

REESE WITHERSPOON BIOGRAPHY

Reese Witherspoon was born on March 22, 1976 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Reese was the second child born to Dr. John and Betty Witherspoon. Her father was a military surgeon specializing in the ear, nose and throat. Her mother was a Registered Nurse who would later become a PhD in pediatric nursing. Reese Witherspoon spent the first four years of her life in Wiesbaden, Germany where her father served as a lieutenant colonel in the US Army reserves. Shortly after, John moved the family back to the States, settling in Nashville, Tennessee.

Reese Witherspoon was introduced to the entertainment industry at a very early age. At age 7, Reese began modeling. This led to appearances on several local television commercials. At age 11, she placed first in a Ten-State Talent Fair.

In 1990, Reese Witherspoon landed her first major acting role in Robert Mulligan's *The Man in the Moon* (1991). Her role as a 14-year old tomboy earned her rave reviews. Roles in bigger films such as *Jack the Bear* (1993) and *A Far Off Place* (1993) followed shortly after.

Following high school graduation in 1994 from Harpeth Hall, a Nashville all girls' school, Reese Witherspoon decided to put her acting career on hold and attend Stanford University where she would major in English literature. However, her collegiate plans were shortly dashed when she accepted roles to star in two major motion pictures: *Fear* (1996) alongside Mark Wahlberg and *Freeway* (1996) with Kiefer Sutherland. Although neither film was a huge box-office success, they did help to establish Reese as a rising starlet in Hollywood and open the door for bigger and better film roles. Those bigger roles came in movies such as *Pleasantville* (1998), *Election* (1999) and *Cruel Intentions* (1999).

Reese Witherspoon 's biggest role to date came as Elle Woods in the 2001 comedy *Legally Blonde* (2001). The movie was huge box-office smash and established Reese as one of the top female draws in Hollywood. In 2002, Reese had a follow-up hit with *Sweet Home Alabama* (2002) which went on to gross over \$100 million dollars at the box office.

Reese has two children: a daughter, Ava Elizabeth (born 9 September 1999) and a son, Deacon (born 23 October 2003).