

#### Jodi Benson

32 languages

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Jodi Benson (née Marzorati; born October 10, 1961)<sup>[1]</sup> is an American actress, voice actress and singer. She is best known for providing the voice of Ariel in Disney's *The Little Mermaid* (1989), as well as in its its sequel, prequel, and television series spin-off, along with many other Disney works. She is also known for her portrayal of Barbie in the second and third films of the *Toy Story* franchise (1999–2010), and in the *Toy Story Toons* short *Hawaiian Vacation* (2011).

Her other notable voice roles in Disney projects include
Weebo in *Flubber* (1997), Belle (taking over for Paige O'Hara)
in *House of Mouse* (2001–03), Lady (who was originally
voiced by Barbara Luddy) in *Lady and the Tramp II: Scamp's Adventure* (2001) and Anita Radcliffe (originally voiced by Lisa
Davis) in *101 Dalmatians II: Patch's London Adventure* (2003);
she also appeared as Sam in the live-action Disney film *Enchanted* (2007). Outside of Disney, Benson's film credits
include Don Bluth's *Thumbelina* (1994), [2] *Balto II: Wolf Quest*(2002), and *Balto III: Wings of Change* (2004); on television,
she voiced the character of Tula in Hanna-Barbera's *The Pirates of Dark Water* (1991–93), and Jane Doe and Patsy
Smiles in Cartoon Network's *Camp Lazlo* (2005–08). In video
games, she provided the voice of EVA in the *Metal Gear* series
(2004–10).

For her contributions to Disney, Benson was named a Disney Legend in 2011.<sup>[3]</sup>

#### Jodi Benson



Benson in 2023

**Born** Jodi Marzorati

October 10, 1961 (age 63)<sup>[1]</sup>

Rockford, Illinois, U.S.[1]

Other names Suzetta Miñet

Alma mater Millikin University

**Occupations** Actress · voice actress · singer

**Years active** 1982–present

Spouse Ray Benson (m. 1984)

Children 2

Awards Disney Legend (2011)

#### Personal life [edit]

Benson was born and raised in a Catholic family,<sup>[4]</sup> graduating from Boylan Central Catholic High School in Rockford, Illinois,<sup>[5]</sup> and Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois.<sup>[6]</sup>

She experienced a religious conversion while dating actor/singer Ray Benson (not to be confused with frontman Ray Benson of Asleep at the Wheel). The two of them later married in 1984, and eventually had two children, a son (born 1999) and a daughter (born 2001). An article originally published in 2013 by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association said the couple "live north of Atlanta, GA." In May 2024, Benson revealed to 11 Alive News in connection with her upcoming appearance at MomoCon in Atlanta that she lives in the Lake Lanier area.

#### Career [edit]



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Benson made her debut in the 1983 Kenny Ortega-directed *Marilyn: An American Fable*. Other Broadway credits include a starring role in the 1986 Broadway musical *Smile*, where she introduced a song called "Disneyland". In 1987, Howard Ashman, the lyricist of *Smile*, would go on to write the lyrics for *The Little Mermaid*. She describes the song "Disneyland" at the "Smile" Reunion concert held on September 22, 2014, "This is the first piece of the puzzle of my life, the first step of the journey, so to speak". [citation needed] Benson also sings "Disneyland" on a compilation CD called *Unsung Musicals*. In 1989, Benson appeared in the Broadway musical, *Welcome to the Club*, alongside Samuel E. Wright, who performed the voice for Sebastian the Crab in *The Little Mermaid*.

In 1992, Benson received a Tony Award nomination for Best Actress in a Musical for her role as Polly Baker in *Crazy For You*. She played the narrator in *Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* in 1998.

