

= Julie Kavner =

Julie Deborah Kavner (born September 7 , 1950) is an American film and television actress , voice actress and comedian . She first attracted notice for her role as Valerie Harper 's character 's younger sister Brenda in the sitcom Rhoda for which she won a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series . She is best known for her voice role as Marge Simpson on the animated television series The Simpsons . She also voices other characters for the show , including Jacqueline Bouvier , and Patty and Selma Bouvier .

Known for her improvisation and distinctive " honeyed gravel voice , " Kavner was cast in her first professional acting role as Brenda Morgenstern in Rhoda in 1974 . She received the Primetime Emmy Award in 1978 and three more nominations for playing the character . Following Rhoda , Kavner was cast in The Tracey Ullman Show , which debuted in 1987 . The Tracey Ullman Show included a series of animated shorts about a dysfunctional family . Voices were needed for the shorts , and the producers decided to ask Kavner to voice Marge . The shorts would eventually be spun off into The Simpsons .

Kavner has been described as " nearly reclusive " ; part of her contract says that she will never have to promote The Simpsons on video . For her work as Marge , Kavner received another Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Voice @-@ Over Performance in 1992 and an Annie Award nomination for her performance as the character in The Simpsons Movie .

Typically cast as a " woman who is supportive , sympathetic or self @-@ effacingly funny , " Kavner grew to dislike playing such roles . In 1992 , she starred in This Is My Life , her first leading role in a feature film . Kavner has also appeared in live @-@ action roles in seven films written by Woody Allen , and in the Adam Sandler comedy Click .

= = Early life = =

Kavner was born in Los Angeles , California , on September 7 , 1950 , the second daughter of Rose , a family counselor , and David Kavner , a furniture manufacturer , and grew up in Southern California . She decided to pursue a career in acting because " There was nothing else I wanted to do , ever . " She attended Beverly Hills High School (which she later admitted she hated) , where she was " something of a loner " , and unsuccessfully tried out for several plays . John Ingle , formerly the chairman of the Beverly Hills High School art department , later commented that Kavner was " excellent at improvisation but she wasn 't an ingenue and not that castable at that age . "

After graduating from high school , Kavner attended San Diego State University and majored in drama , being cast in several productions including a role as Charlotte Corday in Marat / Sade , becoming known for her improvisation and ability to do both comedy and drama . After graduating in 1971 she got a day job as a typist at the UCLA School of the Arts and Architecture .

= = Career = =

= = = Early career = = =

In 1973 , Kavner auditioned for a role as one of Rhoda Morgenstern 's sisters in The Mary Tyler Moore Show . David Davis , producer of the show , had convinced her to audition for the part , but decided to cast another actress instead . A year later , Rhoda Morgenstern became the leading character in a spin @-@ off called Rhoda . Kavner was cast in her first professional acting role as Brenda Morgenstern , sister of the eponymous character . Rhoda ran on CBS from September 9 , 1974 , to December 1978 . She received four Primetime Emmy Award nominations for Outstanding Continuing Performance by a Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series for playing Brenda , winning in 1978 . She also received four Golden Globe Award nominations . In 1975 , she received Daytime Emmy Award nomination for her starring role in the daytime special The Girl Who Couldn 't Lose .

Following Rhoda , Kavner had a guest appearance on Taxi and appeared in the 1985 comedy Bad

Medicine as well as the 1987 film *Surrender* , both of which were box office failures . She appeared in the television movies *Revenge of the Stepford Wives* , *No Other Love* and *A Fine Romance* , and shot a television pilot . She also starred in several stage plays , including a play called *It Had to be You* at a dinner theater in Canada , *Particular Friendships* in New York in 1981 , and *Two for the Seesaw* , directed by Burt Reynolds . Woody Allen first saw Kavner one night while he was watching *Rhoda* in the 1970s . He thought that she was remarkable and later offered her a role in his 1986 film *Hannah and Her Sisters* . Kavner agreed , and credits Allen and the film with rejuvenating her career .

