

Ellen McLain

Ellen McLain (born December 1, 1952) is an American soprano and voice actress. She is best known for providing the voice of GLaDOS, the primary antagonist of the *Portal* video game series, the Combine Overwatch in *Half-Life 2*, and the Administrator, the announcer in *Team Fortress 2*. Her voice roles also include the Jaeger A.I. in *Pacific Rim*^[1] and The Witch in *Left 4 Dead* and *Left 4 Dead 2*.

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Career

McLain provides voices for many characters in several video games from Valve. Among them are GLaDOS, the primary antagonist of the *Portal* video game series (for which she won an AIAS Interactive Achievement Award for Outstanding Achievement in Character Performance), the announcer in *Team Fortress 2*; and the voice of the Combine Overwatch for the *Half-Life 2* series.^[2]

McLain sang "Still Alive" and "Want You Gone", the ending credits songs to *Portal* and *Portal 2*, respectively, both of which were written by Jonathan Coulton.^[3] She sang "Cara Mia Addio" at the end of *Portal 2*. It is sometimes called the "Turret Opera".^[4] In December 2011, McLain won the Spike Video Game Award in the category "Best Performance by a Human Female" for her voice acting as GLaDOS in *Portal 2*.^[5]

In 2013, she lent her public support to gathering donations for the Kickstarter-funded LGBT gaming convention GaymerX.^[6] She later was a special guest at the convention in August 2013. In 2014, she portrayed Fairy Godmother in the online video series *[Wish It Inc.]*.^[7] In 2015, she portrayed Lisa Clarke in the gay independent film, *Winning Dad*.^[8] This film was also promoted on Ellen's YouTube channel.

McLain has played roles in many radio dramas on the radio program *Imagination Theatre*.^[9]

Personal life

Ellen McLain



McLain at the 2017 Game On Expo

Born	December 1, 1952 <div>Nashville, Tennessee, U.S.</div>
Occupation	Singer, voice actress
Years active	2004–present
Spouse(s)	John Patrick Lowrie (m. 1986)
Website	ellenmclain.net (http://ellenmclain.net)

McLain has been married to fellow voice actor John Patrick Lowrie since 1986.^[10] In *Half-Life 2*, her husband voiced the male citizens who assist the player character, Gordon Freeman. In *Team Fortress 2*, Lowrie voices the Sniper.^[11] McLain now spends her days as a voice instructor, teaching at local community and children's theatres.

Filmography

Film

Year	Title	Role(s)	Notes
2013	<i><u>Pacific Rim</u></i>	Gipsy Danger AI ^[12] ^[13]	
2014	<i>Winning Dad</i>	Lisa Clarke	
	<i>Wish It Inc.</i>	The Fairy Godmother	
2017	<i><u>The Gamers: The Shadow Menace</u></i>	Lorraine Richards	
2018	<i><u>Pacific Rim: Uprising</u></i>	Gipsy Avenger AI ^[12]	

Television

Year	Title	Role(s)	Notes
2016	<i><u>Bee and PuppyCat</u></i>	TempBot	6 episodes

Video games

Year	Title	Role(s)	Notes
2004	<i>Half-Life 2</i>	Combine Overwatch ^[12]	
2006	<i>Half-Life 2: Episode One</i>		
2007	<i>Half-Life 2: Episode Two</i>		
	<i>Portal</i>	GLaDOS / Turrets / Curiosity Core / Cake Core ^{[12][14]}	AIAS Interactive Achievement Award for Outstanding Achievement in Character Performance Sings "Still Alive" Uncredited as "Curiosity Core" and "Cake Core" See also: <i>Critical reception to Portal and reception to GLaDOS</i>
	<i>Team Fortress 2</i>	The Administrator ^[12]	Also referred to as "The Announcer" or "Helen"
	<i>Godzilla: Unleashed</i>	Vorticia	Features only in cutscenes
2008	<i>Left 4 Dead</i>	The Witch	
2009	<i>Left 4 Dead 2</i>		
2011	<i>Portal 2</i>	GLaDOS / Turrets / Caroline ^[12]	Sings "Want You Gone" and " <u>Cara Mia Addio</u> " Uncredited as "Caroline"
	<i>Defense Grid: The Awakening</i>	GLaDOS	Appears in the DLC "You Monster"
2012	<i>Dota 2</i>	Broodmother / Death Prophet / GLaDOS Announcer	
2013	<i>Poker Night 2</i>	GLaDOS ^[12]	Appears in a supporting role as the game's card dealer
2015	<i>Lego Dimensions</i>	GLaDOS / Turrets / Cake Core	Appears in a supporting role Sings "You Wouldn't Know"
2017	<i>Bridge Constructor Portal</i>	GLaDOS ^[12]	
	<i>Electromagnetic Spectrum: The Musical</i>	NOTGLaDOS	
2019	<i>The Church in the Darkness</i>	Rebecca Walker	
2020	<i>Half-Life: Alyx</i>	Combine Overwatch ^{[12][15]}	

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External links

- Official website (<http://ellenmclain.net>)
 - Ellen McLain (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1655889/>) on IMDb
 - Ellen McLain speaking (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FgTXj1I996k>) on YouTube, Anime Midwest 2011 convention
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