[Template:Distinguish](/wiki/Template:Distinguish" \o "Template:Distinguish) [Template:Use mdy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_mdy_dates) [Template:Use American English](/wiki/Template:Use_American_English) [Template:Infobox person](/wiki/Template:Infobox_person) **Chyna**<ref name=namechange>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> (born **Joan Marie Laurer**; December 27, 1969[Template:Snds](/wiki/Template:Snds)[Template:Circa](/wiki/Template:Circa) April 20, 2016)[[1]](#cite_note-1)[[2]](#cite_note-2) was an American [professional wrestler](/wiki/Professional_wrestling), [glamour model](/wiki/Glamour_photography), [pornographic film actress](/wiki/Pornographic_film_actress), and bodybuilder.

Chyna first rose to prominence in the [World Wrestling Federation](/wiki/WWE) (WWF, now WWE) in 1997, where she was billed as the "Ninth Wonder of the World" ([André the Giant](/wiki/André_the_Giant) was already billed as the [eighth](/wiki/Eighth_Wonder_of_the_World)). A founding member of the [stable](/wiki/Glossary_of_professional_wrestling_terms#S) [D-Generation X](/wiki/D-Generation_X) as the promotion's first female [enforcer](/wiki/Glossary_of_professional_wrestling_terms#E), she held the [WWF Intercontinental Championship](/wiki/WWE_Intercontinental_Championship) (the only female performer to do so) twice and the [WWF Women's Championship](/wiki/WWE_Women's_Championship_(1956–2010)) once.[[3]](#cite_note-3) She was also the first woman to participate in the [Royal Rumble](/wiki/Royal_Rumble) and [King of the Ring](/wiki/King_of_the_Ring) events, as well as to become number one contender to the [WWF Championship](/wiki/WWE_World_Heavyweight_Championship).[[4]](#cite_note-4) With singles victories over several prominent male wrestlers – including multiple-time world champions [Triple H](/wiki/Triple_H), [Kurt Angle](/wiki/Kurt_Angle), [Chris Jericho](/wiki/Chris_Jericho) and [Jeff Jarrett](/wiki/Jeff_Jarrett)[[5]](#cite_note-5) – Chyna left what WWE called "a [lasting legacy](/wiki/#Legacy) as the most dominant female competitor of all time".[[4]](#cite_note-4) After leaving the WWF in 2001, Chyna wrestled sporadically, with [New Japan Pro Wrestling](/wiki/New_Japan_Pro_Wrestling) (NJPW) in 2002 and [Total Nonstop Action Wrestling](/wiki/Total_Nonstop_Action_Wrestling) (TNA) in 2011.

Outside of wrestling, Chyna appeared in [*Playboy*](/wiki/Playboy) magazine twice, as well as numerous television shows and films. In 2005, she was a cast member on [VH1's](/wiki/VH1) [*The Surreal Life*](/wiki/The_Surreal_Life), which led to several other celebrity reality appearances on the network, including [*The Surreal Life: Fame Games*](/wiki/The_Surreal_Life:_Fame_Games) in 2007 and [*Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew*](/wiki/Celebrity_Rehab_with_Dr._Drew) in 2008. She is also known for her tumultuous relationship with fellow wrestler [Sean Waltman](/wiki/Sean_Waltman), with whom she made a [sex tape](/wiki/Celebrity_sex_tape) released commercially in 2004 as [Template:Nowrap](/wiki/Template:Nowrap), which won a 2006 [AVN Award](/wiki/AVN_Award) for Best-Selling Title. She starred in a further five pornographic titles, including AVN's 2012 Best Celebrity Sex Tape, *Backdoor to Chyna*.

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## Early life[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

Laurer was born in [Rochester, New York](/wiki/Rochester,_New_York) on December 27, 1969.<ref name=NYT>["Chyna, Pro Wrestler Turned Reality TV Star, Is Dead at 46", by Sewell Chan, *The New York Times*](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/22/arts/television/chyna-wrestler-dead.html)</ref>[[2]](#cite_note-2) She had two older siblings: Kathy and Sonny.<ref name=only31>Laurer, Joanie. *If They Only Knew*, 31–32, 79.</ref>