In 2004, Benson voiced the character of EVA in the video game *Metal Gear Solid 3: Snake Eater*. Due to her association with children-oriented projects, she was advised by voice director Kris Zimmerman to adopt a pseudonym for the game; her credited name, "Suzetta Miñet", was coined by Zimmerman based on the name of Benson's pet dog during her childhood, Suzette Monet. For two decades after the game's release, Miñet's true identity was the subject of scrutiny and speculation among fans until Benson officially revealed her involvement during the promotion of the game's remake, *Metal Gear Solid Delta: Snake Eater*, in November 2024. [11][12]

In 2004–06, Benson contributed as the host and narrator of the children's Christian home video series called "Baby Faith", created by Integrity Publishers & FamilyTreeMedia.

In 2007, she played the secretary Sam in Disney's live-action/animated film, *Enchanted*.<sup>[13]</sup> Benson also played the Queen in a one-night concert version of Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella* at the Nashville Symphony Orchestra in May 2010.<sup>[14]</sup>

She was at the 2012 SYTA conference singing her signature song "Part of Your World" on August 27, 2012.

She joined the "2013 Spring Pops" on May 14–15, 2013 as a guest soloist with the Boston Pops. Benson has been a frequent celebrity narrator at Disney's Candlelight Processional at Walt Disney World, appearing most recently in 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2021.<sup>[15]</sup>

Benson can be heard on over a dozen recordings. Her animated TV series include the Emmy Award-winning Camp Lazlo for Cartoon Network, The Little Mermaid, Batman Beyond, The Grim Adventures of Billy & Mandy, The Wild Thornberrys, Barbie, Hercules: Zero to Hero, P. J. Sparkles, and the series Sofia the First for Disney.

On the concert stage, Benson has performed as a concert soloist with symphonies all over the world, including The Boston Pops, The Philly Pops (conductor: Peter Nero), The Hollywood Bowl Orchestra (conductor: John Mauceri), The National Symphony (conductor: Marvin Hamlisch), Cleveland, Dallas, Tokyo, and the San Francisco and Chicago Symphonies. She starred in the Kennedy Center Honors for Ginger Rogers, and in *Disney's Premiere in Central Park with Pocahontas*, *The Walt Disney World 25th Anniversary Spectacular* and *Disney's 100 Years of Magic*. Benson is the resident guest soloist for the Walt Disney Company/Disney Cruise Line and ambassador for feature animation.

On June 6, 2016, Benson performed the role of Ariel at the Hollywood Bowl's concert performance of *The Little Mermaid*.<sup>[16]</sup> She also made a special appearance in ABC's 2019 live musical spectacular *The Little Mermaid Live!* Benson was originally going to reprise her role as Sam in the 2022 film *Disenchanted*, but her scene was cut from the movie. She recently lent her voice to Ariel in the 2022 video game *Disney Dreamlight Valley* as well as singing as Ariel on various Disney Princess albums of the 2000s. From 1992 to 2011 she was the official voice of Barbie for Mattel and Pixar for projects such as *Toy Story* and *Dance! Workout with Barbie*, until the role was taken over by Kate Higgins starting with the series *Life in the Dreamhouse*.

In June 2023, Benson starred as Mama Rose in a concert production of *Gypsy* alongside her daughter Delany at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall in Fort Myers, Florida. [19][20] The two of them reprised their roles in a 2025 production at the OFC Creations Theatre Center in Rochester, New York. [21][22] Benson portrayed Dolly Gallagher Levi in a concert production of *Hello, Dolly!* at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts in Orlando, Florida from June 21-22, 2024. [23]

#### The Little Mermaid [edit]

Ashman. The two had just worked together in the Broadway show *Smile* until its run ended early. He knew she would be the perfect fit for the role and that she would be a great replica of Ariel. [24][25] After hearing the demo for "Part of Your World", she sang a small part of it on tape where it was later sent to Disney executives. Before her audition for *The Little Mermaid*, she was primarily a stage actress. It was Ashman's first Disney project. In early 1988, Benson won the role of Ariel and has been voicing her ever since. [24][26]

She also made a cameo in the 2023 live-action adaptation of the film, directed by Rob Marshall, as a market vendor who hands Ariel (Halle Bailey) a fork during her tour of the kingdom. [27][28]

