

= Maggie Roswell =

Maggie Roswell (born November 14 , 1952) is an American film and television actress and voice artist from Los Angeles , California . She is well known for her voice work on the Fox network 's animated television series The Simpsons , in which she has played recurring characters such as Maude Flanders , Helen Lovejoy , Miss Hoover , and Luann Van Houten , as well as several minor characters . This work has earned her both an Emmy Award nomination and an Annie Award nomination .

Roswell made her acting break @-@ through in the 1980s with appearances in films such as Midnight Madness (1980) , Lost in America (1985) , and Pretty in Pink (1986) , and guest appearances on television shows such as Remington Steele , Masquerade , and Happy Days . She appeared frequently in the sketch comedy The Tim Conway Show from 1980 to 1981 , and did voice acting for a few animated films and television shows . Roswell also performed in some theater plays , including one in 1988 directed by Julia Sweeney .

In 1989 , Roswell was hired for the first season of The Simpsons . She played a few minor characters until she became a regular cast member with the introduction of Maude Flanders in the second season . In 1994 , Roswell and her husband Hal Rayle moved from Los Angeles to Denver to raise their daughter . Together they established the Roswell ' n ' Rayle Company , creating and voicing advertisements for companies . Because of her move to Denver , Roswell had to travel to Los Angeles twice a week to tape The Simpsons . This ultimately led to her requesting a pay raise in 1999 ; however , Fox refused to offer her the amount she wanted so she quit the show . Roswell returned to The Simpsons in 2002 after reaching a deal to record her lines from her Denver home .

= = Career = =

= = = First acting work = = =

Maggie Roswell was born and raised in Los Angeles , California . After going to Catholic school and Los Angeles City College , she began a career in acting . In the 1970s she made some guest appearances on television shows such as M * A * S * H , but she did not get her first big acting roles until the 1980s . In the 1980 film Midnight Madness , she played a character that leads a group of sorority sisters who are participating in a college puzzle solving race . Roswell also starred in the sketch comedy The Tim Conway Show in 1980 and 1981 . In 1985 she appeared in the film Lost in America as the character Patty , and she had a supporting role in the 1986 film Pretty in Pink . She also acted in the two @-@ part television film The Deliberate Stranger . In addition , Roswell played some minor roles in television shows in the 1980s and the beginning of the 1990s , including guest appearances on Remington Steele (1983) , Masquerade (1984) , Happy Days (1984) , Murphy Brown (1993) , and Quantum Leap (1993) . She was offered a chance to replace Gilda Radner on Saturday Night Live , but turned down the offer when her agent told her " the show wasn 't going anywhere . "

Roswell also did theater . In 1986 she appeared in improvisatory shows directed by Paul Sills at Lamb 's Theatre , in which the actors were given characters and situations by the audience members . In 1988 she had a role in Julia Sweeney 's play Mea 's Big Apology at Groundling Theatre in Los Angeles . She played Eunice , a cynical woman who works at a malpractice insurance company and is a colleague to the main character . The company people do everything they can to dismiss her because they do not want to pay her retirement benefits , which are about to take effect . Roswell reprised this role in a 1992 revival of the play , also at Groundling Theatre .

= = = Early The Simpsons , Roswell ' n ' Rayle , pay dispute = = =

In addition to her live action roles , Roswell did some voice acting in animated films and shows , including the voice of Teegra in Fire and Ice from 1983 . This led to her being hired on the animated

television series The Simpsons in 1989 . Her first appearance was in the season one episode " Homer 's Night Out " , in which she voiced the character Princess Kashmir (a belly dancer who seduces Homer) . Out of the total thirteen episodes of the first season , Roswell appeared in four ; however , they were only minor roles . Roswell did not become a regular cast member until the middle of the second season in the episode " Dead Putting Society " (1990) , with the introduction of Maude Flanders (neighbor to the Simpson family and the loving wife of Ned Flanders) . Roswell went on to voice other recurring characters on the show , such as Helen Lovejoy (the reverend 's wife) , Miss Hoover (an elementary school teacher) , and Luann Van Houten (a housewife and mother) , as well as several more one @-@ time characters and background characters . Fellow Simpsons cast member Nancy Cartwright wrote in her autobiography that " Maggie has been blessed with a skill in creating one of the hardest things to create : the ' normal sound , ' whatever that is . So she can easily slip into the gal next door or any number of assorted reporters , medical students , jury members , accountants , scientists and moms . " Roswell was nominated for an Emmy Award for her work on The Simpsons . She also received a 1997 Annie Award nomination in the category " Best Individual Achievement : Voice Acting by a Female Performer in a TV Production " for her role as Sherry Bobbins in the episode " Simpsoncalifragilisticexpiala (Annoyed Grunt) cious " , but lost to June Foray .

