



63^E FESTIVAL
DE TELEVISION
DE MONTE-CARLO

14-18 JUIN 2024
#MonteCarloTVFestival

LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE BIOGRAPHIES

KAREN GRASSLE

Karen Grassle is most well known for her portrayal of the beloved “Ma” on Little House on the Prairie. She now lives in the San Francisco Bay Area, where she has enjoyed doing plays such as Cabaret (BACC Award), and John Gabriel Borkmann. Karen has worked all over the country since Little House in plays as diverse as Wit, Driving Miss Daisy, and Hamlet. She continues to write and act, doing On Golden Pond in Canada in 2022. Her most recent film is Not to Forget, available on Amazon.

A Graduate of UC Berkeley in English and Dramatic Art, she also attended the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art on a Fulbright. Her work has taken her all over the United States from the eastern seaboard to the south, the midwest, and the Rockies. In New York, she appeared at the NY Shakespeare Festival and on Broadway. Her film for NBC, Battered, which she co-wrote and starred in, was a watershed moment for national awareness of domestic violence.

Currently, she takes joy in her son, who lives and works nearby. Her leisure is spent in the garden, reading, and enjoying friends. Politically active, Karen continues to support women’s causes, the environment, and prays for the wellbeing of all.

MELISSA GILBERT

Melissa’s career began at the age of 2 appearing in commercials and guest spots. Melissa achieved iconic status by the age of 19 after a 10 year run on the television classic Little House On The Prairie. She has starred in over fifty television movies and feature films including The Miracle Worker, The Diary of Anne Frank and Splendor in the Grass. Her television series credits include Sweet Justice, Stand By Your Man and Secrets and Lies.

On stage Melissa has performed in The Miracle Worker, The Glass Menagerie, Bus Stop, Love Letters, A Shayna Maidel, Little House on the Prairie:The Musical, Steel Magnolias, If Only:A Love Story, The Dead 1904, My Brilliant Divorce and When Harry Met Rehab.

As an author Melissa has penned four best-selling books; Prairie Tale: A Memoir (New York Times Best Seller), Daisy and Josephine, My Prairie Cookbook and Back To the Prairie: A Home Remade, A Life Rediscovered.

Melissa was president of Screen Actors Guild for two terms 2001-2004. She served on the executive council of the AFL-CIO, The California Film Commission and in 2016 was the democratic nominee for Michigan’s 8th congressional district.

Melissa and her husband Timothy Busfield co-starred, co-wrote and co-produced the multi-award winning short film” One Smart Fellow and the film Guest Artist, written by and starring Jeff Daniels.

In 2022 Melissa and her partner Nicole Haase launched a lifestyle line called Modern Prairie.

Melissa divides her time between her home in the Catskills and an apartment in NYC which she shares with her husband Tim Busfield, their dogs, Chicago and Sundance as well as their 3 chickens. She is the proud mother/stepmother of six sons and one stepdaughter. She is also grandmother/step-grandmother to her absolutely perfect, brilliant grandchildren, Lulabelle, Ruby, Eli, Vito, Aury, Bowen, Ripley and Rosemary

MELISSA ANDERSON

A native Californian, Melissa became a working actress at the tender age of nine, with guest starring roles in The Brady Bunch and Shaft.

In 1974, she was cast as Mary Ingalls in Little House on the Prairie, where she earned her first Emmy nomination. She went on to star in many TV movies as well as feature films and plays, and earned another nomination and Emmy win along the way.

Melissa married writer/executive producer Michael Sloan in 1990, and stepped back from her career, working only occasionally, to focus on their two children.

She has a passion for tennis, and has kept busy writing her memoir published in 2010 as well as working on various other projects.

ALISON ARNGRIM

Après avoir incarné le personnage mythique de Nellie Oleson dans La petite maison dans la prairie de l'âge de 12 à 19 ans, Alison Arngrim s'est dirigée vers une carrière au théâtre, alternant pièces dramatiques et one-woman shows comiques. Elle a aussi publié en 2010 son autobiographie, qui devint un best-seller aux USA. Elle est par ailleurs connue pour son engagement contre les maltraitances d'enfants (au sein de l'association PROTECT), qui a permis de changer des lois trop clémentes aux États-Unis. Alison fut aussi l'une des pionnières dans la lutte contre le sida, il y a plus de 35 ans, aux côtés de son mari, le musicien Bob Schoonover.

Suite à sa rencontre amicale avec l'auteur Patrick Loubatière en janvier 2002, elle apprend le français, et enchaîne à ses côtés plus de 30 tournées à succès de Confessions d'une garce de la prairie (spectacle de stand-up, 2006-2012) puis La malle aux trésors de Nellie Oleson (spectacle interactif, 2012-2022). Les spectacles se jouent uniquement dans des petites communes, en clin d'œil au petit village de La petite maison dans la prairie.