After her parents divorced when she was approximately four years old, Laurer had three different stepfathers and one stepmother.[[6]](#cite_note-6) According to Laurer, her first stepfather threatened suicide at one point,[[6]](#cite_note-6) and her biological father, who once accidentally stabbed her mother in the thigh with a [bread knife](/wiki/Bread_knife), had a problem with [alcoholism](/wiki/Alcoholism).<ref name=only34>Laurer, Joanie. *If They Only Knew*, 34–36.</ref> From 1973 to 1983, she, her siblings and her mother moved several times.[[7]](#cite_note-7) As a child, Laurer learned to play both the violin and cello.<ref name=guide>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> She later said that in seventh grade she was sexually kissed by a much older teacher who worked at her school.<ref name=only98>Laurer, Joanie. *If They Only Knew*, 98–99.</ref> At age thirteen, while attending [Penfield High School](/wiki/Penfield_High_School), she began [purging](/wiki/Bulimia_nervosa) after she ate.[[8]](#cite_note-8) She left home at age sixteen after her mother tried to force her into a drug rehabilitation facility, going instead to live with her biological father.[[9]](#cite_note-9) That same year, she began working out, and because her abdominal muscles were so strong, she did not feel any pain when she developed an [ovarian](/wiki/Ovary) tumor.[[10]](#cite_note-10) She finished her last year of high school in Spain.[[11]](#cite_note-11) She attended the [University of Tampa](/wiki/University_of_Tampa),<ref name=only122>Laurer, Joanie. *If They Only Knew*, 122, 127.</ref> graduating in 1992 with a major in Spanish Literature.[[12]](#cite_note-12) During college, she also studied French and German (she could converse in either language[[12]](#cite_note-12)) and later stated during this time she was raped by two men after getting drunk at a party.[[13]](#cite_note-13) She also was a member of the [ROTC](/wiki/Reserve_Officers'_Training_Corps).[[14]](#cite_note-14) She originally wanted to use her knowledge of foreign languages to work for the [Federal Bureau of Investigation](/wiki/Federal_Bureau_of_Investigation) or [Drug Enforcement Administration](/wiki/Drug_Enforcement_Administration).[[12]](#cite_note-12) Subsequently, she joined the [Peace Corps](/wiki/Peace_Corps) and was assigned to [Guatemala](/wiki/Guatemala).[[15]](#cite_note-15) After returning from abroad, Laurer held several different jobs: a cocktail waitress in a strip club, singer in a band, and a 900-number chat line worker.[[16]](#cite_note-16) In her mid-to-late 20s, while living in the [Florida Keys](/wiki/Florida_Keys), she took a six-week class to train to be a [flight attendant](/wiki/Flight_attendant).[[17]](#cite_note-17) On the way to her first flight, she was in a car accident and spent four days in the hospital.<ref name=only22>Laurer, Joanie. *If They Only Knew*, 22–23.</ref> After recovering from the accident, Laurer's sister Kathy helped her get a job selling [beepers](/wiki/Pager), and both women also worked as [belly dancers](/wiki/Belly_dance).[[18]](#cite_note-18) After college, Laurer began to regularly enter fitness competitions. In 1996, Laurer competed in the New York City regional level of the Fitness America competition.<ref name=only225>Laurer, Joanie. *If They Only Knew*, 225–228.</ref> Because of her large size compared to the other women, she usually finished in last place.[[19]](#cite_note-19)

## Professional wrestling career[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

### Training and independent circuit (1995–1997)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

Joanie Laurer trained at [Wladek "Killer" Kowalski's](/wiki/Killer_Kowalski) [professional wrestling school](/wiki/List_of_professional_wrestling_terms#S) in [Malden, Massachusetts](/wiki/Malden,_Massachusetts).<ref name=only145>Laurer, Joanie. *If They Only Knew*, 145–148.</ref> Her first match was in 1995 against a male wrestler dressed as a woman.<ref name=only184>Laurer, Joanie. *If They Only Knew*, 184.</ref> While attending the school, she also worked for various [independent](/wiki/Independent_circuit) promotions as Joanie Lee.[[20]](#cite_note-20)<ref name=only203>Laurer, Joanie. *If They Only Knew*, 203.</ref> Some of her earliest matches were set up by [The Fabulous Moolah](/wiki/The_Fabulous_Moolah).[[21]](#cite_note-21)[[22]](#cite_note-22) Laurer met [World Wrestling Federation](/wiki/World_Wrestling_Entertainment) (WWF) performers [Paul "Triple H" Levesque](/wiki/Triple_H) and [Shawn Michaels](/wiki/Shawn_Michaels) after a professional wrestling show in 1996.<ref name=only207>Laurer, Joanie. *If They Only Knew*, 207–213.</ref><ref name=time>[Template:Cite video](/wiki/Template:Cite_video)</ref> After watching tapes of her matches, they decided to bring her into the WWF as a bodyguard.[[23]](#cite_note-23)[[24]](#cite_note-24) [Vince McMahon](/wiki/Vince_McMahon), the owner of the WWF, initially did not want her to join the company because he did not believe the audience would find a woman beating up men believable.[[24]](#cite_note-24)[[25]](#cite_note-25) While waiting for the WWF's decision, Laurer was approached by [World Championship Wrestling](/wiki/World_Championship_Wrestling) (WCW), who wanted her to be the sole-female member of the [New World Order](/wiki/New_World_Order_(professional_wrestling)).<ref name=only338>Laurer, Joanie. *If They Only Knew*, 338–341.</ref> She initially accepted the offer, but later turned it down when [Shane McMahon](/wiki/Shane_McMahon), Vince McMahon's son, informed her that she was about to be hired by the WWF.[[26]](#cite_note-26) However, Kowalski claimed that he got Laurer hired by the WWF after introducing her to Shane McMahon and telling him of WCW's interest in her.[[27]](#cite_note-27)

### World Wrestling Federation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

#### D-Generation X (1997–1999)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

[thumb|right|Chyna in 1997](/wiki/File:Chyna.jpg)

