

Kate Mulgrew was born on April 29, 1955. Born and raised in Dubuque Iowa, she was the second oldest (eldest girl) of 8 children. At age 17, she left for New York City to study acting. Kate enrolled at New York University and was accepted in to Stella Adler's Conservatory. However, at the end of her junior year, she left the university to commit herself full-time to acting.

Kate Mulgrew immediately was cast in the ABC daytime drama, Ryan's Hope in the role of Mary Ryan (a role she played for about two years [1975-1977]). At the same time, she earned the role of Emily in a production of Our Town at the American Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, CT.

When she was 23, Kate was approached by then head of NBC programming, Fred Silverman, who offered her a starring role in a series he'd created with her in mind-Kate Columbo. In this series, Kate played the wife of one of TV's most beloved detective, Lieutenant Columbo. This series was a critical success but nonetheless, was cancelled. It can be seen in syndication under the title Kate Loves a Mystery.

In the following years, Kate's career led her to star in several feature films, including LoveSpell: Isolt of Ireland with Richard Burton (1979) and Throw Momma from the Train with Danny DeVito & Billy Crystal. She also starred in the ABC miniseries Manions of America with Pierce Bronson.

In 1988, Kate returned to television to star in the ABC drama, Heartbeat. Kate portrayed Dr. Joanne Springstein/Halloran, head of a co-op medical group center for women. This series aired for two seasons and won a People's Choice Award for Best Drama. In addition to television and feature films, Kate's career also consists of numerous theatrical productions including her Broadwa...

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