

## **Patty Duke**

Academy Award winning actress, past President of the Screen Actors Guild, and twice, best selling author, Patty Duke has been delighting and challenging audiences for more than 50 years with her work on stage, in movies and on television.

Born Anna Marie Duke, she first began her career in New York City, in the early 1950's with live TV and on stage. Her Oscar-winning portrayal of the blind, deaf and mute, Helen Keller in "The Miracle Worker", launched Patty as one of America's finest young talents and won her the Oscar at the age of 16, the youngest person ever to win at the time.

There has been much recognition from her peers - Along with the Oscar, two Golden Globes, three Emmy Awards and Nine Emmy Nominations, a People's Choice Award, over 90 television movies and many national awards for her work in helping to erase the stigma of mental illness.

In 1982, she was diagnosed and successfully treated for Bi-polar illness. Since the publication of her autobiography, "Call Me Anna" and her second book "A Brilliant Madness", Ms. Duke spends a great deal of time traveling around the country and internationally, advocating for mental health. She has twice spoken in front of Congress to raise funds for research. To continue her effort to erase the stigma associated with mental illness, in 2005, she started a website ([www.pattyduke.net](http://www.pattyduke.net)) and blog that has become a primary vehicle for information, support for people dealing with mental illness. Ms. Duke was recently appointed to the Advisory Council for Mental Health in Washington, D.C.

In 2006, she received the Lionel Aldridge Award from the National Alliance for Mental Illness, further inspiration to keep up the fight for Mental Health.

One of Anna's greatest achievements came recently when she received an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from University of North Florida. She has also become a visiting Professor at the University of Idaho.

Her greatest support comes from her husband Mike Pearce. Ms. Duke is a Wife, Mother and Nana to 5 grandchildren and 7 dogs.