Laurer made her WWF debut on February 16, 1997 at [In Your House 13: Final Four](/wiki/In_Your_House_13:_Final_Four); her character emerged as a [plant](/wiki/List_of_professional_wrestling_terms#P) from a ringside seat, choking [Marlena](/wiki/Terri_Runnels) while [Goldust](/wiki/Dustin_Rhodes) was in the ring with Triple H.<ref name=only269>Laurer, Joanie. *If They Only Knew*, 259, 269.</ref> Her original role in the promotion was as the laconic [enforcer](/wiki/Enforcer_(professional_wrestling))/bodyguard for Triple H and later, his D-Generation X group (which included [Sean "X-Pac" Waltman](/wiki/Sean_Waltman)). She often helped Triple H (then, a rising [villain](/wiki/Heel_(professional_wrestling))) cheat to win by physically interfering in matches by executing her trademark [low blow](/wiki/Professional_wrestling_attacks#Low_blow) to the groin.[[28]](#cite_note-28) She was later given the ring name "Chyna", an intentionally ironic moniker; [fine china](/wiki/Porcelain) is delicate and fragile, a sharp contrast to her character.[[29]](#cite_note-29) Off-screen, however, the male wrestlers were hesitant at first to let a female over-power them on-screen.[[30]](#cite_note-30) In January 1999, Chyna was the thirtieth entrant in the [Royal Rumble](/wiki/Royal_Rumble_(1999)), becoming the first woman ever to enter the contest.<ref name=dynasty>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The day after the Royal Rumble, Chyna became a villainess by betraying Triple H and aligning herself with his enemy [Vince McMahon](/wiki/Vince_McMahon) and [Kane](/wiki/Glenn_Jacobs).[[24]](#cite_note-24) Laurer teamed with Kane at the [St. Valentine's Day Massacre](/wiki/St._Valentine's_Day_Massacre:_In_Your_House) [pay-per-view](/wiki/Pay-per-view) against former allies X-Pac and Triple H.[[31]](#cite_note-31) At WrestleMania XV, Chyna turned on Kane in his match by attacking him with a chair, appearing to rejoin DX.[[24]](#cite_note-24)<ref name=w15>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Chyna and Triple H, however, turned against DX later that evening when they helped [Shane McMahon](/wiki/Shane_McMahon) defeat DX member X-Pac.[[32]](#cite_note-32) The duo became part of [The Corporation](/wiki/The_Corporation_(professional_wrestling)) and later Shane McMahon's [Corporate Ministry](/wiki/Corporate_Ministry). Following the dissolution of the Corporate Ministry, the villainous Chyna remained at Triple H's side.[[24]](#cite_note-24) They would eventually split up later in the year.

#### Intercontinental Champion (1999–2000)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

In June 1999, Chyna became the first woman to qualify for the [King of the Ring tournament](/wiki/King_of_the_Ring#1999).[[24]](#cite_note-24) She was also the first female to be the number one contender for the [WWF Championship](/wiki/WWE_Championship), but lost the spot to [Mankind](/wiki/Mick_Foley) before [SummerSlam](/wiki/SummerSlam_(1999)) in August.[[24]](#cite_note-24) Later that year, Laurer became a [fan favorite](/wiki/Face_(professional_wrestling)) again during her long feud with [Jeff Jarrett](/wiki/Jeff_Jarrett). At [Unforgiven](/wiki/Unforgiven_(1999)), she had a match for the [WWF Intercontinental Championship](/wiki/WWE_Intercontinental_Championship) against Jarrett, which she lost.[[33]](#cite_note-33) She defeated Jarrett for the title at [No Mercy](/wiki/No_Mercy_(1999)) in his last WWF match, a [Good Housekeeping match](/wiki/Professional_wrestling_match_types#Hardcore-based_variations), on October 17 at No Mercy, in the process becoming the first and only woman to win the Intercontinental Championship.<ref name=sun>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=only299>Laurer, Joanie. *If They Only Knew*, 299.</ref> She also gained the services of his valet, [Miss Kitty](/wiki/Stacy_Carter). Laurer claims that Jarrett demanded (and received) $300,000 from Vince McMahon in order to lose the title cleanly to a woman.[[34]](#cite_note-34) His contract had expired on October 16, and he was therefore not contractually obligated to appear on the pay-per-view.[[35]](#cite_note-35) If he had not appeared, the WWF would have been criticized for [false advertising](/wiki/False_advertising), and the lineage of the title would have been broken.[[36]](#cite_note-36) Chyna then feuded with [Chris Jericho](/wiki/Chris_Jericho) over the belt, defeating him at the [Survivor Series](/wiki/Survivor_Series_(1999)),[[37]](#cite_note-37) but losing the title to him at [Armageddon](/wiki/WWE_Armageddon#1999).[[38]](#cite_note-38) The two faced off again in a match on the edition of December 28 of [*SmackDown!*](/wiki/WWE_Friday_Night_SmackDown), which [ended controversially](/wiki/Dusty_Finish) with both wrestlers pinning each other. As a result, then "head of authority" [Stephanie McMahon](/wiki/Stephanie_McMahon)-Helmsley declared them co-champions.[[39]](#cite_note-39) At the [Royal Rumble](/wiki/Royal_Rumble_(2000)), Jericho and Chyna defended the title against [Hardcore Holly](/wiki/Bob_Holly) in a [Triple Threat match](/wiki/Triple_Threat_match) to determine the Intercontinental Champion, which Jericho won;[[40]](#cite_note-40) Chyna's "co-champions" reign is no longer recognized by WWE and is now considered a continuation of Jericho's second Intercontinental reign.[[41]](#cite_note-41) Afterwards, Laurer briefly teamed with Jericho.

