

= Malin Åkerman =

Malin Maria Åkerman ( Swedish pronunciation : [ ʔmʔʔlʔn ² oʔkʔrʔman ] ; born May 12 , 1978 ) is a Swedish Canadian actress , model and singer . She became known for making appearances in several Canadian productions . In the early 2000s , she had many television and film parts , including The Utopian Society ( 2003 ) and Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle ( 2004 ) . Following a supporting role on the comedy series The Comeback ( 2005 ) , Åkerman gained her first starring roles in the feature films The Heartbreak Kid ( 2007 ) and 27 Dresses ( 2008 ) .

Åkerman played Silk Spectre II in the 2009 superhero film Watchmen , a role for which she was nominated for a Saturn Award for Best Supporting Actress . The same year , she had supporting and starring roles in both The Proposal and Couples Retreat , two commercial hits that garnered mixed to negative reviews . In 2010 , she became part of the main cast on the comedy series Childrens Hospital . She starred in four feature films in 2012 , including the comedy Wanderlust and the musical film Rock of Ages . In 2012 , she had a recurring role on the sitcom Suburgatory and starred in the short @-@ lived comedy series Trophy Wife from 2013 to 2014 , both of which aired on ABC .

Apart from acting and occasional modelling , Åkerman had a brief music career as the lead vocalist for alternative rock band The Petalstones , but eventually left to focus on her acting career . She was married to the band 's drummer Roberto Zincone from 2007 until 2013 .

= = Early life = =

Åkerman was born in Stockholm , Sweden , to aerobics teacher and part @-@ time model Pia ( née Sundström ) and insurance broker Magnus Åkerman . She has one sister , singer Jennifer Åkerman . When she was two years old , the family moved to Canada after her father was offered a job there . Four years later , her parents divorced , and her father moved back to Sweden . Both of her parents remarried , giving Åkerman one half @-@ brother and two half @-@ sisters . After her mother remarried , they moved to Niagara @-@ on @-@ the @-@ Lake , Ontario . Later in her teenage years , her mother divorced again . Åkerman attended many different schools , including Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School in St. Catharines , Ontario . She once attended a Catholic school , though she was raised as a Buddhist . She has recalled some portions of her childhood as " painful " , explaining that " I loved my father very much and I only got to see him during the school holidays . But I think it was an advantage that they split up when I was very young , so I could get used to it . " She visited her father in Falsterbo , Sweden , during school breaks and talked to him regularly over the phone . She cites her parents as " supportive , positive influences " in her life .

As a child , Åkerman had no plans to become an actress . Her mother introduced her to modelling while she was still in primary school , and she later landed several advertising campaign deals , but she decided to quit at age twelve . Four years later she returned to modelling after being discovered by Ford Models in a shopping mall in St. Catharines . She was signed to the agency and later won a contract with skincare company Noxzema . She soon moved to Toronto while attending North Toronto Collegiate Institute and later on in her OAC year , Dante Alighieri Academy . At the age of eighteen , inspired by the " helplessness " she sometimes felt during her childhood , she decided to become a child psychologist . She supported her education by modelling for television commercials and catalogue layouts . While studying for a year at York University in Toronto , she was simultaneously offered guest roles on television as a result of her exposure in commercials . She saw the acting gigs as further opportunities to pay for her education , but found herself enjoying it and decided to drop out of school to become an actress . She moved to Los Angeles , California in 2001 to pursue her acting career full @-@ time .

= = Career = =

= = = 1997 ? 2008 = = =

Åkerman made her acting debut on the Canadian science fiction series *Earth : Final Conflict* in 1997 , in a smaller role as a robot . She originally landed a role on an MTV pilot with Rachel McAdams , but the project was never picked up by the network . In 2000 , she guest starred on *Relic Hunter* and had a smaller role in the American film *The Skulls* . The following year , she made appearances on the Canada @-@ based series *Doc* and *Twice in a Lifetime* . In 2001 , she moved to Los Angeles , California in hopes of pursuing a broader acting career . At first , she worked as a waitress and stayed at a friend 's house . In 2002 , she received smaller role in the film *The Utopian Society* . The film was edited by Francesco Sordelli , the guitarist for alternative rock band *Ozono* . Sordelli asked Åkerman to help the band with song lyrics and later asked her to sing . Åkerman subsequently became the band 's singer , and they changed their name to *The Petalstones* . The band 's debut album , *Stung* , was released in August 2005 , but Åkerman eventually left to focus on her acting career , admitting that she " actually can 't sing " . She described her singing as " sort of a self @-@ made , self @-@ taught , if @-@ you @-@ can 't @-@ hit @-@ the @-@ note @-@ scream @-@ it kind of thing " .

