

= Halle Berry =

Halle Maria Berry (born Maria Halle Berry ; August 14 , 1966) is an American actress , film producer , and former fashion model . She won an Academy Award for Best Actress in 2002 for her performance in the romantic drama *Monster 's Ball* (2001) , which made her the only woman of color to win a Best Actress Academy Award to date , as of 2016 .

Berry was one of the highest paid actresses in Hollywood during the 2000s and has been involved in the production of several of the films in which she performed . She is also a Revlon spokesmodel . Before becoming an actress , she started modeling and entered several beauty contests , finishing as the 1st runner @-@ up in the Miss USA Pageant and coming in 6th place in the Miss World Pageant in 1986 . Her breakthrough film role was in the romantic comedy *Boomerang* (1992) , alongside Eddie Murphy , which led to roles in films such as the comedy *The Flintstones* (1994) , the political comedy @-@ drama *Bulworth* (1998) and the television film *Introducing Dorothy Dandridge* (1999) , for which she won the Emmy Award and Golden Globe Award for Best Actress , among many other awards .

In addition to her Academy Award win , Berry garnered high @-@ profile roles in the 2000s such as Storm in the X @-@ Men film series (beginning in 2000) , the action crime thriller *Swordfish* (2001) , and the spy film *Die Another Day* (2002) , where she played Bond Girl Jinx . She then appeared in the X @-@ Men sequels , *X2 : X @-@ Men United* (2003) and *X @-@ Men : The Last Stand* (2006) . In the 2010s , she appeared in movies such as the science fiction film *Cloud Atlas* (2012) , the crime thriller *The Call* (2013) and *X @-@ Men : Days of Future Past* (2014) .

Divorced from baseball player David Justice and singer @-@ songwriter Eric Benét , Berry has a daughter by model Gabriel Aubry , and a son by actor Olivier Martinez .

= = Early life = =

Berry was born Maria Halle Berry ; her name was legally changed to Halle Maria Berry at age five . Her parents selected her middle name from Halle 's Department Store , which was then a local landmark in her birthplace of Cleveland , Ohio . Her mother , Judith Ann (née Hawkins) , who is of English and German ancestry , was a psychiatric nurse . Her father , Jerome Jesse Berry , was an African @-@ American hospital attendant in the psychiatric ward where her mother worked ; he later became a bus driver . Berry 's maternal grandmother , Nellie Dicken , was born in Sawley , Derbyshire , England , while her maternal grandfather , Earl Ellsworth Hawkins , was born in Ohio . Berry 's parents divorced when she was four years old ; she and her older sister , Heidi Berry @-@ Henderson , were raised exclusively by their mother .

Berry has said in published reports that she has been estranged from her father since her childhood , noting in 1992 , " I haven 't heard from him since [he left] . Maybe he 's not alive . " Her father was very abusive to her mother . Berry has recalled witnessing her mother being beaten daily , kicked down stairs and hit in the head with a wine bottle .

Berry graduated from Bedford High School where she was a cheerleader , honor student , editor of the school newspaper and prom queen . She worked in the children 's department at Higbee 's Department store . She then studied at Cuyahoga Community College . In the 1980s , she entered several beauty contests , winning Miss Teen All American in 1985 and Miss Ohio USA in 1986 . She was the 1986 Miss USA first runner @-@ up to Christy Fichtner of Texas . In the Miss USA 1986 pageant interview competition , she said she hoped to become an entertainer or to have something to do with the media . Her interview was awarded the highest score by the judges . She was the first African @-@ American Miss World entrant in 1986 , where she finished sixth and Trinidad and Tobago 's Giselle Laronde was crowned Miss World . According to the Current Biography Yearbook , Berry " ... pursued a modeling career in Chicago Berry 's first weeks in New York were less than auspicious : She slept in a homeless shelter and then in a WMCA " .

= = Career = =

== Early career ==

In 1989 , Berry moved to New York City to pursue her acting ambitions . During her early time there , she ran out of money and had to live briefly in a homeless shelter .

Later in 1989 , her situation improved and she was cast in the role of model Emily Franklin in the short @-@ lived ABC television series Living Dolls , which was shot in New York and was a spin @-@ off of the hit series Who 's the Boss ? . During the taping of Living Dolls , she lapsed into a coma and was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes . After the cancellation of Living Dolls , she moved to Los Angeles . She went on to have a recurring role on the long @-@ running primetime serial Knots Landing .

Her film debut was in a small role for Spike Lee 's Jungle Fever (1991) , in which she played Vivian , a drug addict . That same year , Berry had her first co @-@ starring role in Strictly Business . In 1992 , Berry portrayed a career woman who falls for the lead character played by Eddie Murphy in the romantic comedy Boomerang . The following year , she caught the public 's attention as a headstrong biracial slave in the TV adaptation of Queen : The Story of an American Family , based on the book by Alex Haley . Berry was in the live @-@ action Flintstones movie playing the part of " Sharon Stone " , a sultry secretary who seduced Fred Flintstone .