# $Filmography \ \ [\, \mathsf{edit}\, ]$

#### Film [edit]

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1989	The Little Mermaid	Ariel Vanessa	[29]
1992	Dance! Workout with Barbie	(voice)  Barbie (voice)	Direct-to-video
1994	Thumbelina	Thumbelina (voice)	[29]
1995	Mickey's Fun Songs: Beach Party at Walt Disney World	Ariel (voice)	Direct-to-video
1997	Flubber	Weebo (voice)	[29]
	A Christmas Carol	Belle (voice)	
1998	The Mighty Kong	Ann Darrow (voice)	Direct-to- video <sup>[29]</sup>
	Toy Story 2	Barbie (voice)	[29]
1999	The Crippled Lamb	Abigail Laura Lamb Mary (voice)	
2000	The Little Mermaid II: Return to the Sea	Ariel (voice)	Direct-to-
2000	Joseph: King of Dreams	Asenath (voice)	video <sup>[29]</sup>
2001	Lady and the Tramp II: Scamp's Adventure	Lady (voice)	
2002	Balto: Wolf Quest	Jenna (voice)	



Benson performing "Part of Your World" at the 2022 Phoenix Fan Fusion

	Rapsittie Street Kids: Believe in Santa	Lenee (voice)	Television film <sup>[29]</sup>
	101 Dalmatians II: Patch's London Adventure	Anita Radcliffe (voice)	Direct-to-video <sup>[29]</sup>
2003	K10C: Kids' Ten Commandments	Leila Martha (voice)	[29]
2004	Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind	Lastelle's Mother (voice)	English american version <sup>[29]</sup>
	Balto III: Wings of Change	Jenna (voice)	Direct-to-video <sup>[29]</sup>
2004- 2006	Baby Faith: God Made Me (video series)	Herself (narrator)	Integrity Publishing
2007	Enchanted	Sam	
2008	The Little Mermaid: Ariel's Beginning	Ariel (voice)	Direct-to-video <sup>[29]</sup>
2010	Toy Story 3	Barbie (voice)	[29]
2011	The Little Engine That Could	Jillian (voice)	[29]
2012	Secret of the Wings	Healing-Talent Fairy (voice)	[29]
2018	Ralph Breaks the Internet	Ariel (voice)	[30][29]
2023	The Little Mermaid	Market Vendor	Cameo appearance <sup>[27]</sup>
	Once Upon a Studio	Ariel (voice)	Short film <sup>[31][29]</sup>

## Television [edit]

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1991	Hunter	Police officer	Episode: "Cries of Silence"
1991- 1993	The Pirates of Dark Water	Tula (voice)	21 episodes

1992	P. J. Sparkles	P.J. (voice)	Television special <sup>[29]</sup>
1992- 1994	The Little Mermaid	Princess Ariel (voice)	31 episodes
1995- 1996	Guideposts Junction	Herself	A six-park Christian video series for children
1997	Caroline in the City	Mother	Episode: "Caroline and the Egg"
1998	Pepper Ann	Amber O'Malley (voice)	Episode: "Green Eyed Monster"
1998- 1999	Hercules	Helen of Troy (voice)	10 episodes
2000	The Wild Thornberrys	Mother Cheetah (voice)	Episode: "Cheetahs Never Prosper" <sup>[29]</sup>
	Batman Beyond	Aquagirl (voice)	Episode: "The Call" <sup>[29]</sup>
2001- 2003	House of Mouse	Ariel Belle (voice)	3 episodes
2003	The Brotherhood of Poland, New Hampshire	Choir Soloist	Episode: "Sleeping Lions"
2003- 2004	Duck Dodgers	Captain Tortelli Princess Incense (voice)	2 episodes <sup>[29]</sup>
2004- 2006	The Grim Adventures of Billy & Mandy	Blue Fairy Additional voices	3 episodes
2005- 2008	Camp Lazlo	Patsy Smiles  Ms. Jane Doe  Almondine (voice)	21 episodes <sup>[29]</sup>
2011	Toy Story Toons	Barbie (voice)	Episode: "Hawaiian Vacation"[29]
2013- 2018	Sofia the First	Ariel Queen Emmaline (voice)	2 episodes <sup>[29]</sup>
2015	Star vs. the Forces of Evil	Singing Teacher (voice)	Episode: "St. Olga's Reform School for Wayward Princesses"
2016	Clarence	Diana (voice)	Episode: "The Tails of Mardrynia"
2019	The Little Mermaid Live!	Herself	Television special

