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Jennifer Aniston



Jennifer Aniston	
<div></div> <p>Aniston at a ceremony to receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in February 2012</p>	
Born	<div>Jennifer Joanna Aniston</div> <div>February 11, 1969 (age 45)^[1]</div> <div>Sherman Oaks, Los Angeles, California, U.S.</div>
Residence	<div>Bel Air, Los Angeles, California, U.S.</div>
Occupation	<div>Actress, filmmaker, businesswoman^[2]</div>
Years active	<div>1988–present</div>
Spouse(s)	<div>Brad Pitt (m. 2000–05)</div>
Parents	<div>John Aniston</div> <div>Nancy Dow</div>

Jennifer Joanna Aniston^[3] (born February 11, 1969) is an American actress, producer, and businesswoman. She is the daughter of actor [John Aniston](#) and actress [Nancy Dow](#). Aniston gained worldwide recognition for portraying [Rachel Green](#) on the television sitcom *[Friends](#)* (1994–2004), a role which earned her an [Emmy Award](#), a [Golden Globe Award](#), and a [Screen Actors Guild Award](#). The character was widely

popular during the airing of the series and became recognized as one of the greatest female TV characters.^{[4][5]}

Aniston has also enjoyed a successful film career. She has played the female protagonist in dozens of [romantic comedy films](#). Her greatest box office hits include *Bruce Almighty* (2003), *The Break-Up* (2006), *Marley & Me* (2008), *Just Go with It* (2011), *Horrible Bosses* (2011) and *We're the Millers* (2013), all of which have grossed over \$200 million in the United States.^[6] One of her most critically acclaimed roles was in *The Good Girl* (2002), for which she was nominated for an [Independent Spirit Award for Best Female Lead](#). Her other notable films are *Along Came Polly* (2004), *He's Just Not That Into You* (2009) and *The Bounty Hunter* (2010). She is the co-founder of the production company [Echo Films](#).

In 2012, she received a star on the [Hollywood Walk of Fame](#). Aniston is one of the highest paid actresses in Hollywood and in 2007 was ranked as the 11th richest woman in the entertainment industry with an estimated fortune of \$110 million. In 2004, Aniston was named "The Most Beautiful Woman" by *People* magazine and in 2011 *Men's Health* magazine voted Aniston as the "Sexiest Woman of All Time".^[7] She has also been included in other magazines' lists of the world's most beautiful women.



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^ Early life



[Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School](#), where Aniston trained to be an actress

Jennifer Joanna Aniston was born on February 11, 1969,^[8] in [Sherman Oaks, Los Angeles, California](#)^[9] to actors [John Aniston](#) and [Nancy Dow](#).^[9] Her father is [Greek](#) and a native of [Crete](#), while her mother was born in [New York City](#). One of her maternal great-grandfathers was an [Italian](#) immigrant,^[10] and her mother's other ancestry is [Scottish](#), [Irish](#), and a small amount of [Greek](#).^[11] Aniston has two half-brothers, John Melick, her maternal older half-brother, and Alex Aniston, her younger paternal half-brother.^[9] Aniston's [godfather](#) was actor [Telly Savalas](#), one of her father's best friends.^[9]

As a child, Aniston lived in Greece for a year with her family. They moved to [Eddystone, Pennsylvania](#), then to New York City.^[9] Despite

her father's television career, Aniston was discouraged from watching TV, though she found ways around the prohibition. When she was six, Aniston began attending the [Rudolf Steiner School](#), a Waldorf educational school that applied the Rudolf Steiner philosophy.^[12] During that time, Aniston's father and mother split when she was nine years old.^[3]

Meanwhile, after discovering acting at eleven while attending Rudolf Steiner,^[3] Aniston enrolled and graduated at [Manhattan's Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts](#), where she joined the school's drama society.^[13]

^ Career

1988–93: Career beginnings

Aniston worked in [Off-Broadway](#) productions such as *For Dear Life* and *Dancing on Checker's Grave*,^[9] and supported herself with several part-time jobs, which included working as a [telemarketer](#), waitress, and bike messenger.^[9] In 1989, Aniston appeared on *The Howard Stern Show*, as a [spokesmodel](#) for *Nutrisystem*.^[14] That year, Aniston moved back to Los Angeles.^[15]

