

Wednesday Addams

Wednesday Addams is a fictional character created by American cartoonist Charles Addams in his comic strip *The Addams Family*. The character has also appeared in television, film, and in video games, in both the live action and animated formats.

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Wednesday

In Addams' cartoons, which first appeared in *The New Yorker*, Wednesday and other members of the family had no names. When the characters were adapted to the 1964 television series, Charles Addams gave her the name "Wednesday", based on the well-known nursery rhyme line, "Wednesday's child is full of woe." The idea for the name was supplied by the actress and poet Joan Blake, an acquaintance of Addams.^[1] She is the sister of Pugsley Addams (and, in the movie *Addams Family Values*, also the sister of Pubert Addams), and she is the only daughter of Gomez and Morticia Addams.

Appearance and personality

Child of woe is wan and delicate...sensitive and on the quiet side, she loves the picnics and outings to the underground caverns...a solemn child, prim in dress and, on the whole, pretty lost...secretive and imaginative, poetic, seems underprivileged and given to occasional tantrums...has six toes on one foot..^[2]

— Charles Addams

Wednesday Addams

Wednesday, as portrayed by Christina Ricci in *Addams Family Values*

First appearance *The New Yorker* cartoon (1938)

Created by Charles Addams

Portrayed by Lisa Loring
Noelle Von Sonn
Christina Ricci
Nicole Fugere
Krysta Rodriguez
Rachel Potter
Lauren Revere
Melissa Hunter
Carrie Hope Fletcher

Voiced by Cindy Henderson (1972-1974 series)
Debi Derryberry (1992-1994 series)
Chloë Grace Moretz (2019 film)

In-universe information

Gender Female

Family Gomez (father)
Morticia (mother)
Lucas (husband)
Pugsley (older^[a] brother)
Pubert (younger brother)
Fester (uncle)

Wednesday's most notable features are her pale skin and long, dark braided pigtails. She seldom shows emotion and is generally bitter. Wednesday usually wears a black dress with a white collar, black stockings and black shoes.

In the 1960s series, she is sweet-natured and serves as a foil to the weirdness of her parents and brother, although her favorite hobby is raising spiders; she is also a ballerina. Wednesday's favorite toy is her Marie Antoinette doll, which her brother guillotines (at her request). She is stated to be six years old in the television series' pilot episode. In one episode, she is shown to have several other headless dolls as well. She also paints pictures (including a picture of trees with human heads) and writes a poem dedicated to her favorite pet spider, Homer. Wednesday is deceptively strong; she is able to bring her father down with a judo hold.

	Grandmama (grandmother) Itt (cousin) Debbie Jellinsky- Addams (aunt)
Nationality	American

Wednesday has a close kinship with the family's giant butler Lurch. In the TV series, her middle name is "Friday".^[3] In the Spanish version, her name is Miércoles (Wednesday in Spanish); in Latin America she is Merlina; in the Brazilian version she is Wandinha (little Wanda in Portuguese); in France her name is Mercredi (Wednesday in French) and in Italy her name is Mercoledì (Wednesday in Italian).

In the 1991 film, she is depicted in a darker fashion. She shows sadistic tendencies and a dark personality, and is revealed to have a deep interest in the Bermuda Triangle and an admiration for an ancestor (Great Aunt Calpurnia Addams) who was burned as a witch in 1706. In the 1993 sequel, she was even darker: she buried a live cat, tried to guillotine her baby brother Pubert, set fire to Camp Chippewa and (possibly) scared fellow camper Joel to death. These films were the first version of *The Addams Family* in which violent or horrific acts could be depicted on-camera rather than implied, which makes Wednesday's personality difficult to define: in the first film, she is seen to successfully electrify her brother Pugsley in an electric chair, but she and Morticia express no surprise that he is not killed nor even harmed.

In the animated series and Canadian TV series *The New Addams Family* from the 1990s, Wednesday retains her appearance and her taste for darkness and torture; she is portrayed as having her parents' consent to tie Pugsley to a chair and torture him with a branding iron and ice pick.

In the Broadway musical *The Addams Family: A New Musical*, she is 18 years old and has short hair rather than the long braids in her other appearances. Her darkness and sociopathic traits have been toned down, and she is in love with (and revealed to be engaged to) Lucas Beineke. In the musical Wednesday is older than Pugsley.

In the parody web series *Adult Wednesday Addams*, Wednesday, as played by Melissa Hunter, recovers her dark, sociopathic and sadistic nature (although as in the originals any actual horrific acts are only implied and may or may not occur off-camera) and her long braids, connecting with the events and the depiction of the movies and the original comic-book. This Wednesday deals with being an adult after moving out of her family home.^[4] The web series gained media attention with the third episode of Season 2 in which Wednesday punished a pair of catcallers.^[5] The Tee & Charles Addams Foundation, copyright owners of *The Addams Family*, flagged the series for copyright violation resulting in the series being pulled from YouTube.^[6]

In the 2019 animated version, she retains her emotionless nature and sadistic tendencies, trying to bury Pugsley and tormenting a bully at school. However, she's also bored of her macabre and sheltered life, wanting to see the world despite Morticia's objections. This leads to her befriending Parker Needler and the two taking on several of each other's traits, with Wednesday at one point wearing colorful clothes.

