

= Chyna =

Chyna ( born Joan Marie Laurer ; December 27 , 1969 ? c . April 20 , 2016 ) was an American professional wrestler , glamour model , pornographic film actress , and bodybuilder .

Chyna first rose to prominence in the World Wrestling Federation ( WWF , now WWE ) in 1997 , where she was billed as the " Ninth Wonder of the World " ( André the Giant was already billed as the eighth ) . A founding member of the stable D @-@ Generation X as the promotion 's first female enforcer , she held the WWF Intercontinental Championship ( the only female performer to do so ) twice and the WWF Women 's Championship once . She was also the first woman to participate in the Royal Rumble and King of the Ring events , as well as to become number one contender to the WWF Championship . With singles victories over several prominent male wrestlers ? including multiple @-@ time world champions Triple H , Kurt Angle , Chris Jericho and Jeff Jarrett ? Chyna left what WWE called " a lasting legacy as the most dominant female competitor of all time " . After leaving the WWF in 2001 , Chyna wrestled sporadically , with New Japan Pro Wrestling ( NJPW ) in 2002 and Total Nonstop Action Wrestling ( TNA ) in 2011 .

Outside of wrestling , Chyna appeared in Playboy magazine twice , as well as numerous television shows and films . In 2005 , she was a cast member on VH1 's The Surreal Life , which led to several other celebrity reality appearances on the network , including The Surreal Life : Fame Games in 2007 and Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew in 2008 . She is also known for her tumultuous relationship with fellow wrestler Sean Waltman , with whom she made a sex tape released commercially in 2004 as 1 Night in China , which won a 2006 AVN Award for Best @-@ Selling Title . She starred in a further five pornographic titles , including AVN 's 2012 Best Celebrity Sex Tape , Backdoor to Chyna .

= = Early life = =

Laurer was born in Rochester , New York on December 27 , 1969 . She had two older siblings : Kathy and Sonny .

After her parents divorced when she was approximately four years old , Laurer had three different stepfathers and one stepmother . According to Laurer , her first stepfather threatened suicide at one point , and her biological father , who once accidentally stabbed her mother in the thigh with a bread knife , had a problem with alcoholism . From 1973 to 1983 , she , her siblings and her mother moved several times .

As a child , Laurer learned to play both the violin and cello . She later said that in seventh grade she was sexually kissed by a much older teacher who worked at her school . At age thirteen , while attending Penfield High School , she began purging after she ate . She left home at age sixteen after her mother tried to force her into a drug rehabilitation facility , going instead to live with her biological father . That same year , she began working out , and because her abdominal muscles were so strong , she did not feel any pain when she developed an ovarian tumor . She finished her last year of high school in Spain .

She attended the University of Tampa , graduating in 1992 with a major in Spanish Literature . During college , she also studied French and German ( she could converse in either language ) and later stated during this time she was raped by two men after getting drunk at a party . She also was a member of the ROTC . She originally wanted to use her knowledge of foreign languages to work for the Federal Bureau of Investigation or Drug Enforcement Administration . Subsequently , she joined the Peace Corps and was assigned to Guatemala .

After returning from abroad , Laurer held several different jobs : a cocktail waitress in a strip club , singer in a band , and a 900 @-@ number chat line worker . In her mid @-@ to @-@ late 20s , while living in the Florida Keys , she took a six @-@ week class to train to be a flight attendant . On the way to her first flight , she was in a car accident and spent four days in the hospital . After recovering from the accident , Laurer 's sister Kathy helped her get a job selling beepers , and both women also worked as belly dancers .

After college , Laurer began to regularly enter fitness competitions . In 1996 , Laurer competed in

the New York City regional level of the Fitness America competition . Because of her large size compared to the other women , she usually finished in last place .

= = Professional wrestling career = =

= = = Training and independent circuit ( 1995 ? 1997 ) = = =

Joanie Laurer trained at Wladek " Killer " Kowalski 's professional wrestling school in Malden , Massachusetts . Her first match was in 1995 against a male wrestler dressed as a woman . While attending the school , she also worked for various independent promotions as Joanie Lee . Some of her earliest matches were set up by The Fabulous Moolah .

Laurer met World Wrestling Federation ( WWF ) performers Paul " Triple H " Levesque and Shawn Michaels after a professional wrestling show in 1996 . After watching tapes of her matches , they decided to bring her into the WWF as a bodyguard . Vince McMahon , the owner of the WWF , initially did not want her to join the company because he did not believe the audience would find a woman beating up men believable . While waiting for the WWF 's decision , Laurer was approached by World Championship Wrestling ( WCW ) , who wanted her to be the sole @-@ female member of the New World Order . She initially accepted the offer , but later turned it down when Shane McMahon , Vince McMahon 's son , informed her that she was about to be hired by the WWF . However , Kowalski claimed that he got Laurer hired by the WWF after introducing her to Shane McMahon and telling him of WCW 's interest in her .

