AMAZING ENTERTAINERS

BY HOWIE BAUM

Carol Burnett - was born in 1933 to Ina Louise, a publicity writer for movie studios, and Joseph Thomas Burnett, a movie theatre manager in San Antonio, Texas. Unfortunately, both were alcoholics.

In the late 1930s, her parents divorced, and she was sent to stay with her maternal grandmother and a half-sister Chrissie, in a boarding house in an impoverished area of Hollywood. Her grandmother was a big pillar of strength in her troubled life and nurtured her talents by fostering a love and passion for the movies, in her.

She attended Hollywood High School, and later won a scholarship to the 'University of California', where she studied Theatre and English.

Initially wanting to pursue journalism and then wanting to become a playwright, Carol's interests subsequently turned to acting. Buoyed by the positive responses to her acts at the University, she dropped out to try her luck in Hollywood.

During her junior year at UCLA in 1954, she and some other students were invited to perform at a party. Afterwards, a man and his wife approached her while Carol was stuffing cookies in her purse to take home to her grandmother.

Instead of reprimanding her, the man complimented her performance and asked about her future plans. When he learned that she wanted to travel to New York in order to try her luck in musical comedy but could not afford the trip, he offered her and her boyfriend (Don Saroyan) each, on the spot, a $1,000 interest-free loan.

His conditions were simply that the loans were to be repaid within five years, his name was never to be revealed, and if she achieved success, she would help other aspiring talents to pursue their artistic dreams.

Burnett took him up on his offer, and she and Saroyan left college and moved to New York to pursue acting careers.

She went on to have a great acting career, spanning TV Shows, films, musicals and plays.

She is a much-loved-and-respected American comedienne, actress, singer and writer, who has been hailed as "Queen of Television Comedy".

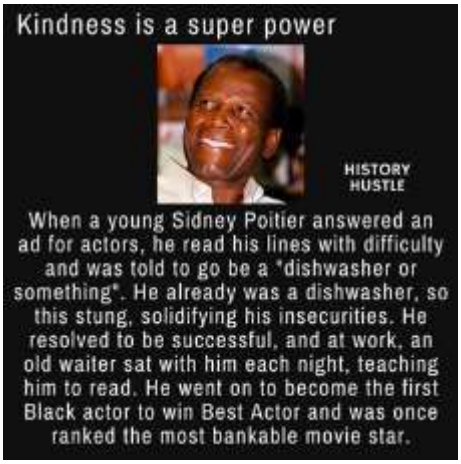
She is best known for her incredibly successful variety comedy show 'The Carol Burnett Show', which ran for 11 glorious years, winning 22 'Emmy Awards' in the process.

She displayed her range of talents in both comedy and singing and masterminded the show's success by being involved in all the creative aspects of the show. However, all her fame and success did not come easy to her, as she had to battle poverty and alcoholic parents since childhood.

In 2005, she was recognized as "one of America's most cherished entertainers" and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President George W. Bush, "for enhancing

the lives of millions of Americans and for her extraordinary contributions to American entertainment".

In 2013, she was awarded the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. In 2019, the Golden Globes named an award after her for career achievement in television, the Carol Burnett Award, and Burnett received its first award.



Sidney Poitier was born on February 20, 1927, in Miami, Florida.

A native of Cat Island in the Bahamas, he grew up in poverty as the son of farmers and his father also drove a cab.

After a delinquency-filled youth and a short stint in the U.S. Army, he moved to New York to pursue an acting career. He couldn't find any acting work and instead, he did menial jobs and slept in a bus terminal.

He joined the American Negro Theater and later began finding roles in Hollywood. Following his performance in the 1963 film *Lilies of the Field*, he became the first African-American to win an Academy Award for Best Actor.

He remained active on stage and screen as well as in the burgeoning Civil Rights movement. He also took on directing and producing jobs in the 1970s, achieving success in both arenas.

The acclaimed actor was knighted in 1974 and honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009.

Betty White – born on January 17, 1922 in Oak Park, Illinois

Nicknames Grand Dame of Television, Queen of Television, and Queen of T.V.

She was born in Oak Park, Illinois, to Christine Tess (Cachikis), a homemaker, and Horace Logan White, a lighting company executive for the Crouse-Hinds Electric Company. She is of Danish, Greek, English, and Welsh descent.

Although best known as the devious Sue Ann Nivens on the classic sitcom The Mary Tyler Moore Show (1970) and the ditzy Rose Nylund on The Golden Girls (1985), she had been in television for a long, long time before those two shows, having had her own series, Life with Elizabeth in 1952.

The widow of TV game-show host Allen Ludden, she has been inducted into the Television Hall of Fame and is known for her tireless efforts on behalf of animals.

She will be 100 years old on January 17, 2022 !