Berry tackled a more serious role , playing a former drug addict struggling to regain custody of her son in Losing Isaiah (1995) , starring opposite Jessica Lange . She portrayed Sandra Beecher in Race the Sun (1996) , which was based on a true story , shot in Australia , and co @-@ starred alongside Kurt Russell in Executive Decision . Beginning in 1996 , she was a Revlon spokeswoman for seven years and renewed her contract in 2004 .

== Late 1990s ? 2000s ==

She starred alongside Natalie Deselle Reid in the 1997 comedy film B * A * P * S. In 1998 , Berry received praise for her role in Bulworth as an intelligent woman raised by activists who gives a politician (Warren Beatty) a new lease on life . The same year , she played the singer Zola Taylor , one of the three wives of pop singer Frankie Lymon , in the biopic Why Do Fools Fall in Love . In the 1999 HBO biopic Introducing Dorothy Dandridge , she portrayed the first black woman to be nominated for a Best Actress Academy Award , and it was to Berry a heart @-@ felt project that she introduced , co @-@ produced and fought intensely for it to come through . Berry 's performance was recognized with several awards , including an Emmy and a Golden Globe .

Berry portrayed the mutant superhero Storm in the film adaptation of the comic book series X @-@ Men (2000) and its sequels , X2 : X @-@ Men United (2003) , X @-@ Men : The Last Stand (2006) and X @-@ Men : Days of Future Past (2014) . In 2001 , Berry appeared in the film Swordfish , which featured her first topless scene . At first , she refused to be filmed topless in a sunbathing scene , but she changed her mind when Warner Brothers raised her fee substantially . The brief flash of her breasts added \$ 500 @,@ 000 to her fee . Berry considered these stories to be rumors and was quick to deny them . After turning down numerous roles that required nudity , she said she decided to make Swordfish because her then @-@ husband , Eric Benét , supported her and encouraged her to take risks .

She appeared as Leticia Musgrove , the troubled wife of an executed murderer (Sean Combs) , in the 2001 feature film Monster 's Ball . Her performance was awarded the National Board of Review and the Screen Actors Guild best @-@ actress prizes ; in an interesting coincidence she became the first woman of color to win the Academy Award for Best Actress (earlier in her career , she portrayed Dorothy Dandridge , the first African American to be nominated for Best Actress , and who was born at the same hospital as Berry , in Cleveland , Ohio) . The NAACP issued the statement : " Congratulations to Halle Berry and Denzel Washington for giving us hope and making us proud . If this is a sign that Hollywood is finally ready to give opportunity and judge performance based on skill and not on skin color then it is a good thing . " This role generated controversy . Her graphic nude love scene with a racist character played by co @-@ star Billy Bob Thornton was the subject of

much media chatter and discussion among African Americans . Many in the African @-@ American community were critical of Berry for taking the part . Berry responded : " I don 't really see a reason to ever go that far again . That was a unique movie . That scene was special and pivotal and needed to be there , and it would be a really special script that would require something like that again . "

Berry asked for a higher fee for Revlon advertisements after winning the Academy Award . Ron Perelman , the cosmetics firm 's chief , congratulated her , saying how happy he was that she modeled for his company . She replied , " Of course , you 'll have to pay me more . " Perelman stalked off in a rage . Her win at the Academy Awards led to two famous " Oscar moments . " In accepting her award , she gave an acceptance speech honoring previous black actresses who had never had the opportunity . She said , " This moment is so much bigger than me . This is for every nameless , faceless woman of colour who now has a chance tonight because this door has been opened . " One year later , as she presented the Best Actor award , winner Adrien Brody ran on stage and , instead of giving her the standard peck on the cheek , planted a long kiss on Berry .

As Bond girl Giacinta ' Jinx ' Johnson in the 2002 blockbuster Die Another Day , Berry recreated a scene from Dr. No , emerging from the surf to be greeted by James Bond as Ursula Andress had 40 years earlier . Lindy Hemming , costume designer on Die Another Day , had insisted that Berry wear a bikini and knife as a homage . Berry has said of the scene : " It 's splashy " , " exciting " , " sexy " , " provocative " and " it will keep me still out there after winning an Oscar " . The bikini scene was shot in Cadiz ; the location was reportedly cold and windy , and footage has been released of Berry wrapped in thick towels in between takes to try to stay warm . According to an ITV news poll , Jinx was voted the fourth toughest girl on screen of all time . Berry was hurt during filming when debris from a smoke grenade flew into her eye . It was removed in a 30 @-@ minute operation . After Berry won the Academy Award , rewrites were commissioned to give her more screentime for X2 .