2022-	The Wingfeather Saga	Nia Igiby	Main role
present	The Willgleather Saga	Wingfeather (voice)	Main role
2022	The Loud House	Tammy Gobblesworth (voice)	Episode: "Flip This Flip"
2023	Lego Disney Princess: The Castle Quest	Princess Ariel (voice)	Television special <sup>[29]</sup>
2025	Sweet Magnolias	Iris Maddox	Recurring role <sup>[32]</sup>

### Video games [edit]

Year	Title	Voice role	Notes
1997	Disney's Animated Storybook	Princess Ariel	
1998	A Bug's Life	Atta	Replacing Julia Louis-Dreyfus <sup>[29]</sup>
1999	Disney's Arcade Frenzy	Princess Ariel	
	Grandia II	Millenia	[29]
2000	Grandia II	Reena	
	Disney's Aladdin in Nasira's Revenge	Nasira	
2002	Kingdom Hearts	Princess Ariel	English american version
	Metal Gear Solid 3: Snake Eater	EVA	English american version
2004			credited as "Suzetta Miñet"[33]
	Onimusha 3: Demon Siege	Mother	[29]
2005	Kingdom Hearts II	Princess Ariel	English american version
2007	Disney Princess: Enchanted Journey	Fillicess Allei	
2010	Metal Gear Solid: Peace Walker	EVA	English american version
2010	Wetai Geal Solid. Feace Walkel	LVA	Credited as "Suzetta Miñet"
2011	Kinect: Disneyland Adventures		
2012	Disney Princess: My Fairytale Adventure	Princess Ariel	
2022	Disney Dreamlight Valley	FIIIICESS ATTEL	[29]
2024	Disney Speedstorm		
2024	Metal Gear Solid Delta: Snake Eater	EVA	English american version

# Theme parks [edit]

Ye	ar Title	Voice role
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2003	Mickey's PhilharMagic	Princess Ariel	
2011	The Little Mermaid: Ariel's Undersea Adventure	FIIIICESS AIIEI	

# Stage [edit]

Year	Title	Role(s)	Notes
1982	Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat	Ensemble <sup>[34]</sup>	
1983	Marilyn: An American Fable	Factory Girl	Broadway debut
1903	Maniyii. Ali American Fable	Ensemble <sup>[34]</sup>	broadway debut
1984	Sophisticated Ladies	Performer <sup>[34]</sup>	
1986	Smile	Doria Hudson <sup>[34]</sup>	
1988	Dangerous Music	Performer <sup>[35]</sup>	
1989	Welcome to the Club	Betty Bursteter <sup>[34]</sup>	
1990	Chess	Florence <sup>[36]</sup>	
1992	Crazy for You	Polly Baker <sup>[34]</sup>	
1998	Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat	Narrator <sup>[37]</sup>	
2025	Gypsy	Mama Rose <sup>[38]</sup>	

# Discography [edit]

Year	Album	Notes
1989	The Little Mermaid: Original Motion Picture Soundtrack	
1990	Sebastian from The Little Mermaid	
1001	Precious Moments: Timmy's Gift	Performed the song Starlight Theme
1991	Jodi Benson Sings Songs From the Beginner's Bible I	
	Jodi Benson Sings Songs From the Beginner's Bible II	
1992	The Little Mermaid: Songs from the Sea	
	Crazy for You Cast Recording	
1993	The Little Mermaid: Splash Hits	
1994	Unsung Musicals	
1994	Thumbelina: Original Motion Picture Soundtrack	
1995	Songs of Guideposts Junction	