= = = World Wrestling Federation = = =

= = = = D @-@ Generation X ( 1997 ? 1999 ) = = = =

Laurer made her WWF debut on February 16 , 1997 at In Your House 13 : Final Four ; her character emerged as a plant from a ringside seat , choking Marlena while Goldust was in the ring with Triple H. Her original role in the promotion was as the laconic enforcer / bodyguard for Triple H and later , his D @-@ Generation X group ( which included Sean " X @-@ Pac " Waltman ) . She often helped Triple H ( then , a rising villain ) cheat to win by physically interfering in matches by executing her trademark low blow to the groin . She was later given the ring name " Chyna " , an intentionally ironic moniker ; fine china is delicate and fragile , a sharp contrast to her character . Off @-@ screen , however , the male wrestlers were hesitant at first to let a female over @-@ power them on @-@ screen .

In January 1999 , Chyna was the thirtieth entrant in the Royal Rumble , becoming the first woman ever to enter the contest . The day after the Royal Rumble , Chyna became a villainess by betraying Triple H and aligning herself with his enemy Vince McMahon and Kane . Laurer teamed with Kane at the St. Valentine 's Day Massacre pay @-@ per @-@ view against former allies X @-@ Pac and Triple H. At WrestleMania XV , Chyna turned on Kane in his match by attacking him with a chair , appearing to rejoin DX . Chyna and Triple H , however , turned against DX later that evening when they helped Shane McMahon defeat DX member X @-@ Pac . The duo became part of The Corporation and later Shane McMahon 's Corporate Ministry . Following the dissolution of the Corporate Ministry , the villainous Chyna remained at Triple H 's side . They would eventually split up later in the year .

= = = = Intercontinental Champion ( 1999 ? 2000 ) = = = =

In June 1999 , Chyna became the first woman to qualify for the King of the Ring tournament . She was also the first female to be the number one contender for the WWF Championship , but lost the spot to Mankind before SummerSlam in August . Later that year , Laurer became a fan favorite

again during her long feud with Jeff Jarrett . At Unforgiven , she had a match for the WWF Intercontinental Championship against Jarrett , which she lost . She defeated Jarrett for the title at No Mercy in his last WWF match , a Good Housekeeping match , on October 17 at No Mercy , in the process becoming the first and only woman to win the Intercontinental Championship . She also gained the services of his valet , Miss Kitty . Laurer claims that Jarrett demanded ( and received ) \$ 300 @, @ 000 from Vince McMahon in order to lose the title cleanly to a woman . His contract had expired on October 16 , and he was therefore not contractually obligated to appear on the pay @-@ per @-@ view . If he had not appeared , the WWF would have been criticized for false advertising , and the lineage of the title would have been broken .

Chyna then feuded with Chris Jericho over the belt , defeating him at the Survivor Series , but losing the title to him at Armageddon . The two faced off again in a match on the edition of December 28 of SmackDown ! , which ended controversially with both wrestlers pinning each other . As a result , then " head of authority " Stephanie McMahon @-@ Helmsley declared them co @-@ champions . At the Royal Rumble , Jericho and Chyna defended the title against Hardcore Holly in a Triple Threat match to determine the Intercontinental Champion , which Jericho won ; Chyna 's " co @-@ champions " reign is no longer recognized by WWE and is now considered a continuation of Jericho 's second Intercontinental reign . Afterwards , Laurer briefly teamed with Jericho .

= = = Aligning with Eddie Guerrero and departure ( 2000 ? 2001 ) = = =

Not long after losing the Intercontinental title , Laurer became the on @-@ screen girlfriend of Eddie Guerrero . Guerrero and Laurer , originally villains , later became fan favorites during the summer of 2000 , with Guerrero dubbing her his " Mamacita " . The couple faced Val Venis and then @-@ rookie Trish Stratus in an intergender tag team match at SummerSlam with the Intercontinental Championship on the line . Chyna won the match , but lost the belt two weeks later to Guerrero in a Triple Threat match with Kurt Angle . They officially split in November 2000 after Chyna , in storyline , found Eddie cavorting in the shower with two other women .