Mime artist. Marcel Mangel was born March 22, 1923, in Strasbourg, France.

He was brought up in Strasbourg and Lille. There he was introduced to music and theatre by his father, Charles Mangel, a kosher butcher, who also sang baritone and was a supporter of arts and music. His mother, Anne Mangel, was a native Alsatian, and the family was bilingual.

At the age of 5, his mother took Marcel to a Charlie Chaplin's movie, and he was entranced and decided to become a mime. Young Marcel was also fond of art and literature, he studied English in addition to his French and German and became trilingual.

At the beginning of the Second World War, he had to hide his Jewish origin and changed his name to Marceau, when his Jewish family was forced to flee their home.

Both Marceau and his brother, Alain, were in the French underground, helping children to escape to safety in neutral Switzerland. Then he served as interpreter for the Free French Forces under General Charles de Gaulle, acting as liaison officer with the allied armies.

In 1948 he founded the Compagnie de Mime Marcel Marceau, developing the art of mime, becoming himself the leading exponent. His white-faced character, Bip, based on the 19th century French Pierrot, a melancholy vagabond, is famous from his appearances on stage and television throughout the world.

Among the many original performances he has devised are the mime-drama *Don Juan* (1964), and the ballet *Candide* (1971). He also created about 100 pantomimes, such as *The Creation of the World*. In 1978 he became head of the Ecole de Mimodrame Marcel Marceau.
He died on September 22, 2007 in Cahors, France.

Willow Rose Smith - was born October 31, 2000 in Los Angeles the daughter of musician-actor Will Smith and actress Jada Pinkett Smith. She has an older half-brother, Trey Smith and an older brother, Jaden Smith; who is a child actor.

She is known professionally as Willow, is an American singer, actress and dancer. She made her acting debut in 2007 in the film "I Am Legend" and later appeared in "Kit Kittredge: An American Girl", alongside Abigail Breslin. She received a Young Artist Award for her performance.

In 2010, Smith launched her music career with the single "Whip My Hair", which peaked at number 11 on the Billboard Hot 100 and was nominated for Video of the Year at the BET Awards of 2011. She later signed to her mentor Jay-Z's record label Roc Nation, becoming the youngest artist signed to the label; and released the single "21st Century Girl", the following year. In 2015, she released her debut album, Ardipithecus, including the single "Wait a Minute!", which was certified Platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America.

In 2021, Smith released the single "Transparent Soul" featuring Travis Barker, which reached number one on the Billboard Rock Streaming chart. **Time magazine named her one of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2021.**

John Cleese is an English actor, comedian, writer, and film producer. He was born in Somerset, England, the only child of Reginald Cleese, an insurance salesman, and his wife Muriel Evelyn (née Cross).

In the late 1960s, he co-founded **Monty Python**, the comedy troupe responsible for the sketch show *Monty Python's Flying Circus* and the four Monty Python films:

- And Now for Something Completely Different
- Monty Python and the Holy Grail
- Life of Brian

- The Meaning of Life.

In the mid-1970s, Cleese and his first wife, Connie Booth, co-wrote and starred in the British sitcom *Fawlty Towers*. Later, he co-starred with Kevin Kline, Jamie Lee Curtis and former Python colleague Michael Palin in *A Fish Called Wanda* and *Fierce Creatures*, both of which he also wrote. He also starred in *Clockwise*, and has appeared in many other films, including two *James Bond* films as R and Q, two *Harry Potter* films, and the last three *Shrek* films.

Eartha Kitt – born Eartha Mae Keith, she was born into a poor, rural family in South Carolina in 1927. Her mother was of African and Cherokee Indian ancestry. Her father was a white farmer.

When she was eight, her mother married but her husband did not want Eartha to live with them because of her mixed race.

She was sent to New York City to live with an aunt in the African- American neighborhood of Harlem but the relationship was difficult. The aunt helped pay for piano and dance lessons for Eartha. But she also beat the girl. Eartha would run away after the beatings.

She lived on the streets and worked in a factory as a young teenager.

She kept up her dance lessons. One day she decided to try out for a famous African-American dance company. Soon, she was performing in shows around the world with the Katherine Dunham Dance Troupe.

In Paris, she left the dance company to sing in a nightclub. Her voice was unusual – but very appealing. She learned French quickly and gained French fans.

The film director Orson Welles discovered Eartha Kitt singing in Paris. He called her "the most exciting woman in the world." Welles asked her to play a lead part in a play he was directing and starring in.

She soon signed a recording agreement with a record company. Eartha Kitt's songs were all daring, especially for the nineteen fifties. She even made a sexy Christmas song. "Santa Baby," which became her biggest hit.

Her first role in a film was in the 1957 movie "Mark of the Hawk" with Nat King Cole.

She was very careful about choosing her roles in films and rejected parts that were not respectful to people of color. She said if her choices were bad, it would not help the black actors who came after her.