Kavner was then cast as a sidekick to Tracey Ullman in *The Tracey Ullman Show* , which debuted on Fox in 1987 . Kavner described the show as , " like being back in school , a chance to play a wide variety of characters , some really vicious people , to not rest on laurels , to not play it safe . " Kavner commented , " What I do is not mimicry or an impersonation , but more of an assimilation . [*On The Tracey Ullman Show*] we did a lot of looking at people to find out who to base our characters on . We did our homework on our lunch hour . " She received four Primetime Emmy Award nominations for Best Individual Performance in a Variety or Music Program .

= = = The Simpsons = = =

Kavner became most famous for her role as Marge Simpson on the animated television show *The Simpsons* , a show that continues to the present . *The Tracey Ullman Show* included a series of animated shorts about the dysfunctional Simpson family . Voices were needed for the shorts , so the producers decided to ask Kavner and fellow cast member Dan Castellaneta to voice Marge and Homer rather than hire more actors . Kavner has what Hilary de Vries of *The New York Times* described as a " honeyed gravel voice " . Kavner says her distinctive voice is due to " a bump on [her] vocal cords . "

Although Marge is her most famous character , Kavner 's favorite characters to voice are her sisters Patty and Selma Bouvier because " they 're really funny and sad at the same time . " Series creator Matt Groening instructed Kavner to voice the duo as characters who " suck the life out of everything . " Both have similar raspy voices , but Patty 's voice is more masculine and has a lower register , while Selma 's voice is a little sweeter . Kavner also provides the voices of every other female member of the Bouvier family , including Marge 's mother Jacqueline , Great @-@ Aunt Gladys (a dead relative who was introduced on season four 's " *Selma 's Choice* ") , and an unnamed grandmother seen on the season six episode " *Fear of Flying* " .

Part of Kavner 's contract says that she will never have to promote *The Simpsons* on video and she rarely performs Marge 's voice in public because she believes it " destroys the illusion . People feel these are real people . " Kavner takes recording sessions seriously and feels that voice acting is , " a little more limiting than live acting . And I have nothing to do with my character 's movement . " Nancy Cartwright , who voices Bart Simpson , said in her book *My Life as a 10 @-@ Year @-@ Old Boy* that Kavner is " a workhorse of an actor " with " extraordinary professionalism and quiet work ethic , " and notes that she is rarely late for recording sessions .

Until 1998 , Kavner was paid \$ 30 @,@ 000 per episode . During a pay dispute in 1998 , Fox threatened to replace the six main voice actors with new actors , going as far as preparing to cast new voices . However , the dispute was soon resolved and she received \$ 125 @,@ 000 per episode until 2004 when the voice actors demanded that they be paid \$ 360 @,@ 000 an episode . The issue was resolved a month later , and Kavner earned \$ 250 @,@ 000 per episode . After salary re @-@ negotiations in 2008 , the voice actors received approximately \$ 400 @,@ 000 per episode . Three years later , with Fox threatening to cancel the series unless production costs were cut , Kavner and the other cast members accepted a 30 percent pay cut , down to just over \$ 300 @,@ 000 per episode .

At the 44th Primetime Emmy Awards , Kavner received a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Voice @-@ Over Performance for voicing Marge in the season three episode " *I Married Marge* " . In 2004 , Kavner and Dan Castellaneta won a Young Artist Award for " Most Popular Mom & Dad in a TV Series " . For her performance in *The Simpsons Movie* , Kavner was nominated for " Best Voice

Acting in an Animated Feature " at the 2007 Annie Awards , but lost to Ian Holm from Ratatouille . Kavner 's emotional performance in the movie got positive reviews and one critic said she " gave what must be the most heartfelt performance ever to find its way into a movie based on an irreverent cartoon . " Some scenes in the movie , such as Marge 's emotional video message to Homer , were recorded over one hundred times , leaving Kavner exhausted .

