

BIO:

Rita Wilson is a multi-talented actress, producer, singer and writer. Rita first donned her producers cap for the record-breaking box-office hit, *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* and has returned as a producer as well as appearing in its sequel, *My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2*, which was released in March of 2016. In addition, Rita co-wrote and performs *Even More Mine*, the song which plays over the film's credits. Wilson was the driving force behind bringing Nia Vardalos' semi-autobiographical story to the screen with Vardalos as the lead and was honored with the Visionary Award from the Producer's Guild of America, the People's Choice Award for Favorite Comedy, as well as Golden Globe and Oscar nominations. Rita's instincts proved solid once again when she saw the theatrical production of *Mamma Mia!* in London shortly after it opened. Rita's love of ABBA's music led her to secure the rights and develop the film, which was filmed on location in Greece. She served as a producer on the 2008 Universal hit that starred Meryl Streep and Pierce Brosnan, and serves as Executive Producer for its sequel, *Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again!* released on July 20, 2018 by Universal Pictures.

As an actor, Rita just wrapped production on the independent film, *Emmett*, and will also be contributing an original song for the film. She will next be in the American remake of the feature film *Gloria Bell* for Academy Award-winning director Sebastian Lelio, starring Julianne Moore and Jon Turturro. , Rita also co-wrote and sang, "Heart Unknown" for the upcoming film Simple Wedding, which made its premiering at the Los Angeles Film Festival in September 2018.

Rita's first love, however, is music. In May 2012 Rita realized a lifelong dream with the debut of her solo album *AM/FM*. The album, which is on Decca/Verve Records, is an intimate, elegant and beautifully sung collection of covers of her favorite songs from the '60s and '70s. In March 2016, Rita released her self-titled second album, *Rita Wilson*, which showcases her skill for creating insightful, eloquent singer-songwriter pop music that is etched with stunning honesty. For two years prior to the release, Rita worked with a host of the finest Award-winning and best-selling songwriters and producers in both Los Angeles and Nashville.

Rita's 2018 album, *Bigger Picture* saw her reunited with producer Fred Mollin (Johnny Mathis, Jimmy Webb, and Kris Kristofferson), expanding on her gifts as a storyteller and vocalist. With this third album, she took a bold step forward in the latest chapter of a remarkable journey and dove headlong into songwriting. Upon its release critics and fans alike raved. "Wilson [is] even more comfortable as a songwriter" said **Billboard**, while **Forbes** called her voice "smooth as silk." **Michelle Obama** described *Bigger Picture*, which landed at #1 on Amazon's Singer/Songwriter chart, as "a beautiful and introspective album," while Grammy-nominee **Brandi Carlile** said, "PLEASE check it out. You can thank me later!"

Her new album *Halfway to Home* (March 2019) has a fuller sound; Southern California rock meets Nashville country. The album was recorded mostly in Nashville and co-produced by Rita and Nathan Chapman (Taylor Swift, Keith Urban) with additional production from Ron Aniello (Bruce Springsteen, Patti Scialfa) and John Shanks (Bon Jovi, Stevie Nicks, Sheryl Crow). Many of the songs were co-written with an A-List group including Grammy winner **Liz Rose**, **Kristian Bush of Sugarland**, **Mozella** (Madonna, Kelly Clarkson, Miley Cyrus), **Mitch Allan** (Demi Lovato), and **Kara DioGuardi** (Pink, Kelly Clarkson).

Rita toured extensively, including summer creating *Liner Notes: Songwriters, Stories and Music*, in which she is joined by special guests for an evening of songwriters performing and sharing the stories behind their songs. The show has been performed in such famed venues as the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles, the Bluebird Café in Nashville and the iconic Café Carlyle in New York City multiple times. Of her performance there, The New York Times said "Ms. Wilson has a catch in

her voice that conveys yearning and potential heartbreak behind a façade of cheer. As a stage performer, she is gregarious and forthright; a natural entertainer.” For her LA performances of *Liner Notes*, Rita won the Broadway World Award for Best Female Cabaret – Large Venue.

Rita recently made her debut at the historic **Grand Ole Opry**, presented at the **52nd Annual CMA Awards** and was on the bill for the **Chris Cornell** memorial tribute “**I Am The Highway**, performing his song “The Promise.” She is also part of **Music Strong: Borderline Victims Benefit Concert** on Feb. 10 (proceeds will go to assist victims’ families and survivors of the massacre at the Borderline Bar & Grill in Thousand Oaks, Calif) and **Stagecoach Festival** on April 27.

Her theater credits include a return to Broadway in March 2015 starring in *Fish in the Dark*, an original comedy by Larry David who also starred in the production. She made her Broadway debut in 2006 as Roxie Hart in the musical *Chicago*. Additional turns include the New York and Los Angeles stage productions of *Love, Loss & What I Wore*, written by Nora Ephron & Delia Ephron, the world premiere of Lisa Loomer’s *Distracted*, directed by Leonard Foglia at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles, and the Pulitzer Prize winning *Dinner With Friends* directed by Tony winner Dan Sullivan. Rita works with the Shakespeare Festival/LA, a charity that provides free Shakespeare to the citizens of LA, as well as providing a program for youths in the community.

Rita’s additional film credits include *Sleepless in Seattle*, *It’s Complicated*, *Mixed Nuts*, *Now and Then*, *That Thing You Do!*, *Jingle All The Way*, *Psycho*, *Runaway Bride*, *Invisible Child*, *The Story of Us*, *Auto Focus*, *Raise Your Voice*, *The Chumscrubber*, *Beautiful, Ohio*, *My Life in Ruins* and *Old Dogs*.

Other television appearances include recurring roles on “*Girls*,” “*The Good Wife*.” Rita has foiled Larry David in “The Doll” episode of “*Curb Your Enthusiasm*,” has been girlfriend and mother to Kelsey Grammar’s “*Frasier*,” and co-starred as Susan Borman in HBO’s Emmy award winning miniseries “*From the Earth to the Moon*.” Rita has “*The Brady Bunch*” to thank for her first professional acting job. Other TV credits include “*Body of Proof*,” “*My Big Fat Greek Life*,” “*Mad About You*,” “*Moonlighting*,” “*Who’s The Boss?*,” “*Three’s Company*,” “*Happy Days*,” “*Law and Order: SVU* and “*M*A*S*H*.”

In 2007 Rita made her directorial debut for *Glamour Magazine*’s Reel Moments. *The Trap*, starring Jeanne Tripplehorn and Channing Tatum which also includes the song “Lessons Learned” by Grammy award winning songwriter Diane Warren, and performed by Rita. Rita is a contributing editor to *Harper’s Bazaar* and has also written for *Oprah Magazine*, where readers have followed her thoughts on varying subjects from fashion to family. Rita was also the creator and Editor-at-Large of *Huff/Post 50*, a website launched by the Huffington Post for the Baby Boomer generation.