She starred in the psychological thriller Gothika opposite Robert Downey , Jr. in November 2003 , during which she broke her arm in a scene with Downey , who twisted her arm too hard . Production was halted for eight weeks . It was a moderate hit at the United States box office , taking in \$ 60 million ; it earned another \$ 80 million abroad . Berry appeared in the nu metal band Limp Bizkit 's music video for " Behind Blue Eyes " for the motion picture soundtrack for the film . The same year , she was named # 1 in FHM 's 100 Sexiest Women in the World poll .

= = = Recent work = = =

Berry received \$ 12 @.@ 5 million for the title role in the film Catwoman , a \$ 100 million movie ; it grossed \$ 17 million on its first weekend . She was awarded a Worst Actress Razzie Award in 2005 for this role . She appeared at the ceremony to accept the award in person (making her the third person , and second actor , ever to do so) with a sense of humor , considering it an experience of the " rock bottom " in order to be " at the top " . Holding the Academy Award in one hand and the Razzie in the other she said , " I never in my life thought that I would be here , winning a Razzie . It 's not like I ever aspired to be here , but thank you . When I was a kid , my mother told me that if you could not be a good loser , then there 's no way you could be a good winner . " The Fund for Animals praised Berry 's compassion towards cats and for squelching rumors that she was keeping a Bengal tiger from the sets of Catwoman as a " pet . "

Her next film appearance was in the Oprah Winfrey @-@ produced ABC television movie Their Eyes Were Watching God (2005) , an adaptation of Zora Neale Hurston 's novel , in which Berry portrayed Janie Crawford , a free @-@ spirited woman whose unconventional sexual mores upset her 1920s contemporaries in a small community . She was nominated for an Emmy for this TV film . Meanwhile , she voiced the character of Cappy , one of the many mechanical beings in the animated feature Robots (2005) .

Berry is involved in production of films and television . She served as executive producer on Introducing Dorothy Dandridge in 1999 , and Lackawanna Blues in 2005 . In 2007 , Berry both produced and starred in the thriller Perfect Stranger with Bruce Willis , and starred in Things We Lost in the Fire with Benicio del Toro , the first film in which she worked with a female director ,

Danish Susanne Bier , giving her a new feeling of " thinking the same way " , which she appreciated . Berry then starred in the film Frankie and Alice , in which she plays Frankie Murdoch , a young multiracial American woman with dissociative identity disorder struggling against her alter personality to retain her true self . She was awarded the African @-@ American Film Critics Association Award for Best Actress and was nominated for the Golden Globe Award for Best Actress ? Motion Picture Drama .

Berry was one of the highest @-@ paid actresses in Hollywood during the 2000s , earning an estimated \$ 10 million per film . On April 3 , 2007 , she was awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in front of the Kodak Theatre at 6801 Hollywood Boulevard for her contributions to the film industry .

As of 2013 , Berry 's worldwide box office gross has been more than USD \$ 3 @.@ 3 billion . In 2011 , she appeared in New Year 's Eve . She played one of the leads in the film Cloud Atlas , which was released in October 2012 .

On October 4 , 2013 , Berry signed on to star in the CBS drama series Extant . Berry played Molly Woods , an astronaut who struggles to reconnect with her husband and android son after spending 13 months in space . The show premiered on July 9 , 2014 . She served as a co @-@ executive producer on the series .

Berry has served for many years as the face of Revlon cosmetics and as the face of Versace . The Coty Inc. fragrance company signed Berry to market her debut fragrance in March 2008 . Berry was delighted , saying that she had created her own fragrances at home by mixing scents .

In March 2014 Berry launched a new production company , 606 Films , with producing partner Elaine Goldsmith @-@ Thomas . It is named after the Anti @-@ Paparazzi Bill , SB 606 , that the actress pushed for and which was signed into law by California Governor Jerry Brown in the fall of 2013 . The new company emerged as part of a deal for Berry to star in the CBS sci @-@ fi drama series Extant . 606 Films is housed within CBS .

= = Personal life = =

In February 2000 , Berry was involved in a traffic collision and left the scene . She was charged with misdemeanor hit @-@ and @-@ run .

= = Relationships and marriages = =

Berry dated Chicago dentist John Ronan from March 1989 to October 1991 . In November 1993 , Ronan sued Berry for \$ 80 @,@ 000 in what he claimed were unpaid loans to help launch her career . Berry contended that the money was a gift , and a judge dismissed the case because Ronan did not list Berry as a debtor when he filed for bankruptcy in 1992 .

According to Berry , a beating from a former abusive boyfriend during the filming of The Last Boy Scout punctured her eardrum and caused her to lose eighty percent of her hearing in her left ear . Berry has never named the abuser but has said that he is someone well known in Hollywood .