#### Aligning with Eddie Guerrero and departure (2000–2001)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

Not long after losing the Intercontinental title, Laurer became the on-screen girlfriend of [Eddie Guerrero](/wiki/Eddie_Guerrero). Guerrero and Laurer, originally villains, later became fan favorites during the summer of 2000, with Guerrero dubbing her his "Mamacita".<ref name=only7>Laurer, Joanie. *If They Only Knew*, 7–8.</ref> The couple faced [Val Venis](/wiki/Sean_Morley) and then-rookie [Trish Stratus](/wiki/Trish_Stratus) in an [intergender tag team match](/wiki/Professional_wrestling_tag_team_match_types#Intergender_tag_team_match) at [SummerSlam](/wiki/SummerSlam_(2000)) with the Intercontinental Championship on the line.<ref name=gorilla>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Chyna won the match, but lost the belt two weeks later to Guerrero in a Triple Threat match with [Kurt Angle](/wiki/Kurt_Angle).[[42]](#cite_note-42) They officially split in November 2000 after Chyna, in storyline, found Eddie cavorting in the shower with two other women.[[43]](#cite_note-43) [thumb|left|Chyna at](/wiki/File:Chyna_and_Eddie_Guerrero_-_King_of_the_Ring_2000.jpg) [King of the Ring](/wiki/King_of_the_Ring_(2000)) with [Eddie Guerrero](/wiki/Eddie_Guerrero) during their romance angle; Guerrero would often give Chyna flowers before a match.

At the same time, Laurer posed nude for [*Playboy*](/wiki/Playboy) magazine's November 2000 issue.<ref name=fit>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Her *Playboy* modeling was also worked into a WWE storyline (based, in part, on a real-life legal feud between the WWE and the conservative [Parents Television Council](/wiki/Parents_Television_Council)),<ref name=ptc>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> in which it drew the ire of the [Right to Censor](/wiki/Right_to_Censor) (a group of morally conservative wrestlers). Shortly after, Laurer began a feud with [Ivory](/wiki/Ivory_(wrestler)), a member of the Right to Censor, over the [Women's Championship](/wiki/WWE_Women's_Championship_(1956–2010)). This culminated in a storyline at the [Royal Rumble](/wiki/Royal_Rumble_(2001)) where Laurer appeared to reinjure her neck while performing a [handspring](/wiki/Professional_wrestling_attacks#Handspring) [back elbow](/wiki/Professional_wrestling_attacks#Back_elbow).<ref name=royal>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> In order to better convince the audience that she was injured, [color commentator](/wiki/Color_commentator) [Jerry Lawler](/wiki/Jerry_Lawler) left the commentators' booth and entered the ring to check on Laurer's condition, something he had not done since the [in-ring accident](/wiki/Over_the_Edge_(1999)#Owen_Hart_accident) that killed [Owen Hart](/wiki/Owen_Hart) in 1999.[[44]](#cite_note-44) When Laurer returned from the "injury", she won the Women's Championship from Ivory at [WrestleMania X-Seven](/wiki/WrestleMania_X-Seven) in a [squash match](/wiki/Squash_(professional_wrestling)).<ref name=wx7>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Laurer also defended her title against [Lita](/wiki/Amy_Dumas) at [Judgment Day](/wiki/Judgment_Day_(2001)) in 2001.<ref name=judge>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Although she won the match, she soon vacated the Women's Championship, as this was Laurer's final WWF match.

She left the WWF on November 30, 2001, several months after she had been taken off of television.<ref name=online>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Behind the scenes, Triple H, her former real-life boyfriend, began a relationship with [Stephanie McMahon](/wiki/Stephanie_McMahon), with whom Laurer claims he had an [affair](/wiki/Affair) and then left her for.[[45]](#cite_note-45) Chyna, in a 2015 interview with [Vince Russo](/wiki/Vince_Russo), stated that after a meeting with Vince McMahon about the Stephanie McMahon situation, she was sent home and was later sent a fax telling her that she was not needed anymore,[[46]](#cite_note-46) although in a 2002 interview with [*The Baltimore Sun*](/wiki/The_Baltimore_Sun), Chyna indicated that the breakup had nothing to do with her leaving WWF and that she left to pursue an acting career.[[47]](#cite_note-47) Then-Executive Vice President of Talent Relations [Jim Ross](/wiki/Jim_Ross) reports that it was "mutually agreed" to let her contract expire in order for her to explore other options.[[48]](#cite_note-48)

### New Japan Pro Wrestling (2002)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

In 2002, Laurer joined [New Japan Pro Wrestling](/wiki/New_Japan_Pro_Wrestling) and made her first appearance at the New Japan Thirtieth Anniversary Show, refereeing a bout between the [Steiner Brothers](/wiki/Steiner_Brothers) and [Hiroshi Tanahashi](/wiki/Hiroshi_Tanahashi) and [Kensuke Sasaki](/wiki/Kensuke_Sasaki).[[49]](#cite_note-49) In September and October 2002, she wrestled several matches for the promotion.[[49]](#cite_note-49) After losing to [Masahiro Chono](/wiki/Masahiro_Chono) on October 14, 2002, Laurer performed her final match on October 26, teaming with a fake [Great Muta](/wiki/Great_Muta) played by Troy Enders in a loss to Hiroshi Tanahashi and [Kenzo Suzuki](/wiki/Kenzo_Suzuki).[[49]](#cite_note-49)

### Total Nonstop Action Wrestling (2011)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

During the May 3, 2011, tapings of the edition of May 12 of [*Impact!*](/wiki/TNA_Impact!), Chyna made her TNA debut, introduced by the returning [Spike TV](/wiki/Spike_TV) network consultant [Mick Foley](/wiki/Mick_Foley). He introduced her as Kurt Angle's business associate (she had been previously referred to as his "Mistress") and tag team partner at [Sacrifice](/wiki/Sacrifice_(2011)), where they would face Jeff Jarrett and [Karen Jarrett](/wiki/Karen_Jarrett). During the taping she also took part in a battle royal, from which she eliminated Jeff.[[50]](#cite_note-50)[[51]](#cite_note-51)[[52]](#cite_note-52) At Sacrifice, Chyna submitted Karen for the win in the mixed tag team match.[[53]](#cite_note-53) She left TNA shortly after making Sacrifice 2011 her final wrestling match.

