

= Brenda Song =

Brenda Song (born March 27 , 1988) is an American actress , model , spokesperson , and taekwondo practitioner . Song started in show business as a child fashion model . Her early television work included roles in the television shows Fudge (1995) and 100 Deeds for Eddie McDowd (1999) . After many commercials and television roles in the late 1990s , Song won a Young Artist Award for her performance in The Ultimate Christmas Present (2000) . In 2002 , Song signed a contract with Disney Channel and starred in " Get A Clue " 2002 and since then made significant contributions to the channel , Stuck in the Suburbs (2004) and many other productions . In 2005 , Song began playing the lead female role of London Tipton in the The Suite Life of Zack & Cody and The Suite Life on Deck . The character is noted as one of Disney 's longest continuous characters .

Song made her transition into mainstream movies in 2010 when she appeared in the critically acclaimed film , The Social Network . She also starred in the short indie film First Kiss . In 2012 and 2013 , she had recurring roles in Scandal and New Girl . In 2013 @-@ 2014 , she starred in the Fox TV series Dads . In October 2014 , Song signed a talent holding deal with Fox and 20th Century Fox Television to star in a television project . Since then , Song has been cast in several television pilots for NBC and CBS .

= = Early life = =

Brenda Song was born in Carmichael , California , a suburb of Sacramento , to a Hmong father and a Thai mother . Her paternal grandparents were from the Xiong clan , but changed their last name to Song when the family immigrated to the United States . Her parents were born in Asia and met as adults in Sacramento . Her father works as a schoolteacher and her mother is a homemaker . She has two younger brothers , Timmy and Nathan .

When she was six years old , Song moved with her mother to Los Angeles , California , to support her acting career ; the rest of the family followed two years later . As a young girl , Song wanted to do ballet , while her younger brother wanted to take taekwondo . She said , " My mom only wanted to take us to one place , " so they settled on taekwondo . Although Song cried all the way through her first class , she now holds a black belt in taekwondo . Song was named an All @-@ American Scholar in the ninth grade . She was homeschooled and earned a high school diploma at age 16 , then took courses at a community college and online from the University of California , Berkeley , with a major in psychology and a minor in business .

= = Acting = =

= = = 1995 ? 2004 : Early work = = =

Song started in show business as a child fashion model in San Francisco after being spotted in a shopping mall by an agent from a modeling school . She began acting at the age of five or six in a Little Caesars commercial , and then a Barbie commercial . Her first film role was in the 1995 Requiem , an AFI student short film by actress Elizabeth Sung . " She came in confident [at the auditions] . She was very focused , and it was very obvious that she loved what she was doing , " said Sung . The film is about a waitress / dancer named Fong who remembers her loving brother and their bittersweet childhood in Hong Kong . The seven @-@ year @-@ old Song played a young version of " Fong " , who is portrayed as an adult by Tamlyn Tomita . The film won a CINE Golden Eagle award . She appeared in another short film directed by Elizabeth Sung called The White Fox .

Song appeared in two episodes of the television program Thunder Alley , and was a regular in the children 's television series Fudge , in which she portrayed Jenny . Her theatrical film debut was in Santa with Muscles , a 1996 independent film starring professional wrestler Hulk Hogan . After a

small role in *Leave It to Beaver* (1997) , she appeared in the Nickelodeon television series *100 Deeds for Eddie McDowd* , where she played Sariffa Chung in thirteen episodes . After *100 Deeds* , she had a number of small parts in television shows such as *7th Heaven* , *Judging Amy* , *ER* , *Once and Again* , *The Brothers García* , *Popular* , *Bette* , *The Bernie Mac Show* , *The Nightmare Room* , *For the People* and *George Lopez* .

Two of Song 's early roles led to recognition in the Young Artist Awards . Her role in the 2000 Disney Channel Original Movie , *The Ultimate Christmas Present* , won her the award for " Best Performance in a TV Movie Comedy , Supporting Young Actress " . The film centers on two teenage girls , Allison Thompson (Hallee Hirsh) and Samantha Kwan (Song) , who find a weather machine and make it snow in Los Angeles .

Her 2002 appearance on *The Bernie Mac Show* led to her nomination for " Best Performance in a TV Comedy Series , Guest Starring Young Actress " . In the same year , she was in the 20th Century Fox family film *Like Mike* , which grossed over \$ 60 million . The film stars rapper Bow Wow as an orphan who can suddenly play NBA @-@ level basketball . Song portrays the character Reg Stevens , a thirteen @-@ year @-@ old orphan . Although the film was criticized for its " frightening myths about adoption " , it was successful enough to spawn a sequel . Song did not participate in the sequel .