En 2023, elle débute un troisième spectacle, Nellie Oleson enflamme les années 80 qui, contrairement aux précédents, n'est pas axé sur La petite maison dans la prairie. Alison Arngrim (toujours en duo avec Patrick Loubatière) promène son regard amusé d'américaine sur nos années 80 françaises... tout en laissant place par moments au regard malicieux de son alter ego Nellie Oleson. Ces deux heures d'humour, de musique, de nostalgie et de convivialité sont suivies chaque soir de séances de dédicaces et photos tout aussi longues. En mars 2024, Alison Arngrim et Patrick Loubatière sont invités à jouer ce spectacle à Los Angeles, à l'intention de la communauté francophone de Los Angeles.

WENDI LOU LEE

Wendi Lou Lee is a follower of Jesus, a former child actor, a brain surgery survivor, and author of A Prairie Devotional and Red Tail Feathers. The four seasons she spent on Little House on the Prairie playing Baby Grace Ingalls are among God's greatest blessings. In 2015, Wendi was diagnosed with a brain tumor that changed the direction and purpose of

her life. Her surgery and recovery led to a newfound freedom, sharing her story of God's goodness through life's most difficult circumstances. Connecting with people—one person at a time—brings Wendi the most joy.

Wendi, her husband, and their two teenagers call the Central Coast of California their home. When Wendi isn't hanging out with Little House fans or writing about her adventures, you can find her paddle boarding at the beach or walking their Bernedoodle—Mo.

MATTHEW LABYORTEAUX

Matthew Labyorteaux began his film career at the young age of six in John Cassavetes' Oscar nominated masterpiece "A Woman Under the Influence". After performing in films, television shows, and over a hundred commercials, Matthew then joined the beloved television show "Little House on the Prairie" in the role of a young Charles Ingalls for two seasons. When asked by Michael Landon to portray the role of his adopted son Albert, Matthew then joined the series as a full-time cast member.

After his many years on "Little House" Matthew went on to work once again with Michael Landon in "Highway to Heaven", starred with Martin Sheen in the critically acclaimed "Shattered Spirits", and landed the lead role in the cult favorite Wes Craven film "Deadly Friend". Matthew also starred in the television series "Whiz Kids" and worked on popular shows such as "The Love Boat", "Night Court", and Steven Spielberg's "Amazing Stories".

After moving from L.A. to New York City in his early 30's, Matthew began a successful voice-acting career becoming the brand voice for Toyota, Sudafed, and Purell, as well as voicing the advertising campaigns of several major airlines and hotel chains. His has given his voice to the popular animated characters "Clifford the Big Red Dog", "Jaden" on the long running series "Yu-Gi-Oh GX", as well as animated films such as Disney's "Mulan", and Hayao Miyazaki's acclaimed "The Wind Rises" for Studio Ghibli. Over his career Matthew can be heard in hundreds of film and television shows such as "Dawson's Creek", "Sex and the City", "CSI", "Better Call Saul", "The Sandman", and "The Morning Show". Matthew's film credits include such fan favorites such as "Old School", "Zoolander", the "Iron Man" and "Avengers" series, "The Revenant", and "Top Gun: Maverick".

LESLIE LANDON MATTHEWS **Author/MFCC Therapist/Actress**

Leslie Landon Matthews, daughter of the late television and film legend, Michael Landon, had been in the film business as a child and through young adulthood. She had numerous roles in *Little House on the Prairie* and played the school teacher Etta Plum in the last two years of the show. She also guest starred in the show *Father Murphy*. Leslie played Cheryl Crane, daughter of Lana Turner, in a Hollywood's *Unsolved Mysteries*.

She then went on to receive her Masters in Clinical Psychology from Pepperdine University and a Ph.D from California Graduate Institute.

Leslie is now retired but her main focus in her private practice was working with children from divorced parents. She was also a school counselor at the Ofman Learning Center working with troubled teens.

A highlight in Leslie's career was being asked by John James and Russell Friedman to co-author a book called *When Children Grieve*. This book was published by Harper Collins and was praised and endorsed by Fred Rogers from *Mr. Rogers Neighborhood*.

Leslie's passion was to help teach adults how to help children through loss issues surrounding death of loved ones as well as grief issues through divorce and pet loss. This book has been translated in multiple countries and is sold on Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

Leslie and her husband Brian have been happily married for over 33 years and have 4 amazing children – Rachel, Justin, Catherine, and Joe. They are all in the film and music industry and reside in Los Angeles.