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Biography for

Traci Lords

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Nora Louise Kuzma

Height

5' 7" (1.70 m)

Mini Biography

Traci Lords is a study of a determined and complex woman with a very controversial background. Born and raised in Ohio as Nora Louise Kuzma, she moved with her divorced mother and three sisters to Los Angeles at age 12. She ran away from home and began nude modeling at age 15, then adult films a year later.

An incredibly developed, full-figured girl, she easily duped photographers, producers and directors (with the help of a false birth certificate and driver's license). Her stage name is a combination of Traci, from a former school friend, and Lords, in honor of her favorite male actor, [Jack Lord](#) ("[Hawaii Five-O](#)" (1968)). She later owned a white Persian cat named Mr. Steve McGarrett, the name of the character Lord played on the show. Traci made somewhere between 80 and 100 X-rated movies (some consisted mostly of leftover footage from previous shoots) between 1984 and 1986.

[ad feedback](#)

In May 1986 she was [arrested](#) by FBI agents when it was discovered she was underage, which meant that any films with her in them were illegal to rent or buy, and video stores around the country rushed to remove them. The only legal porn movie Traci made was [Traci, I Love You](#) (1987) (V), which was filmed in Paris, France, on her 18th birthday. Since she controlled distribution rights, many people believed she orchestrated the revelation herself so she could be the only one to profit from her X-rated career. Many within the adult film industry made a tacit agreement to never promote Traci or talk about her, as they felt she betrayed the industry that had had been the source of her fame in the first place. The federal government tried to prosecute the producers of the movie [Those Young Girls](#) (1984) (V), the first adult film Traci appeared in, for child pornography. However, the case fell apart when the government admitted that it, too, had been duped when Lords traveled to Europe to shoot [Traci, I Love You](#) (1987) (V) on a fake passport. After her exile from adult films, she began to resurrect her life and fulfill her lifelong ambition to star in "mainstream" films.

In 1987 she enrolled in the [Lee Strasberg](#) acting school, began voice lessons and built on her natural acting talents. Her first mainstream "break" came in [Not of This Earth](#) (1988), a remake of the classic [Roger Corman](#) sci-fi film from the 1950s. It was the last time that Traci would bare her breasts for the camera. Rare footage of a scene where she exits a shower has been seen as an outtake--Traci walks out of the shower, warning the cameramen to get ready to get the best look they could at her naked body. She jokes while draping the towel around her waist, turning her exposed chest to the camera, and then covers up. Her roles in subsequent films would see her placed in situations where there was much more left to the imagination than could actually be seen on screen for a public that only a few years earlier had seen virtually every facet of this beautiful girl.

Throughout the 1990s her hard work got her a reputation as a reliable and respected actress, in addition to being a singer and an advocate for gay rights. Her recurring role in early 1995 as a sneering sociopath, Rikki, on "[Melrose Place](#)" (1992) was critically acclaimed and landed her more roles in other movies, playing villains and psychotic characters. In the latter half of the 1990s she appeared in several B movies that went straight to video and/or cable in lead, minor or cameo roles. She even guest-starred in a number of TV shows ranging from "[Married with Children](#)" (1987), "[Roseanne](#)" (1988), "[MacGyver](#)" (1985) and "[Nash Bridges](#)" (1996).

She has always despised being referred to as "an ex-porn star", and resents the fact that a celebrity like [Tim Allen](#) can be forgiven by Hollywood for past transgressions (he was convicted and served [prison](#) time selling [drugs](#) while he was in college) but she still to this day bears the stigma of her porn years. It's probably the fantasy of the underage girl who fooled an entire industry, and, at the height of her career, was unquestionably the most popular actress with fans and filmmakers alike.

Some of her most notable TV work was as a regular on season 2 of "[Profiler](#)" (1996) from 1997 to 1998 in playing the schizo-sicko serial killer Sharon Leshner, as well as the tough heroine Jordan Radcliffe during the last season of the sci-fi series "[First Wave](#)" (1998) from 2000 to 2001. She most recently has written her autobiography, published in 2003, and even tried her hand in writing and directing a short film which would lead her to another career as a writer-director of independent films.

IMDb Mini Biography By: [Shapster](#)**Spouse**

[Jeff Gruenewald](#) ([23 February 2002](#) - present) 1 child
[Ryan Granger](#) ([26 June 1999](#) - [1 February 2000](#)) (divorced)
[Brook Yeaton](#) ([29 September 1990](#) - [1 January 1996](#)) (divorced)

Trivia

"Traci" comes from her girlfriend's name, "Lords" from [Jack Lord](#) ("[Hawaii Five-O](#)" (1968)).

Strong supporter of gay rights.

Was the centerfold model for the same issue of Penthouse Magazine that "exposed" Miss America 1984, [Vanessa Williams](#). Because she was underage, it is illegal to own or trade that issue unless the pictorial of Ms. Lords is removed.

Penthouse Pet of the Month - September 1984

Had her name legally changed to Traci Elizabeth Lords.

Husband Jeff Lee is a union ironworker.

Measurements: 34C-23-34 (self-described- 1991), (Source: Celebrity Sleuth magazine).

Her father, Louis Kuzma, is an immigrant from Ukraine. Her mother, Patricia Briceland, is of Scandanavian descent.

Has 1st KYU in Bujinkan Ninjutsu.

She is easily the most successful of former porn stars to make a transition to mainstream movies.

She contributed vocals to the Manic Street Preachers song "Little Baby Nothing," from the Welsh group's "Generation Terrorists" album in 1992, and released as a single in November of that year. The song is about the sexual exploitation of a woman and singer/guitarist [James Dean Bradfield](#) said that "we needed somebody, a symbol, a person that could actually symbolize the lyrics and justify them to a certain degree. Traci was more than happy to do it. She saw the lyrics, and she had an immediate affinity with them. It was definitely easy to incorporate her personality into the lyrics. We just wanted a symbol for it, and I think she was a great symbol." Traci said that "I listened to the tape and really identified with the character in the song...this young girl who's been exploited and abused by men all her life."

A bra worn by Traci (from her relationship with ex-fiancé [John Enos III](#)) sold at auction on eBay for \$80.00 in April, 2007.

Son, Joseph Gunnar Lee, born October 7, 2007. He weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces.

Was almost cast as the female lead in [Martin Scorsese's](#) [Casino](#) (1995), but lost out to [Sharon Stone](#).

Appeared as one of the celebrity models in a charity fashion show staged by [Thierry Mugler](#) to benefit AIDS Project Los Angeles. [April 1992]

Personal Quotes

[asked about her role as Jordan Radcliffe on "[First Wave](#)" (1998)] I jokingly refer to it as the DKNY Militia because she always looks great. When she's battling the aliens, she's always got the best leather pants on.

My parents never got along. It was a very ugly scene to be a part of.

I'm successful in spite of my past, not because of it!

[about her porn career] No one put a gun to my head and said "you have to do this."

[about her porn career] I was really young, I was really stupid about some things.

I hate the phrase "former porn queen." That part of my life was a long time ago. Think of something else to call me... I'm successful in spite of my past, not because of it.

Salary

[Not of This Earth](#) (1988) \$3,000/week

Where Are They Now

(August 2005) Los Feliz, California

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