

SPECIAL FEATURE on LORI SINGER

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Birth: 6th November 1957 - Corpus Christi, Texas, U.S.A.

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Lori Singer is an American actress, cellist, and former model. The daughter of conductor Jacques Singer, she was raised in Portland, Oregon, where her father served as the lead conductor of the Oregon Symphony from 1962 to 1972. Singer was a musical prodigy, making her debut as a cellist with the Oregon Symphony at thirteen, and was subsequently accepted to the Juilliard School, where she became the institution's youngest graduate. There she studied the cello with eminent cellist Leonard Rose!

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In the early 1980s, she signed with Elite Model Management before shifting her focus to acting. Inspired by her brother Marc Singer's success in Hollywood, Lori had started taking acting lessons at age 17, but in 1982, she landed a role in the television series "Fame". She was a natural to play the tall, beautiful cellist Julie Miller, whilst also displaying her dancing and singing skills - a lady of many talents! She had also won a 'Newcomer of the Year' prize for her role in the TV movie Born Beautiful (1982).

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Singer then gained notice for her lead role as Ariel Moore in the musical drama film 'Footloose' (1984). She was later cast in supporting roles in John Schlesinger's drama 'The Falcon and the Snowman' (1985), the comedy 'The Man with One Red Shoe' (1985), the horror film 'Warlock' (1989), and Robert Altman's ensemble drama 'Short Cuts' (1993). Singer has also had roles in 'Equinox' (1992), 'Summer Heat' (1987, also a producer for this creation), 'Sunset Grill' (1993), 'F.T.W.' (1994).

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The Robert Altman film 'Short Cuts' (1993) was an even more important development for her; indeed, she was awarded a Golden Globe as actress in Short Cuts. The Short Cuts cast also won awards for best ensemble at the 50th Venice International Film Festival. In 1995, she played Sydney Bloom, the lead character in the science fiction TV series VR.5 where she was involved in the creative conception of VR.5.

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Never forgetting her cello, in 1997, Singer acted in the fourth episode of the series *Inspired by Bach*, where she also played the cello with Yo-Yo Ma, whose summer music camp she had attended in 1971. Singer also performed as a soloist at Carnegie Hall in January 2008, premiering a hymn written by Karl Jenkins in memory of Martin Luther King Jr. On 4th May, 2011, Singer returned to television with a guest-starring role on *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*.

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In 2013, Singer executive produced with Sheila Nevins, HBO, and Jessica Kingdon the documentary 'Mea Maxima Culpa: Silence in the House of God', directed by Alex Gibney. In 2012 the film won the Grierson Award at the London Film Festival and it also won the Chicago International Film Festival's award.

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The last two films I can find of her are:

2015 - *Experimenter*

2017 - *God Knows Where I Am*

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Lori still plays the cello regularly, and although she is classically trained, Lori enjoys playing rock music as well (sometimes she gathers her friends in her apartment for a jam!). Big-hearted Lori also devotes a lot of time and effort to the "DISHES Project" for Pediatric AIDS. (DISHES ~ Determined Involved Super-role models Helping to End Suffering) Their mission "*is to raise funds and awareness for programs dedicated to direct care, prevention and education, foster care and adoptive services.*" Lori is one of many generous celebrities (including Cindy Crawford, Heidi Klum, Elle Macpherson, Claudia Schiffer, and many others) who have donated their time, image and money for this noble project. Lori lives with her son in Manhattan.

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And above all, of course, I am interested in her as an unusual cellist. As always, I like to give a couple of examples.....so here goes:

Kids From Fame TV Series Lori Singer Don't Stop Til You Get Enough Live

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0YMO360wMc>

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and not just excellent in pop - so see/hear this!:

Fame TV Series Lori Singer Playing Polonaise Brilliante

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SuIoBYeVY3U>

One comment says: "*Best celebrity cellist of all time.*" !

Film critics often commented that Singer resembled the iconic British cellist Jacqueline du Pré with her long, flowy blonde hair and seemingly similar playing mannerism.

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Finally, she is quoted as saying about her beloved New York City:

“I feel closer to my background there, closer to Carnegie Hall as well as Europe. It's a city where you feel anything is possible, which makes life fun and interesting.”

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‘documenting the cello’

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