**Nerene Virgin: Canadian Journalist, actress, educator, author, TV host**

**Nerene Virgin:** (December 27, 1946 – January 15, 2024) was a Canadian journalist,[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nerene_Virgin#cite_note-1) actress,[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nerene_Virgin#cite_note-2) educator, author[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nerene_Virgin#cite_note-3) and television host,[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nerene_Virgin#cite_note-4) best known for her role on the children's television series [*Today's Special*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Today%27s_Special).[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nerene_Virgin#cite_note-5)

Virgin was born in [Hamilton, Ontario](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamilton,_Ontario). She was a great-granddaughter of escaped Maryland slave Thomas John (Howard) Holland, and great-niece of pastor [John Christie Holland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Christie_Holland).[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nerene_Virgin#cite_note-6)[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nerene_Virgin#cite_note-7) She was born Nerene Grizzle, daughter of Kathleen V. Toliver and [Stanley G. Grizzle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanley_G._Grizzle). After growing up in [Toronto](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toronto), she attended Toronto Teacher's College. Virgin was also certified as a Special Education teacher at [Brock University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brock_University) focusing on intellectually gifted children and held special qualifications in teaching Integrated Arts. Virgin began her career as a teacher, working for the [Toronto Board of Education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toronto_Board_of_Education). She later moved into children's programming with Ontario's public broadcaster [TV Ontario](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TV_Ontario), playing "Jodie" on *Today's Special*. This internationally acclaimed series was in production for seven years. Virgin also had recurring roles on other television programs, including [*The Littlest Hobo*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Littlest_Hobo), [*Night Heat*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Night_Heat) and [*Ramona*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramona_(1988_TV_series)). Initially, Virgin had played the role of Ellie the dispatch girl on *Police Surgeon*, a CTV series originally named [*Dr. Simon Locke*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dr._Simon_Locke).[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nerene_Virgin#cite_note-:0-8) She appeared in numerous film roles such as *[Gotti](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gotti_(1996_film)" \o "Gotti (1996 film))*, *The Undergrads*, [*Murder in Space*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murder_in_Space_(TV_series)), and *Right of the People*. Virgin's entertainment career began as a singer with the Tiaras, a Toronto-based girl group. Virgin joined Colina Phillips and Patricia Grizzle after [Brenda Russell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brenda_Russell) had left the trio and moved to Los Angeles.

Virgin worked as the weather and community reporter for [CBOT](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CBOT_(TV)), the local [CBC Television](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CBC_Television) station in [Ottawa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottawa), in the late 1980s. She then worked at [CTV](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CTV_television_network) station [CFTO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CFTO-TV) in [Toronto](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toronto) as the host of *Eye on Toronto*, co-host for the entertainment show *Showbuz*, and a host on CTV's annual *Miracle Network Telethon* for the [Hospital for Sick Children](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Hospital_for_Sick_Children,_Toronto).[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nerene_Virgin#cite_note-:0-8)

In 1996, Virgin became the host for the daily national current affairs show *Coast to Coast* for [CBC Newsworld](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CBC_Newsworld) in [Calgary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calgary), [Alberta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alberta). She returned to Toronto as the anchor to launch the national weekend newscast [*Saturday Report*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saturday_Report) for [CBC Television](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CBC_Television). She then moved to the anchor chair at [Newsworld International](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newsworld_International" \o "Newsworld International) until it was dismantled and taken over by Al Gore's [Current TV](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Current_TV) in July 2005. Virgin then chose to leave CBC to complete further studies, gaining certification in teaching ESL (English as a Second Language) and taught students in [Linhe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linhe_District" \o "Linhe District), [Inner Mongolia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inner_Mongolia), [China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China). She later taught French in [Stoney Creek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stoney_Creek,_Ontario" \o "Stoney Creek, Ontario). (read more)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nerene_Virgin>