Born Susan Alexandra Weaver, on October 8, 1949, in New York City. At age 14, she took the name Sigourney from a character in F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel, The Great Gatsby. Growing up on New York Upper East Side as the daughter of British actress Elizabeth Inglis and NBC president Sylvester (Pat) Weaver, Weaver was never a stranger to the illustrious lifestyle of a New Yorker in the limelight. After attending private schools in Manhattan and Connecticut, Weaver graduated from Stanford University with an English degree in 1971. She spent some time living in Israel on a kibbutz before enrolling at the Yale School of Drama, where she appeared in stage productions with Meryl Streep and befriended playwright Christopher Durang. She would later make her Off-Broadway debut in Durang play, The Nature and Purpose of the Universe in 1974. In the mid-1970s, she appeared on the television soap opera Somerset.

Weaver major film debut came in 1977, when she appeared as Woody Allen movie date in Annie Hall, for a total of six seconds. Just two years later, her career took off with her portrayal of the extraterrestrial-slaying heroine, Ellen Ripley (a role originally slated for a man), in Ridley Scott chilling sci-fi thriller, Alien. Weaver brought to the role an intelligence unusual for action films, thus broadening the film appeal and making it an instant classic of the genre. She reprised the role of Ripley in 1986 with Aliens, the sequel, for which she earned an Academy Award nomination, and went on to make Alien 3 in 1992, and Alien Resurrection in 1997. With the high salaries she commanded from the popular Alien series as well as her leading roles in the hit Ghostbuster films, opposite Bill Murray and Dan Ackroyd, Weaver was free to explore roles in smaller, lo...

Sigourney Weaver

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