### Legacy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

Numerous commentators have credited Chyna as being influential to women's wrestling and one of the biggest stars of WWE's [Attitude Era](/wiki/Attitude_Era).[[54]](#cite_note-54)[[55]](#cite_note-55)[[56]](#cite_note-56)[[57]](#cite_note-57) Commentator and former WWE official [Jim Ross](/wiki/Jim_Ross) described Chyna as "The distinctive athlete was to WWE what [Ronda Rousey](/wiki/Ronda_Rousey) has been to UFC",[[48]](#cite_note-48) while [E! News](/wiki/E!_News) said that Chyna accomplished more in her near-decade career than any woman had ever done.[[57]](#cite_note-57) Others praise Chyna as a [feminist](/wiki/Feminism) icon who defied [gender norms](/wiki/Gender_role);[[58]](#cite_note-58)[[59]](#cite_note-59) Dawn Heinecken, a professor of women's and gender studies at the [University of Louisville](/wiki/University_of_Louisville), wrote in 2004 that "She was demonized as a feminist who challenged male dominance ... Her latest, and most popular incarnation was that of a sex symbol".[[55]](#cite_note-55) She was the first woman to compete in the [Royal Rumble match](/wiki/Royal_Rumble#Match) and is the only woman to have held the [WWE Intercontinental Championship](/wiki/WWE_Intercontinental_Championship).[[54]](#cite_note-54) Independent wrestler [Kimber Lee](/wiki/Kimber_Lee) credits Chyna as her influence to get into wrestling.[[54]](#cite_note-54) Columnist Mike Mooneyham of [*The Post and Courier*](/wiki/The_Post_and_Courier) stated that it is an "an oft-asked question" as to when Chyna will be inducted into the [WWE Hall of Fame](/wiki/WWE_Hall_of_Fame).[[56]](#cite_note-56) Jim Ross said that Chyna had an "overwhelming desire" to be inducted during her lifetime.[[48]](#cite_note-48) On February 9, 2015, during a [WWE Network](/wiki/WWE_Network) podcast with [Stone Cold Steve Austin](/wiki/Stone_Cold_Steve_Austin), [Triple H](/wiki/Triple_H) mentioned that Chyna deserved to be in the Hall of Fame but that problems with children Googling her prohibited it.[[55]](#cite_note-55) The day following her death, a post on WWE.com expressed sadness about it[[60]](#cite_note-60) and featured a video of her winning the Women's Championship.[[61]](#cite_note-61) She also filmed a *Playboy* adult documentary entitled *Joanie Laurer Nude: Wrestling Superstar to Warrior Princess*, which followed Laurer on the set.[[70]](#cite_note-70)

### Literature[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

In 2001, Laurer released her autobiography, entitled *If They Only Knew*. It spent time on [*The New York Times*](/wiki/The_New_York_Times)[Template:'](/wiki/Template:') bestseller list.<ref name=lifted>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

### Television and film[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

Laurer appeared on [*The Howard Stern Show*](/wiki/The_Howard_Stern_Show) in 2000, where she claims that she "made [an ass] out of [her]self."[[71]](#cite_note-71) She also appeared in [*3rd Rock from the Sun*](/wiki/3rd_Rock_from_the_Sun) as Janice, a police officer who briefly dated [Harry Solomon](/wiki/Harry_Solomon), as well as several Stacker 2 commercials and was a presenter at the [MTV Video Music Awards](/wiki/MTV_Video_Music_Awards).[[72]](#cite_note-72) In 2001, Laurer was a guest on a special celebrity edition of [*Fear Factor*](/wiki/Fear_Factor).[[73]](#cite_note-73) She lost in the final round of the competition to [Coolio](/wiki/Coolio).[[74]](#cite_note-74) The following year, Laurer was reportedly up for a part in [*Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines*](/wiki/Terminator_3:_Rise_of_the_Machines), but lost out on the role to [Kristanna Loken](/wiki/Kristanna_Loken).[[75]](#cite_note-75) Laurer was also the host of [*Robot Wars: Grand Champions*](/wiki/Robot_Wars_(TV_series)) in 2002.[[47]](#cite_note-47) She also appeared on the celebrity game show, [*Hollywood Squares*](/wiki/Hollywood_Squares) in 2003.[[76]](#cite_note-76) Laurer appeared as a character named Lulu in [Sevendust's](/wiki/Sevendust) music video for the song "[Enemy](/wiki/Enemy_(Sevendust_song))" in 2003.[[77]](#cite_note-77) In early 2005, Laurer debuted on [*The Surreal Life*](/wiki/The_Surreal_Life), with housemates [Da Brat](/wiki/Da_Brat), [Jane Wiedlin](/wiki/Jane_Wiedlin), [Adrianne Curry](/wiki/Adrianne_Curry), [Christopher Knight](/wiki/Christopher_Knight_(actor)), [Marcus Schenkenberg](/wiki/Marcus_Schenkenberg), and [Verne Troyer](/wiki/Verne_Troyer).<ref name=hwood>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> On the show, she drank heavily, appeared nude, and got into an argument with her ex, Sean Waltman.[[78]](#cite_note-78) She remained friends with Adrianne Curry after the show and made a brief cameo on her reality show [*My Fair Brady*](/wiki/My_Fair_Brady).[[79]](#cite_note-79) Laurer also appeared on [*The Surreal Life: Fame Games*](/wiki/The_Surreal_Life:_Fame_Games), which began to air on [VH1](/wiki/VH1) in January 2007.[[80]](#cite_note-80) The filming took place in April 2006 in [Las Vegas](/wiki/Las_Vegas,_Nevada).[[81]](#cite_note-81) Her elimination from the show, which occurred in the seventh episode, was controversial.[[82]](#cite_note-82) [Andrea Lowell](/wiki/Andrea_Lowell) had accumulated the lowest score in the "Celebrity Call-Back-A-Thon" challenge, but she manipulated [Kennedy](/wiki/Lisa_Kennedy_Montgomery), the judge, to increase her score and got Laurer eliminated in the process.<ref name=kennedy>[Template:Cite episode](/wiki/Template:Cite_episode)</ref>

