

= Marge Simpson =

Marjorie Jacqueline " Marge " Simpson (née Bouvier) is a fictional character in the American animated sitcom The Simpsons and part of the eponymous family . She is voiced by Julie Kavner and first appeared on television in The Tracey Ullman Show short " Good Night " on April 19 , 1987 . Marge was created and designed by cartoonist Matt Groening while he was waiting in the lobby of James L. Brooks ' office . Groening had been called to pitch a series of shorts based on Life in Hell but instead decided to create a new set of characters . He named the character after his mother Margaret Groening . After appearing on The Tracey Ullman Show for three seasons , the Simpson family received their own series on Fox , which debuted December 17 , 1989 .

Marge is the matriarch of the Simpson family . With her husband Homer , she has three children : Bart , Lisa , and Maggie . Marge is the moralistic force in her family and often provides a grounding voice in the midst of her family 's antics by trying to maintain order in the Simpson household . She is often portrayed as a stereotypical television mother and is often included on lists of top " TV moms " . She has appeared in other media relating to The Simpsons ? including video games , The Simpsons Movie , The Simpsons Ride , commercials , and comic books ? and inspired an entire line of merchandise .

Marge 's distinctive blue beehive hairstyle was inspired by a combination of the Bride 's in Bride of Frankenstein and the style that Margaret Groening wore in the 1960s . Julie Kavner , who was a member of the original cast of The Tracey Ullman Show , was asked to voice Marge so that more voice actors would not be needed . Kavner has won several awards for voicing Marge , including a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Voice @-@ Over Performance in 1992 . She was also nominated for an Annie Award for Best Voice Acting in an Animated Feature for her performance in The Simpsons Movie . In 2000 , Marge , along with the rest of her family , was awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame .

= = Role in The Simpsons = =

The Simpsons uses a floating timeline in which the characters do not physically age , and as such the show is generally assumed to be set in the current year . In several episodes , events have been linked to specific time periods , although this timeline has been contradicted in subsequent episodes . Marge Simpson is the wife of Homer and mother of Bart , Lisa and Maggie Simpson . She was raised by her parents , Jacqueline and Clancy Bouvier . She has a pair of sisters , the joyless Patty and Selma , both of whom vocally disapprove of Homer . In " The Way We Was " (season two , 1991) , it is revealed via flashback that Marge attended Springfield High School , and in her final year met Homer Simpson . She was at first wary of Homer , but agreed to go to the prom with him , although she ended up going with Artie Ziff . However , she regretted going with Artie and ended up with Homer . After the two had been dating for several years , Marge discovered she was pregnant with Bart , and she and Homer were married in a small wedding chapel across the state line . Bart was born soon after , and the couple bought their first house . The episode " That ' 90s Show " (season 19 , 2008) contradicted much of the established back @-@ story ; for example , it was revealed that Marge and Homer were childless in the early 1990s although past episodes had suggested Bart and Lisa were born in the 1980s .

As with many Simpsons characters , Marge 's age and birthday changes to serve the story . In season one (1990) episodes " Life on the Fast Lane " and " Some Enchanted Evening " , Marge was said to be 34 . In " Homer 's Paternity Coot " (season 17 , 2006) , Marge states that Emerald would have been her birthstone if she had been born three months later , placing her birthday sometime in February . In " Regarding Margie " (season 17 , 2006) , Homer mentioned that Marge was his age , meaning she could have been anywhere between 36 and 40 . In the season eighteen episode " Marge Gamer " she states that she and actor Randy Quaid share the same birthdate (October 1) .

Marge has been nonworking for most of the series , choosing to be a homemaker and take care of her family . However , she has held several one @-@ episode jobs in the course of the series .

These include working as a nuclear technician alongside Homer at Springfield Nuclear Power Plant in " Marge Gets a Job " (season four , 1992) ; selling houses in " Realty Bites " (season nine , 1997) ; owning her own pretzel business in " The Twisted World of Marge Simpson " (season eight , 1997) , and working at an erotic bakery in " Sex , Pies and Idiot Scrapes " (season 20 , 2008) . While Marge has never expressed discontent with her role as a homemaker , she has become bored with it . In " The Springfield Connection " (season six , 1995) , Marge decided that she needed more excitement in her life and became a police officer . However , by the end of the episode , she became upset with the corruption in the force and quit . Of course , her work as a house mother far outweighs any job she 's had over the course of the series and this earned her a spot on COX Cable 's TV Mom Hall of Fame in 2015 .

