

= Nancy Cartwright =

Nancy Jean Cartwright (born October 25 , 1957) is an American voice actress , film and television actress , and comedian . She is known for her long @-@ running role as Bart Simpson on the animated television series The Simpsons . Cartwright also voices other characters for the show , including Nelson Muntz , Ralph Wiggum , Todd Flanders , Kearney , and Database .

Cartwright was born in Dayton , Ohio . Cartwright moved to Hollywood in 1978 and trained alongside voice actor Daws Butler . Her first professional role was voicing Gloria in the animated series Richie Rich , which she followed with a starring role in the television movie Marian Rose White (1982) and her first feature film , Twilight Zone : The Movie (1983) .

After continuing to search for acting work , in 1987 Cartwright auditioned for a role in a series of animated shorts about a dysfunctional family that was to appear on The Tracey Ullman Show . Cartwright intended to audition for the role of Lisa Simpson , the middle child ; when she arrived at the audition , she found the role of Bart ? Lisa 's brother ? to be more interesting . Matt Groening , the series ' creator , allowed her to audition for Bart and offered her the role on the spot . She voiced Bart for three seasons on The Tracey Ullman Show , and in 1989 , the shorts were spun off into a half @-@ hour show called The Simpsons . For her subsequent work as Bart , Cartwright received a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Voice @-@ Over Performance in 1992 and an Annie Award for Best Voice Acting in the Field of Animation in 1995 .

Cartwright has voiced numerous animated characters , including Chuckie Finster in Rugrats and All Grown Up ! (the former of which was previously held by Christine Cavanaugh) , Rufus in Kim Possible , Mindy in Animaniacs , Margo Sherman in The Critic and Chip in The Kellys . In 2000 , she published her autobiography , My Life as a 10 @-@ Year @-@ Old Boy , and four years later adapted it into a one @-@ woman play .

= = Early life = =

Cartwright was born in Dayton , Ohio , on October 25 , 1957 , the fourth of Frank and Miriam Cartwright 's six children . She grew up in Kettering , Ohio , and discovered her talent for voices at an early age . While in the fourth grade , she won a school @-@ wide speech competition with her performance of Rudyard Kipling 's How the Camel Got His Hump . Cartwright attended Fairmont West High School , and participated in the school 's theater and marching band . She regularly entered public speaking competitions , placing first in the " Humorous Interpretation " category at the National District Tournament two years running . The judges often suggested to her that she should perform cartoon voices . Cartwright graduated from high school in 1976 and accepted a scholarship from Ohio University . She continued to compete in public speaking competitions ; during her sophomore year , she placed fifth in the National Speech Tournament 's exposition category with her speech " The Art of Animation " .

In 1976 , Cartwright landed a part @-@ time job doing voice @-@ overs for commercials on WING radio in Dayton . A representative from Warner Bros. Records visited WING and later sent Cartwright a list of contacts in the animation industry . One of these was Daws Butler , known for voicing characters such as Huckleberry Hound , Snagglepuss , Elroy Jetson and Yogi Bear . Cartwright called him , and left a message in a Cockney accent on his answering machine . Butler immediately called her back and agreed to be her mentor . He mailed her a script and instructed her to send him a tape recording of herself reading it . Once he received the tape , Butler critiqued it and sent her notes . For the next year they continued in this way , completing a new script every few weeks . Cartwright described Butler as " absolutely amazing , always encouraging , always polite " .

Cartwright returned to Ohio University for her sophomore year , but transferred to the University of California , Los Angeles (UCLA) so she could be closer to Hollywood and Butler . Her mother , Miriam , died late in the summer of 1978 . Cartwright nearly changed her relocation plans but , on September 17 , 1978 , " joylessly " left for Westwood , Los Angeles .

= = Career = =

== Early career ==

While attending UCLA , which did not have a public speaking team , Cartwright continued training as a voice actress with Butler . She recalled , " every Sunday I 'd take a 20 @-@ minute bus ride to his house in Beverly Hills for a one @-@ hour lesson and be there for four hours ... They had four sons , they didn 't have a daughter and I kind of fitted in as the baby of the family . " Butler introduced her to many of the voice actors and directors at Hanna @-@ Barbera . After she met the director Gordon Hunt , he asked her to audition for a recurring role as Gloria in *Richie Rich* . She received the part , and later worked with Hunt on several other projects . At the end of 1980 , Cartwright signed with a talent agency and landed a lead role in a pilot for a sitcom called *In Trouble* . Cartwright described the show as " forgettable , but it jump @-@ started my on @-@ camera career " . She graduated from UCLA in 1981 with a degree in theater . During the summer , Cartwright worked with Jonathan Winters as part of an improvisation troupe at Kenyon College in Gambier , Ohio .