= = = Further career = = =

Many of Kavner 's roles have been described by New York Times writer Hilary de Vries as a " woman who is supportive , sympathetic or self @-@ effacingly funny . " Kavner grew to despise playing such roles , saying " If it smacks of Brenda Morgenstern , I won 't take the job . " She had a supporting role as Eleanor Costello , a nurse who befriends Robin Williams ' character in the Academy Award nominated film Awakenings . Kavner interviewed several nurses in preparation for the role , and Penny Marshall , the director of the film , described Kavner as " a low @-@ maintenance actor [...] You never have to worry about giving [her] back @-@ story for her characters . " In 1992 , Kavner starred in This Is My Life , her first leading role in a feature film . Kavner played Dottie Ingels , an aspiring stand @-@ up comedian who starts neglecting her family when her career begins to take off . Kavner described Dottie as " really selfish " but admitted , " I liked the role for that very reason . " Kavner had been asked to play a character with a smaller role in the film , but Joe Roth , at the time the chairman of 20th Century Fox , suggested that they cast a lesser known actress in the lead role . Nora Ephron , the writer of This Is My Life , said Kavner " has so little vanity that it is almost shocking . Not only does she have no demands as an actress ? ' How big is my trailer , what 's in my refrigerator ? ' ? but she will do anything for the character if it makes sense to her . "

Kavner has frequently appeared in Woody Allen films , having roles in Hannah and Her Sisters (1986) , Radio Days (1987) , New York Stories (1989) , Alice (1990) , Shadows and Fog (1991) , the television movie Don 't Drink the Water (1994) and Deconstructing Harry (1997) . Allen described her as " a naturally funny person . When she does a scene you listen to her and look at her and the prism through which it 's all filtered is funny . " Kavner believes he is " a true filmmaker , one that has something to say , continually experimenting on different themes within his own film @-@ making , " adding that " anything [Allen] ever does , I always want to do , [...] I don 't even have to read it . "

She has done voice @-@ over work in films such as The Lion King 1 ½ , Dr. Dolittle and an uncredited role as an announcer in A Walk on the Moon . Her most recent live @-@ action film was a role of the mother of Adam Sandler 's character in Click . She has also worked with Tracey Ullman in the HBO sketch comedy series Tracey Takes On

= = Personal life = =

Kavner leads a private , " nearly reclusive " life , " discreet and guarded beyond the usual reticent star routine . " She rarely makes public appearances and refuses to allow herself to be photographed at work , especially in the studio while doing The Simpsons . Her partner is retired producer David Davis ; they have lived together since 1976 . In a 1992 interview with The New York Times , Kavner said she was considering retiring , " except for doing three days a year for Woody [Allen] , " but felt that if she did retire , she would receive a script she wanted " to do more than life itself " .

= = Filmography = =

= = = Film = = =

= = = Television = = =

= = = Video games = = =

The Simpsons (1991) ? Marge Simpson

Storybook Weaver (1994) - Mayzie Bird

The Simpsons Cartoon Studio (1996) ? Marge Simpson

Virtual Springfield (1997) ? Marge Simpson , Patty and Selma Bouvier

Simpsons Bowling (1999) ? Marge Simpson , Patty and Selma Bouvier

The Simpsons Wrestling (2001) ? Marge Simpson

The Simpsons : Road Rage (2001) ? Marge Simpson

The Simpsons Skateboarding (2002) ? Marge Simpson

The Simpsons : Hit & Run (2003) ? Marge Simpson , Patty and Selma Bouvier

Storybook Weaver Deluxe (2004) - Mayzie Bird

The Simpsons Game (2007) ? ? Marge Simpson , Patty and Selma Bouvier

The Simpsons : Tapped Out (2012) ? Marge Simpson , Patty and Selma Bouvier

= = = Music video = = =

" Do the Bartman " (1990) ? Marge Simpson

= = = Theme park = = =

The Simpsons Ride (2008) ? Marge Simpson , Patty and Selma Bouvier

= = Awards = =