José Antonio Domínguez Bandera , known professionally as **Antonio Banderas**, is a Spanish actor, director, and producer.

He was born on 9 August 1960, in the Andalusian city of Málaga, the son of José Domínguez, a police officer in the Civil Guard, and Ana Bandera Gallego, a school teacher.

He began his acting career with a series of films by director Pedro Almodóvar and then appeared in high-profile Hollywood movies, especially in the 1990s, including Assassins, Evita, Interview with the Vampire, Philadelphia, Desperado, The Mask of Zorro, and Spy Kids.

He also portrayed the voice of "Puss in Boots" in the Shrek sequels and Puss in Boots as well as the bee in the US Nasonex commercials.

He received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on 6801 Hollywood Blvd. in 2005. In May 2010, Banderas received his honorary doctorate from the University of Málaga in the city where he was born.

Lucille Ball was born on August 6, 1911, in Jamestown, New York

She tried to get into show business at an early age. Early on, she went to the same acting school as the famous actress Bette Davis. However, she left when she was told that she did not have enough acting ability.

In the early nineteen thirties, she moved to Hollywood. She appeared in a number of movies, but was not well known. In 1940 she met Desi Arnaz, the leader of a musical group who had been born in Cuba. They worked together in a movie and married soon after they met. For the next ten years, she appeared in movies and on radio. He traveled a lot with his band.

In 1950, the broadcasting company, CBS, decided to make a television program based on the radio show, "My Favorite Husband." Lucille Ball was the star of the radio show. She wanted Desi to play the part of her husband on the television show. CBS rejected the idea but she refused to give up. She and Desi traveled around the country performing in a show together to prove that they would do well on television. Their show was a success. CBS offered them both jobs.

One reason for the great popularity of "I Love Lucy" may have been its real-life connection with Ms. Ball's family. On the show, she was Lucy, the wife of Ricky Ricardo, a Cuban musician. Ricky was played by band leader Desi Arnaz, who was Lucille Ball's husband in real life. The show combined issues common to the life of married people living in the city with musical performances and comic theater.

Also on the "I Love Lucy" show were Vivian Vance and William Frawley. Ms. Vance played Ethel Mertz and Mr. Frawley played Ethel's husband, Fred Mertz. On the show, the Mertzes were friends of the Ricardos and owned the building in which they all lived.

Tom Hanks was born on July 9th, 1956 in California.

He is the son of hospital worker Janet Marylyn and itinerant cook Amos Hanks. His mother was of Portuguese descent, while his father had English ancestry. He is a third cousin, four times removed of President Abraham Lincoln through Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln.

He grew up in what he has called a "fractured" family. He moved around a great deal after his parents' divorce, living with a succession of step-families, causing a confused childhood.

He had no acting experience in college and credits the fact that he could not get cast in a college play with actually starting his career. He went downtown, and auditioned for a community theater play, was invited by the director of that play to go to Cleveland, and there his acting career started.

He is an American actor, filmmaker, and producer who has had an extensive career in films, television and on the stage. His cheerful everyman persona made him a natural for starring roles in many popular films.

He is the much-beloved star of many Hollywood hits and one of the highest grossing actors in history. His films have grossed more than $4.5 billion at U.S. and Canadian box offices and more than $9.0 billion worldwide, making him the third highest-grossing actor in North America.

He has acted in some of the greatest dramas ever. Tom Hank has been giving us memorable movies since the 80's.

Notable Films:

- Cast Away
- Forrest Gump
- Toy Story Franchise
- Angels and Demons
- Da Vinci Code
- Saving Private Ryan
- Saving Mr. Banks
- Catch Me If You Can
- Philadelphia
- The Terminal
- Cloud Atlas
- Captain Phillips
- The Green Mile.

Keanu Reeves He was abandoned by his father at 3 years old and grew up with 3 different stepfathers.

He is dyslexic. His dream of becoming a hockey player was shattered by a serious accident.

His daughter died at birth.

His wife died in a car accident. His best friend, River Phoenix, died of an overdose.

His sister has leukemia.

And with everything that has happened, Keanu Reeves never misses an opportunity to help people in need.

When he was filming the movie "The Lake House," he overheard the conversation of two costume assistants; One cried because he would lose his house if he did not pay $20,000 and on the same day Keanu deposited the necessary amount in the man's bank account; He also donated very large sums to hospitals.

In 2010, on his birthday, Keanu walked into a bakery and bought a brioche with a single candle, ate it in front of the bakery, and offered coffee to people who stopped to talk to him.

After winning astronomical sums for the Matrix trilogy, the actor donated more than $50 million to the staff who handled the costumes and special effects - the true heroes of the trilogy, as he called them.

He also gave a Harley-Davidson to each of the stunt doubles. A total expense of several million dollars.