Returning to Los Angeles , Cartwright won the lead role in the television movie *Marian Rose White* . Janet Maslin , a critic for *The New York Times* , described Cartwright as " a chubby , lumbering , slightly cross @-@ eyed actress whose naturalness adds greatly to the film 's impact " . Cartwright replied by sending Maslin a letter insisting she was not cross @-@ eyed , and included a photograph . Later , Cartwright auditioned for the role of Ethel , a girl who becomes trapped in a cartoon world in the third segment of *Twilight Zone : The Movie* . She met with director Joe Dante and later described him as " a total cartoon buff , and once he took a look at my resume and noticed Daws Butler 's name on it , we were off and running , sharing anecdotes about Daws and animation . After about twenty minutes , he said , ' considering your background , I don 't see how I could cast anyone but you in this part ! ' " It was her first role in a feature film . The segment was based on *The Twilight Zone* television series episode " *It 's a Good Life* " , which was later parodied in *The Simpsons* episode " *Treehouse of Horror II* " (1992) .

Cartwright continued to do voice work for projects including *Pound Puppies* , *Popeye* and *Son , Snorks* , *My Little Pony* and *Saturday Supercade* . She joined a " loop group " , and recorded vocals for characters in the background of films , although in most cases the sound was turned down so that very little of her voice was heard . She did minor voice @-@ over work for several films , including *The Clan of the Cave Bear* (1986) , *Silverado* (1985) , *Sixteen Candles* (1984) , *Back to the Future Part II* (1989) and *The Color Purple* (1985) . The most notable of these was a role in *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* (1988) as a shoe that was " dipped " in acid . She described it as her first " off @-@ screen death scene " , and worked to correctly convey the emotion involved .

In 1985 , she auditioned for a guest spot as Cynthia in *Cheers* . The audition called for her to say her line and walk off the set . Cartwright decided to take a chance on being different and continued walking , leaving the building and returning home . The production crew was confused , but she received the part . In search of more training as an actress , Cartwright joined a class taught by Hollywood coach Milton Katselas . He recommended that Cartwright study *La Strada* , a 1956 Italian film starring Giulietta Masina and directed by Federico Fellini . She began performing " every imaginable scene " from *La strada* in her class and spent several months trying to secure the rights to produce a stage adaptation . She visited Italy with the intention of meeting Fellini and requesting his permission in person . Although they never met , Cartwright kept a journal of the trip and later wrote a one @-@ woman play called *In Search of Fellini* , partially based on her voyage . The play was co @-@ written by Peter Kjernaas , and Cartwright won a Drama @-@ Logue Award after performing it in Los Angeles in 1995 . In a 1998 interview , she stated her intention to make it into a feature film .

== The Simpsons ==

Cartwright is best known for her role as Bart Simpson on the long @-@ running animated television

show The Simpsons . On March 13 , 1987 , Nancy Cartwright auditioned for a series of animated shorts about a dysfunctional family that was to appear on The Tracey Ullman Show , a sketch comedy program . Cartwright originally intended to audition for the role of Lisa Simpson , the eldest daughter . After arriving at the audition , she found that Lisa was simply described as the middle child and at the time did not have much personality . Cartwright became more interested in the role of Bart , described as " devious , underachieving , school @-@ hating , irreverent , [and] clever " . Creator Matt Groening let her try out for Bart , and gave her the job on the spot . Bart 's voice came naturally to Cartwright , as she had previously used elements of it in My Little Pony , Snorks , and Pound Puppies . Cartwright describes Bart 's voice as easy to perform compared with other characters . The recording of the shorts was often primitive ; the dialog was recorded on a portable tape deck in a makeshift studio above the bleachers on the set of the The Tracey Ullman Show . Cartwright , the only cast member to have been professionally trained in voice acting , described the sessions as " great fun " . However , she wanted to appear in the live @-@ action sketches and occasionally showed up for recording sessions early , hoping to be noticed by a producer .

