

## DEBRA WILSON Biography

Debra Wilson was born on the 26th of April and hails from South Ozone Park, Queens, New York. Before *MADtv* she appeared on the comedy TV shows "The Apollo Comedy Hour" and the "Uptown Comedy Show." She has been very successful since joining *MADtv* including movies ("B\*A\*P\*S," "Soulmates," "Sleeping Together") and appeared as a guest on several TV shows ("The List," "Whose Line Is It Anyway?,"). Debra lives in LA with her cat "Nala" and her boa constrictors "Victor" and "Lizzie."

Wilson was one of the original nine cast members of *MADtv* when the series aired in [1995](#). Unlike some of her fellow original repertory performers on *MADtv*, Wilson came to the show with limited sketch comedy experience and hardly any television background. However, she did have a well established background in stand-up comedy, which aided her ability to captivate audiences with her humor.

Wilson was credited for creating some of the most outrageous characters every to appear on *MADtv*. Perhaps her best know character was the fast talking "Black American Princess" Bunifa Latifah Halifa Sharifa Jackson. The character makes extensive use of the [ebonic](#) language when speaking, and quickly accuses other characters' most basic assertions as motivated by [racism](#).

During her time on *MADtv*, Wilson developed a natural talent for lampooning the rich, the famous and the powerful. Some of her most famous political impressions were [U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice](#), [Coretta Scott King](#), [Harriet Tubman](#), and Rosa Parks. Despite the many impressions she performed, Wilson was best remembered as *MADtv*'s [Diva](#) parody queen. Wilson lampooned celebrity divas like [Mariah Carey](#), [Diana Ross](#), [Jennifer Lopez](#), [Oprah Winfrey](#), [Tina Turner](#) and [Whitney Houston](#). Quite often, she would portray these divas as egotistical maniacs who are completely detached from reality (as was the case with her Diana Ross, Mariah Carey and Oprah Winfrey impersonations). In other cases, Wilson would over emphasize a physical attribute (such as Jennifer Lopez's large butt) or a character defect (such as Whitney Houston's alleged drug abuse) to gain humor.

Wilson became the last original cast member on the show. she served as the matriarch of the *MADtv* family by providing a strong sense of continuity between the old era of the show and the new cast members. After eight seasons as a cast member, Wilson retired in 2003 as a repertory player on the show. At the time of her departure, Wilson held the record for the longest serving *MADtv* cast member..



Moon in Leo Productions

T: 818.572.3391  
divadogthemovie@yahoo.com  
www.divadogthemovie.com



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