



227 (TV series)

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Not to be confused with [22/7 \(TV series\)](#).

227 is an American [sitcom](#) television series that originally aired on [NBC](#) from September 14, 1985, to May 6, 1990. The series, created by [C.J. Banks](#) and [Bill Boulware](#), stars [Marla Gibbs](#) as Mary Jenkins, a sharp-tongued, city resident gossip and housewife. Other main characters include her husband Lester ([Hal Williams](#)), their daughter Brenda ([Regina King](#)), landlady Rose Holloway ([Alaina Reed Hall](#)), and neighbors Sandra Clark ([Jackée Harry](#)) and Pearl Shay ([Helen Martin](#)).

Origins [\[edit \]](#)

The series was adapted from *Two Twenty Seven*, a stage play written in 1978 by [Christine Houston](#) about the lives of women in a predominantly black apartment building in 1950s [Chicago](#). The setting of the series, however, was changed to present-day [Washington, D.C.](#) The show was created as a starring vehicle for [Marla Gibbs](#), who had become famous as Florence Johnston, the maid on *The Jeffersons*, and had starred in Houston's play in Los Angeles. This role was similar in nature to that of tart-tongued Florence; Gibbs's character, housewife Mary Jenkins, loved a good gossip and often spoke what she thought, with sometimes not-so-favorable results. (Gibbs was also credited as a "creative consultant" for the series.)

According to Gibbs, 227 was originally offered to ABC but sold to NBC. Since *The Jeffersons* was still on the air on CBS, the new show was scheduled to begin in 1986. However, when *The Jeffersons* was abruptly and unexpectedly canceled in 1985, Gibbs was free to begin, and 227 went into production a year earlier than had been previously planned.

227



Genre	Sitcom
Created by	C.J. Banks Bill Boulware
Based on	<i>Two Twenty Seven</i> by Christine Houston
Developed by	Jack Elinson
Starring	Marla Gibbs Hal Williams Alaina Reed Hall Jackée Harry Helen Martin Regina King Kia Goodwin Curtis Baldwin Countess Vaughn Toukie A. Smith Stoney Jackson Barry Sobel Paul Winfield
Theme music composer	Ray Colcord
Opening theme	"There's No Place Like Home", performed by Marla Gibbs

Synopsis [[edit](#)]

227 followed the lives of people in a middle-class apartment building, 227 Lexington Place (the numerical address from which the sitcom's name comes), in a black neighborhood in [Northeast, Washington, D.C.](#) The show was centered around Mary Jenkins (Marla Gibbs), a nosy and tart-tongued but loving housewife. Her husband, Lester Jenkins ([Hal Williams](#)), had his own construction company, and their daughter, Brenda ([Regina King](#), in her first television acting role), was boy-crazy yet smart and studious.

Also cast in 227 was Sandra Clark ([Jackée Harry](#)), Mary's younger neighbor who constantly bickered back and forth with her about their respective views on life. While Mary was a happily married housewife with a stable lifestyle, Sandra was a stylish, loose, man-hungry, somewhat ditzy diva, and a serial dater who dressed provocatively. Although their relationship was antagonistic at first, Mary and Sandra became good friends as time went on. Also living in the building was Pearl Shay ([Helen Martin](#)), a feisty but kind-hearted busybody neighbor who was known for snooping and had a sharp sense of humor. Pearl had a grandson named Calvin Dobbs ([Curtis Baldwin](#)), whom Brenda had a crush on and would finally date later in the series' run.

Rose Lee Holloway ([Alaina Reed Hall](#)) was Mary's level-headed best friend and often the voice of reason among 227's residents. She and Mary were often seen sitting on the front stoop of the building, exchanging rumors and gossip, with Pearl adding sly commentary and humor from her front window. In the premiere episode, Rose became the unexpected [landlord](#) of the building after the building's stingy [slumlord](#) Mr. Calloway died. Rose stayed on as landlady until the fourth season (for season five, [Paul Winfield](#) was introduced as the building's new snide, wealthy landlord Julian C. Barlow). Rose had a daughter named Tiffany Holloway ([Kia Goodwin](#)), who was Brenda's closest friend. However, Goodwin's mother was unhappy in California, so the child actor was released from her contract. She was written out of the series after the second season,^[1] although she was mentioned occasionally.

In the first season, both Helen Martin and Curtis Baldwin, who had only been recurring stars, appeared in nearly every episode. From season 2 onward, they were upped to series regulars.

Composer	Ray Colcord
Country of origin	United States
Original language	English
No. of seasons	5
No. of episodes	116 (list of episodes)
Executive producers	Production <div>Perry Grant (1985–1986) Dick Bensfield (1985–1987, 1988) George Burditt (1987–1988) Ron Bloomberg (1987–1988) Jack Elinson (1985–1987) Irma Kalish (1988–1990)</div>
Producers	Richard Gurman (1985–1987) Bob Myer (1985–1986) Ronald Rubin (1987–1988) Larry Spencer (1989–1990) Roxie Wenk-Evans (1986–1989, 1990) Bob Young (1985–1986)
Camera setup	Multi-camera
Running time	22–24 minutes
Production companies	Embassy Television (1985–1986; season 1) Embassy Communications (1986–1987; seasons 2–3) ELP Communications (1988–1990; seasons 3–5) Columbia Pictures Television (1988–1990; seasons 3–5)
	Original release
Network	NBC
Release	September 14, 1985 – May 6, 1990

By the time taping started on the third season in 1987, Jackée Harry, who had just won an [Emmy for Outstanding Supporting Actress](#), changed her stage name to simply Jackée, which she used until 1994. In the fourth season, an 11-year-old child prodigy named Alexandria DeWitt ([Countess Vaughn](#)) became the Jenkins' house guest. Vaughn received her role after she appeared on *[Star Search](#)* and declared to host [Ed McMahon](#) that her favorite show was 227. However, Alexandria left during Calvin's graduation episode near the end of season four to reunite with her father, who, after completing his archaeological dig in the Amazon, had moved to London to catalogue his items.