In 2004 , she got a small role in the film *Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle* , but considered moving back to Canada as most of her auditions failed . She was then cast in a supporting role as Juna on the HBO television series *The Comeback* , with Lisa Kudrow in the main role . Kudrow played a former sitcom star who tried to restart her career . Åkerman 's appearance on the show garnered media attention and resulted in her being offered more roles . A year later , she guest starred on an episode of *Love Monkey* and two episodes of *Entourage* . Before the *Entourage* episodes aired , she landed a role in the 2007 comedy film *The Brothers Solomon* . The film was a box office bomb and received largely critical reviews .

Åkerman signed up for a role opposite Ben Stiller in the comedy film *The Heartbreak Kid* , directed by the Farrelly Brothers , in 2006 . She played in the lead female role as Lila , the newly wedded wife of Stiller 's character . The film follows the couple 's honeymoon in Mexico , where Stiller 's character falls in love with another woman and realizes that the marriage was a mistake . A remake of the 1972 film of the same name , it was released in October 2007 to generally poor reviews , as critics deemed it " neither as daring nor as funny " as the directors ' earlier films . Åkerman 's performance garnered more positive reviews ; Desson Thomson of *The Washington Post* called her a " fabulous comic partner " to Stiller , while Roger Moore of *Times Herald @-@ Record* asserted that she had outperformed him . The film grossed \$ 14 million in its opening weekend in the United States , and went on to gross \$ 127 million globally .

In 2007 , Åkerman joined the cast of *27 Dresses* , a romantic comedy film directed by Anne Fletcher with Katherine Heigl in the lead role . The film follows Heigl 's character Jane , who has always been the bridesmaid and dreams of her own wedding . Åkerman played Jane 's sister Tess . The film was shot during the summer of 2007 , and was released in January 2008 to weak critical reception as it was considered " clichéd and mostly forgettable " . The film was more successful commercially , with a gross of \$ 160 million . Åkerman played the title role in *Bye Bye Sally* , a short film directed by Paul Leyden and based on Lisa Mannetti 's short story *Everybody Wins* . The film premiered at the 2009 Newport Beach Film Festival .

= = = 2009 ? 11 = = =

In 2009 , Åkerman starred as Silk Spectre II in the superhero film *Watchmen* , an adaptation of Alan Moore 's graphic novel of the same name . Directed by Zack Snyder , the feature film is set in an alternate reality in 1985 where a group of retired vigilantes investigate an apparent conspiracy against them . Snyder favoured Åkerman over other more well @-@ known actresses as he felt that they could not play such a serious part . Åkerman rehearsed with " months of hardcore training " and went on a very strict diet . She wore a brunette wig , high heels and an uncomfortable latex costume , which provided little protection when performing stunts , and she often bruised herself during filming . Åkerman stated that her character carries the emotion of the film as she is the only woman among several men . Premiering in February 2009 , the film received generally favourable reviews ,

and was a commercial success , grossing \$ 185 million worldwide . Although Åkerman was nominated for a Saturn Award for Best Supporting Actress and a Teen Choice Award for her performance in the film , critics were generally negative towards her acting .

Åkerman appeared in the 2009 romantic comedy film *The Proposal* , starring Sandra Bullock and Ryan Reynolds in the lead roles . Åkerman played a supporting role as Gertrude , the ex @-@ girlfriend of Reynolds ' character . Although the film received mixed reviews , it went on to gross \$ 317 million worldwide . Also in 2009 , Åkerman starred in the comedy film *Couples Retreat* , opposite Jon Favreau and Vince Vaughn . The film follows four couples as they travel to a tropical island resort for couples therapy . Åkerman played Ronnie , the wife of Vaughn 's part . She enjoyed playing a mother for the first time and tried to make her character as truthful as possible , which included dyeing her hair brown to not look like a " blonde bombshell " . The film premiered in theatres in October 2009 and grossed \$ 34 million in its opening weekend in the United States , entering number one at the box office , and totalled \$ 171 million worldwide . Reception for the film was mainly negative , although Åkerman 's performance was met with more positive reactions .

