



# growing up animal

## **Tracee Ellis Ross (Narrator)**

Tracee Ellis Ross continues to skillfully navigate the entertainment industry as an award-winning actress, producer and CEO. Ross can currently be seen starring in ABC's Emmy, SAG, NAACP, Critics Choice, Golden Globe nominated and Peabody-winning comedy series "black-ish". The hit series will return in mid-season with an 8th and final season.

For her role as Rainbow Johnson in the series, as a comedic leading actress, Ross has received numerous individual accolades including winning the Golden Globe Award in 2017 as well as nine NAACP Image Awards. She also garnered five Primetime Emmy nominations and two Critics Choice Award nominations. Ross was honored by Women in Film in 2017 with the "Lucy Award for Excellence in Television and at the 2016 ESSENCE Black Women in Hollywood luncheon with the "Fierce and Fearless" award. Most recently, she joined the ranks of Victoria Beckham and Gwen Stefani in receiving the "Fashion Icon Award" at the 2020 People's Choice Awards.

Ross recently signed a multi-year overall deal with ABC Signature under her production company, Joy Mill Entertainment. The company will be based at the studio and produce content across all platforms. Joy Mill Entertainment is committed to amplifying multilayered stories that reframe assumptions about how people see themselves and each other.

Ross will also executive produce and narrate a new docuseries, THE HAIR TALES, along with "The Meaning of Mariah Carey" author Michaela Angela Davis. THE HAIR TALES will be a part of the Onyx Collective, Disney's recently launched content brand for creators of color and underrepresented voices on Hulu. The docuseries is about Black women, beauty and identity through the distinctive lens of Black hair. It will be produced by Joy Mill Entertainment, Culture House, Tretravision and Harpo Films alongside Oprah Winfrey, Ross and Angela Davis. It will debut on the Oprah Winfrey Network's cable channel and on Hulu.

Up next, Ross will lend her voice to the Disney+ original series from National Geographic GROWING UP ANIMAL. The six-part unscripted natural history series is an intimate and extraordinary adventure of baby animals, from the safety of the womb to the uncertainty of birth and their tentative first steps will drop on August 18th.

Ross recently completed production on B.J Novak's half-hour anthology series THE PREMISE. The cast includes Ben Platt, Lucas Hedges, Jon Bernthal, Kaitlyn Dever, Ed Asner and Beau Bridges. The Premise is a fearlessly ambitious new series that uses comedy to engage with the biggest issues of our unprecedented modern era. The first two episodes will premiere on FX On Hulu on



September 16. Additionally, Ross will star and serve as executive producer in the adult animated comedy, “Jodie.” “Jodie” is a series spinoff of MTV’s iconic “Daria” franchise in which Ross will voice the title character, Jodie.

Ross serves as the CEO and Founder of PATTERN —the award-winning haircare brand she created for the curly, coily and tight-textured masses that has taken the industry by storm since its launch in 2019. In 2020, PATTERN won the ALLURE Best of Beauty 2020 Award for its “Hair Pick,” the ELLE Future of Beauty Award for its “Intensive Conditioner,” the ESSENCE Best in Black Beauty Award and the MARIE CLAIRE Beauty Game Changer Award for its “Leave-In Conditioner,” the NEWBEAUTY Award for its “Hydration Shampoo,” and the GLAMOUR Beauty Award for “Best Pro Shampoo and Conditioner for Curls.” Pattern launched its Phase 2 collection in 2020, which included over 15 new styling products and tools. In February 2021, PATTERN launched Phase 3, a collection of products created to treat the hair and scalp. The brand is currently available online at [patternbeauty.com](http://patternbeauty.com), as well as [ulta.com](http://ulta.com) and ULTA Beauty stores nationwide, where it is ranked as the #1 BIPOC brand and #2 curl brand as well as Target stores nationwide. PATTERN serves as an active space for the celebration of Black beauty and supports organizations and programs that empower women and people of color. With PATTERN, Ross has created a groundbreaking ecosystem that allows Black women to feel seen and celebrated.

To add to her many endeavors, Ross will be producing a 10-episode podcast, “I Am America,” alongside Dear Media. Each episode of the podcast will highlight a person of color and their contributions to their community. Dear Media is known for highlighting the stories of women in entertainment. The podcast will debut in early 2022.

Ross was last seen on the big screen in Focus Features’ “The High Note,” starring opposite Dakota Johnson – which released on PVD in May 2020. Directed by Nisha Ganatra, the comedy is set among the talent, fame and fast-paced world of Hollywood’s music scene. In the film, Ross delivers stunning vocal performances of five different songs, including the film’s first single “Love Myself.” This notably marks the first time Ross has released a song, highlighting her dynamic voice in her role as recording artist Grace Davis. The song stayed on the Billboard contemporary chart for 7 straight weeks and reached a peak position of 14. This multifaceted performance earned her a NAACP Image Award nomination for Outstanding Actress in a Motion Picture.

Previously on television, Ross starred on the hit sitcom “Girlfriends” which ran for eight seasons and earned her eight NAACP Image Award nominations with wins in 2007 and 2009. Ross also earned the Best Actress in a Comedy NAACP Image Award for her work in “Reed Between the Lines” in 2012, a show she also produced. Ross recently narrated and performed an original lullaby for HBO Max’s “The Runaway Bunny,” an animated special based on the classic children’s book by Margaret Wise Brown. The special also includes songs performed by Grammy-winning artists Mariah Carey, Kelly Rowland, Rosanne Cash, Ziggy Marley and Kimya Dawson.

Ross also continues to use her voice and vast social influence to advocate for joy and self-acceptance and invites her more than 11 million social media followers to join her quest for inclusivity and equity. In line with her passion for social justice and advocacy, she recently facilitated night two of the 2020 Democratic National Convention serving as a guide for the evening’s program in support of the nominations of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. As a co-



founding signatory of the Time's Up movement, Ross is actively involved in working towards the goal of creating safety and equality in the workplace. In November 2017, Ross gave a powerful speech that went viral about dismantling expectations and claiming your own life at Glamour's Women of the Year Summit. In April of 2018, Ross opened at the TED Conference, the first Black woman to do so, with an important speech about the wisdom of women's fury. She also moderated the second stop of Michelle Obama's book tour in Los Angeles on behalf of her memoir "Becoming" in 2019. Ross' success with PATTERN has also served as a launch pad for her thought leadership in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). She continues to champion initiatives that position DEI as a key business driver and reframe the narrative around Black women and Black consumers.

Ross was awarded an honorary degree as Doctor of Fine Arts by her alma mater, Brown University in 2015.

Ross currently resides in Los Angeles.