At the same time , Laurer posed nude for Playboy magazine 's November 2000 issue . Her Playboy modeling was also worked into a WWE storyline ( based , in part , on a real @-@ life legal feud between the WWE and the conservative Parents Television Council ) , in which it drew the ire of the Right to Censor ( a group of morally conservative wrestlers ) . Shortly after , Laurer began a feud with Ivory , a member of the Right to Censor , over the Women 's Championship . This culminated in a storyline at the Royal Rumble where Laurer appeared to reinjure her neck while performing a handspring back elbow . In order to better convince the audience that she was injured , color commentator Jerry Lawler left the commentators ' booth and entered the ring to check on Laurer 's condition , something he had not done since the in @-@ ring accident that killed Owen Hart in 1999 . When Laurer returned from the " injury " , she won the Women 's Championship from Ivory at WrestleMania X @-@ Seven in a squash match . Laurer also defended her title against Lita at Judgment Day in 2001 . Although she won the match , she soon vacated the Women 's Championship , as this was Laurer 's final WWF match .

She left the WWF on November 30 , 2001 , several months after she had been taken off of television . Behind the scenes , Triple H , her former real @-@ life boyfriend , began a relationship with Stephanie McMahon , with whom Laurer claims he had an affair and then left her for . Chyna , in a 2015 interview with Vince Russo , stated that after a meeting with Vince McMahon about the Stephanie McMahon situation , she was sent home and was later sent a fax telling her that she was not needed anymore , although in a 2002 interview with The Baltimore Sun , Chyna indicated that the breakup had nothing to do with her leaving WWF and that she left to pursue an acting career . Then @-@ Executive Vice President of Talent Relations Jim Ross reports that it was " mutually agreed " to let her contract expire in order for her to explore other options .

= = = New Japan Pro Wrestling ( 2002 ) = = =

In 2002 , Laurer joined New Japan Pro Wrestling and made her first appearance at the New Japan

Thirtieth Anniversary Show , refereeing a bout between the Steiner Brothers and Hiroshi Tanahashi and Kensuke Sasaki . In September and October 2002 , she wrestled several matches for the promotion . After losing to Masahiro Chono on October 14 , 2002 , Laurer performed her final match on October 26 , teaming with a fake Great Muta played by Troy Enders in a loss to Hiroshi Tanahashi and Kenzo Suzuki .

= = = Total Nonstop Action Wrestling ( 2011 ) = = =

During the May 3 , 2011 , tapings of the edition of May 12 of Impact ! , Chyna made her TNA debut , introduced by the returning Spike TV network consultant Mick Foley . He introduced her as Kurt Angle 's business associate ( she had been previously referred to as his " Mistress " ) and tag team partner at Sacrifice , where they would face Jeff Jarrett and Karen Jarrett . During the taping she also took part in a battle royal , from which she eliminated Jeff . At Sacrifice , Chyna submitted Karen for the win in the mixed tag team match . She left TNA shortly after making Sacrifice 2011 her final wrestling match .

= = = Legacy = = =

Numerous commentators have credited Chyna as being influential to women 's wrestling and one of the biggest stars of WWE 's Attitude Era . Commentator and former WWE official Jim Ross described Chyna as " The distinctive athlete was to WWE what Ronda Rousey has been to UFC " , while E ! News said that Chyna accomplished more in her near @-@ decade career than any woman had ever done . Others praise Chyna as a feminist icon who defied gender norms ; Dawn Heineken , a professor of women 's and gender studies at the University of Louisville , wrote in 2004 that " She was demonized as a feminist who challenged male dominance ... Her latest , and most popular incarnation was that of a sex symbol " . She was the first woman to compete in the Royal Rumble match and is the only woman to have held the WWE Intercontinental Championship . Independent wrestler Kimber Lee credits Chyna as her influence to get into wrestling .

Columnist Mike Mooneyham of The Post and Courier stated that it is an " an oft @-@ asked question " as to when Chyna will be inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame . Jim Ross said that Chyna had an " overwhelming desire " to be inducted during her lifetime . On February 9 , 2015 , during a WWE Network podcast with Stone Cold Steve Austin , Triple H mentioned that Chyna deserved to be in the Hall of Fame but that problems with children Googling her prohibited it . The day following her death , a post on WWE.com expressed sadness about it and featured a video of her winning the Women 's Championship . In an interview with The Daily Mirror shortly after her death , Triple H said that she " definitely warranted " a place in the Hall of Fame . The following month , Stephanie McMahon said she was sure Chyna would be inducted but was not sure what year it would happen . WWE played a video tribute in her memory on the April 25 episode of Raw .