Berry first saw baseball player David Justice on TV playing in an MTV celebrity baseball game in February 1992 . When a reporter from Justice 's hometown of Cincinnati told her that Justice was a fan , Berry gave her phone number to the reporter to give to Justice . Berry married Justice shortly after midnight on January 1 , 1993 .

Following their separation in February 1996 , Berry stated publicly that she was so depressed that she considered taking her own life . Berry and Justice were officially divorced on June 24 , 1997 .

Berry married her second husband , singer @-@ songwriter Eric Benét , on January 24 , 2001 , following a two @-@ year courtship. but by early October 2003 they had separated , with the divorce finalized on January 3 , 2005 . Benét underwent treatment for sex addiction in 2002 .

In November 2005 , Berry began dating French Canadian model Gabriel Aubry , whom she met at a Versace photoshoot . Berry gave birth to their daughter in March 2008 . On April 30 , 2010 , Berry and Aubry announced their separation .

After their 2010 separation , Berry and Aubry became involved in a highly publicized custody battle

, centered primarily on Berry 's desire to move with their daughter from Los Angeles , where Berry and Aubry resided , to France , the home of French actor Olivier Martinez , whom Berry had started dating in 2010 after they met while filming Dark Tide in South Africa . Aubry objected to the move on the grounds that it would interfere with their joint custody arrangement . In November 2012 , a judge denied Berry 's request to move the couple 's daughter to France in light of Aubry 's objections . Less than two weeks later , on November 22 , 2012 , Aubry and Martinez were both treated at a hospital for injuries after engaging in a physical altercation at Berry 's residence . Martinez performed a citizen 's arrest on Aubry , and because it was considered a domestic violence incident , was granted a temporary emergency protective order preventing Aubry from coming within 100 yards of Berry , Martinez , the child with whom he shares custody with Berry , until November 29 , 2012 . In turn , Aubry obtained a temporary restraining order against Martinez on November 26 , 2012 , asserting that the fight began when Martinez threatened to kill Aubry if he did not allow the couple to move to France . Leaked court documents included photos showing significant injuries to Aubry 's face , which were widely displayed in the media .

On November 29 , 2012 , Berry 's lawyer announced that Berry and Aubry had reached an amicable custody agreement in court . In June 2014 , a Superior Court ruling called for Berry to pay Aubry \$ 16 @, @ 000 a month in child support (around 200k / year) as well as a retroactive payment of \$ 115 @, @ 000 and a sum of \$ 300 @, @ 000 for Aubry 's attorney fees .

Berry and Martinez confirmed their engagement in March 2012 , and married in France on July 13 , 2013 . In October 2013 , Berry gave birth to their son . After two years of marriage , and rumors of a separation , the couple announced they were divorcing .

= = Activism = =

Along with Pierce Brosnan , Cindy Crawford , Jane Seymour , Dick Van Dyke , Téa Leoni , and Daryl Hannah , Berry successfully fought in 2006 against the Cabrillo Port Liquefied Natural Gas facility that was proposed off the coast of Malibu . Berry said , " I care about the air we breathe , I care about the marine life and the ecosystem of the ocean . " In May 2007 , Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed the facility . Hasty Pudding Theatricals gave her its 2006 Woman of The Year award .

Berry took part in a nearly 2 @, @ 000 @-@ house cell @-@ phone bank campaign for Barack Obama in February 2008 . In April 2013 , she appeared in a video clip for Gucci 's " Chime for Change " campaign that aims to raise funds and awareness of women 's issues in terms of education , health , and justice . In August 2013 , Berry testified alongside Jennifer Garner before the California State Assembly 's Judiciary Committee in support of a bill that would protect celebrities ' children from harassment by photographers . The bill passed in September .

= = Public image = =

Berry was ranked No. 1 on People 's " 50 Most Beautiful People in the World " list in 2003 after making the top ten seven times and appeared No. 1 on FHM 's " 100 Sexiest Women in the World " the same year . She was named Esquire magazine 's " Sexiest Woman Alive " in October 2008 , about which she stated : " I don 't know exactly what it means , but being 42 and having just had a baby , I think I 'll take it . " Men 's Health ranked her at No. 35 on their " 100 Hottest Women of All @-@ Time " list . In 2009 , she was voted # 23 on Empire 's 100 Sexiest Film Stars . The same year , rapper Hurricane Chris released a song entitled " Halle Berry (She 's Fine) " , extolling Berry 's beauty and sex appeal . At the age of 42 (in 2008) , she was named the ? Sexiest Black Woman ? by Access Hollywood ? s TV One Access survey .

Born to an African @-@ American father and a white mother , Berry has stated that her biracial background was " painful and confusing " when she was a young woman , and she made the decision early on to identify as a black woman because she knew that was how she would be perceived .

= = Filmography = =

= = = Film = = =

= = = Television = = =

= = Awards and nominations = =