In 2002 , Song signed a contract with Disney and appeared in the Disney Channel movie *Get a Clue* . After 2002 , Song continued to make guest appearances in American situation comedies such as *That 's So Raven* and *One on One* . She had a recurring role as Tia in the Disney Channel series *Phil of the Future* , appearing in seven episodes of the series in 2004 and 2005 .

In late 2004 , Song starred in the Disney Channel Original Movie *Stuck in the Suburbs* , portraying Natasha Kwon @-@ Schwartz . The television premiere received 3 @.@ 7 million viewers . The film is about two teenage girls living in suburbia who accidentally exchange cell phones with a famous teen musician . She later said : " When *Stuck* came out it was crazy ' cause we went to Six Flags and we were there and so many kids recognized us from *Stuck in the Suburbs* , I 'm like wow that movie must have done really well . "

= = = 2005 ? 2010 : Wendy Wu and Suite Life shows = = =

In 2005 , Song began appearing in the role of spoiled heiress London Tipton in the Disney Channel Original Series , *The Suite Life of Zack & Cody* . The role was named " Paris " in an early script and alludes to Paris Hilton (London spoofing Paris , and Tipton is the name of the hotel her father owns in the show) . She got the role without an audition and was surprised to find her friend , Ashley Tisdale , working in the show . Song says , " London is my fantasy person , I wish I could be her . I wish I had her closet . "

The series is about the residents and workers at the fictional Tipton Hotel in Boston and mainly centers around the trouble @-@ making twins , Zack and Cody Martin (Dylan and Cole Sprouse) , and London Tipton (Song) . The series premiered on the Disney Channel on March 18 , 2005 , receiving four million viewers , making it the most successful premiere for the Disney Channel in 2005 . Critics often praised Song 's performance in the *Suite Life* series . An April 2009 andPOP.com article stated that as London Tipton , " Song is the One to Steal the Spotlight " on the Disney Channel . It said , " if you ever watched an episode of ' *The Suite Life with Zack & Cody* ' you should realize that show is watchable because of one character : London Tipton . Brenda plays the ditzy spoiled hotel heiress London (an allusion to Paris Hilton) and , if I could say so myself , she does quite an excellent job doing so . " While commenting on Song , MSN 's 2009 cover story on the series stated , " Song is one of the main reasons why the " *Suite Life* " franchise remains one of the most successful and highly rated series in the Disney stable . " In a 2009 *People* magazine article , the character was described as a " melodramatic high @-@ seas diva . "

The series eventually earned a 2007 Young Artist Award for " Best Family Television Series (comedy) " , Emmy nominations for " Outstanding Children 's Program " (twice) and " Outstanding Choreography " , and three Nickelodeon Kids ' Choice Award nominations for " Favorite TV show " in 2007 , 2008 , and 2009 . In 2006 Song earned an Asian Excellence Award nomination for "

Outstanding Newcomer " for her part in the series . After her debut on the Suite Life series , Song became a regular on the Disney Channel , and had a voice role in Disney Channel 's American Dragon : Jake Long series . In 2006 , Song had a voice @-@ over role in Holidaze : The Christmas That Almost Didn 't Happen . She later starred in an online series called London Tipton 's Yay Me ! .

Song 's first starring role as the title character was in the 2006 Disney Channel Original Movie Wendy Wu : Homecoming Warrior , which had over 5 @.@ 7 million viewers at its premiere . Wendy Wu was planned to be a comedy , but the directors of the film were having trouble finding a suitable actor with both the comedic presence and taekwondo ability to play the main character , originally named Kenny Lu . Lydia Cook , one of the films 's directors , said , " Brenda was originally brought in to play the [supporting] monk 's role . We started training with her in martial arts , and that 's when we realized that she should be Kenny Lu . They quickly switched things around and offered Brenda the lead in the movie . She had the perfect combination of wit and martial arts . " Song had to break a brick with her hand in a screen test before landing the title role .

According to The New York Times , the film became a " star vehicle " for Song . The film was about an average , popular Chinese @-@ American teenager whose life is turned upside down by a visit from a young Chinese monk (Shin Koyamada) . The monk claims she is the reincarnation of a powerful female warrior and the only person who can prevent an ancient evil spirit from destroying the world . In a second story line , Wendy and most of her family struggle with keeping their culture and heritage . Song felt she could relate to the message since she knew little about her own people before making the film . She said , " I really identified with Wendy because I don 't want to not know where I came from " . To promote the film , she posed for the cover of Seventeen , Teen People , Teen , Seventeen Malaysia , and several other magazines , and traveled to Malaysia , Singapore , and Costa Rica . A Wendy Wu : Homecoming Warrior sequel , starring Song and Koyamada , was announced in the end of 2007 .

