



Erin Gray

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For the American basketball player, see [Aaron Gray](#). For the Australian rugby league player, see [Aaron Gray \(rugby league\)](#).

Erin Gray (born January 7, 1950)^[2] is an American actress who began her career as a [model](#). She has also worked as a [casting agent](#). Her roles include Colonel [Wilma Deering](#) in the [science fiction](#) television series *[Buck Rogers in the 25th Century](#)* and Kate Summers-Stratton in the [situation comedy](#) *[Silver Spoons](#)*.

Early life [\[edit \]](#)

When Gray was eight, her parents separated.^[3] Gray lived with her grandparents in [Palm Springs, California](#), for a few years. Eventually she and her mother moved to [Larkspur, California](#).^[*citation needed*]

Gray attended [Redwood High School](#)^[3] and finished her last semester at [Pacific Palisades High School](#). She briefly attended college at [UCLA](#), [majoring](#) in mathematics,^[3] but she left school to pursue a career in modeling and moved to New York.^[*citation needed*]

Career [\[edit \]](#)

Gray started her career in modeling. She entered her first contest and won a modeling assignment in [St. Louis](#) when she was 14 years old.^[4] Commercials followed in [Los Angeles](#). She also appeared on television in 1967 as a dancer in *[Malibu U](#)*. However, she decided to move to [New York City](#) to further her modeling career. "By 1975, Gray was one of the nation's top TV models, earning \$100,000 a year."^[3] Having developed an interest in acting, she auditioned for parts during her frequent trips to Los Angeles.^{[5][6][7][8]}

Erin Gray



Gray at the [Big Apple Comic Con](#) in 2009

Born	January 7, 1950 (age 75) <div>Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii, U.S.^[1]</div>
Education	University of California, Los Angeles
Occupation	Actress
Years active	1967–present
Known for	Colonel Wilma Deering – <i>Buck Rogers in the 25th Century</i> Kate Summers-Stratton – <i>Silver Spoons</i>
Spouses	<div><div>Ken Schwartz</div><div>(m. 1968; div. 1990)</div><div>Richard Hissong</div><div>(m. 1991)</div></div>
Children	2

In 1978, she landed her first starring role, on the miniseries *Evening in Byzantium*. Following good notices, Gray was put on a seven-year contract at [Universal Studios](#), which led directly to her taking the role of Colonel [Wilma Deering](#) in *Buck Rogers in the 25th Century*, at first for a theatrically released movie, then for a weekly TV series.^[9] Gray, wearing a Spandex jumpsuit, was popular with the show's predominantly young male audience.^[10]

Gray was aware of the sexiness of her tight uniform. Her character, the female lead, also had a high profile in the show, second only to [Gil Gerard](#) in the starring role and representing an early example of a strong female character in a science fiction setting. Gray was seen as an important role model for female viewers, as she explained to an interviewer:

I was the first female [colonel](#). I enjoyed being that kind of role model for young women watching the show. A woman can be a colonel! A woman can be in charge! Those were new ideas then.^[11]

Shortly after *Buck Rogers*, Gray appeared in the first season *Magnum, P.I. episode*, "J. 'Digger' Doyle", in which she played security expert Joy 'Digger' Doyle. The role was intended to become recurring, and even possibly [spun off](#) into a separate series, but neither happened, and it remained the character's only appearance in the series.^[12] In 1982, Gray played the role of Lilah in the summer [feature film](#) *Six Pack* as [Kenny Rogers](#)' love interest. Gray's role as Kate Summers in the TV sitcom *Silver Spoons* lasted for several years in the 1980s.^[9] When that show ended, she took regular film and TV work; she appeared in an episode of *Superboy* and *Murder, She Wrote*. In 1993, Gray had a featured role in *Jason Goes to Hell: The Final Friday*, the ninth entry in the *Friday the 13th* series. She also appeared in the 2005 film *Siren*.

In 2010, Gray and Gil Gerard returned to *Buck Rogers* by playing the characters' parents in the [pilot episode](#) of the *Buck Rogers* [web series](#).^[13] Among her work in commercials^[14] was a 2010 [spot](#) for Pup-Peroni dog treats.^[15]

Gray is now a [casting agent](#)^{[14][16]} whose agency, Heroes for Hire, specializes in booking sci-fi and fantasy stars for personal appearances, speaking engagements, and charity events.^{[9][17]} Gray also teaches [tai chi](#).^{[14][18][19]}

In 1998, Gray wrote a book, *Act Right*, with Mara Purl which contains advice for novice television and movie actors.^[20] A revised edition was published in 2002.^[21]

Gray starred in the 2011 film *Dreams Awake* (with *Alien Nation* co-star [Gary Graham](#)). She also played the role of Madeline Twain on the [web series](#) *The Guild*.

