

**Marisa Petrero** is an American film and television actor, model, and humanitarian from Elizabeth, New Jersey, who is of Italian and Argentine decent. She is recognized for developing a diverse range of on-screen personalities - it's no wonder this Jersey girl has made a spot for herself in Hollywood.

At the tender age of four, Marisa started participating in East Coast beauty pageants. By eight, this young starlet was taking trips to New York City to study acting at the highly acclaimed HB Studio. After making the pageant circuit as a teenager, Marisa won the title of Miss Italia USA and then retired her pageant days after she went on to place top five in Miss Italia World in 1996.

Marisa then crafted a five-year road-map, packed her bags and convinced a good friend to join her on a 3,000 mile cross-country drive that ended in Los Angeles. Within the first few years, Marisa was landing principal roles in hit films such as MGM's "Pumpkin" and Columbia Pictures' "Tomcats." Also during this breakout period, she built notable television credits on NBC's "The Pretender," CBS's "The Young and the Restless," a national commercial directed by David Lynch and starred opposite Rick Schroder in the award winning country music video, Whiskey Lullaby, sung by Allison Krause and Brad Paisley.

2008 was another banner year for this seasoned actor as she starred in the Roadside Attraction's feature film, "Everybody Wants to Be Italian." She had also returned for season four as one of the most recognized briefcase models (#18) on NBC's top game show Deal or No Deal, as well as landed roles on CBS's popular sitcom Rules of Engagement, acting alongside David Spade and ABC's award winning comedy drama series Desperate Housewives, acting alongside Eva Longoria Parker.

This year, fans will see Marisa in a new light on the internet. She can now be seen on S.U.D.S. (Simian Undercover Detective Squad), an original online series featuring puppets from The Jim Henson Company at [www.youtube.com/user/HensonCompany](http://www.youtube.com/user/HensonCompany), [www.DuckWalksIntoABar.com](http://www.DuckWalksIntoABar.com) - Episode: Men & Hunting, a comedy about a dirty mouthed duck and [www.InTheBathWithKath.com](http://www.InTheBathWithKath.com) - Episode: Aspartame, a comedy shot from the sanctity of a bubble bath.

Outside of acting, Marisa holds philanthropy close to her heart. A cancer survivor of Rhabdomyosarcoma, a rare childhood sarcoma that affects the muscles, she recently accepted a second term as spokesperson for the Sarcoma

Foundation of America (SFA), an organization dedicated to increasing sarcoma related research. Currently, Marisa is involved with multiple nonprofit and charity organizations that can be viewed on her Charities page.

Over the past two years, Marisa has been Commencement Speaker at her alma mater, Kean University in New Jersey and was honored as "Woman of the Year" by The Center for Italian and Italian-American Culture in her home state of New Jersey. She also contributed to the book *The Vision Board: The Secret to An Extraordinary Life* by Joyce Schwarz.