The film received positive reviews from critics . UltimateDisney.com called the role " a strong departure from her flaky London Tipton character in The Suite Life of Zack & Cody " , adding that Song " shows in this movie that she no longer has to restrict herself to playing the dumb one . " The site praised the film , stating , " Wendy Wu : Homecoming Warrior is an enjoyable little telefilm , rife with killer action sequences (for a DCOM) , and a great showcase of talent in both acting and martial for Brenda Song . Aside from a few totally cliched characters and situations , it 's worth 91 minutes of your time . " Allmovie described Song as a " charming and appealing personality , even when playing a shallow airhead " .

While commending Disney for the strong Asian cast , a BellaOnline review noted that that it is rare to see a female martial arts star with a black belt . Song did most of her own stunt work for the film , with guidance from Koichi Sakamoto , executive producer for the Power Rangers series . Song was inspired to endure the stunt training by the way her mother dealt with breast cancer in 2005 . Disney Channel executive vice president Gary Marsh called the film " Buffy the Vampire Slayer meets Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon " and said of Song : " She 's incredibly talented , she 's smart . She adds diversity to our network , and she 's a real kid . "

Song reprised her role as London Tipton in the Suite Life spin @-@ off , The Suite Life on Deck . The show 's premiere on the Disney Channel drew 5 @.@ 7 million viewers , and it became the most @-@ watched series premiere on Canada 's Family Channel . The show became the most @-@ watched scripted series among children aged 6 to 11 and among tweens in 2008 . In 2009 , the show was the most @-@ watched scripted series among children and the second most @-@ watched scripted series among pre @-@ teens . Disney ordered second and third seasons for the series .

In May 2009 , Disney Channel 's executive vice president Gary Marsh issued a press release , which stated : " with this second @-@ season extension , the cast of ' The Suite Life ' makes Disney Channel history by becoming the longest running continuous characters on our air ? 138 half @-@ hour episodes . We are thrilled for them , and for the brilliant , inspired production team that made this extraordinary run possible . " According to the Wall Street Journal , Song 's participation in the series led to her becoming highly popular among children between the ages of seven and ten .

= = = 2010 ? present : Film work and television = = =

In 2009 , she starred in the telefilm *Special Delivery* , a film about bonded courier , Maxine (Lisa Edelstein) and 14 @-@ year @-@ old troubled teen , Alice (Song) . The *Daily Record* called it a " likeable comedy " . The Australian publication *Urban CineFilm* gave Song a positive review for her performance in the film . Song also appeared in the theatrical film *College Road Trip* with Raven @-@ Symoné and Martin Lawrence .

Song starred as Paige in an animated television special for NBC , " Macy 's Presents Little Spirit : Christmas in New York " . In late 2008 , Song made a special appearance at the grand opening of the RTA HealthLine in Cleveland .

In 2010 , Song joined the main cast of Columbia Pictures ' *The Social Network* alongside Jesse Eisenberg , Andrew Garfield and Justin Timberlake . The film was about the founders of the popular social networking site , Facebook . Song portrayed Christy Lee , a Harvard University student who dates Eduardo . The film was critically acclaimed and received nominations for eight Academy Awards , including Best Picture and Best Adapted Screenplay .

In 2012 , Song starred in the short film *First Kiss* along with her *Social Network* costar Joseph Mazzello . *First Kiss* was screened at numerous film festivals throughout the US and won the Best Short Film award at the Omaha Film Festival and TriMedia Film Festival . In 2012 and 2013 , Song had a recurring role as Alissa in the TV show *Scandal* in the first and second seasons . In 2013 , Song had a recurring role as Daisy in *New Girl* .

In August 2013 , Song was cast in a leading role in the Fox television series *Dads* . Song portrayed the character Veronica . The show 's pilot episode was significantly criticized by Asian American watchdog groups because Song 's character wore a stereotypical " sexy Asian schoolgirl " costume , which was deemed " racist " by watchdog groups . In an interview with *Entertainment Weekly* , Song defended the show and denied the racism allegations . Fox refused to re @-@ shoot the scenes which were deemed racist by watchdog groups . The show premiered September 17 , 2013 but in May 2014 , Fox canceled the series after only one season .

In October 2014 , Song signed a talent holding deal with Fox and 20th Century Fox Television to star in a television project . In April 2015 , Song was cast in a regular role in the NBC comedy pilot *Take It From Us* . In November 2015 , Song was cast in the show *Life in Pieces* as Bonnie , Matt 's crazy hot mess of an ex @-@ wife . In February 2016 , Song was cast in CBS pilot *Bunker Hill* . Later renamed *Pure Genius* , the series was picked up by CBS and is scheduled to begin airing in the 2016 @-@ 2017 television season .