Also in 2006, Laurer appeared in [*Just Another Romantic Wrestling Comedy*](/wiki/Just_Another_Romantic_Wrestling_Comedy) and [*Illegal Aliens*](/wiki/Illegal_Aliens_(film)), the latter of which was the last movie featuring [Anna Nicole Smith](/wiki/Anna_Nicole_Smith) before her death.[[81]](#cite_note-81) On *Cristina's Court*, a syndicated court-themed reality show, Laurer appeared in an episode originally airing July 14, 2007 in a [civil dispute](/wiki/Civil_law_(common_law)) against a breeder of [teacup chihuahuas](/wiki/Chihuahua_(dog)). [Judge Perez](/wiki/Cristina_Pérez_(judge)) ruled in favor of the plaintiff—Laurer—awarding her $4,000.[[83]](#cite_note-83)

## Personal life[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

Laurer's [breast implants](/wiki/Breast_implant) were custom-made for her after her first implants were ruptured during a wrestling match.[[84]](#cite_note-84) She had also complained to her plastic surgeon that their largest implants did not suit her frame in the way she desired.<ref name=only94>Laurer, Joanie. *If They Only Knew*, 94–97.</ref> Laurer's custom implants became the model for the Chyna 2000s, a model of breast implant now marketed to large-framed women and female bodybuilders.[[74]](#cite_note-74)[[84]](#cite_note-84) Laurer claimed to have paid $6,000 for them.[[85]](#cite_note-85) From 1996 until 2000, Laurer dated fellow wrestler [Paul "Triple H" Levesque](/wiki/Triple_H).[[86]](#cite_note-86) They initially hid their relationship from their co-workers because Laurer felt that people might think she "[slept] her way to the top".[[87]](#cite_note-87) The duo also lived together for some time.[[88]](#cite_note-88) Beginning in 2003, however, she had a tumultuous relationship with wrestler [Sean Waltman](/wiki/Sean_Waltman). They were engaged for a period in 2003,<ref name=caught>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> then broke up, and then became engaged again, a pattern that continued for the next two years. In 2004, Laurer and Waltman made a sex tape. Eager for a repeat success, the company that released [Paris Hilton's](/wiki/Paris_Hilton) [celebrity sex tape](/wiki/Celebrity_sex_tape) obtained the footage, edited it, and released it under the name [*1 Night in China*](/wiki/1_Night_in_China).[[89]](#cite_note-89) The video sold over 100,000 copies, with both Laurer and Waltman earning a share of the profits.<ref name=tape>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> Laurer, however, maintained that she did not earn any money from the release.<ref name=interview>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> In January 2005, Laurer was arrested for [domestic assault](/wiki/Domestic_violence) after allegedly beating Waltman.[[90]](#cite_note-90)<ref name=edge>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

On February 8, 2007 (the date of [Anna Nicole Smith's](/wiki/Anna_Nicole_Smith) death), a visibly upset Laurer appeared on [*Larry King Live*](/wiki/Larry_King_Live) to speak about her late friend. On the program, Laurer claimed that she "knew it was coming" because of the way the media had ridiculed Smith, and she drew parallels between the plight of Anna and herself. The wife of the CEO of Trim Spa, Monique Goen, however, claimed that Smith did not consider Laurer a friend.<ref name=LarryKingLive>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

After leaving the WWF, Laurer was unable to use the name "Chyna" because of its trademark.<ref name=prego>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Therefore, she began to use the name "Chynna Doll" for public appearances.[[91]](#cite_note-91) In November 2007, Laurer legally changed her name to Chyna.[[92]](#cite_note-92) Laurer also had problems with substance abuse. She claimed that her "life was spinning out of control" around the time she made the sex tape.[[81]](#cite_note-81) In January 2005, Sean Waltman claimed that she was battling drug and alcohol addiction, as well as mental illness.[[91]](#cite_note-91) Days after the domestic dispute between Waltman and Laurer, it was reported in the [*New York Post*](/wiki/New_York_Post) that she had stripped naked and jumped into a [fish tank](/wiki/Aquarium) in a New York nightclub.[[91]](#cite_note-91) That same month, she made another appearance on *The Howard Stern Show*, where she was slurring her words and going off on random tangents.[[91]](#cite_note-91) On the program, she claimed to not want to do drugs anymore, but said that if a line of [cocaine](/wiki/Cocaine) was in front of her, she would do it.[[91]](#cite_note-91) After her appearance, she entered a facility specializing in helping people with depression, and she decided to stop drinking.[[81]](#cite_note-81) In early 2008, Laurer appeared on the VH1 reality TV show [*Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew*](/wiki/Celebrity_Rehab_with_Dr._Drew), but she claimed on the show that she did not consider herself an addict.[[93]](#cite_note-93) On December 27, 2008, she was rushed to the hospital after her birthday party, where she was found passed out with cuts on her arms.[[94]](#cite_note-94) Laurer had a strained relationship with her family. She last saw her mother at the age of 16, and she claimed that her father never got over her decision not to join the FBI.[[88]](#cite_note-88) She also alleged that her father took out several [student loans](/wiki/Student_loan) in her name without her knowledge, leaving her with $40,000 in debt.[[6]](#cite_note-6) On an episode of *Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew* in 2008, Laurer claimed to have a bad relationship with all of her family members, including her siblings.[[95]](#cite_note-95) In September 2010, Laurer was hospitalized after overdosing on sleeping medication.[[96]](#cite_note-96) As of February 2015, Laurer had re-established a good relationship with her mother; her father died in May 2014.[[97]](#cite_note-97) At one point, Laurer taught [English](/wiki/English_language) in Japan.[[98]](#cite_note-98) She converted to [Mormonism](/wiki/Mormonism) while there.[[99]](#cite_note-99)