Roswell met fellow voice actor Hal Rayle in 1986 , and they married in 1987 . He had done roles such as Predator in Predator 2 , the ghoulies in Ghoulies II , and Marvin the Martian in Air Jordan commercials . They moved from Los Angeles to Denver , Colorado , in June 1994 to raise their adopted daughter Spenser , who was born in 1993 . Between March and November every year , when episodes of The Simpsons were being recorded , Roswell had to fly back to Los Angeles twice a week to attend the table reads and the recording sessions . In an article about her and her husband 's move , Ricky Lopes of Rocky Mountain News wrote : " When The Simpsons is taping , she goes to Los Angeles every Friday morning for the first reading , flies back that afternoon , flies back Sunday to tape the show Monday and flies back home that night . " Roswell said she " got the idea for the way Helen Lovejoy says ' B @-@ bye , b @-@ bye , b @-@ bye , ' to everybody when they leave the church from the way the flight attendants say it when you get off the plane . "

Roswell and Rayle began writing , producing , and / or voicing advertisements together for companies . They established " The Roswell ' n ' Rayle Company " for this purpose , and built a recording studio in their basement . In 1994 , they did radio advertisements in Denver for Burger King , Christy Sports , and an insect exhibit at the Museum of Natural History . The same year , Roswell provided her voice for Campbell 's Soup and Pontiac commercials as part of their business . The company is still active as of 2010 . They are now also providing comedic ring tones .

In 1997 , Roswell appeared in the film Switchback alongside Danny Glover and Dennis Quaid .

Roswell left The Simpsons in spring 1999 after a pay dispute with Fox Broadcasting Company , which airs The Simpsons . The dispute was not revealed to the press at first ; Fox originally reported that she decided to quit only because she was tired of flying between Denver and Los Angeles for the recording sessions . It was then announced by Roswell that she had asked for a raise , not only because she was tired of the traveling , but because of the increasing cost of flight tickets . Roswell was paid \$ 1 @,@ 500 to \$ 2 @,@ 000 per episode during the three seasons before she left , and she asked Fox for a raise to \$ 6 @,@ 000 per episode . However , Fox only offered her a \$ 150 raise , which did not even cover the travel costs , so she decided to quit . Roswell told The Denver Post that " they offered me a \$ 150 raise . I mean , that 's lint in Fox 's pocket . But Fox wanted to prove a point , I guess . I was flying myself back and forth from Denver to L.A. It was exhausting . I loved doing the show and they thought that I would come back . But now I 'm busy doing other things . " She further added that " I was part of the backbone of The Simpsons and I don 't think the money I asked for was exorbitant . I wasn 't asking for what other cast members make . I was just trying to recoup all the costs I had in travel . If they 'd flown me in , I 'd still be working . " At that point , the six main cast members of the show were paid \$ 125 @,@ 000 per episode . As a result of Roswell 's departure , the Maude Flanders character was killed off in the episode " Alone Again , Natura @-@ Diddily " . Voice actress Marcia Mitzman Gaven was hired to fill in for Roswell 's other characters .

= = = Return to The Simpsons and later work = = =

Roswell returned to The Simpsons in 2002 in the season premiere of the fourteenth season , in which Maude made an appearance as a ghost . She reached a deal with Fox to record her lines from her Denver home and thus the dispute ended . Roswell has since stayed on the show , which is still airing . She also appeared as Helen Lovejoy in the 2007 film The Simpsons Movie . She attended the gala premiere together with her daughter , Spenser Rayle , who had turned fourteen years old at the time . Roswell told The Denver Post that she was surprised she was given two tickets ; " Everybody in Hollywood is killing to get their kid there . My daughter 's big thrill is to meet [the band] Green Day , " which also appeared in the film .

In 2004 , Roswell had a minor role in the film Silver City . In 2009 , she starred in the play Bunny Bunny : Gilda Radner , a Sort of Romantic Comedy at Avenue Theater in Denver . It opened in May of that year . The play recounted events in the career of actress Gilda Radner , who Roswell played , from 1975 (the start of Saturday Night Live) to her death in 1989 .

Outside her acting career , Roswell likes to sing . On February 7 , 1999 , she debuted as a nightclub singer at the Denver Chop House & Brewery , where she performed on behalf of the homelessness charity Family Homestead . In June 2003 , she sang at Denver 's Rattlebrain Theatre on Sunday nights with The Sirens .

= = Filmography = =

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