



Selena Gomez

Selena Gomez has spent much of her life on camera. But while other young stars growing up in the spotlight have come unstuck, Selena has remained remained had remained poised, polite and wise beyond her years, in no small thanks to her humble beginnings watching her mum live paycheck-to-paycheck as a single parent.

Selena Gomez was born in Grand Prairie, Texas on 22 July 1992 to actress Amanda 'Mandy' Dawn Teefey, then 16, and Ricardo Joel Gomez. When she was five her parents had divorced divorced were divorcing and the youngster - named after Tejano singer Selena - was raised by her single young mum.

"I remember having a lot of macaroni and cheese, but my mom never made it seem to seem to seeming like it was a big deal," she has recalled. "She was really strong around me. Having me at 16 had to be a big responsibility. My mom gave up everything for me, had three jobs, supported me, sacrificed her life for me."

"It's because of (my mum) that I can do things on my own," she later said. "I like being professional. I like showing up on time. I like being good to people, and I `m knowing know knew that I'm reflecting her at the end of the day."

Selena's interest in acting was also sparked by her mum, who got used to used to was used to take part in theatre productions, and aged seven, her own acting career began with a role on children's show *Barney & Friends*.

"A lot of people would be embarrassing embarrass embarrassed to admit they were on 'Barney', but I embrace the fact," she has since said. "I just had such a wonderful time doing that show. I learned what a camera and prop is, and all that. I learned my manners too, so I am guessing guess guessed that's a good thing".

The show's (*Wizards of Waverly Place)* success led many to compare Selena to Disney's reigning princess **Miley Cyrus**. "It's a little overwhelming, but I think, really, it's a compliment," Selena said at the time. "She's obviously extremely successful, and I think she's wonderful performer… So being compared to her, I was very, very flattering flatter flattered."

Her caring nature is just one of the reasons Selena remains one of Hollywood's most popular stars among her peers. Her best friend is **Taylor Swift**, who explained what makes Selena so special in a 2012 interview. "She's so trustworthy, never judges you and knows how to listen," the country star said. "We 've been had been have been being friends for four years and she has been through so much with me that I can say we're almost sisters."

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