## Death[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

On April 20, 2016, Laurer was found dead at her home in [Redondo Beach, California](/wiki/Redondo_Beach,_California). She was 46 years old. She had been taking medication for [anxiety](/wiki/Anxiety) and [insomnia](/wiki/Insomnia). A statement was posted to her [Twitter](/wiki/Twitter) account by her manager confirming her death.[[100]](#cite_note-100)[[101]](#cite_note-101)[[102]](#cite_note-102)[[103]](#cite_note-103) Her brain has been donated to science to study the effects of [chronic traumatic encephalopathy](/wiki/Chronic_traumatic_encephalopathy) (CTE).[[104]](#cite_note-104)

## In wrestling[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[thumb|right|Triple H and Chyna in 1999](/wiki/File:Chyna_and_Triple_H.jpg)

* **Finishing moves**
  + [DDT](/wiki/DDT_(professional_wrestling))[[49]](#cite_note-49)\*\* [Gorilla press slam](/wiki/Gorilla_press_slam)[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[105]](#cite_note-105)[[106]](#cite_note-106)\*\* *Pedigree* ([Double underhook facebuster](/wiki/Facebuster#Double_underhook_facebuster))<ref name=Cage>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>[[24]](#cite_note-24)\*\* [Powerbomb](/wiki/Powerbomb)[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[107]](#cite_note-107)[[108]](#cite_note-108)\*\* [Sleeper slam](/wiki/Professional_wrestling_throws#Sleeper_slam)[[109]](#cite_note-109)\* **Signature moves**
  + [Handspring](/wiki/Professional_wrestling_attacks#Handspring) [back elbow](/wiki/Professional_wrestling_attacks#Back_elbow)[[49]](#cite_note-49)\*\* [Jawbreaker](/wiki/Professional_wrestling_throws#Jawbreaker)[[49]](#cite_note-49)\*\* [Low blow](/wiki/Professional_wrestling_attacks#Low_blow)[[28]](#cite_note-28)\*\* [Testicular claw](/wiki/Professional_wrestling_attacks#Testicular_claw)
  + [Powerslam](/wiki/Powerslam)[[24]](#cite_note-24)\* **Wrestlers** [**managed**](/wiki/Manager_(professional_wrestling))
  + [Triple H](/wiki/Triple_H)
  + [Billy Gunn](/wiki/Billy_Gunn)
  + [The Corporation](/wiki/The_Corporation_(professional_wrestling))[[24]](#cite_note-24)\*\* [D-Generation X](/wiki/D-Generation_X)[[24]](#cite_note-24)[[28]](#cite_note-28)\*\* [Eddie Guerrero](/wiki/Eddie_Guerrero)[[110]](#cite_note-110)\*\* [Chris Jericho](/wiki/Chris_Jericho)
* **Nicknames**
  + "The Ninth Wonder of the World"[[111]](#cite_note-111)[[3]](#cite_note-3)\*\* "Mamacita" (while managing Eddie Guerrero)
* [**Entrance themes**](/wiki/Music_in_professional_wrestling)
  + "Break it Down" by [The DX Band](/wiki/Chris_Warren_(musician)) (WWF; used as a member of D-Generation X)[[112]](#cite_note-112)\*\* "No Chance in Hell" by [Jim Johnston](/wiki/Jim_Johnston_(composer)) (WWF; used as a member of The Corporation)[[113]](#cite_note-113)\*\* "My Time" by The DX Band (WWF; used while managing Triple H)<ref name=wwf4>[Template:Cite video](/wiki/Template:Cite_video)</ref>
  + "Latino Heat" by Jim Johnston (WWF; used while managing Eddie Guerrero)
  + "Who I Am" by Jim Johnston<ref name=anth>[Template:Cite video](/wiki/Template:Cite_video)</ref> (WWF, 1999 – 2001)
  + "Hell on Heels" by Dale Oliver (TNA)