In 1989 , the shorts were spun off into a half @-@ hour show on the Fox network called The Simpsons . Bart quickly became the show 's breakout personality and one of the most celebrated characters on television ? his popularity in 1990 and 1991 was known as " Bartmania " . Bart was described as " television 's brightest new star " by Mike Boone of The Gazette and was named 1990 's " entertainer of the year " by Entertainment Weekly . Despite Bart 's fame , however , Cartwright remained relatively unknown . During the first season of The Simpsons , Fox ordered Cartwright not to give interviews , because they did not want to publicize the fact that Bart was voiced by a woman . Cartwright 's normal speaking voice is said to have " no obvious traces of Bart " , and she believes her role is " the best acting job in the world " , since she is rarely recognized in public . When she is recognized and asked to perform Bart 's voice in front of children , Cartwright refuses because it " freaks [them] out " . Bart 's catchphrase " Eat My Shorts " was an ad @-@ lib by Cartwright in one of the original table readings , referring to an incident from her high school days . Once while performing , members of the Fairmont West High School marching band switched their chant from the usual " Fairmont West ! Fairmont West ! " to the irreverent " Eat my shorts ! " Cartwright felt it appropriate for Bart , and improvised the line ; it became a popular catchphrase on the show .

Cartwright voices several other characters on the show , including Nelson Muntz , Ralph Wiggum , Todd Flanders , Kearney and Database . She first voiced Nelson in the episode " Bart the General " (season one , 1990) . The character was to be voiced by Dana Hill , but Hill missed the recording session and Cartwright was given the role . She developed Nelson 's voice on the spot and describes him as " a throat @-@ ripper " . Ralph Wiggum had originally been voiced by Jo Ann Harris , but Cartwright was assigned to voice the character in " Bart the Murderer " (season three , 1991) . Todd Flanders , the only voice for which Cartwright used another source , is based on Sherman (voiced by Walter Tetley) , the boy from Peabody 's Improbable History , a series of shorts aired on The Rocky and Bullwinkle Show .

Cartwright received a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Voice @-@ Over Performance in 1992 for her performance as Bart in the episode " Separate Vocations " and an Annie Award in 1995 for Best Voice Acting in the Field of Animation . Bart was named one of the 100 most important people of the 20th century by Time , and in 2000 , Bart and the rest of the Simpson family were awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame , located at 7021 Hollywood Boulevard .

Until 1998 , Cartwright was paid \$ 30 @,@ 000 per episode . During a pay dispute in 1998 , Fox threatened to replace the six main voice actors , and made preparations for casting new actors . The dispute was resolved , however , and Cartwright received \$ 125 @,@ 000 per episode until 2004 , when the voice actors demanded \$ 360 @,@ 000 an episode . A compromise was reached after a month , and Cartwright 's pay rose to \$ 250 @,@ 000 per episode . Salaries were re @-@ negotiated in 2008 with the voice actors receiving approximately \$ 400 @,@ 000 per episode . Three years later , with Fox threatening to cancel the series unless production costs were cut , Cartwright and the other cast members accepted a 25 percent pay cut , down to just over \$ 300 @,@ 000 per episode .

== Further career ==

In addition to her work on The Simpsons , Cartwright has voiced many other characters on several animated series , including Chuckie Finster in Rugrats and All Grown Up ! , Margo Sherman in The Critic , Mindy in Animaniacs and Rufus the naked mole @-@ rat in Kim Possible . For the role of Rufus , Cartwright researched mole @-@ rats extensively , and became " a font of useless trivia " . She was nominated for a Daytime Emmy Award for Outstanding Performer in an Animated Program in 2004 for her work on the show . In 2001 , Cartwright took over the Rugrats role of Chuckie Finster when Christine Cavanaugh retired . Cartwright describes Rufus and Chuckie as her two most difficult voices : " Rufus because my diaphragm gets a workout while trying to utilize the 18 vocal sounds a mole makes . Chuckie because ... he 's an asthmatic with five personalities rolled into one ? plus I have to do the voice the way [Cavanaugh] did it for 10 years . " Other television shows that have used her voice work include Galaxy High ; God , the Devil and Bob ; Goof Troop ; Mike , Lu & Og ; The Replacements ; Pinky and the Brain and Timberwolf . Cartwright has appeared on camera in numerous television shows and films , including Fame , Empty Nest , The Fresh Prince of Bel @-@ Air , Flesh and Blood , Godzilla and 24 .

In 2000 , Cartwright published her autobiography , My Life as a 10 @-@ Year @-@ Old Boy . The book details her career (particularly her experiences as the voice of Bart) and contains stories about life behind the scenes of The Simpsons . Laura A. Bischoff of the Dayton Daily News commented that the book was the " ultimate insider 's guide to The Simpsons " . Critics complained that the book lacked interesting stories and was aimed mostly at fans of The Simpsons rather than a general audience .