And for many successful films, he has even given up 90% of his salary to allow the production to hire other stars.

In 1997 some paparazzi found him walking one morning in the company of a homeless man in Los Angeles, listening to him and sharing his life for a few hours.

Most stars when they make a charitable gesture, they declare it to all the media. He has never claimed to be doing charity, he simply does it as a matter of moral principles and not to look better in the eyes of others.

This man could buy everything, and instead every day he gets up and chooses one thing that cannot be bought: To be a good person.

Brigitte Anne-Marie Bardot, born: September 28, 1934 in Paris, France

She was often referred to by her initials B.B. and is a French animal rights activist and former actress, singer and model. Famous for portraying sexually emancipated personae with hedonistic lifestyles, she was one of the best known sex symbols of the late 1950s and 1960s. She has 1 child and 2 grandchildren .

Dwayne Douglas Johnson was born on May 2, 1972 in Hayward, California. He is also known by his ring name the Rock and is an American actor and former professional wrestler.
Regarded as one of the greatest professional wrestlers of all time, he wrestled for the World Wrestling Federation for eight years prior to pursuing an acting career.
He has been married twice and has 3 children
Upcoming movies: Black Adam, DC League of Super-Pets

Jennifer Lynn Lopez was born on July 24, 1969 in Castle Hill, New York. She is also known by her nickname J.Lo and is an American singer, actress, and dancer. In 1991, she began appearing as a Fly Girl dancer on In Living Color, where she remained a regular until she decided to pursue an acting career in 1993. She has been married 3 times and has 2 children – Emme and Max.

Morgan Freeman is an American actor, director, and narrator. Noted for his distinctive deep voice, Freeman is known for his various roles in a wide variety of film genres. He has been married twice and has 4 children.

He was born on June 1, 1937 in Memphis, Tennessee. He was raised in Chicago and Mississippi in a low-income home. Not long after he was born, Morgan's parents, like so many other African Americans struggling under the pressures of the South, relocated to Chicago to find work. While his parents looked for jobs, Freeman remained with his maternal grandmother in Charleston, Mississippi.

At the age of 6, his grandmother died and he moved north to be with his mother, who had already separated from her alcoholic husband.

As a kid, Freeman spent a good portion of his time scraping together enough money to see movies, where he formed an early admiration for actors like Gary Cooper, Spencer Tracy and Sidney Poitier. It was by chance that Freeman himself got into acting. He was in junior high school and, as punishment for pulling out a chair from underneath a girl he had a crush on, Freeman was ordered to participate in the school's drama competition. To his surprise, and probably school administrators, the 12-year-old proved to be an immediate natural on the stage, taking top honors in the program.

The young Freeman attended Los Angeles City College before serving several years in the US Air Force as a mechanic between 1955 and 1959. His first dramatic arts exposure was on the stage including appearing in an all-African American production of the exuberant musical Hello, Dolly!.

Angelina Jolie was born on June 4, 1975 in Los Angeles, California. She is an American actress, filmmaker, and humanitarian. The recipient of numerous accolades, including an Academy Award and three Golden Globe Awards, she has been named Hollywood's highest-paid actress, multiple times.

She has been married 3 times and has 6 children.

In her earliest years, Angelina began absorbing the acting craft from her actor parents, Jon Voight, an Oscar-winner, and Marcheline Bertrand, who had studied with Lee Strasberg.

At age 11, she began studying at the Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute, where she was seen in several stage productions. She undertook some film studies at New York University and later joined the renowned Met Theatre Group in Los Angeles. At age 16, she took up a career in modeling and appeared in some music videos.

She rose to fame after her role in Girl, Interrupted (1999), playing the title role in the "Lara Croft" blockbuster movies, as well as Mr. & Mrs. Smith (2005), Wanted (2008), Salt (2010) and Maleficent (2014).

Off-screen, she has become prominently involved in international charity projects, especially those involving refugees. She often appears on many "most beautiful women" lists, and she has a personal life that is avidly covered by the tabloid press.

Edward (Eddie) Murphy was born on April 3, 1961 in Brooklyn, New York,

He spent his early years in the projects of Bushwick with his father, Charles, a New York City police officer and amateur comedian, his mother, Lillian, a telephone operator, and his brother Charles.

He watched a lot of television growing up and developed a great skill for impressions, doing such characters as Bugs Bunny, Bullwinkle and Sylvester the Cat. "My mother says I never talked in my own voice," Murphy later said.

Hosting a talent show at the Roosevelt Youth Center at age 15, Murphy delighted his young audience with an impersonation of Al Green. This early success ignited a passion for showbiz, and Murphy began working on his comedy routines after school and performing stand-up at local bars, clubs and "gong shows." His schoolwork suffered, however, and Murphy had to repeat the 10th grade as a result.