## Championships and accomplishments[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

* **International Wrestling Federation**
  + IWF Women's Championship (1 time)[[49]](#cite_note-49)\* **Ladies International Wrestling Association**
  + Rookie of the Year (1998)[[114]](#cite_note-114)\* [**Professional Girl Wrestling Association**](/wiki/Professional_Girl_Wrestling_Association)
  + Rookie of the Year (1996)[[49]](#cite_note-49)\* [**Pro Wrestling Illustrated**](/wiki/Pro_Wrestling_Illustrated)
  + PWI ranked her #**106** of the top 500 singles wrestlers of the year in the [PWI 500](/wiki/PWI_500) in 2000[[115]](#cite_note-115)\* [**World Wrestling Federation**](/wiki/World_Wrestling_Entertainment)
  + [WWF Intercontinental Championship](/wiki/WWE_Intercontinental_Championship) ([3 times](/wiki/List_of_WWE_Intercontinental_Champions))1[[116]](#cite_note-116)[[117]](#cite_note-117)[[118]](#cite_note-118)\*\* [WWF Women's Championship](/wiki/WWE_Women's_Championship_(1956–2010)) ([1 time](/wiki/List_of_WWE_Women's_Champions))<ref name=WomenTitle>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

## List of other media appearances[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

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|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Television roles** | | | |
| **Year:** | **Title:** | **Episodes:** | **Role:** |
| 1996 | [*Pacific Blue*](/wiki/Pacific_Blue_(TV_series)) | "One Kiss Goodbye" | Frank Finlay |
| 1999 | *The Martin Short Show* | #1.44 | Herself |
| rowspan=4|2000 | [*3rd Rock from the Sun*](/wiki/3rd_Rock_from_the_Sun) | "This Little Dick Went to Market" "The Big Giant Head Returns Again: Part 1 and 2" | Janice |
| [*Pacific Blue*](/wiki/Pacific_Blue_(TV_series)) | "Kidnapped" | Tonya Sweet |  |
| [*Mad TV*](/wiki/MADtv) | #6.5 | Herself |  |
| [*MTV Cribs*](/wiki/MTV_Cribs) | "Laurer, [Tony Hawk](/wiki/Tony_Hawk), and [Usher](/wiki/Usher_(entertainer))" | Herself |  |
| rowspan=3|2001 | [*Celebrity Deathmatch*](/wiki/Celebrity_Deathmatch) | "Where Is Einstein's Brain?" | Herself |
| [*Tracker*](/wiki/Tracker_(TV_series)) | "Pilot" | Rhee |  |
| [*Fear Factor*](/wiki/Fear_Factor) | "First Celebrity Fear Factor" | Herself |  |
| rowspan=7|2002 | [*Tracker*](/wiki/Tracker_(TV_series)) | "Remember When" | Rhee |
| [*Sabrina, the Teenage Witch*](/wiki/Sabrina,_the_Teenage_Witch_(TV_series)) | "Driving Mr. Goodman" | Mary Jo Ponder |  |
| [*The Nick Cannon Show*](/wiki/The_Nick_Cannon_Show) | "Nick Takes Over Fitness" | Herself |  |
| [*Relic Hunter*](/wiki/Relic_Hunter) | "Antianeirai" | Natasha Tripova |  |
| [*Whose Line Is It Anyway?*](/wiki/Whose_Line_Is_It_Anyway?_(U.S._TV_series)) | #5.8 | Herself |  |
| [*Celebrity Boxing 2*](/wiki/Celebrity_Boxing#Second_episode) |  | Herself |  |
| [*The Anna Nicole Show*](/wiki/The_Anna_Nicole_Show) | "The Anna Nicole Show Holiday Special" | Herself |  |
| 2005 | [*The Surreal Life*](/wiki/The_Surreal_Life) | Series role | Herself |
| 2006 | [*My Fair Brady*](/wiki/My_Fair_Brady) | "Love On the Rocks (Therapy Part 1)" | Herself |
| 2007 | [*The Surreal Life: Fame Games*](/wiki/The_Surreal_Life:_Fame_Games) | Series role | Herself |
| 2008 | [*Celebrity Rehab*](/wiki/Celebrity_Rehab_with_Dr._Drew) | Series role | Herself |

[Template:Col-2](/wiki/Template:Col-2)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Movie roles** | | |
| **Year:** | **Title:** | **Role:** |
| 1999 | [*Beyond the Mat*](/wiki/Beyond_the_Mat) | Herself |
| 2000 | *Chyna Fitness: More Than Meets the Eye* | Herself |
| rowspan=2|2001 | *Alien Fury: Countdown to Invasion* | Ava Zurich |
| [*On the Line*](/wiki/On_the_Line_(2001_film)) | One of Rod's dates |  |
| rowspan=2|2002 | *Frank McKlusky, C.I.* | Freeda |
| *Joanie Laurer Warrior Princess* | Herself |  |
| rowspan=2|2003 | *Hunter: Back in Force* | Brandy Rose |
| *Romp* (short) | Lulu |  |
| 2005 | *101 Reasons Not to Be a Pro Wrestler* | Herself |
| rowspan=1|2006 | [*Just Another Romantic Wrestling Comedy*](/wiki/Just_Another_Romantic_Wrestling_Comedy) | Roxanne |
| rowspan=2|2007 | [*Illegal Aliens*](/wiki/Illegal_Aliens_(film)) | Rex |
| [*Cougar Club*](/wiki/Cougar_Club) | Teddy Archibald |  |
| rowspan=1|2011 | [*Losing Control*](/wiki/Losing_Control) | Barb |
| rowspan=1|2012 | *A Night at the Silent Movie Theater* | Sexy Drummer |
| rowspan=1|2013 | *White T* | Psychic |

[Template:Col-end](/wiki/Template:Col-end)

## Footnotes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

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* [Template:Professional wrestling profiles](/wiki/Template:Professional_wrestling_profiles)
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