

Hilary duff

Background information

Birth name	Hilary Erhard Duff
Born	September 28, 1987 (age 22) Houston, Texas, United States
Genres	Pop , dance , rock
Occupations	Actress, singer, songwriter, fashion designer, film producer, spokesperson
Instruments	Vocals
Years active	1997–present
Labels	Hollywood , Buena Vista
Website	www.hilaryduff.com/

Hilary Erhard Duff (born September 28, 1987) is an American actress and recording artist. After working in local theater plays and television commercials in her childhood, Duff gained fame for playing the title role in the television series *Lizzie McGuire*. Duff subsequently ventured into feature films, with her most commercially successful movies being *Cheaper by the Dozen* (2003), *The Lizzie McGuire Movie* (2003), and *A Cinderella Story* (2004).

Duff expanded her repertoire into pop music with the release of three RIAA-certified platinum albums and over thirteen million records sold worldwide as of February 2007.^[1] Her first studio album, *Metamorphosis* (2003), was certified triple platinum and she followed it up with two more platinum albums, *Hilary Duff* (2004) and *Most Wanted* (2005). Duff had a musical comeback with the release of her third studio album, *Dignity* (2007), which was certified gold in August 2007^[2] and released two singles, "With Love", her biggest US single to date and "Stranger". In November 2008, she released another Greatest Hits compilation, *Best of Hilary Duff* with her third #1 on the Billboard Hot Dance Club Play single "Reach Out".

Duff has also launched clothing lines including, "Stuff by Hilary Duff", and Femme for DKNY Jeans and two exclusive perfume collections with Elizabeth Arden. Duff and her mother were listed as producers for the movie *Material Girls*. Duff is credited as executive producer for the upcoming independent film *Greta*.^[3]

Duff was born in Houston, Texas on September 28, 1987.^[4] She is the second child of Susan Colleen (née Cobb), a homemaker and a film producer, and husband Robert Erhard Duff, a partner in a chain of convenience stores, who resides at the family home in Houston to maintain the family's convenience store business.^[5] She has an elder

sister, Haylie Duff, who is also an actress/singer. Duff's mother encouraged Hilary to take up acting classes alongside her elder sister, Haylie, which resulted in both girls winning roles in various local theatre productions.^[6] At the ages of eight and six, respectively, the Duff sisters participated in the ballet, *The Nutcracker Suite* with Columbus Ballet Met in San Antonio.^[4] The siblings became more enthusiastic about the idea of choosing acting as a profession, and eventually relocated to California with their mother. Duff's father stayed at the family home in Houston to take care of their business^{[5][6]} After several years of auditions and meetings, the Duff sisters were cast in various television commercials.^[5]

Career

Early work

Duff's early career was marked by playing minor roles, starting off with an unaccredited appearance in Hallmark Entertainment's western miniseries *True Women* in 1997. She also served as an unaccredited extra; in writer-director Willard Carroll's ensemble dreamed *Playing by Heart* in 1998. Her first major role was as a star of the 1998 film *Casper Meets Wendy*, a direct-to-video sequel to *Casper: A Spirited Beginning* in which she plays the young witch Wendy, who befriends the animated character Casper. The film was released to mostly unenthusiastic reviews.^{[7][8]}

In 1999, Duff appeared in a supporting role in the television film *The Soul Collector*, which was based on a Kathleen Kane novel. Duff won a Young Artist Award for "Best Performance in a TV Movie or Pilot (Supporting Young Actress)" for her role in the movie.^[9]

Duff's first serious rise to fame came when she was cast as one of the children in the pilot episode of the NBC sitcom *Daddio* in 2000. Her co-star, Michael Chiklis, stated, "After working with her the first day, I remember saying to my wife, 'this young girl is going to be a movie star'. She was completely at ease with herself and comfortable in her own skin."^[5] Duff was dropped from the cast of *Daddio* before it was aired, which made her reluctant to pursue her acting career further.^[5] However, her manager and mother urged her on, and a week later she successfully auditioned for the children's television series *Lizzie McGuire*, where she portrayed the title role of a clumsy but average middle school girl.^[5] The show focused on her growth into teenhood.

2001–2003

Lizzie McGuire, which first aired on the Disney Channel. Her participation in the show led to her becoming highly popular among children between the ages of seven and fourteen,^[10] with critic Richard Huff of the *New York Daily News* calling her "a 2002 version of Annette Funicello".^[5] After Duff fulfilled her 65 episode contract with *Lizzie McGuire*, Disney considered continuing the franchise further, through films and a prime-time television series to be broadcast on ABC. However, the plans failed because Duff's representatives said she was not being paid enough for the proposed series.^[11] Duff also starred in the Disney Channel television film *Cadet Kelly* (2002), which became the network's most watched program in its 19-year history.^[5] In the movie, she

plays a free-spirited girl who is enrolled in a military school and finds it hard to adjust to its strict and disciplined environment.

