

Julia Sweeney bio, 2018

Julia Sweeney is an actress, comedian, writer and film director. She is 58 years old and was born in the U.S. in Spokane, Washington. She's appeared on numerous film and television shows. She's best known for her original comedic monologues and stand up.

Julia spent four and a half years on the sketch comedy show *Saturday Night Live* from 1990 to 1994. Her most popular recurring character was Pat, an androgynous person who caused people to become confused. She also wrote and starred in a film about Pat entitled *It's Pat!* This film had a dismal reception at the box office and was universally panned by critics. That was basically the end of Pat, although the character still seems to be part of American popular culture.

After Julia left *Saturday Night Live*, she became most well known as a monologist. Her first one-person show was entitled *God Said Ha!* which was about a terrible year when she and her brother were both diagnosed with cancer. This show was a tremendous success; it played in several U.S. cities and on Broadway at the Lyceum Theater in 1997. The audio of the show was nominated for a Grammy. Quentin Tarantino produced a film version of the show, which Julia directed. It still plays on cable.

Julia's second monologue was entitled *In the Family Way*. It chronicled Julia's quest to become a mother and her eventual adoption of a child as a single person. She did theater runs of this show in New York off-Broadway and in Los Angeles.

Julia's third monologue was her finest work, *Letting Go of God*. It was a one-person show about her quest to find a God in which she could truly believe. She chronicles her discovery of science and her slow, but firm, adoption of a scientific worldview. She becomes openly secular, even withstanding the rejection of her parents. Julia performed this show all over the world, including in New York and Los Angeles. The play won numerous awards. The film of the show, which Julia directed, played on Showtime.

In 2008 Julia married Chicago-based biophysicist and business-owner Michael Blum, and he adopted her daughter. The family lives just outside Chicago. She has spent the recent years rearing her daughter, occasionally performing onstage with her friend, the musician Jill Sobule, (*The Jill and Julia Show* is available on YouTube) and writing a memoir entitled *If It's Not One Thing, It's Your Mother*, which was published by Simon and Schuster in 2013.

Julia's new show, *Julia Sweeney: Older & Wider* is starting to be work shopped at Second City Chicago in January 2018.