sup> Ferguson and Gainer were married at the end of the same year.<sup>[50]</sup> They have a house in Richmond, southwest London, owing to its proximity to Pinewood and Shepperton studios.<sup>[51]</sup>

## Filmography

Key

†	Denotes works that have not yet been released
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### Film

Film				
Year	Title	Role	Notes	Ref.
2004	<i>Drowning Ghost</i>	Amanda		<sup>[53]</sup>
2010	<i>Lennart</i>	Home care personnel	Short film	<sup>[54]</sup>
	<i>Puls</i>	Linda	Short film	<sup>[17]</sup>
2011	<i>Irresistible</i>	Woman	Short film	<sup>[17]</sup>
	<i>A One-Way Trip to Antibes</i>	Maria		<sup>[55]</sup>