= = Character = =

= = = Creation = = =

Matt Groening first conceived Marge and the rest of the Simpson family in 1986 in the lobby of producer James L. Brooks ' office . Groening had been called to pitch a series of animated shorts for The Tracey Ullman Show , and had intended to present an adaptation of his Life in Hell comic strip . When he realized that animating Life in Hell would require him to rescind publication rights , Groening decided to go in another direction and hurriedly sketched out his version of a dysfunctional family , naming the characters after members of his own family . Marge was named after Groening 's mother Margaret " Marge " Groening , who has said she bears little similarity to the character , stating , " It 's really weird to have people think you 're a cartoon . " Marge 's beehive hairstyle was inspired by the titular Bride in Bride of Frankenstein and the style that Margaret Groening wore during the 1960s , although her hair was never blue .

Marge debuted with the rest of the Simpson family on April 19 , 1987 , in The Tracey Ullman Show short " Good Night " . In 1989 , the shorts were adapted into The Simpsons , a half @-@ hour series airing on the Fox Network . Marge and the Simpson family remained the main characters on this new show .

Matt Groening believes that episodes featuring Marge are among the most difficult episodes to write . Bill Oakley believes that the " junior " writers are usually given Marge episodes because he and writing partner Josh Weinstein were given several to write during their first season . During the third season of the show , most of the writers focused on Bart and Homer , so David M. Stern decided to write a Marge episode , which became " Homer Alone " (season three , 1992) . He felt that they could achieve a " deeper vein " of comedy in an episode where Marge has a nervous breakdown , and James L. Brooks quickly approved .

= = = Design = = =

The entire Simpson family was designed so that they would be recognizable in silhouette . The family was crudely drawn , because Groening had submitted basic sketches to the animators , assuming they would clean them up ; instead , they just traced over his drawings . To draw Marge , the animators generally start off with a sphere , similar to the way Lisa and Maggie are drawn . The eyes are then drawn , with one roughly in the middle of the sphere , and the other to the front side of the head . Then , the nose and lip are drawn . Her hair is then drawn on top as a long tube coming out of the sphere . An original idea the animators had for when Marge walked through doorways was that her hair would be forced down as she walked through , then once clear of the door , it would spring back and forth . This was never used . Groening 's original plan for Marge 's hair was that it would conceal large , Life in Hell @-@ esque rabbit ears . The gag was intended to be revealed in the final episode of the series , but was scrapped early on due to inconsistencies , and also to the fact that rabbit ears would be too fictitious even for The Simpsons .

=== Voice ===

Marge 's voice is performed by Julie Kavner , who also does the voices of Marge 's mother Jacqueline and her sisters Patty and Selma . Kavner had been part of the regular cast of The Tracey Ullman Show . 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 . 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 . "

Marge 's raspy voice is only slightly different from Kavner 's , who has a " honeyed gravel voice " which she says is due to " a bump on [her] vocal cords . " While Marge is her most famous character , Kavner 's favorite characters to voice are Patty and Selma because " they 're really funny and sad at the same time . " In The Simpsons Movie , some scenes , such as Marge 's video message to Homer , were recorded over one hundred times , leaving Kavner exhausted .

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 receive 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 .