After the fourth season, Jackée's [television pilot](#), titled "[Jackée](#)", found Sandra moving to New York City and finding work at a spa. [NBC](#) aired the episode on May 11, 1989. The pilot was rejected, and Jackée left the show; however, she was a guest star in seven of the final season's episodes.

In the show's final season, [Toukie Smith](#), [Barry Sobel](#), [Stoney Jackson](#), [Kevin Peter Hall](#), and [Paul Winfield](#) joined the cast in an effort to stop the show's declining ratings. In the end, the cast additions proved fruitless and 227 ended its run in the spring of 1990.

Cast [[edit](#)]

Actor	Character	Seasons				
		1	2	3	4	5
Marla Gibbs	Mary Hurley Jenkins	Main				
Hal Williams	Lester Jenkins	Main				
Alaina Reed Hall	Rose Lee Holloway (later Merriwether)	Main				
Jackée Harry	Sandra Clark	Main				Special Guest
Regina King	Brenda Jenkins	Main				
Kia Goodwin	Tiffany Holloway	Main	Recurring			
Helen Martin	Pearl Shay	Recurring	Main			
Curtis Baldwin	Calvin Dobbs	Recurring	Main			
Countess Vaughn	Alexandria DeWitt				Main	
Barry Sobel	Dylan McMillan				Recurring	Main
Toukie A. Smith	Eva Rawley				Guest	Main
Stoney Jackson	Travis Filmore					Main
Paul Winfield	Julian C. Barlow					Main
Reynaldo Rey	Ray the Mailman		Recurring			

Kevin Peter Hall	Warren Merriwether		Recurring
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Pearl Shay was the only character to appear in all 116 episodes of the show, appearing in the backdoor pilot "Jackée" as a guest star. Mary Jenkins, Lester Jenkins, and Rose Lee Holloway were absent in the "Jackée" pilot.^[2]

Episodes [[edit](#)]

Main article: [List of 227 episodes](#)

Season	Episodes	Originally released		Rank	Rating
		First released	Last released		
<div></div> 1	22	September 14, 1985	May 3, 1986	20	18.8
<div></div> 2	22	October 4, 1986	May 30, 1987 ^[3]	14	18.9
<div></div> 3	24	September 26, 1987	May 7, 1988	27	16.3
<div></div> 4	24	October 8, 1988	May 13, 1989	35	14.5
<div></div> 5	24	September 23, 1989	May 6, 1990	60	11.5

Ratings [[edit](#)]

With the exception of *[The Cosby Show](#)* and *[A Different World](#)*, 227 achieved higher ratings than other sitcoms airing at the time with a predominantly [African-American](#) cast during the first two seasons of its original run on NBC.^[4]

- 1985–1986: #20 (18.80 rating)
- 1986–1987: #14 (18.90 rating)
- 1987–1988: #27 (16.44 rating)
- 1988–1989: #35 (14.47 rating)
- 1989–1990: #60 (11.53 rating)

Awards and nominations [[edit](#)]

Year	Award	Category	Recipient	Result	Ref.
1987	BMI Film & TV Awards	BMI TV Music Award	Ray Colcord	Won	
1987	Primetime Emmy Awards	Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series	Jackée Harry	Won	^[5]
1988				Nominated	

1989	Golden Globe Awards	Best Supporting Actress – Series, Miniseries or Television Film		Nominated	[6]
1989	NAACP Image Awards	Outstanding Youth Actor/Actress	Regina King	Nominated	
1985	Young Artist Awards	Best Young Actress Starring in a New Television Series		Nominated	[7]
1986		Exceptional Performance by a Young Actress in a Long Running Series – Comedy or Drama		Nominated	[8]
		Exceptional Performance by a Young Actor Guest Starring in a Television Series – Comedy or Drama	Curtis Baldwin	Nominated	
1989			Best Young Actress in a Featured, Co-Starring, Supporting, Recurring Role in a Comedy or Drama Series or Special	Countess Vaughn	Nominated

Series syndication [[edit](#)]

NBC aired daytime reruns of 227 from September 1989 to July 1990. The show went into [syndication](#) in the fall of 1990. It has previously aired on cable's [BET](#), [TV One](#), [TV Land](#), [Centric](#), [UP](#) (formerly GMC), [Encore Black](#), [OWN](#) and [Logo](#).

In January 2017, the series began airing on digital subchannel [Antenna TV](#), which continued until September 2021, when it began airing on sister network [Rewind TV](#) upon its launch.^[10] It will move back to Antenna on May 26, 2025.

The show is owned and distributed by [Sony Pictures Television](#).

In [Canada](#), 227 is available online, broadcast, and on demand by [CTV](#). In the [UK](#), the series has previously aired on [BBC One](#), [Sky One](#), [ITV](#), [Sky Living](#) and [Channel 4](#).

The series became available to stream on [Amazon Prime Video](#) on July 15, 2021^{[11][12]} and on [Hulu](#) on May 23, 2022.^{[13][14]}

Home media [[edit](#)]

On September 28, 2004, [Columbia TriStar Home Entertainment](#) released the complete first season of 227 on [DVD](#) in Region 1.

On February 7, 2017, Mill Creek Entertainment re-released the first season on DVD in Region 1.^[15]

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External links [edit]

- 227 at *IMDb*
- 227 at *epguides.com*

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