By doubling up on classes, and attending summer and night school, he graduated only a couple of months late. Murphy was voted the "most popular" boy in his graduating class. His declared career plan: comedian.

He is an American actor, comedian, writer, producer, and singer. He rose to fame on the sketch comedy show Saturday Night Live, for which he was a regular cast member from 1980 to 1984.
He has been married twice and has 10 children !

He began doing stand-up comedy as a teenager and later joined the cast of *Saturday Night Live*. At age 21, Murphy co-starred with Nick Nolte in *48 Hours,* and he went on to further box-office success with *Trading Places, Beverly Hills Cop, Coming to America*, *The Nutty Professor* and *Shrek*. He continues to star in many movies, including comedies, dramas and family films.

Michael Andrew Fox, known professionally as **Michael J. Fox** was born on June 9, 1961 in Edmonton, Canada.

He is a Canadian American retired actor, author, film producer, and activist. Beginning his career in the 1970s, he first rose to prominence for portraying Alex P. Keaton on the NBC sitcom, Family Ties and as an actor in the “Back to the Future” movies. He is married and has 4 children.

He is of Irish, English, and Scottish descent. He attended Burnaby Central Secondary School, and now has a theatre named for him at Burnaby South Secondary. At age 15,

Fox starred in the Canadian television series Leo and Me, produced by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and in 1979, at age 18, he moved to Los Angeles to further his acting career. Shortly after his marriage, he moved back to Vancouver.

He was discovered by producer Ronald Shedlo and made his American television debut in the television film Letters from Frank, credited under the name "Michael Fox".

He intended to continue to use the name, but when he registered with the Screen Actors Guild, which requires unique registration names to avoid credit ambiguities (and the possibility that royalty checks would be sent to the wrong actors), He changed his middle initial to a J as another person of the same name with a middle initial of A, was already in the system.

Fox started displaying symptoms of early-onset Parkinson's disease in 1991 while shooting the movie Doc Hollywood, and was diagnosed shortly thereafter.

During the fourth season, he announced his retirement from the show. He announced that he planned to continue to act and would make guest appearances on Spin City (he made three more appearances on the show during the final season.

In 2004, Fox guest starred in two episodes of the comedy-drama Scrubs as Dr. Kevin Casey, a surgeon with severe obsessive-compulsive disorder. The series was created by Spin City creator Bill Lawrence. In 2006, he appeared in four episodes of Boston Legal as a lung cancer patient. The producers brought him back in a recurring role for season three, beginning with the season premiere. Fox was nominated for an Emmy Award for best guest appearance.

Fox and Muhammad Ali testified in 2002, before a Senate committee on providing government funding to combat Parkinson's disease. The Michael J. Fox Foundation, was created by him to help advance every promising research path to curing Parkinson's disease.

Edward (Ed) Christopher Sheeran was born on February 17, 1991 in Halifax, United Kingdom

He is an English singer-songwriter. He has sold more than 150 million records worldwide, making him one of the world's best-selling music artists.

He is married and has 1 child.

His parents, John and Imogen, are from London. John is an art curator and lecturer, and Imogen is a culture publicist, turned jewelery designer He has an older brother named Matthew, who works as a music composer.

In December 1995 he moved with his family from Hebden Bridge to Framlingham in Suffolk, where he attended the independent Brandeston Hall preparatory school

Sheeran sang at a local church choir at the age of four, learned how to play the guitar at age eleven, and began writing songs while at Thomas Mills High School in Framlingham.

A 2004 school report described him as a "natural performer", and his classmates also voted him "most likely to be famous".

He was accepted at the National Youth Theatre in London as a teenager and successfully auditioned for Youth Music Theatre UK in 2007 and joined their production of Frankenstein in Plymouth.[30]

He is a patron of the British Youth Music Theatre and of Access to Music, where he studied Artist Development.

Alecia Beth Moore (born September 8, 1979), known professionally as **Pink,** is an American singer and songwriter.

She was trained as a competitive gymnast between the ages 4 and 12 and also developed her voice early in life.

She began performing in Philadelphia clubs when she was about 14 years old and adopted her stagename, "Pink", around this time.

She was originally a member of the girl group Choice. In 1995, LaFace Records saw potential in Pink and offered her a solo recording contract. Her R&B-influenced debut studio album Can't Take Me Home (2000) was certified double-platinum in the United States and spawned two Billboard Hot 100 top-ten songs: "There You Go" and "Most Girls".

Noted for her distinctive raspy voice and acrobatic stage presence, she has sold over 100 million records worldwide, making her one of the world's best-selling music artists. Her career accolades include three Grammy Awards, two Brit Awards, a Daytime Emmy Award and seven MTV Video Music Awards, including the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award.