=== Personality ===

Marge is generally a stereotypical sitcom mother , and she also plays the " long @-@ suffering wife " who puts up with the antics of her children and her oafish husband . While she usually takes her family 's problems with good humor , in " Homer Alone " (season three , 1992) , her workload and resultant stress caused her to have a mental breakdown . After spending time at " Rancho Relaxo " , during which her family barely coped with her absence , she returned refreshed and everyone promised to help out more often . Marge often provides a grounding opinion for Homer and their marriage has often been shaky . Marge admits that she " put [s] up with a lot in [their] marriage , " and has left Homer or thrown him out of the house on several occasions . One of the first such episodes to depict this is " Secrets of a Successful Marriage " (season five , 1994) , where Homer starts teaching an adult education class on how to build a successful marriage . He is at first unsuccessful , but gains the interest of the class when he starts giving away family secrets , many of which concern Marge . Upon finding this out , Marge is incensed and throws him out of the house . The next day , Homer is dirty and disheveled , and begs Marge to take him back , saying the one thing he can offer her that nobody else can is " complete and utter dependence . " At first , Marge does not see that as a benefit , but eventually admits that he " really [does] make a gal feel needed . " Episodes that depict marital problems have become more frequent in recent seasons of the show . Through it all , Marge has remained faithful to Homer , despite temptations to the contrary such as the one in " Life on the Fast Lane " (season one , 1990) , where she resists the charming Frenchman Jacques and instead chooses to remain with Homer .

Marge is a caring , understanding , and nurturing parent to Bart , but she refers to him as " a handful " and is often embarrassed by his antics . In " Marge Be Not Proud " (season seven , 1995) , she felt she was mothering Bart too much and started acting more distant towards him after he was caught shoplifting . In the beginning of the episode , Bart protested her " over @-@ mothering " , but as she started acting more distant towards him , he felt guilty about it and made up with her . Marge has expressed understanding for her " special little guy " and has defended him on many occasions . She once said " I know Bart can be a handful , but I also know what he 's like inside . He 's got a

spark . It 's not a bad thing ... Of course , it makes him do bad things . " Marge has a good relationship with Lisa and the two are shown to get along quite well . Marge over @-@ mothers Maggie , which causes her to become too clingy and dependent on Marge . In " Midnight Towboy " (season 19 , 2007) , Marge hires an expert to help make Maggie more independent . However , Maggie becomes so independent that she rarely needs Marge . Marge begins to miss Maggie , but at the end of the episode , Maggie starts to need her again .

Marge maintains a good relationship with her mother Jacqueline and her sisters Patty and Selma , though they disapprove of Homer and are vocal about it . Marge has tolerated their criticism , but has occasionally lost patience with them , once referring to them as " ghouls . " Marge 's late father Clancy is rarely referred to in the series and has had speaking parts in only two episodes . It was revealed in " Fear of Flying " (season six , 1994) that Clancy told Marge that he was a pilot , but in reality , he was a flight attendant . Marge discovered this one day and developed aerophobia . In " Jazzy and the Pussycats " (season 18 , 2006) , Homer casually mentions that they once attended his funeral .

Marge believes she has higher morals than most other characters , once leading a family values crusade against the violent The Itchy & Scratchy Show and being a prominent member of the " Citizens ' Committee on Moral Hygiene . " She often provides a voice of reason for the town itself , but many of the townspeople are frustrated or contemptuous of her frequent failure to recognize or react correctly to breaches of social norms . Marge is the only member of the family who encourages , and occasionally forces , church attendance . In " Homer the Heretic " (season four , 1992) , Homer starts skipping church and Marge tells him " don 't make me choose between my man and my God , because you just can 't win . " . Yet , in some episodes , Marge 's stereotypical attitude seems to affect her relationship with her daughter , Lisa , who is a feminist . In " Lisa the Skeptic " (season nine , 1997) , an " angel skeleton " is discovered , much to the skepticism of Lisa . As Lisa rants about the people who believe it is an angel , Marge informs her that she also believes it is an angel . She tells Lisa , " There has to be more life than just what we see , everyone needs something to believe in . " In spite of her highly debatable moral stances , Marge struggles with vices , such as a gambling addiction . While Marge has learned to cope with her addiction , it has never completely disappeared and remains an underlying problem that is referenced occasionally on the show .

Politically , Marge generally aligns with the Democratic Party , having supported the candidacy of her state 's progressive governor Mary Bailey , and voting for Jimmy Carter in both of his presidential elections .

= = Reception = =

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 (the voice of Homer) 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 . " Various episodes in which Marge is prominently featured have been nominated for Emmy Awards for Outstanding Animated Program , including " The Way We Weren 't " in 2004 and " Life on the Fast Lane " , which won the award in 1990 . In 2000 , Marge and the rest of the Simpson family were awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame located at 7021 Hollywood Boulevard .