In 2010 , Åkerman co @-@ starred as Annie in the Josh Radnor @-@ directed comedy @-@ drama film *happythankyoumoreplease* . As her character has alopecia , Åkerman shaved off her eyebrows and wore a bald cap to cover her hair . She was originally offered a different part , but felt that she wanted to play Annie as it was different from her previous roles . The film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2010 and received an audience award for Favorite U.S. Drama . Reviews from critics were polarized , but Åkerman received praise . Later in 2010 , she guest starred on the *How I Met Your Mother* episode " The Wedding Bride " , and joined the cast of the currently ongoing Adult Swim comedy series *Childrens Hospital* . Playing the part of the promiscuous Dr. Valerie Flame ( which is itself a part portrayed by Swedish @-@ only speaking " actress " Ingrid Hagerstown as a show @-@ within @-@ a @-@ show ) , Åkerman joined during the series ' second season along with Henry Winkler . The series was originally a web series and Åkerman accepted the role after viewing several webisodes . " It was totally up my alley , my kind of humor " , she said of the series . The same year , she played a supporting role in the romantic comedy film *The Romantics* with Katie Holmes , Josh Duhamel and Anna Paquin . The film premiered in September 2010 on limited release to generally negative reviews .

In 2010 , she starred in Sebastian Gutierrez 's comedy film *Elektra Luxx* opposite Carla Gugino and Joseph Gordon @-@ Levitt . The film is a sequel to 2009 's *Women in Trouble* . Åkerman played Trixie , an awkward drug store clerk who falls for Gordon @-@ Levitt 's part , who in turn is obsessed with Gugino 's character , a retired porn star . Åkerman was offered the role during a screening of *Women in Trouble* . The film premiered in March 2011 on limited release and received generally unfavourable reviews ; critics dismissed its many subplots and called it a " bizarre sex comedy " . Next , Åkerman starred in the lead female role in the film *The Bang Bang Club* , which follows a group of young photojournalists in South Africa during the final stages of the apartheid . Åkerman played Robin Comley , a newspaper photo editor . The film premiered during the 2010 Toronto International Film Festival to mixed reviews from the press . In 2010 , Åkerman signed up for a part in newcomer Aaron Harvey 's *Catch .44* , a drama @-@ thriller film with Forest Whitaker and Bruce Willis in the male lead roles . The film was generally ignored by critics and movie goers alike .

= = = 2012 ? present = = =

Åkerman had a supporting role in the 2012 comedy film *Wanderlust* , with Jennifer Aniston and Paul Rudd . The film focuses on an overworked couple who end up at a commune when they try to slow things down . Åkerman played Eva , a woman at the commune . The film received mixed to positive reviews from critics , who were divided regarding its humour , but ultimately praised the cast . *Wanderlust* underperformed at the box office , earning just over \$ 20 million worldwide during its theatrical run . Åkerman appeared in the comedy film *The Giant Mechanical Man* , which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival on April 23 , 2012 , to average reviews . She had a supporting role in the 2012 rock musical film *Rock of Ages* , based on the stage production of the same name . She

played Constance Sack , a journalist who interviews Tom Cruise 's character Stacey Jaxx . She hired a vocal coach as her role required her to sing ; she and Cruise recorded a duet of Foreigner 's " I Want to Know What Love Is " ( 1984 ) . Although the film grossed lower than expected , its opening weekend gross in the United States became the third @-@ highest ever for an adaption of a stage production .

Åkerman starred in the 2012 bank heist action film *Stolen* opposite Nicolas Cage . In 2010 , she replaced Lindsay Lohan as Linda Lovelace in the planned film *Inferno : A Linda Lovelace Story* but the project never entered production . Two other projects , *Cottage Country* and *The Numbers Station* , were released in 2013 . She is up for a role in *Serpent Girl* , based on Matthew Carnahan 's book of the same name . In February 2012 , Åkerman was cast in the ABC comedy pilot *The Smart One* opposite Portia de Rossi and Jean Smart . The pilot was not ordered to series . In May 2012 , it was revealed that Åkerman will play Blondie frontwoman Debbie Harry in Randall Miller 's film *CBGB* . In the fall of 2012 , Åkerman guest starred as Alex on two season two episodes of ABC 's *Suburgatory* .

