



Reese Witherspoon

Birth Name: Laura Jeanne Reese Witherspoon

Birthday: Monday, March 22, 1976

Sign: [Aries](#) [1]

Birth Place: New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Height: 5'1"

Laura Jeanne Reese Witherspoon was born on March 22, 1976 at Southern Baptist Hospital (now Memorial Medical Center) in New Orleans, Louisiana. She was the second child born to Dr. John Witherspoon and Betty Reese. Her father was a military surgeon specializing in the ear, nose and throat. Her mother was a Registered Nurse who later became a Ph.D in pediatric nursing. Reese spent the first four years of her life in Wiesbaden, Germany where her father served as a lieutenant colonel in the US Army reserves. Shortly after, John moved the family back to the States, settling in Nashville, Tennessee.

Reese was introduced to the entertainment industry at a very early age. At age 7, she began modeling. This led to appearances on several local television commercials. At age 11, she placed first in a Ten-State Talent Fair.

In 1990, she landed her first major acting role in Robert Mulligan's *The Man in the Moon* (1991). Her role as a 14-year old tomboy earned her rave reviews. Roles in bigger films such as *Jack the Bear* (1993) and *A Far Off Place* (1993) followed shortly after.

Following high school graduation in 1994 from Harpeth Hall, a Nashville all girls school, Reese decided to put her acting career on hold and attend Stanford University where she would major in



English literature. However, her collegiate plans were shortly dashed when she accepted roles to star in two major motion pictures: *Fear* (1996) alongside Mark Wahlberg and *Freeway* (1996) with Kiefer Sutherland. Although neither film was a huge box-office success, they did help to establish Reese as a rising starlet in Hollywood and open the door for bigger and better film roles. Those bigger roles came in movies such as *Pleasantville* (1998), *Election* (1999) and *Cruel Intentions* (1999).

Her breakthrough role came as Elle Woods in the 2001 comedy *Legally Blonde* (2001). The movie was huge box-office smash and established Reese as one of the top female draws in Hollywood. The next year, she scored a follow-up hit with *Sweet Home Alabama* (2002) which went on to gross over \$100 million dollars at the box office. In 2006, she took home the best actress Oscar for her role as June Carter Cash in the Johnny Cash biopic *Walk the Line* (2005).

Off the screen, she was married to Ryan Phillippe from 1999 to 2007. They met at her 21st birthday party and subsequently worked together in *Cruel Intentions* (1999). They have two children: a daughter, Ava Elizabeth (born 9 September 1999) and a son, Deacon (born 23 October 2003). ([IMDb](#) [2])

Awards and Nominations

2006 - **Won** - Best Actress in a Leading Role (*Walk The Line*)

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