1996	Hollywood Christmas	Various artists
2000	Songs from The Little Mermaid II: Return to the Sea & More!	
2004	Disney Princess: The Ultimate Song Collection	
2004	Disney Princess Music Hits	
2005	Disney's Princess Christmas Album	
2005	Disney Princess Tea Party	
2006	Ultimate Disney Princess	

### Awards and nominations [edit]

Year <sup>[a]</sup>	Award	Category	Title	Result
1992	Tony Award	Best Actress in a Musical	Crazy for You	Nominated
2001	Annie Awards	Outstanding Individual Achievement for Voice Acting by a Female Performer in an Animated Feature Production	Lady and the Tramp II: Scamp's Adventure	Nominated
2011	Disney Legend Award	Animation Voice	The Little Mermaid	Won
2011	EDA Female Focus Awards	Best Animated Female	Toy Story 3	Nominated

## $Notes \ [\, \mathsf{edit}\, ]$

a. ^ Indicates the year of ceremony. Each year is linked to the article about the awards held that year, wherever possible.

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- 4. ^ a b Gaither, Gloria (August 1, 2011). "Part Of Her World: Jodi Benson" . Homecoming Magazine. Archived from the original on December 20, 2016. Retrieved December 3, 2016. "I was born and raised in a Catholic environment, she has a sister. I would say it was a little more cultural than spiritual a little bit more religious than relational. And I was drawing toward the Lord in middle school, but I didn't quite know how to have that personal relationship at the time. When I started dating my husband at 18, he introduced me to Christ, and asked, "Do you have a relationship with Jesus?" And I said, "I love Him, and I know He's the Son of God, but I don't think I have a relationship with Him like I can talk to Him by myself without going through the priest and stuff." And so, I had a really big conversion when I was 19, and Ray is responsible for opening that relationship for me."
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#### External links [edit]

- Jodi Benson at IMDb
- Jodi Benson at the TCM Movie Database
- Jodi Benson at the Internet Broadway Database
- Jodi Benson at the Disney Legends Website
- Performance Working in the Theatre seminar video at American Theatre Wing.org, April 1992



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V•T•E		Disney Legends Awards (2010s)							
2011		Jodi Benson · Barton "Bo" Boyd* · Jim Henson* · Linda Larkin · Paige O'Hara · Regis Philbin · Anika Noni Rose · Lea Salonga · Raymond Watson · Guy Williams* · Bonita Granville Wrather* · Jack Wrather*							
2013	Tony Baxter · Collin Campbell · Dick Clark* · Billy Crystal · John Goodman · Steve Jobs* · Glen Keane · Ed Wynn*								
2015	George Bodenheimer · Julie Reihm Casaletto · Andreas Deja · Johnny Depp · Eyvind Earle* · Danny Elfman · Susan Lucci · George Lucas · Carson Van Osten								
2017	Clyde Geronimi* · Whoopi Goldberg · Manuel Gonzales* · Carrie Fisher* · Mark Hamill · Jack Kirby* · Wayne Jackson · Stan Lee · Garry Marshall* · Julie Taymor · Oprah Winfrey								
2019	Christina Aguilera · Wing T. Chao · Robert Downey Jr. · Jon Favreau · James Earl Jones · Bette Midler · Kenny Ortega · Barnette Ricci · Robin Roberts · Diane Sawyer · Ming-Na Wen · Hans Zimmer								
		* Awarded posthumously							
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Artists		MusicBrainz							
Other		SNAC							

Categories: 1961 births | Living people | 20th-century American actresses | 20th-century American women singers | 20th-century American singers | 20th-century evangelicals | 21st-century American actresses | 21st-century American women singers | 21st-century evangelicals | Actresses from Rockford, Illinois | Musicians from Rockford, Illinois | American evangelicals | American film actresses | American musical theatre actresses | American sopranos | American video game actresses | American voice actresses | Audiobook narrators | Disney Legends | Former Roman Catholics | Traditional pop music singers

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