In 2009, Billboard named Pink the Pop Songs Artist of the Decade. Pink was also the second most-played female solo artist in the United Kingdom during the 2000s decade, behind only Madonna. VH1 ranked her at number ten on their list of the 100 Greatest Women in Music, while Billboard awarded her the Woman of the Year award in 2013

Tired of being marketed as another cookie cutter pop act, as well as eager both to be seen as a more serious songwriter and musician and to perform the type of music she wanted to, Pink took her sound in a new direction and sought more artistic or creative control during the recording of her second album, Missundaztood.

According to the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI), Missundaztood was the eighth best-selling album of 2002 globally and she was named the Top Female Billboard 200 Artist of 2002

According to Nielsen SoundScan, Pink's record sales stand at 16 million copies in the United States.[220] Pink has sold over 40 million albums and 50 million singles worldwide, making her one of the world's best-selling music artists.

Harrison Ford, (born July 13, 1942, Chicago, Illinois, U.S.), American actor, perhaps best known for playing charismatic rogues in the Star Wars and Indiana Jones film franchises.

He was born in Chicago and was raised in the city's suburbs. After attending Ripon College in Wisconsin, he took minor acting roles in movies and television for Columbia and Universal studios but soon fell back on a sideline career in carpentry.

His film career began in earnest with a bit part in the successful American Graffiti (1973), the first major work of director George Lucas. The movie was produced by Francis Ford Coppola, who later directed Ford in The Conversation (1974) and Apocalypse Now (1979).

Ford achieved real success as the opportunistic Han Solo in Lucas's Star Wars (1977). The space-fantasy film became one of the highest-grossing motion pictures of all time. Ford's fame was cemented with the Star Wars sequels The Empire Strikes Back (1980) and Return of the Jedi (1983) and with the Indiana Jones series, in which he starred as an adventurer-archaeologist. Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981) and its sequels Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984) and Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (1989) were produced by Lucas and directed by Steven Spielberg.

Winona Laura Horowitz (born October 29, 1971), better known under her professional name **Winona Ryder**, is an American actress.

She made her film debut in the 1986 film Lucas. Ryder's first significant role came in Tim Burton's Beetlejuice (1988) as a goth teenager, which won her critical and commercial recognition.

After making various appearances in film and television, Ryder continued her career with the cult film Heathers (1989), a controversial satire of teenage suicide and high school life, which drew Ryder further critical and commercial attention.

Having played diverse roles in many well-received films, Ryder won a Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actress and an Academy Award nomination in the same category for her role in The Age of Innocence in 1993, as well as another Academy Award nomination for Little Women the following year for Best Actress. In 2000, Ryder received a star on the Walk of Fame in Hollywood, California.

In 2006, Ryder returned to the screen, and some media outlets called her performance "a remarkable comeback" to acting, having appeared in high-profile films such as Star Trek. In 2010, she was nominated for two Screen Actors Guild Awards, as the lead actress of When Love Is Not Enough: The Lois Wilson Story, and as part of the cast of Black Swan.

Actor and comedian **Robin Williams** was born on July 21, 1951, in Chicago, Illinois.

Eventually becoming one of America's funniest performers, Williams attended Claremont Men's College and College of Marin before enrolling at the Juilliard School in New York City.

There he befriended and became roommates with fellow actor Christopher Reeve. Williams later experimented with comedy in San Francisco and Los Angeles, developing a successful stand-up act.

He was known for his fast-paced, improvisational performance style and for his performances in films like 'Good Will Hunting' and 'Dead Poets Society.'

After developing his improvisational style as a stand-up comedian, he landed his own television show, Mork and Mindy, and moved into leading parts in film with Robert Altman's Popeye.

He played numerous memorable film roles, both comedic and dramatic, and after three previous nominations he won an Academy Award for best supporting actor in Good Will Hunting. On August 11, 2014, the actor was found dead in his home at the age of 63.

Robert Downey Jr. is an American actor known for roles in a wide variety of films, including 'Iron Man,' 'The Avengers, 'Sherlock Holmes' and 'Chaplin.'

Born in New York City on April 4, 1965, Robert Downey Jr. began acting as a young child. He made his first film appearances and was a cast member on Saturday Night Live in the 1980s, but his growing success was marred by years of struggles with drug abuse. Eventually turning his life around, he earned a resurgence of critical and popular acclaim, and is considered one of Hollywood's A-list actors.

He is one of the highest-paid actors in the industry.

Downey made his earliest feature film appearances in such films as Baby, It's You (1983), Firstborn (1984), Weird Science (1985) and Back to School (1986). From 1985 to '86, he was a regular cast member of Saturday Night Live, NBC's popular sketch-comedy program.

A particular high point in Downey's career came in 1993, when he was nominated for an Academy Award (Best Actor) for his performance in Chaplin (1992), directed by Richard Attenborough. In the highly acclaimed film

Downey's personal life had expanded, too. In May 1992, he married actress Deborah Falconer. Two years later, the couple had a son, Indio.

