

= Tessa Ludwick =

Tessa Ludwick (born October 5 , 1988) is a Korean American actress from Apollo Beach , Florida . She began acting at age five , when she held a lead role in Allegra 's Window , a Nick Jr. children 's television program show taped at Universal Studios in Orlando , Florida . When filming on Allegra 's Window ended in May 1996 , seven @-@ year @-@ old Ludwick went from Allegra 's Window to a lead role in Big Bag , a live action television puppet program for preschoolers on the Cartoon Network . At 8 , she landed the role of Kate , an orphan girl in the touring Broadway musical Annie , the 20th Anniversary . For the next eight months , she toured the United States and Canada with the musical , during which time Ludwick gave eight performances per week .

In 2003 , Ludwick appeared as the character Yumi in thirteen , an autobiographical drama film based on American film actress Nikki Reed 's experiences as a 12 and 13 @-@ year @-@ old girl . In 2004 , Ludwick appeared on Movie Surfers , a Disney Channel mini @-@ show where four teenagers go behind the scenes to report on Walt Disney @-@ related films . Three years later in June 2007 , Ludwick began work on Teen Witch the Musical , a stage musical based on the 1989 fantasy @-@ comedy film Teen Witch .

= = Early career = =

Tessa Ludwick was born October 5 , 1988 in Seoul , South Korea . Ludwick 's career began at age two and a half when Ludwick saw a television advertisement about modeling and begged her mother to call the number . Her modeling led to acting roles .

In the summer of 1994 at age five , Ludwick spent time reading books but took time off to go to Six Flags Over Georgia , a 230 @-@ acre (0 @.@ 93 km2) theme park located west of Atlanta , in Austell . In September of that year , Ludwick attended the first grade at Apollo Beach Elementary . While attending Apollo Beach Elementary , Ludwick held a lead role in Allegra 's Window , a children 's television program shown taped at Universal Studios in Orlando , Florida and shown on U.S. television programming block Nick Jr .

When filming on Allegra 's Window ended in May 1996 , seven @-@ year @-@ old Ludwick began a lead role in Big Bag , a live action television puppet program for preschoolers that was produced by Sesame Workshop and aired from 1996 to 1998 on the Cartoon Network .

= = Television , Broadway , and film = =

Ludwick was drawn away in 1997 from Big Bag to act in the role of Kate in Annie , the 20th Anniversary , the Broadway musical on tour revival of the 1977 Broadway theatre production of Annie . The Annie , the 20th Anniversary tour spanned the United States and Canada from October 1997 through June 1998 , during which time Ludwick gave eight performances per week . The Buffalo News noted that her November 1997 performance as the orphan girl Kate at Buffalo , New York 's Shea 's Performing Arts Center crafted a personality for the character whose " naturalness [far exceeded] that of the original Broadway cast . " Characterized at that time as " bright , bubbly and [bringing] a sparkle wherever she goes , " Ludwick additionally made the honor roll in Hillsborough County 's program for gifted students in 1998 . A year later , Ludwick became a spokesperson for Kids with a Cause , a youth organization based in California dedicated to improving the quality of life of children who suffer from poverty , lack of education , or health @-@ related issues .

When she was 13 , Ludwick played the character Yumi in thirteen , a 2003 autobiographical drama film based on American film actress Nikki Reed 's experiences as a 12 and 13 @-@ year @-@ old girl . About a year later , Ludwick appeared on Movie Surfers , a Disney Channel mini @-@ show where four teenagers go behind the scenes to report on Walt Disney @-@ related films . After this successful career , she starred in Ned 's Declassified School Survival Guide as Jennifer Tu . Tessa has also appeared on a special " Seventh Graders edition " of the game show The Weakest Link . Where she made it to the final round and won \$ 77 @,@ 000 , beating Jill .