Aniston was cast in her first television role in 1990, starring as a regular on the short-lived series *Molloy*. She then co-starred in *Ferris Bueller*, a television adaptation of the 1986 movie *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, and like *Molloy* also quickly canceled. Aniston then appeared in two more failed television comedy series, *The Edge* and *Muddling Through*.^[16] Other roles included the 1993 [horror film](#) *Leprechaun*,^[17] the TV movie *Camp Cucamonga*, and guest roles on *Quantum Leap*, *Herman's Head*, and *Burke's Law*.^{[18][19]}

1994–02: Television breakthrough and rising film career

Depressed over her four unsuccessful television shows, Aniston approached [Warren Littlefield](#) at a Los Angeles gas station asking for reassurance about her career. The head of NBC entertainment

encouraged Aniston to continue acting, and a few months later helped cast her for [Friends](#),^{[20][16]} a sitcom that was set to debut on NBC's 1994–1995 fall lineup. The producers of the show originally wanted Aniston to audition for the role of [Monica Geller](#),^[21] but [Courteney Cox](#) was considered to be better suited to the role. Thus, Aniston was cast as [Rachel Green](#). She was also offered a spot as a featured player on [Saturday Night Live](#), but turned it down to do *Friends*.^[22] She played the character of Rachel from 1994 until the show ended in 2004.^{[23][24]} The program was successful and Aniston, along with her co-stars, gained world-wide reputation among television viewers. Aniston received a salary of \$1 million per episode for the last two seasons of *Friends*, as well as five [Emmy](#) nominations (two for Supporting Actress, three for Lead Actress),^{[25][26]} including a win for [Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series](#).^[27] She was also nominated for two [Golden Globe Award](#) and won, in 2003, the [Golden Globe Award for Best Actress – Television Series Musical or Comedy](#). According to the *Guinness World Book of Records* (2005), Aniston (along with her female costars) became the highest paid TV actress of all time with her \$1 million-per-episode paycheck for the tenth season of *Friends*.^[28]

Following a four-year hiatus from cinema, Aniston returned to film work in 1996, when she performed in the ensemble cast of the independent films [She's the One](#) and [Dream for an Insomniac](#).^[29] Aniston's first starring vehicle was the film [Picture Perfect](#) (1997), in which she starred opposite [Kevin Bacon](#) and [Jay Mohr](#). While the film received mixed reviews, Aniston's performance was more warmly received, with many critics suggesting that she had screen presence.^[30] In 1999, she starred in the [cult film](#) [Office Space](#) for director [Mike Judge](#).^[31] She gained critical acclaim for her performances in [The Object of My Affection](#) (1998), a comedy-drama about a woman who falls for a gay man (played by [Paul Rudd](#)),^[32] and in the low-budget 2002 film [The Good Girl](#), playing an unglamorous cashier who cheats on her husband. The latter film opened in relatively few theaters – under 700 in total – taking \$14M in the U.S. box office.^[33]

2003–09: Film career boom

Aniston's biggest box office success to date was her appearance in 2003's *Bruce Almighty*, in which she played the girlfriend of *Jim Carrey*'s title character.^[34] Aniston then starred in the 2004 film *Along Came Polly* opposite *Ben Stiller*.^[35] In late 2005, Aniston appeared in two major studio films, *Derailed* and *Rumor Has It...*^{[36][37]} In 2006, Aniston appeared in the low-budget drama *Friends with Money*, which was first shown at the *Sundance Film Festival* and received a limited release.^[38] Aniston's next film, *The Break-Up* alongside *Vince Vaughn*, was released on June 2 and grossed approximately \$39.17 million during its opening weekend, despite lukewarm reviews. The film was successful at the box office grossing \$204 million worldwide.^[39]



Aniston at the *He's Just Not That Into You* premiere in 2009

In 2006, Aniston directed a hospital emergency room-set short film called *Room 10*, starring *Robin Wright* and *Kris Kristofferson* as part of *Glamour*'s *Reel Moments* film series.^[40] Aniston noted that she was inspired to direct by actress *Gwyneth Paltrow*, who also directed a short film in 2006.^[41] In 2007, Aniston guest starred in an episode of Courteney Cox Arquette's series *Dirt*, playing Arquette's rival, Tina Harrod.^[42] She appeared in the third episode of Season 3 of NBC's *30 Rock* playing *Liz Lemon*'s old college roommate who stalks *Jack Donaghy*.^[43]