Henry Thomas was born on September 9, 1971 in San Antonio, Texas, USA as Henry Jackson Thomas Jr.

He is an actor and producer, known for E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial (1982), 11:14 (2003) and Legends of the Fall (1994). He was previously married twice and has 2 children Thomas and Hazel

Elton John is a British singer, pianist and composer. Along with selling more than 300 million records, he has found success on Broadway, composing the music score for the Tony award-winning hit 'Billy Elliot.'

His unique blend of pop and rock styles turned him into one of the 20th century's biggest music icons.

He was musically gifted from a young age, and released his first self-titled American album in 1970, making him a huge international star. Some of his chart-topping hits

include "Crocodile Rock," "Philadelphia Freedom" and "Candle in the Wind." He also found success on Broadway, composing the score for Billy Elliot (2008), which went on to win 10 Tony Awards. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1994 and knighted in 1998.

Ariana Grande was born on June 26, 1993, in Boca Raton, Florida, to Edward Butera, a graphic designer, and Joan Grande, a businesswoman

She is a sitcom-star-turned-pop music sensation, known for such hit songs as "Problem," "Bang Bang," "Dangerous Woman" and "Thank U, Next."

She began performing onstage when she was a child and made her way onto the local theater scene before she was a teenager.

Her first big break came in 2008 when the 15-year-old landed the role of Charlotte in the Broadway production of 13, a play focusing on life growing up in New York City. The early role led to accolades, and Grande won a National Youth Theatre Association Award.

She also landed the role of Cat on TV's Victorious. She followed that with the spinoff Sam & Cat and then dove headfirst into a chart-topping musical career, releasing five albums: Yours Truly (2013), My Everything (2014), Dangerous Woman (2016), Sweetener (2018) and Thank U, Next (2019).

Boy George was born George Alan O'Dowd on June 14, 1961, in Eltham, London, to parents Gerry and Dinah O'Dowd. He grew up in a lively household with his four brothers and one sister. Despite being part of the large working class Irish brood, George claims he had a lonely childhood, referring to himself as the "pink sheep" of the family.

To stand out in the male-dominated household, George created his own image, which he came to depend on. "It didn't bother me to walk down the street and to be stared at. I loved it," he later reminisced.

George didn't exactly conform to the typical school student archetype, either. With a leaning more toward the arts rather than science and math, he found it hard to fit within traditional masculine stereotypes. With his schoolwork suffering, and an ongoing battle of wits between him and his teachers, it wasn't long before the school gave up and expelled George over his increasingly outlandish behavior and outrageous clothes and make-up.

Soon George found himself out of school, and without a job. He took any work he could find that paid him enough money to live on including a job picking fruit; a stint as a milliner; and even a gig as a make-up artist with the Royal Shakespeare Company, where he picked up some handy techniques for his own personal use.

Boy George's band Culture Club released their debut album, Kissing To Be Clever, in 1982, and their third single, "Do You Really Want To Hurt Me?" was a huge hit, reaching the No. 1 spot in 16 different countries. The band found quick success, but George's drug habit started to show in 1985. Although he has released solo albums, George's personal life has been the focus more than his music.

Culture Club already had the distinction of being the first group since the Beatles to have three songs from their debut album become top 10 hits on the Billboard Hot 100. The group's second album, Color By Numbers (1983) was also a success, with the single "Karma Chameleon" rocketing to the No. 1 spot in numerous countries including the U.S., where it stayed for four weeks.

Mick Jagger

Michael Philip Jagger was born in 1943, in Dartford, Kent. A good student, Mick attended grammar school and then won a place at the prestigious London School of Economics.

As has been well documented, he was a childhood friend of future Stones bandmate, guitarist and co-writer Keith Richards, with whom he lost touch during adolescence, before a chance meeting on the platform of the local railway station in 1960 brought them back together in their late teens. Discovering a shared passion for American rhythm and blues and rock'n'roll, they started hanging out, playing records and then making music.

They fell in with guitarist Brian Jones and keyboardist Ian Stewart, joining the former's band The Rolling Stones in June 1962, where they were soon to be joined by Charlie Watts and Bill Wyman.

As Stones front man, Mick Jagger became one of the faces and voices of the 1960s. As co-songwriter with Keith Richards, he was responsible for an extraordinary series of hit singles and albums, from 'Get Off My Cloud' and '(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction', to Beggars Banquet and Exile On Main Street. The Rolling Stones matched The Beatles for musical virtuosity and star quality, playing the dark side Yin to the Fab Four's Yang, with Jagger the high profile representative of this exalted role.