Legacy

- Bridget Marquardt, from *The Girls Next Door*, has named her dog Wednesday after the character.
- Musician Wednesday 13 derived his moniker from the character.
- Comedian Melissa Hunter portrayed the character in her web series *Adult Wednesday Addams*.
- Singer / songwriter Nina Nesbitt has named her black guitar "Wednesday Addams".

Portrayals

Over the years, Wednesday has been portrayed by a variety of actresses, on television, the movies, and stage:

- Lisa Loring (Live-action TV 1964–1966, 1977)
- Cindy Henderson (Animated TV 1972–1974)
- Noelle Von Sonn (Live-action TV pilot 1973)
- Christina Ricci (Live-action movies 1991, 1993)
- Debi Derryberry (Animated TV 1992–1994)
- Nicole Fugere (Live-action movie 1998, Live-action TV 1998–1999)
- Krysta Rodriguez (Broadway musical 2010)
- Rachel Potter (Broadway musical 2011)
- Cortney Wolfson (2011 First National Broadway Tour)
- Laura Lobo (2012 First Brazilian Cast)
- Frankie Lowe (2012 UK National Tour)
- Jennifer Fogarty (2013 Asian Tour)
- Gloria Aura (2014 Mexican Tour)
- Melissa Hunter (2013-2015, *Adult Wednesday Addams*)
- Carrie Hope Fletcher (2017 UK National Tour Of The *Addams Family Musical*)
- Lydia Fairén (2017 First Spanish Cast & 2018 Spain National Tour)
- Marjolein Teepen (Dutch musical 2018/2019)
- Chloe Grace Moretz (Animated movie 2019)

Lisa Loring as Wednesday in *The Addams Family* original series.

Wednesday is played by Lisa Loring in the original TV series, though far less malevolent than described by the cartoons. In the first animated series from Hanna-Barbera, her voice was done by Cindy Henderson. Henderson voiced that same character in an episode of *The New Scooby-Doo Movies*. In the second animated series from Hanna-Barbera, she is voiced by Debi Derryberry.

Christina Ricci as Wednesday in *The Addams Family*.

The Addams Family (1991) and its sequel *Addams Family Values* (1993)^[7] portray Wednesday more comic-accurately, maybe even darker. Wednesday's personality is severe, with a deadpan wit and a morbid interest in trying to inflict harm upon her brothers, first Pugsley and later Pubert. In both films, she is played by Christina Ricci. In the movie *Addams Family Values* (1993), Wednesday and Pugsley are sent to a summer camp for "privileged young adults" called Camp Chippewa, where Joel Glicker (played by David Krumholtz)—a neurotic, allergy-ridden wallflower camper with an overbearing mother—takes a liking to Wednesday. She refuses to participate in Gary Granger's play, a musical production of the first Thanksgiving. She, Pugsley, and Joel are locked in the "Harmony Hut" and forced to watch upbeat family

films to curb their antisocial behavior. On emerging from the hut, Wednesday feigns perkiness and agrees to play the role of Pocahontas, though her smile ends up scaring the campers, as well as her blonde nemesis.^[8] During the play, she leads the other social outcasts—who have all been cast as Native Americans—in a revolt, capturing Gary, Becky, and Amanda and leaving the camp with Pugsley and Joel in chaos. Before she leaves, Wednesday and Joel kiss. At the end of the film, however, it is suggested that Wednesday, though she obviously likes Joel, purposely tries to scare him to death after he brings up the subject of marriages.

In the 1977 television holiday-themed special, *Halloween with the New Addams Family*, Lisa Loring plays a grown-up Wednesday, who mostly entertains their party guests with her flute, and can hear and understand coded help messages by bound-up members of the family, and dispatch help to free them. In the time interval between the original TV series and this television movie, her parents had two more children who look just like the original Pugsley and Wednesday.

Wednesday is portrayed by Nicole Fugere in the straight-to-video movie *Addams Family Reunion* and Fox Family Channel's television series *The New Addams Family*, which were both produced in 1998.

In April 2010, *The Addams Family: A New Musical* debuted on Broadway. Krysta Rodriguez played Wednesday. The character is now 18 years old, has "become a woman", and to that effect no longer sports her signature pigtails. The musical is based on the characters as created by Charles Addams. In March 2011, Krysta Rodriguez was replaced with Rachel Potter as Wednesday in the Broadway cast. Starting in September 2011, the production begins its First National Tour. Cortney Wolfson has been cast in the Wednesday Addams role. In the Broadway production, she was the understudy for Wednesday and performed as the Dead Bride/Ancessor.^[9]

Melissa Hunter plays an adult Wednesday Addams on her YouTube series.^[10] Her Wednesday is darker than the version from the musical and closer to the version from the original cartoons and movies. Many Fans love the character, because Wednesday is given some Wisdom in every episode.

Zoe Richardson Appeared at the Birmingham Hippodrome as Wednesday Adams in a Musical adaptation of The Adams Family on Ice in November 2007

Chloë Grace Moretz voices Wednesday in the 2019 animated movie. The whole family is mostly designed to resemble the initial cartoon depictions, with added details; for instance, Wednesday's hair braids resemble two nooses.

Notes

- a. older in the 2019 film "The Addams Family" by Conrad Vernon

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