On December 25, 2008, *Marley & Me*, in which Aniston starred alongside *Owen Wilson*, was released. It set a record for the largest Christmas Day box office ever with \$14.75 million in ticket sales. It earned a total of \$51.7 million over the four-day weekend and placed number one at the box office, a position it maintained for two weeks.^[44]

The total worldwide gross was \$242,717,113.^[45] Her next film in wide release, *He's Just Not That Into You*, where she starred opposite [Ben Affleck](#), opened in February 2009. The movie made \$178,390,243 globally^[46] and ranked at number one at the United States box office for its opening weekend.^[47] While the film received mixed reviews, Aniston, along with Affleck, [Ginnifer Goodwin](#), and [Jennifer Connelly](#), were often praised by critics as being the stand-outs in the film.^{[48][49]}

On July 16, 2009, Aniston received an [Emmy](#) nomination in the category of [Outstanding Guest Actress in a Comedy Series](#) for her role on *30 Rock*.^[50] Aniston was a guest star on the season 2 premiere of ABC's sitcom *Cougar Town*, playing a psychiatrist.^[51]

2010–present: Enduring film success

In March 2010, Aniston appeared in *The Bounty Hunter*, which costarred [Gerard Butler](#). While the film received scathing reviews from critics, it was a modest box office success, garnering over \$130 million worldwide.^[52] A lukewarm box-office reception greeted her next film, *The Switch*, in which she co-starred with [Jason Bateman](#). The film's opening weekend drew what *The Hollywood Reporter* dubbed "a dispiriting \$8.4 million".^[53] The film received generally mixed reviews, with review site Metacritic showing 13 out of 30 critics delivering a positive verdict.^[54]

By June 20, 2010, Aniston's movies had grossed more than \$1 billion in the United States and over \$1.7 billion worldwide.^[55] Aniston's *Just Go with It*, with [Adam Sandler](#),^[56] was released on Valentine's Day weekend in 2011.^[57] The story is about a plastic surgeon, played by Sandler, who asks his office manager, played by Aniston, to pose as his wife, to prove his honesty to his much younger girlfriend, played by [Brooklyn Decker](#).^[58] Also in 2011, Aniston starred in the comedy movie *Horrible Bosses*, with [Colin Farrell](#), [Jason Bateman](#), [Charlie Day](#), and [Jamie Foxx](#), directed by [Seth Gordon](#). The film focuses on a trio of employees who plot to murder their titular tyrannical supervisors. Aniston played one of the bosses, a sexually aggressive dentist who harasses Charlie Day's character.^[59]

In 2012, Aniston appeared in *Wanderlust* with [Paul Rudd](#),^[60] with whom she co-starred in the 1998 movie *The Object of My Affection* and also *Friends*.^[61] The script for *Wonderland*, bought by [Universal Pictures](#),^[62] was written by Rudd, [Ken Marino](#), and [David Wain](#), with the latter also directing the film, and was produced by [Judd Apatow](#).^[63] The movie was about a married couple who join a commune after losing their money and deciding modern life is not for them.^[64]

Aniston starred with [Jason Sudeikis](#) in [EUE/Screen Gems](#) Productions' *We're the Millers*, filmed in summer 2012 in [Wilmington, North Carolina](#) and in the state of [New Mexico](#). The film, a comedy about a drug dealer with a fake family,^[65] was released on August 7, 2013, receiving mixed reviews from critics.^[66] *We're the Millers* was a financial success grossing \$269 million against a budget of \$37 million.^[67]

In 2013, Aniston played the role of Mickey Dawson in *Life of Crime*, a film adaptation of [Elmore Leonard](#)'s 1978 novel *The Switch*.^[68] The movie was released in the US on August 29, 2014, to positive reviews.^[69]

^ Other work

Aniston has appeared in various commercials and music videos throughout her career. In 1996, she was in [Tom Petty and The Heartbreakers](#) music video for "Walls". In 2001, Aniston was in [Melissa Etheridge](#)'s music video for "I Want To Be In Love".^[70] She was cast in a [Heineken](#) commercial which was later banned in the U.S. due to branding issues.^[71] Aniston has also been in commercials for [L'Oreal](#) hair products.^[72] In 1995, Aniston and her *Friends* co-star [Matthew Perry](#) shot a 60-minute instructional video for the release of [Microsoft](#)'s *Windows 95* operating system.^[73] Along with [Brad Pitt](#) and [Brad Grey](#), CEO of [Paramount Pictures](#), Aniston founded the film production company [Plan B Entertainment](#) in 2002,^[74] although she and Grey withdrew in 2005.^{[75][76]} In 2008, she and Kristin Hahn formed the production company [Echo Films](#).^[77]

