

JODI BENSON is honored and blessed to be a recipient of The Disney Legends Award having served the company for over 27 amazing years. Ms. Benson has received worldwide recognition and critical acclaim as the beloved, original voice of Ariel in the Academy Award®-winning Walt Disney Pictures animated feature film "The Little Mermaid," and continues to bring life to Ariel as well as the bubbly voice of "Barbie" in Disney/Pixar's Best Picture Golden Globe winner "Toy Story 2" and Academy Award winner "Toy Story 3." She also gave voice to the spirited "Weebo" in Disney's live action "Flubber," starring Robin Williams. For Warner Bros., she created the vibrant voice of "Thumbelina," a Don Bluth animated feature with songs by Barry Manilow. Jodi's other projects include "Tinkerbell: Secret of the Wings", "The Little Mermaid: Ariel's Beginning," "The Little Mermaid 2: Return to the Sea," "Lady and the Tramp II: Scamp's Adventure (voice of Lady)," "101 Dalmatians II" Patch's London Adventure (Anita)," "Balto: Wolf Quest (Jenna)," and "Balto III: Wings of Change." She appeared as Patrick Dempsey's assistant Sam, in Disney's live-action feature film "Enchanted" - as a real person with legs!

Benson received nominations for the Tony® Award and Helen Hayes Award for Best Actress in a Musical for creating the starring role of Polly Baker in the Tony Award-winning George and Ira Gershwin musical "Crazy For You." Other Broadway credits include creating the starring role of Doria Hudson in the Howard Ashman-Marvin Hamlisch musical "Smile," Betty Bursteter in Cy Coleman's "Welcome to the Club" and Virginia in Kenny Ortega's "Marilyn: An American Musical." Internationally, Benson has had the honor of sharing the stage with her husband, Ray Benson, in the European premiere of the Gershwins' "My One and Only" starring as Miss Edythe Herbert. In Los Angeles, Benson starred as Bunny in the critically acclaimed Reprise/UCLA production of "Babes in Arms," Nellie Forbush in "South Pacific" (Pasadena Civic), Flora in "Flora the Red Menace" (Pasadena Playhouse), Ado Annie in "Oklahoma!" (Dorothy Chandler Pavilion), Eliza Doolittle in "My Fair Lady (Alex Theater) and as Florence Vassey in "Chess" (Long Beach Civic Light Opera) for which she won the Drama-Logue Award for Best Actress.

Benson can be heard on over a dozen recordings and has a 6-part DVD series entitled "Baby Faith" from the creators of "Baby Einstein." Her animated TV series include the hit Emmy Award winning "Camp Lazlo" for the Cartoon Network, "The Little Mermaid," "Batman Beyond," "The Grim Adventures of Billy and Mandy," "The Wild Thornberrys," "Barbie," "Hercules: Zero to Hero," "P.J. Sparkles," and the new series "Sofia The First" for Disney as well as many others.

On the concert stage, Benson has performed as a concert soloist with symphonies all over the world, including The Boston Pops, The Philly Pops (conductor: Peter Nero), The Hollywood Bowl Orchestra (conductor: John Mauceri), The National Symphony (conductor: Marvin Hamlisch), Cleveland, Dallas, Tokyo, San Francisco and Chicago Symphonies, to name a few. She starred in the Kennedy Center Honors for Ginger Rogers, and in "Disney's Premiere in Central Park with Pocahontas," "The Walt Disney World 25th Anniversary Spectacular" and "Disney's 100 Years of Magic." Benson is honored to be the resident guest soloist for the Walt Disney Company/Disney Cruise Line and ambassador for feature animation.

Jodi gives thanks to God for her loving husband, Ray, and her amazing children, son, McKinley and daughter, Delaney.