= = Pornography career = =

Laurer made her porn debut with the 2004 video 1 Night in China . Laurer and Sean Waltman approached Red Light District Video to distribute the homemade video , which was released in 2004 . Laurer appeared in her second pornographic video , entitled Another Night in China in 2009 . In 2011 , Laurer starred in her first professional pornographic film for Vivid Video entitled Backdoor to Chyna . She also starred for Vivid as She @-@ Hulk in their parody of The Avengers , released in May 2012 . A spinoff feature centered on the She @-@ Hulk character and titled She @-@ Hulk XXX was released to video in April 2013 .

= = = Films = = =

= = = Awards = = =

= = Other media = =

= = = Video games = = =

Chyna has been depicted in five video games , which include :

WWF Attitude released on Nintendo 64 , PlayStation , Game Boy Color and Dreamcast in 1999

WWF Wrestlemania 2000 released on Nintendo 64 in October 1999

WWF SmackDown ! released on PlayStation in March 2000

WWF No Mercy released on Nintendo 64 on November 17 , 2000

WWF SmackDown ! 2 : Know Your Role released on PlayStation on November 21 , 2000

= = = Playboy = = =

Laurer modeled nude for Playboy ; her first issue , which featured a pictorial of her , was released in November 2000 . In 2002 , following her departure from the WWF , Laurer appeared in a second nude pictorial . She also filmed a Playboy adult documentary entitled Joanie Laurer Nude : Wrestling Superstar to Warrior Princess , which followed Laurer on the set .

= = = Literature = = =

In 2001 , Laurer released her autobiography , entitled If They Only Knew . It spent time on The New York Times ' bestseller list .

= = = Television and film = = =

Laurer appeared on The Howard Stern Show in 2000 , where she claims that she " made [ an ass ] out of [ her ] self . " She also appeared in 3rd Rock from the Sun as Janice , a police officer who briefly dated Harry Solomon , as well as several Stacker 2 commercials and was a presenter at the MTV Video Music Awards .

In 2001 , Laurer was a guest on a special celebrity edition of Fear Factor . She lost in the final round of the competition to Coolio . The following year , Laurer was reportedly up for a part in Terminator 3 : Rise of the Machines , but lost out on the role to Kristanna Loken . Laurer was also the host of Robot Wars : Grand Champions in 2002 . She also appeared on the celebrity game show , Hollywood Squares in 2003 .

Laurer appeared as a character named Lulu in Sevendust 's music video for the song " Enemy " in 2003 .

In early 2005 , Laurer debuted on The Surreal Life , with housemates Da Brat , Jane Wiedlin , Adrienne Curry , Christopher Knight , Marcus Schenkenberg , and Verne Troyer . On the show , she drank heavily , appeared nude , and got into an argument with her ex , Sean Waltman . She remained friends with Adrienne Curry after the show and made a brief cameo on her reality show My Fair Brady . Laurer also appeared on The Surreal Life : Fame Games , which began to air on VH1 in January 2007 . The filming took place in April 2006 in Las Vegas . Her elimination from the show , which occurred in the seventh episode , was controversial . Andrea Lowell had accumulated the lowest score in the " Celebrity Call @-@ Back @-@ A @-@ Thon " challenge , but she manipulated Kennedy , the judge , to increase her score and got Laurer eliminated in the process .

Also in 2006 , Laurer appeared in Just Another Romantic Wrestling Comedy and Illegal Aliens , the latter of which was the last movie featuring Anna Nicole Smith before her death . On Cristina 's Court , a syndicated court @-@ themed reality show , Laurer appeared in an episode originally airing July 14 , 2007 in a civil dispute against a breeder of teacup chihuahuas . Judge Perez ruled in favor of the plaintiff ? Laurer ? awarding her \$ 4 @ , @ 000 .

= = Personal life = =

Laurer 's breast implants were custom @-@ made for her after her first implants were ruptured during a wrestling match . She had also complained to her plastic surgeon that their largest implants did not suit her frame in the way she desired . Laurer 's custom implants became the model for the Chyna 2000s , a model of breast implant now marketed to large @-@ framed women and female bodybuilders . Laurer claimed to have paid \$ 6 @,@ 000 for them .