Aniston worked for over a year on a new perfume, which was released

on July 21, 2010, at [Harrods](#) in London.^{[78][79]} Original plans called for the perfume to be named *Lolavie by Jennifer Aniston*, but to avoid confusion with a similarly named perfume, the name was changed to simply *Jennifer Aniston*.^[80] In an interview following the launch, Aniston said that she would also like to create a fragrance for men.^[81] In 2014, she launched her second perfume named *J by Jennifer Aniston*.^{[82][83]}

Since 2007, Aniston has worked in a publicity campaign for the drink [SmartWater](#); on March 7, 2011, she released a YouTube video, titled "[Jennifer Aniston Goes Viral](#)", for SmartWater, which tripled online interest in the product within 24 hours of its release.^{[84][85][86]} In January 2013, Aniston became the new spokesperson and face of [Aveeno Skincare](#).^[87] The commercials began airing in May 2013.^[88]

^ Philanthropy

Aniston is a supporter of Friends of El Faro, a [grassroots](#) non-profit organization that helps raise money for Casa Hogar Sion, an orphanage in [Tijuana](#), Mexico. She has appeared in many TV commercials for [St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital](#), which she supports. She also hosted September 2008's Stand Up to Cancer show.^[89] In the "It Can't Wait" campaign to free [Burma](#), Aniston directed and starred in a video.^[90]

On April 14, 2007, Aniston received [GLAAD](#)'s Vanguard Award for her contributions to increased visibility and understanding of the lesbian, gay, [bisexual](#) and [transgender](#) community.^[91] On Earth Day 2010, she joined [Courteney Cox](#), [Woody Harrelson](#), [Ben Stiller](#) and others in "The Cove PSA: My Friend is..."^[92] an effort to stop the slaughter of dolphins and protect the Japanese people from the toxic levels of [mercury](#) found in dolphin meat. Other charities that Aniston has supported include AmeriCares, Clothes Off Our Back, Feeding America, EB Medical Research Foundation, Project A.L.S., [OmniPeace](#), and [Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network](#).^[93]

Aniston donated \$500,000 to [Doctors Without Borders](#), Haitian health care provider Partners in Health and [AmeriCares](#),^{[94][95]} and also

participated in the megastar-studded [Hope for Haiti Now telethon](#).^{[96][97]}

In 2013, she was named the [Entertainment Industry Foundation](#) (EIF) ambassador for the [Saks Fifth Avenue](#) Key To The Cure campaign, which raises funds for the EIF Women's Cancer Research Fund to support research into the detection, treatment, and cures for women's cancers.^[98]

^ Personal life



Aniston at the [2008 Toronto International Film Festival](#)

Aniston's high-profile relationship with actor [Brad Pitt](#) was frequently publicized in the press.^{[99][100]} She married Pitt on July 29, 2000, in a lavish [Malibu](#) wedding.^[101] For a few years, their marriage was considered the rare Hollywood success.^[9] But on January 7, 2005 they announced their separation.^[102] A divorce was finalized on October 2, 2005.^[103] During this period there was intense speculation in the media that Pitt had been unfaithful to Aniston with his [Mr. & Mrs. Smith](#) co-star, [Angelina Jolie](#).^[104] In the following months, the public's reaction towards the divorce was reported in the press. The story became the headline news of media shows such as [Entertainment Tonight](#) and [Access Hollywood](#), and made the front-pages of tabloid magazines for years. "Team Aniston" and "Team Jolie" T-shirts appeared, with "Team Aniston" shirts out-selling the "Team Jolie" shirts four to one.^[104] Media reports

speculated that the split was due to Aniston's refusal to have children with him. Aniston denied that this was the cause of their split in an August 2005 [Vanity Fair](#) interview, stating, "... I've always wanted to have children, and I would never again give up that experience for a career." Aniston also revealed that her divorce prompted her to reach out to her mother, Nancy, from whom she was estranged for nearly a decade. They initially became estranged when Nancy talked about her daughter on a television show and later wrote a book entitled, *From Mother and Daughter to Friends: A Memoir* (1999).^{[105][106]} Aniston has also stated she was devastated by the death of her longtime therapist, whose work helped make her separation from Pitt easier.^[41] Aniston said her relationship with Pitt, which she does not regret, was "seven very intense years together" and that "it was a beautiful, complicated relationship".^[107]