Cartwright adapted My Life as a 10 @-@ Year @-@ Old Boy into a one @-@ woman play in 2004 . Cartwright has performed it at a variety of venues , including the August 2004 Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland . The play received modest reviews , including criticism for a lack of inside stories about The Simpsons , and its " overweeningly upbeat " tone . David Chatterton of The British Theatre Guide described the show as " interesting and entertaining , but not really a ' must see ' even for Simpsons fans " .

Cartwright has shown an interest in stock car racing and as of 2007 was seeking a NASCAR license . In 2001 , she founded a production company called SportsBlast and created an online animated series called The Kellys . The series is focused on racing ; Cartwright voices a seven @-@ year @-@ old named Chip Kelly .

== Personal life ==

Cartwright met writer Warren Murphy on her birthday in 1988 and married him two months later . In her book , she describes Murphy as her " personal laugh track " . The couple had two children , Lucy and Jack , before divorcing in 2002 .

Cartwright was raised a Roman Catholic but joined the Church of Scientology in 1991 . She has said that before becoming involved with the church she was depressed that she did not have a " committed relationship " , and wanted to get married and have children . She " thought that maybe [she] could find a relationship by going to a church " . Cartwright attended a barbecue at a friend 's house and noticed that all of the attendees were Scientologists with " thriving careers " . Cartwright began reading the works of L. Ron Hubbard and found solace in a chapter about shedding the pain of loss . She said later , " I felt he was talking directly to me , I said to myself , ' I want to stop that feeling . ' " Cartwright was awarded Scientology 's Patron Laureate Award after she donated \$ 10 million , almost twice her annual salary , to the Church in 2007 .

Cartwright actively supports many nonprofit organizations , including Famous Fone Friends , the Make @-@ A @-@ Wish Foundation , and Scientology @-@ related The Way to Happiness Foundation . She is co @-@ founder of " Happy House " , a non @-@ profit organization dedicated to building ' better ' families and distributing Scientology @-@ based literature , based on The Way to Happiness Foundation and is a contributor to ASIFA @-@ Hollywood 's Animation Archive Project . In September 2007 , Cartwright received the Make @-@ a @-@ Wish Foundation 's Wish Icon

Award " for her tremendous dedication to the Foundation 's fundraising and wish @-@ fulfillment efforts " . In 2005 , Cartwright created a scholarship at Fairmont High School " designed to aid Fairmont [graduates] who dream of following in her footsteps and studying speech , debate , drama or music " at Ohio University . In 2005 , Cartwright was given the title of Honorary Mayor of Northridge , California (a neighborhood of Los Angeles) by the Northridge Chamber of Commerce .

In 2007 , Cartwright was in a relationship with contractor Stephen Brackett . They planned to get married in spring 2008 . Brackett was the President and Treasurer of Brackett Construction in Hollywood , California ; the construction company was founded in 1987 and had \$ 8 @.@ 5 million in sales in 2009 . He was a fellow member of Scientology , reaching the Operating Thetan level of OT V in Scientology , in 1989 . He died in May 2009 . According to The Monterey County Herald , Brackett leaped off the Bixby Creek Bridge in Big Sur , California . Law enforcement stated , " friends and relatives of Brackett said he was despondent because of financial troubles with his business " . In September 2010 , it was announced Cartwright was being sued by the executives of American Safety Casualty Insurance Company over a policy covering refurbishment work Stephen Brackett failed to finish before his death . The lawsuit sought \$ 260 @,@ 000 from Cartwright , who the company claims was guarantor for the policy but has refused to cover the expenses . The lawsuit also alleges Brackett diverted contract funds to the Church of Scientology .

In January 2009 , Cartwright used Bart 's voice in an automated telephone message to Scientologists , inviting them to an event in Hollywood , California . She opened the message in Bart 's voice , saying " Yo , what 's happenin ' man , this is Bart Simpson [laugh] " , then used her normal voice in most of the remaining message . In a 2000 interview , Cartwright explained that a character 's voice is copyrighted and she can use Bart 's voice in public but cannot record original dialogue without approval . Al Jean , executive producer of The Simpsons , said that the calls had not been " authorized by us " , while The Simpsons creator Matt Groening commented that the issue had been " blown up beyond what was intended " .

= = Filmography = =

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