

Anissa Jones

Lafayette, Tippecanoe County

March 11, 1958 – August 28, 1976

Anissa Jones was born in Lafayette, Indiana, to John Paul Jones and Mary Paula Jones who were studying at Purdue University at the time. Her maternal grandparents were Lebanese, and Jones' middle name means "Little Friend" in Arabic.

In 1964, when Anissa was six, her mother took her daughter to an open audition for a breakfast cereal commercial, which became her first television appearance. She is best known for her role as Ava Elizabeth "Buffy" Patterson-Davis on the CBS sitcom *Family Affair* (1966). In the opening plotline, Buffy, her twin brother Jody, and older sister, Cissy, are sent to live with their Uncle Bill and his valet, Mr. French, a year after the children's parents die in a car accident. The TV series became a hit and ran for five seasons and 138 episodes. When she fell and broke her leg, her injury was written into the show. Her character had a beloved doll named Mrs. Beasley, which she claimed talked to her, often making funny comments. When the show became a hit, the doll was marketed by Mattel and became a best-seller in North America.

Anissa appeared in *The Trouble with Girls* (1969) with Elvis Presley. She also appeared in the TV series, *To Rome with Love*, (1969-1971) with John Forsythe, *Ronan & Martin's Laugh-In*, *The Mike Douglas Show*, and featured briefly on *The Dick Cavett Show*, which became her final appearance on television. Anissa lost interest in acting, left the entertainment business and returned to school.

Unfortunately, her personal life was much more turbulent than the loving family she belonged to on TV. On August 28, 1976, Anissa's life was cut short when she overdosed on drugs. She was eighteen years old.

For more information about Anissa Clark, go to: <https://www.thefamouspeople.com/profiles/anissa-jones-35094.php>

References will be published at the end of Women's History Month.



Photo Courtesy: www.sitcomsonline.com

INDIANA
COMMISSION
for women
2018
Writing Her Story