Aniston has been having a relationship with actor [Justin Theroux](#) since May 2011. In January 2012, Aniston and Theroux purchased a home in Los Angeles's [Bel-Air](#) neighborhood for roughly \$22 million.^[108] On August 12, 2012, Aniston and Theroux announced their engagement.^[109]

She previously dated musicians [Adam Duritz](#),^[99] [John Mayer](#),^[110] actor [Vince Vaughn](#)^[111] and was engaged to actor [Tate Donovan](#).^[112]

In 2013, [The Huffington Post](#) described Aniston as "a long-time [yoga](#) practitioner" and quoted her as saying, "If I don't do it then my spirit sort of goes."^[113] In 2014 Aniston spoke of her [Transcendental Meditation](#) practice: "When asked what the number one thing which has kept her looking so amazing is, Jennifer replied: 'I'd say a little over a year ago I started doing TM and that's really changed everything. Starting your day off with that and ending with that is pretty powerful.'"^[114]

^ In the media

Wealth

In 2007, [Forbes](#) rated Aniston as one of the top 20 richest women in

entertainment and estimated her net worth to be about \$110 million.^[115] Aniston was also included in the annual Star Salary Top 10 of trade magazine *The Hollywood Reporter* for 2006.^[116] According to *Forbes*, in October 2007, Aniston was the top-selling celebrity face of the entertainment industry.^[117] She was also Hollywood's most profitable actress. Aniston has been on the *Forbes* Celebrity 100 list, based on "earnings and fame", every year since 2001, topping the list in 2003.^[118] For the year of 2008, *Forbes* listed Aniston's earnings as \$27 million.^[119]

Public image

In 2005, Aniston became the first-ever *GQ* Woman of the Year. She has frequently appeared on *People*'s annual list of The Most Beautiful, and came in at number one in 2004. She also topped the magazine's Best Dressed List in 2006. She has been a regular on *FHM*'s 100 Sexiest Women list since 1996, ranking at number 79 in 2012, number 81 in 2010, number 24 in 2009 and number 27 in 2008.^[120] In 2011, *The Daily Telegraph* reported the most sought after body parts of the rich and famous revealed by two Hollywood plastic surgeons who carried out a survey among their patients to build up the picture of what the perfect woman would look like. Under the category of the most sought after body shape Aniston was voted in the top three alongside Gisele Bündchen and Penélope Cruz.^[121] In the same year, readers of *Men's Health* magazine voted Aniston the "Sexiest Woman of All Time".^[122]

Although Aniston disliked the hairstyle she wore during her first two years on *Friends*, "The Rachel" became and remains very popular among women.^{[123][124]} Aniston received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on February 22, 2012. The star is located at 6270 Hollywood Boulevard, in front of The W Hollywood Hotel.^[125] It is recognized as STAR 2, 462nd.^[126] On *Forbes'* list of the 100 Most Powerful Actresses in Hollywood, Aniston was ranked number 8 in 2009,^[127] number 2 in both 2011 and 2012,^{[128][129]} and number 3 in 2013.^[130]

^ Awards and nominations

Main article: [List of awards and nominations received by Jennifer](#)

^ Filmography

Main article: [Jennifer Aniston filmography](#)

- [Leprechaun](#) (1993)
- [She's the One](#) (1996)
- [Picture Perfect](#) (1997)
- [The Object of My Affection](#) (1998)
- [Office Space](#) (1999)
- [The Iron Giant](#) (1999)
- [Rock Star](#) (2001)
- [The Good Girl](#) (2002)
- [Bruce Almighty](#) (2003)
- [Along Came Polly](#) (2004)
- [Derailed](#) (2005)
- [Rumor Has It...](#) (2005)
- [The Break-Up](#) (2006)
- [Marley & Me](#) (2008)
- [He's Just Not That into You](#) (2009)
- [The Bounty Hunter](#) (2010)
- [The Switch](#) (2010)
- [Just Go with It](#) (2011)
- [Horrible Bosses](#) (2011)
- [Wanderlust](#) (2012)
- [We're the Millers](#) (2013)
- [Life of Crime](#) (2014)
- [Horrible Bosses 2](#) (2014)
- [Cake](#) (2014)

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