Gray [guest-starred](#) in the 2014 webisode "Lolani" from the web series *Star Trek Continues* as Commodore Gray, an episode that also starred [Lou Ferrigno](#). Commodore Gray reappears in 2016, with the seventh episode "[Embracing the Winds](#)."

Personal life [\[edit \]](#)

Gray has been married twice. She met Ken Schwartz in [high school](#)^[3] and their marriage lasted from 1968 to 1990, during which they had one son, Kevan Ray Schwartz, born in 1976. Ken Schwartz, a successful real estate executive, remained in New York with their young son when Gray first started working on *Buck Rogers*, and eventually moved to Los Angeles to work as her manager when her acting career flourished.^[3] They divorced in 1990.

Gray married Richard Hissong in 1991, and their daughter, Samantha, was born the same year. Samantha plays Buck Rogers' girlfriend, Maddy, in the pilot episode of [James Cawley's](#) *Buck Rogers* Internet video series.^[22]

Gray is also active in the fight against child exploitation.^[23]

Filmography [[edit](#)]

Film [[edit](#)]

Year	Title	Role ^{[<i>citation needed</i>]}	Notes
1979	<i>Buck Rogers in the 25th Century</i>	Colonel Wilma Deering	
	<i>Winter Kills</i>	Beautiful Woman Three	
1982	<i>Six Pack</i>	Lilah	
1989	<i>The Princess and the Dwarf</i>	Unknown	
1993	<i>Jason Goes to Hell: The Final Friday</i>	Diana Kimble	
1994	<i>A Dangerous Place</i>	Audrey	
	<i>T-Force</i>	Mayor Pendleton	
2000	<i>The Last Producer</i>	Dee Freeman	
	<i>Woman's Story</i>	Laurel Warner	
	<i>Delicate Instruments</i>	Jessica Livingston	Short
2001	<i>Serial Intentions</i>	Virginia Madden	
	<i>Touched by a Killer</i>	Liza Collins	
	<i>Social Misfits</i>	Sharon Cox, Mitsy's Mom	
2002	<i>Clover Bend</i>	Betty Clayton	
	<i>Special Weapons and Tactics</i>	The Mayor	Short
2003	<i>Manfast</i>	Gloria Day	
2005	<i>Caught in the Headlights</i>	Mrs. Jones	
2006	<i>Siren</i>	Sharon Cox	

2007	<i>Jane Doe: How to Fire Your Boss</i>	Laura Sands	
2008	<i>Nuclear Hurricane</i>	Jane	
	<i>The Wedding Video</i>	Carol	
2008	<i>Loaded</i>	Susan Price	
	<i>My True Self</i>	Mrs. Ellen Fields	
2009	<i>Hunter Prey</i>	Clea	
2011	<i>Dreams Awake</i>	Hope Emrys	
2012	<i>Nesting</i>	Mrs. Deegan	
2013	<i>Crystal Lake Memories: The Complete History of Friday the 13th</i>	Herself	Documentary film ^[24]
2014	<i>Christmas in Palm Springs</i>	Mayor Tomlin	
2017	<i>In-World War</i>	Mother	
2019	<i>Finding Grace</i>	Judge Ariel Harper	
	<i>A Christmas Princess</i>	Queen Alice of Edgemont	

Television [[edit](#)]

Year	Title	Role ^{[<i>citation needed</i>]}	Notes
1976	<i>Maude</i>	Model (uncredited)	1 episode: "The Game Show"
1978	<i>Police Story</i>	Laurie Tice	1 episode: "Day of Terror... Night of Fear"
	<i>Evening in Byzantium</i>	Gail McKinnon	TV movie
1979	<i>The Rockford Files</i>	Margaret 'Alta' Hatch	1 episode: "With the French Heel Back, Can the Nehru Jacket Be Far Behind?"
	<i>The Ultimate Impostor</i>	Beatrice 'Bucky' Tate	TV movie
	<i>B. J. and the Bear</i>	Samantha Evans	1 episode: "Cain's Cruiser"
1979–1981	<i>Buck Rogers in the 25th Century</i>	Colonel Wilma Deering	Female lead, entire run (32 episodes)
1980	<i>Vegas</i>	Jennifer Stallings	1 episode: "Black Cat Killer"
	<i>Coach of the Year</i>	Paula DeFalco	TV movie
1980-1982	<i>Fantasy Island</i>	Laura Jensen / Carla Marco	2 episodes: "Face of Love/Image of Celeste", "Skater's Edge/Concerto of