Marge has been ranked highly in lists of the top television mothers of all time . She was ranked first on Entertainment Weekly 's list in 1994 ; first on Fox News ' list in 2005 ; eighth on CityNews ' list in 2008 ; and was included in Time 's list of the " 10 Best Moms Ever " . In a 2004 poll in the United Kingdom , Marge was named the " most respected mother " by respondents . Still in 2004 , Marge was ranked third in a poll conducted by the Opinion Research Company . In May 2012 , Marge was one of the 12 moms chosen by users of iVillage on their list of " Mommy Dearest : The TV Moms

You Love " . AOL has named Marge the 24th " Most Memorable Female TV Character " . Her relationship with Homer was included in TV Guide 's list of " The Best TV Couples of All Time " .

Religious writer Kenneth Briggs has written that " Marge is my candidate for sainthood [...] She lives in the real world , she lives with crises , with flawed people . She forgives and she makes her own mistakes . She is a forgiving , loving person [...] absolutely saintly . "

= = Cultural influence = =

The October 1 , 1990 edition of People included an interview with then @-@ First Lady of the United States Barbara Bush . The article included the following passage : " She loves America 's Funniest Home Videos but remains baffled after sampling The Simpsons . " It was the dumbest thing I had ever seen , " she says , " but it 's a family thing , and I guess it 's clean . " The writers decided to respond by privately sending a polite letter on September 28 to Bush where they posed as Marge Simpson . On October 9 , Bush sent a reply : " Dear Marge , How kind of you to write . I 'm glad you spoke your mind ... I foolishly didn 't know you had one . I am looking at a picture of you ... depicted on a plastic cup ... with your blue hair filled with pink birds peeking out all over . Evidently , you and your charming family ? Lisa , Homer , Bart and Maggie ? are camping out . It 's a nice family scene . Clearly you are setting a good example for the rest of the country . Please forgive a loose tongue . "

In 2002 , opponents of the Seattle Monorail Project planned on showing the episode " Marge vs. the Monorail " at a protest event . Following complaints , 20th Century Fox sent a letter to the event organizers ordering that the episode not be shown due to copyright laws . In 2004 , Marge appeared on Channel 4 in the United Kingdom for the Alternative Christmas message , which is annually broadcast at the same time that Queen Elizabeth II gives her Christmas message .

On April 9 , 2009 , the United States Postal Service unveiled a series of five 44 cent stamps featuring Marge and the four other members of the Simpson family . They are the first characters from a television series to receive this recognition while the show is still in production . The stamps , designed by Matt Groening , were made available for purchase on May 7 , 2009 .

= = Merchandising = =

Marge is depicted in much The Simpsons @-@ related merchandise , including T @-@ shirts , baseball caps , bumper stickers , cardboard stand @-@ ups , refrigerator magnets , key rings , buttons , dolls , posters and figurines . She has appeared in each of The Simpsons video games , including The Simpsons Game , released in 2007 . Besides the television series , Marge regularly appears in issues of Simpsons Comics , which were first published on November 29 , 1993 , and are issued monthly . Marge also plays a role in The Simpsons Ride , launched in 2008 at Universal Studios Florida and Hollywood .

Marge appeared in a 2005 advertisement for Dove Styling , where her normal beehive hair was exchanged for a more stylish look for a series of ads featuring several popular cartoon women .

In October 2009 , it was announced that Marge would be featured on the front cover of the November issue of Playboy becoming the first cartoon character to appear on the cover of the magazine . The edition was first published on October 16 , 2009 . The cover and a three @-@ page picture spread , as well as a story inside entitled The Devil in Marge Simpson , is a celebration of the 20th anniversary of The Simpsons , but is also part of a plan to appeal to younger readers . Chief executive of Playboy Enterprises , Scott Flanders , has said that the cover and centerfold were " somewhat tongue @-@ in @-@ cheek " . Darine Stern 's picture on the October 1971 cover served as the inspiration for Playboy 's November 2009 cover .