= = Public image and personal life = =

In 2006 , Song was hostess for the " A World Of Change " annual charity fashion show to benefit Optimist Youth Homes & Family Services . She also supported the 10th Annual L.A. Cancer Challenge . In 2008 , Song was part of the " Power of Youth carnival " , a benefit for the St. Jude 's Children 's Research Hospital . In 2006 and 2007 , she participated in the YMCA Healthy Kids Day in Chicago . She began hosting a Disney special daily segment called *Pass the Plate* in 2007 , in which she helps children and their families learn more about nutrition and healthy food . The series is produced in ten countries in association with Disney Channel . Song returned for the second season of the miniseries .

In 2005 , an article " Maths Spotlight on ... Brenda Song " in *Scholastic Math* included facts about Song and mathematical guidance from her . Song appeared alongside Paula Abdul and several other celebrities in a " Our Time to Vote " commercial , which aimed to encourage American citizens to vote during the 2008 presidential election . In 2009 , Song participated in the " Diet Pepsi Easter Holiday House " event . She decorated an egg at the event that was sold in an online auction benefiting Feeding America .

According to *Time* , Song is one of the three Disney starlets who have not been involved in the Hollywood party girl scene , along with Hilary Duff and Raven @-@ Symoné . *Asiance Magazine* calls her a " great role model " for young girls . She said in 2005 , " Besides Hollywood grand @-@

openings and award shows , I try to stay away from the parties . It 's so easy to be swept away from that whole scene because it 's expected of you . I 've never drank or smoked in my entire life , but I 've seen 15 @-@ year @-@ olds drinking and smoking and I just think that 's gross . " On being a young role model to kids , Song said : " Oh goodness , I hope I can set a good example . If I can do it , anyone can . I 'm living my dream every single day . "

In 2006 , Cosmogirl Magazine named Song the " Queen of Disney " , citing her major contributions on the Disney Channel . Song ranked ninth in Netscape 's 2007 " Top 10 Pretty Petites in Entertainment " , was voted one of AOL 's " Top 20 Tween (and Teen) TV Stars " , and was ranked # 3 on Maxim 's Asian Hot 100 of 2008 list . Song was also ranked # 45 in AIM 's " Top 100 Celebs Under 25 " list . TV Guide listed her in its 2008 list of " 13 Hottest Young Stars to Watch " . In 2009 , Song was featured in Celebuzz 's " Rising Stars " list and was described as one of " young Hollywood 's most promising rising stars " . In 2009 , the blog Angry Asian Man named her one of the most influential Asian Americans under the age of 30 .

Song was a spokesperson for Disney 's environmental campaign , Disney 's Friends for Change . She was featured in several commercials on the Disney Channel for the campaign . The charity 's aim was to explain how children can help preserve the Earth and invited them to go to the Friends for Change website to register and pledge , offering them the chance to help choose how Disney will invest \$ 1 million in environmental programs . In 2010 , she was the celebrity endorser of the Walt Disney Company 's Disney Cruise Line . In 2011 , she was also the spokesperson of the clothing brand Op.

In April 2008 a picture of Song was used in an ad for an escort agency in the LA Weekly . A rep from Disney told TMZ : " This is an unauthorized use of Brenda Song 's image and her personal attorney has issued a cease and desist to the advertiser . " Song filed a libel suit seeking \$ 100 @,@ 000 in damages . Song said : " As a role model to millions of young people , I feel I have to take a stand against this company in regard to its exploitation of my image . " The settlement was announced in March 2009 .

On October 14 , 2011 , People reported that Song was engaged to Trace Cyrus . On June 11 , 2012 , Cyrus announced that the couple had ended their relationship .

= = Music credits = =

Song was part of the Disney Channel Circle of Stars , a group of performers from several different Disney Channel television series . She took part in the recording and music video of a version of " A Dream Is a Wish Your Heart Makes " . The recording was included on the special edition Cinderella DVD and on the DisneyMania 4 CD . The album CD was released in April 2005 under the Walt Disney Records label and peaked at # 15 on the Billboard 200 , and # 2 on the Top Kids Audio chart and Top Compilation Albums chart .

In 2004 , Song appeared in Jesse McCartney 's music video for " Good Life " . Film clips from Stuck in the Suburbs , which included Song , appeared in music videos for Anneliese van der Pol 's song " Over It " and Taran Killam 'a " More Than Me " , " On Top of the World " , and " Make a Wish " . In the Suite Life High School Musical @-@ themed episode , Song performed " Bop To The Top " and " Really Great " . " Really Great " became the theme song for the online series , London Tipton 's Yay Me ! . She sang " Bling Is My Favourite Thing " on another Suite Life episode . In these episodes , Song purposefully sang poorly to create the impression that her character , London Tipton , is tone @-@ deaf . Ian Scott wrote and produced demo songs for her . The songs are credited to Mark Jackson Productions , which is associated with Warner Bros. Records .

= = Filmography = =

= = = Films = = =

== Television ==

== Web ==

== Awards and nominations ==