Åkerman played the lead role on the ABC sitcom *Trophy Wife* . Åkerman played Kate Harrison , the third wife of Pete Harrison ( Bradley Whitford ) . Marcia Gay Harden and Michaela Watkins also star as Pete 's ex @-@ wives . The show received positive reviews , with critics singling out Åkerman for praise . Matt Webb Mitovich of *TVLine* said she " no less than shines here , coming off as fun @-@ loving but not flaky , warm and not overheated " . Gabriel Mizrahi of *The Huffington Post* called Åkerman " terrific " and Roth Cornet of *IGN* singled out her chemistry with co @-@ star Bradley Whitford and her aptitude for physical comedy . Åkerman said that she was initially put off by the title , having previously expressed frustration at constantly being asked to play the " trophy wife " . However , when she read the script , she loved the writing and the character and how " not trophy wife " she is . In 2013 , Åkerman was a presenter with Josh Stamberg ( *Drop Dead Divas* ) at *Women 's Image Network Awards* .

Åkerman co @-@ led the critically acclaimed horror comedy *The Final Girls* in 2015 with Taissa Farmiga , portraying a mother and daughter who are reunited in a slasher film . In 2016 , Åkerman costars in Showtime 's ' ' *Billions* as Lara Axelrod .

= = Personal life = =

Åkerman was born in Sweden and grew up in Canada ; she has " conflicting feelings " for the two countries . In an interview for *Toronto Star* , she said , " Every time I 'm in Canada I feel more Swedish , and every time I 'm in Sweden I feel more Canadian . I belong in both places and I love them both equally . " She holds both Swedish and Canadian passports . Apart from speaking fluent English and Swedish , she also speaks French and Spanish . She describes herself as a feminist as she believes in equal treatment for both sexes , but also considers that " We [ women ] are different " , adding that she " embrace [ s ] those differences . " She has revealed that she is dyslexic and said that it took her " a long time " to learn her lines . " I get horrified when I have to do table reads with the whole cast , because there 's a lot of stuttering coming from me , so I have to do a lot of prep " , she explained . Because of this , she prefers to improvise her lines .

Åkerman was raised a Buddhist , which inspired the lotus flower tattoo on her upper back . She also has a tattooed ' Z ' on her right wrist , honouring her husband , Italian musician Roberto Zincone . The two met in 2003 when Åkerman was the lead singer for *The Petalstones* , for which Zincone served as the drummer . After band practices , they usually socialized , using a dictionary as he could not speak English . They eventually started dating and married at Grand Hotel Moon Valley in Sorrento , Italy on June 20 , 2007 . The couple had one son , Sebastian Zincone , born on April 16 , 2013 . On November 25 , 2013 , the couple announced that they were separating . Zincone filed for divorce on December 2 , 2013 .

Åkerman is noted for frequently appearing in nude scenes in her films , such as *The Heartbreak Kid* and *Watchmen* . She has stated that she feels comfortable as long as the scenes are not gratuitous . In an interview for *Daily Mail* , she commented , " I spent a lot of time as a child in Sweden ; it 's natural there ... I don 't know many women who go to bed with their husband at night and have sex

with a bra on ... So let 's make it real in the movies . " In 2008 , she made her first appearance on AskMen.com 's " 99 Most Desirable Women " list at number 60 . The same year , men 's magazine Maxim placed her at number 59 in their annual " Hot 100 " rankings . The following year , the magazine ranked her at number four . Although admitting that sex appeal is one of the " best assets " , Åkerman considers being beautiful both " a blessing and a curse " , stating , " I tend to get a lot of scripts in which people want me to play the trophy wife , which is frustrating because I want the interesting , meaty roles . "

In 2012 , Åkerman travelled to Tanzania with Opportunity International , and has since begun support of their international development work , becoming a Young Ambassador for Opportunity in June 2012 and hosting a fundraiser for Opportunity in October 2012 .

= = Filmography = =

= = = Film = = =

= = = Television = = =