From 1996 until 2000 , Laurer dated fellow wrestler Paul " Triple H " Levesque . They initially hid their relationship from their co @-@ workers because Laurer felt that people might think she " [ slept ] her way to the top " . The duo also lived together for some time . Beginning in 2003 , however , she had a tumultuous relationship with wrestler Sean Waltman . They were engaged for a period in 2003 , then broke up , and then became engaged again , a pattern that continued for the next two years . In 2004 , Laurer and Waltman made a sex tape . Eager for a repeat success , the company that released Paris Hilton 's celebrity sex tape obtained the footage , edited it , and released it under the name 1 Night in China . The video sold over 100 @,@ 000 copies , with both Laurer and Waltman earning a share of the profits . Laurer , however , maintained that she did not earn any money from the release . In January 2005 , Laurer was arrested for domestic assault after allegedly beating Waltman .

On February 8 , 2007 ( the date of Anna Nicole Smith 's death ) , a visibly upset Laurer appeared on Larry King Live to speak about her late friend . On the program , Laurer claimed that she " knew it was coming " because of the way the media had ridiculed Smith , and she drew parallels between the plight of Anna and herself . The wife of the CEO of Trim Spa , Monique Goen , however , claimed that Smith did not consider Laurer a friend .

After leaving the WWF , Laurer was unable to use the name " Chyna " because of its trademark . Therefore , she began to use the name " Chynna Doll " for public appearances . In November 2007 , Laurer legally changed her name to Chyna .

Laurer also had problems with substance abuse . She claimed that her " life was spinning out of control " around the time she made the sex tape . In January 2005 , Sean Waltman claimed that she was battling drug and alcohol addiction , as well as mental illness . Days after the domestic dispute between Waltman and Laurer , it was reported in the New York Post that she had stripped naked and jumped into a fish tank in a New York nightclub . That same month , she made another appearance on The Howard Stern Show , where she was slurring her words and going off on random tangents . On the program , she claimed to not want to do drugs anymore , but said that if a line of cocaine was in front of her , she would do it . After her appearance , she entered a facility specializing in helping people with depression , and she decided to stop drinking . In early 2008 , Laurer appeared on the VH1 reality TV show Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew , but she claimed on the show that she did not consider herself an addict . On December 27 , 2008 , she was rushed to the hospital after her birthday party , where she was found passed out with cuts on her arms .

Laurer had a strained relationship with her family . She last saw her mother at the age of 16 , and she claimed that her father never got over her decision not to join the FBI . She also alleged that her father took out several student loans in her name without her knowledge , leaving her with \$ 40 @,@ 000 in debt . On an episode of Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew in 2008 , Laurer claimed to have a bad relationship with all of her family members , including her siblings . In September 2010 , Laurer was hospitalized after overdosing on sleeping medication . As of February 2015 , Laurer had re @-@ established a good relationship with her mother ; her father died in May 2014 .

At one point , Laurer taught English in Japan . She converted to Mormonism while there .

= = Death = =

On April 20 , 2016 , Laurer was found dead at her home in Redondo Beach , California . She was 46 years old . She had been taking medication for anxiety and insomnia . A statement was posted to her Twitter account by her manager confirming her death . Her brain has been donated to science to

study the effects of chronic traumatic encephalopathy ( CTE ) . A memorial service was held in Los Angeles on June 23 , hundreds of fans and friends attended including Barry Williams and Coolio .

= = In wrestling = =

Finishing moves

DDT

Gorilla press slam

Pedigree ( Double underhook facebuster )

Powerbomb

Sleeper slam

Signature moves

Handspring back elbow

Jawbreaker

Low blow

Testicular claw

Powerslam

Manager

The Kat

Wrestlers managed

Triple H

Billy Gunn

The Corporation

D @-@ Generation X

Eddie Guerrero

Chris Jericho

Nicknames

" The Ninth Wonder of the World "

" Mamacita " ( while managing Eddie Guerrero )

Entrance themes

" Break it Down " by The DX Band ( WWF ; used as a member of D @-@ Generation X )

" No Chance in Hell " by Jim Johnston ( WWF ; used as a member of The Corporation )

" My Time " by The DX Band ( WWF ; used while managing Triple H )

" Latino Heat " by Jim Johnston ( WWF ; used while managing Eddie Guerrero )

" Who I Am " by Jim Johnston ( WWF , 1999 ? 2001 )

" Hell on Heels " by Dale Oliver ( TNA )

= = Championships and accomplishments = =

International Wrestling Federation

IWF Women 's Championship ( 1 time )

Ladies International Wrestling Association

Rookie of the Year ( 1998 )

Professional Girl Wrestling Association

Rookie of the Year ( 1996 )

Pro Wrestling Illustrated

PWI ranked her # 106 of the top 500 singles wrestlers of the year in the PWI 500 in 2000

World Wrestling Federation

WWF Intercontinental Championship ( 3 times ) 1

WWF Women 's Championship ( 1 time )

= = List of other media appearances = =

