# Teri Garr, icon of comedy, dies at 79



Teri Garr, the beloved icon of American comedy, has left us at the age of 79.

Born in Ohio, Garr's entrance into the world of entertainment was nothing short of dazzling—a background dancer in Elvis Presley films in the 1960s. Her humble beginnings eventually grew into roles that placed her center stage. Thanks to vintage hits like Star Trek and Dr. Kildare, followers of TV began to recognize Garr's face, and it wasn't long before she charmed audiences as Phoebe Abbot, the delightfully quirky mother on Friends during the 1990s.

Her movie breakthrough came in the 1974 thriller The Conversation under the direction of Francis Ford Coppola. This role was the stepping stone to many major projects that showcased her unique charm— from Richard Dreyfuss’s wife in the science fiction hallmark Close Encounters of the Third Kind in 1977 to securing an Oscar nod as a staunch friend in Tootsie in 1982.

But it wasn’t just mainstream roles where Garr sparkled—her instinct for choosing projects with the potential for cult devotion was uncanny. Her role as Michael Keaton's wife in Mr. Mom was relatable and heartwarming, while Head with The Monkees, displaying her transition from dancer to actress, is a retrospective delight.

A key highlight in Garr's illustrious journey was her collaboration with comedic maestro Mel Brooks. In Young Frankenstein [pictured] in 1974, as the cheeky Inga, she delivered the unforgettable line, Vould you like to have a roll in ze hay?, securing her comedic genius in cinema folklore.

Even as she later contended with multiple sclerosis, Teri Garr's spirit never faltered. Her legacy—one that intertwines expert performance and endearing personality—continues to make us laugh and reminisce. Her life, characterized by resilience and warmth, solidified her status as a cherished cultural figure whose impact continues to reverberate across the realms of TV and film history.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000414/> - Details Teri Garr's early life, career, and notable roles in films and television, including her work in 'Young Frankenstein,' 'Tootsie,' and 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind.'
* <https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/movies/story/2024-10-29/teri-garr-dead-tootsie-young-frankenstein-multiple-sclerosis> - Reports on Teri Garr's death, her career highlights, and her struggles with multiple sclerosis, including her roles in 'Young Frankenstein,' 'Tootsie,' and 'Oh, God'.
* <https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/movies/story/2024-10-29/teri-garr-dead-tootsie-young-frankenstein-multiple-sclerosis> - Mentions her breakthrough role in 'The Conversation' and her Oscar nomination for 'Tootsie,' as well as her appearances on TV shows like 'Friends'.
* <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/teri-garr-dies-age-79-young-frankenstein-tootsie/> - Discusses Teri Garr's career transition from a background dancer in Elvis Presley films to starring roles in 'Young Frankenstein' and 'Tootsie'.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teri_Garr> - Provides detailed information on Teri Garr's early life, her training in ballet and dance, and her career milestones, including roles in 'Star Trek,' 'The Conversation,' and 'Young Frankenstein'.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teri_Garr> - Details her roles in 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind,' 'Tootsie,' and 'Mr. Mom,' as well as her later work and diagnosis with multiple sclerosis.
* <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000414/> - Lists her appearances in various TV shows, including 'Friends' where she played Phoebe Abbott, and her work in films like 'Head' with The Monkees.
* <https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/movies/story/2024-10-29/teri-garr-dead-tootsie-young-frankenstein-multiple-sclerosis> - Highlights her collaboration with Mel Brooks in 'Young Frankenstein' and her iconic line 'Vould you like to have a roll in ze hay?'
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teri_Garr> - Describes her resilience in the face of multiple sclerosis and her continued work in film and television despite her health challenges.
* <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000414/> - Mentions her roles in 'After Hours' and 'One from the Heart,' showcasing her versatility as an actress.