Duff's first role in a theatrical motion picture was in *Human Nature* (2002), an independent film shot around the time of the start of *Lizzie McGuire*. It was first showcased at the Cannes and Sundance film festivals.^[121] The film, written by Charlie Kaufman and directed by Michel Gondry, follows a female naturalist, played by Patricia Arquette. Duff played the younger version of Arquette's character. The same year, Duff recorded a cover version of Brooke McClymont's "I Can't Wait" for the *Lizzie McGuire* soundtrack, and "The Tiki Tiki Tiki Room" for the first *Disney Mania* compilation album. Her first album was *Santa Claus Lane* (2002), a collection of Christmas songs that included duets with her sister Haylie, Lil' Romeo, and Christina Milian. Accompanied by the Disney Channel-only single "Tell Me a Story (About the Night Before)", it peaked at 154 on the U.S. *Billboard 200* album chart and was certified gold.^{[113][141]}

In 2003, Duff received her first major role in a feature film when she was cast alongside Frankie Muniz in *Agent Cody Banks*. The film received positive reviews and was successful enough to spawn a sequel, in which Duff did not participate. The same year, Duff reprised her role as Lizzie McGuire for *The Lizzie McGuire Movie*. It received mixed reviews, with certain critics calling it "an unabashed promotion of Duff's image, just as *Crossroads* was for Spears",^[151] while other reviews were generally positive and encouraging.^{[16][171]} Later that year, Duff played one of the 12 children of Steve Martin and Bonnie Hunt in the family film *Cheaper by the Dozen*, which remains her highest grossing film to date.^[181] She reprised her role in the sequel *Cheaper by the Dozen 2* (2005), which failed to be as successful as the original film and was panned by critics.^[191]

Duff's first full-length studio album, *Metamorphosis* (2003), reached number one on the U.S. and Canadian charts^[201] and had sold over 3.7 million copies by May 2005.^[211] The lead single, "So Yesterday" (co-written and produced by The Matrix), was a top ten hit in several countries;^[221] its follow-up was the *Laguna Beach* theme song "Come Clean". The third single, "Little Voice", was not released in the U.S. and was a minor hit in Australia.^[231] In late 2003, Duff embarked on her first concert tour, the *Metamorphosis Tour*, and later the *Most Wanted Tour*. Most shows scheduled in the major cities were completely sold out.^[241]

Duff also made several guest appearances in television shows, her first as a sick child in the medical drama *Chicago Hope* in March 2000.^[251] In a 2003 episode of *George Lopez*, she had a role as a makeup salesperson; she later reappeared in the show in 2005 as Kenzie, a feminist poet friend of the character Carmen (Masiela Lusha). In 2003, she acted opposite her sister Haylie in *American Dreams*, while in 2005; she played a classmate and idolizer of the title character of *Joan of Arcadia*.

2004–2006



Duff poses with a fan in Fayetteville, North Carolina, before her annual concert for military families.

Duff's second full-length album was the self-titled *Hilary Duff* in which she co-wrote some songs.^[26] It was released on her seventeenth birthday (in September 2004) and debuted at #2 in the U.S. and at #1 in Canada. The album sold over 1.5 million copies in the U.S. in eight months with its only US single, *Fly*.^[21]

In 2004, Duff starred in the romantic comedy *A Cinderella Story*. Though the reviews were mostly negative, the film went on to become a moderate box office hit, and critics were impressed by Duff's performance.^[27] Later that year, she starred in the film *Raise Your Voice*, her first role in a drama film. While some critics praised Duff for appearing in a more mature and serious role than her previous films, the film itself was heavily panned.^[28] Several reviews were indifferent towards her acting performance and were particularly harsh towards Duff's vocals, with critics pointing out what appeared to be her digitally enhanced voice.^{[29][30][31][32]} The same year, Duff received her first Razzie nomination for worst actress for her roles in *Raise Your Voice* and *A Cinderella Story*.^[33]