			Death/The Last Great Race"
1980	<i>The Love Boat</i>	Maggie Cook, Agent to Mr. Swaggart	Season 4 Episode 9: "Maggie Cook"
1981	<i>Magnum, P.I.</i>	Joy 'Digger' Doyle	1 episode: "J."Digger" Doyle"
1982	<i>The Fall Guy</i>	Bonnie Carlson	2 episodes: "License to Kill: Parts 1 & 2"
	<i>Simon & Simon</i>	Vicki Whittaker	1 episode: "Matchmaker"
	<i>Born Beautiful</i>	Betsy Forrest	TV movie
1982–1987	<i>Silver Spoons</i>	Kate Summers-Stratton	5 seasons; 116 episodes
1985	<i>Code of Vengeance</i>	Nadine Flowers	1 episode: "Code of Vengeance"
1986	<i>Hotel</i>	Vanessa Clark	1 episode: "Façades"
1987	<i>Starman</i>	Jenny Hayden	2 episodes: "Starscape: Parts 1 & 2"
	<i>Breaking Home Ties</i>	Carol	TV movie
1988	<i>Perry Mason: The Case of the Avenging Ace</i>	Captain Terry O'Malley	TV movie
	<i>Addicted to His Love</i>	Jenny Barrett	TV movie
	<i>Murder, She Wrote</i>	Andrea Dean	1 episode: "Wearing of the Green"
1989	<i>The Hitchhiker</i>	Leslie	1 episode: "Together Forever"
	<i>Hunter</i>	Kate Lawson	1 episode: "On Air"
1990	<i>L.A. Law</i>	Rochelle Peters	1 episode: "Ex-Wives and Videotape"
	<i>Laker Girls</i>	Julie Lawrence	TV movie
	<i>Jake and the Fatman</i>	Jill Crockett	1 episode: "I Know That You Know"
1991	<i>Evening Shade</i>	Madeline Hall	1 episode: "Wood and Ava and Gil and Madeline"
	<i>The New Lassie</i>	Maggie Sullivan	1 episode: "Leeds, the Judge"
1992	<i>Superboy</i>	Samantha Meyers	1 episode: "Cat and Mouse"
	<i>Dark Justice</i>	Chelsea Manning	1 episode: "The Specialist"
	<i>Les Danseurs du Mozambique</i>	Kathryn Saint	TV movie
1993	<i>Almost Home</i>	Jennifer	1 episode: "Sleeping with the Enemy"
	<i>Bonkers</i>	Shirley	1 episode: "Quibbling Rivalry"
	<i>Official Denial</i>	Annie Corliss	TV movie

1993–1996	<i>Silk Stalkings</i>	Connie Bayliss / Jillian Borson	2 episodes: "Dead Weight", "Exit Dying"
1994	<i>Honor Thy Father and Mother: The True Story of the Menendez Murders</i>	Pamela Bozanich	TV movie
	<i>Burke's Law</i>	Brenda Palmer	1 episode: "Who Killed the Anchorman?"
	<i>Heaven Help Us</i>	Unknown	1 episode: "The Belle's Farewell"
1995	<i>Crowfoot</i>	Nora	TV movie
	<i>Renegade</i>	Donna MacKenzie	1 episode: "Dead Heat"
1997–1998	<i>Baywatch</i>	Chief Monica Johnson	5 episodes
1999–2000	<i>Port Charles</i>	Nicole Devlin	
2000	<i>Profiler</i>	Congresswoman Karen Archer	3 episodes: "Paradise Lost", "The Long Way Home", "Mea Culpa"
2007	<i>The Wedding Bells</i>	Candy Heller	1 episode: "Wedding from Hell"
	<i>Nuclear Hurricane</i>	Jane	TV movie
2008	<i>Ghouls</i>	Liz	TV movie
2010	<i>Elf Sparkle and the Special Red Dress</i>	Josette Peacock	TV movie
2011	<i>The Guild</i>	Madeleine Twain	5 episodes
2012	<i>I Married Who?</i>	Ethel Swift	TV movie
2013	<i>TableTop</i>	Herself	1 episode: "Unspeakable Words"
2014	<i>Star Trek Continues</i>	Commodore Gray	2 episodes: "Lolani", "Embracing the Winds"
2016	<i>A Perfect Christmas</i>	Patricia	TV movie
2017	<i>Mystery Science Theater 3000</i>	Martha Masters	1 episode: "Reptilicus"
2018	<i>The Thundermans</i>	"Nana" Thunderman	Episode: Make it Pop Pop

Video game [[edit](#)]

Year	Title	Role
2009	<i>Ghostbusters: The Video Game</i>	Spider Witch / Additional Voices

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