In 2005, Duff starred in *The Perfect Man* in which she played the eldest daughter of a divorced woman (Heather Locklear). In the same year, Duff was again nominated for a Razzie Award, for *The Perfect Man* and *Cheaper by the Dozen 2*.^[34] She also starred in the 2006 satirical comedy *Material Girls*, in which she co-starred with her sister Haylie Duff.^[35] Duff along with her sister Haylie, received two more nominations for Razzie awards for their role in the film.^[36]

Duff's third album, *Most Wanted* (2005), comprised her favorite tracks from her previous two albums, remixes, and new songs inspired by pop-rock musicians such as The Killers and Muse.^[citation needed] In an appearance on *Total Request Live*, Duff stated that it was not a greatest hits album, but that her label told her it was time to release a new album.^[citation needed] She had more creative control over *Most Wanted* compared to her previous releases,^[citation needed] co-writing the new material with producers Joel Madden and his brother, Benji, both members of Good Charlotte. The album debuted at number one on the *Billboard* 200^[37] and became her third number one debut in Canada. An Italy-only compilation, *4Ever*, was released in 2006. Duff recorded new songs for her movie, *Material Girls*, which included a Timbaland-produced cover version of Madonna's "Material Girl" with her sister.^[38]

2007–present



Duff at the premiere of *War, Inc.* at the Tribeca Film Festival in April 2008

During her *Still Most Wanted* tour, she performed in Guadalajara, Mexico, where she filmed a brief appearance on the soap opera *Rebelde*. She was also the guest star on *The Andy Milonakis Show* for its third season premiere in 2007.^[39] In April 2008, Duff was offered the lead role of Annie Mills in the CW Network's *Beverly Hills, 90210* spinoff, but she turned it down because she was more interested in looking for projects outside the teen genre.^{[40][41]} she is also a model signed to IMG Models New York.^[42]



Hilary Duff at the Much Music Video Awards in 2007.

Duff co-wrote the material for her third studio album *Dignity*, along with Kara DioGuardi, who co-produced the album with Rhett Lawrence, Tim & Bob, and Richard Vission. Duff stated that compared to her previous music, it is "more dancey" and makes use of more real instruments. She said, "I don't know exactly how to explain what we're doing, but it's fun and funky and different, something new for me. It's really cool".^[43] In late 2005, the Duff sisters lent their voices to the computer animated comedy *Foodfight!*, which is to be distributed by Lions Gate Entertainment, but has no scheduled release date. The director of the film, Larry Kasanoff, said that he was "absolutely thrilled to have the Duff sisters as part of the cast".^[44] Duff also starred opposite John Cusack in *War, Inc.* which was released in theatres in Los Angeles and Manhattan, New York on May 23, 2008.

On September 7, 2007, Duff confirmed on *MuchOnDemand*, that she would be filming two independent films *Greta*, and *What Goes Up*.^[45] In June 2008, Duff joined the cast of the Polish brother's comedy *Stay Cool*. She co-starred alongside Winona Ryder, Mark Polish, Sean Astin, Chevy Chase, and Jon Cryer. In the film, she portrayed the character of Shasta O'Neil, described as a sexy high school senior and the film is scheduled for release in 2009.^[46]

In November 2008, Duff's second greatest hits album, *Best of Hilary Duff* was released^[47] and the album's first single "Reach Out" which samples Depeche Mode's "Personal Jesus" was released in the previous month, the song became Duff's third #1 dance hit.^{[48][49]} Duff thereafter announced that she would be leaving her record label Hollywood Records after six years of service.^[50] She later announced to MTV that she would begin work on her new album in December 2008.^[51]

In January 2009, it was announced that she would star in an indie feature, *The Story of Bonnie and Clyde*, an adaptation of Bonnie & Clyde.^[52] In April 2009, Duff began filming *Provinces of Night*, which is based on a book by the same name written by William Gay. Duff plays Raven Half acre, the teenage daughter of a promiscuous, alcoholic mother.^[53] Duff has signed on for a seven-episode arc as Olivia Burke, a movie star who enrolls at NYU in search of a traditional college experience and ends up rooming with Vanessa (Jessica Sour) in *Gossip Girl*.^[54]

In August 2009, it was announced that Duff will star in *The Business of Falling in Love*, a romantic comedy based on the book "Diary of a Working Girl," by Daniella Brodsky and directed by Gil Junger. The film is set to appear on the small screen for ABC Family. In the movie, Duff plays a fashion reporter who goes undercover in the business world hoping to find love while writing an article about dating men in suits.^[55] In September 2009, Duff released a second clothing line with DKNY Jeans as "Femme for DKNY." She decided to design a new clothing line for girls her age which had detachable scarves and adjustable belt loops.^[Citation needed]