Mick was also prime mover behind the band's move towards independence from the music industry, with the launch of their own Rolling Stones Records label in 1971and subsequent move into arena and stadium concerts.

This perspicacious anticipation of changing taste in the music public helped turn The Rolling Stones into the world's top concert attraction, leading to a series of record-breaking tour over the last 5 decades.

He is rock's premier frontman and one of the most popular and influential British musicians of all time. Instantly recognizable as the iconic lead singer with the Rolling Stones, the greatest rock'n'roll band in the world, he has set standards for performance and creativity that remain unmatched to this day.

Actress and singer **Selena Gomez** was born on July 22, 1992 in Grand Prairie, Texas. She is the daughter of Mandy Teefey and Ricardo Gomez. Her mother is of part Italian ancestry, and her father is of Mexican descent. She was named after Tejano singer Selena, who died in 1995.

Her first acting role was as "Gianna" in the popular '90s children's television show Barney & Friends (1992), alongside Demi Lovato from 2002-2004. Gomez also had roles

in Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over (2003), Walker, Texas Ranger: Trial by Fire (2005), and House Broken (2006).

Gomez moved to Los Angeles, California when she booked the lead role of "Alex Russo" and rose to fame in the Disney Channel series Wizards of Waverly Place (2007). She then starred in Another Cinderella Story (2008) on ABC Family, had her first voice-role in the animated film “Horton Hears a Who!” (2008), and co-starred with childhood friend, Demi Lovato, in Princess Protection Program (2009).

In 2009, Gomez released her first album with her band called "Selena Gomez & the Scene," which ranked #9 on the Billboard 200 album charts. Gomez later released two other albums with her band and starred in Monte Carlo (2011), Spring Breakers (2012), and Hotel Transylvania (2012).

In 2013, she released her first solo album "Stars Dance" and the lead single "Come & Get It" from the album, became Gomez's first top ten entry on the Billboard Hot 100 list. She starred in Getaway (2013), Rudderless (2014), and Behaving Badly (2014).

In 2015, she released her second solo album "Revival," which debuted #1 on the Billboard 200 list, and starred in Hotel Transylvania 2 (2015), The Fundamentals of Caring (2016), In Dubious Battle (2016), and Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising (2016).

Julia Fiona Roberts never dreamed she would become the most popular actress in America.

She was born in Smyrna, Georgia, to Betty Lou (Bredemus) and Walter Grady Roberts, one-time actors and playwrights, and is of English, Irish, Scottish, Welsh, German, and Swedish descent.

As a child, due to her love of animals, Julia originally wanted to be a veterinarian, but later studied journalism. When her brother, Eric Roberts, achieved some success in Hollywood, Julia decided to try acting.

Her first break came in 1988 when she appeared in two youth-oriented movies Mystic Pizza (1988) and Satisfaction (1988). The movies introduced her to a new audience who instantly fell in love with this pretty woman. Julia's biggest success was in the signature movie Pretty Woman (1990), for which Julia got an Oscar nomination, and also won the People's Choice award for Favorite Actress.

Even though Julia would spend the next few years either starring in serious movies, or playing fantasy roles like Tinkerbell, the movie audiences would always love Julia best in romantic comedies. With My Best Friend's Wedding (1997) Julia gave the genre fresh life that had been lacking in Hollywood for some time. Offscreen, she married cinematographer Daniel Moder in 2002; the couple has three children together.

Julia has also become involved with UNICEF charities and has made visits to many different countries, including Haiti and India, in order to promote goodwill. Julia Robert remains one of the most popular and sought-after talents in Hollywood.

Comedian and actor **James Thomas Fallon Jr**. was born on September 19, 1974, in Brooklyn, New York. He was a Saturday Night Live enthusiast since childhood, and the caption for his photo in his 8th grade yearbook read: "Most likely to replace David Letterman." He attended the College of St. Rose in Albany before dropping out just shy of graduation to pursue a career in comedy in Los Angeles, California.

Late-night host and comic Jimmy Fallon first started performing stand-up comedy in high school and later dropped out of college to pursue his comedy career. In 1998, he landed his dream job, joining the cast of Saturday Night Live.

A subsequent attempt at a big-screen career stalled, but the comedian found success as host of Late Night with Jimmy Fallon beginning in 2009. Meeting with co-creator and producer Lorne Michaels, Fallon won him over with his impression of Adam Sandler. He joined the show's cast for the 1998-1999 season, which also featured Will Ferrell, Tracy Morgan and Molly Shannon.

During his time on the show, Fallon became known for his impressions. He took on such famous names as Robert De Niro, John Lennon, Chris Rock and Mick Jagger. As for original characters, Fallon brought to life a diverse mix of personalities.

He debuted as the new host of the Tonight Show starring Jimmy Fallon on February 17, 2014.

Born on November 11, 1974, in Los Angeles, California, **Leonardo Wilhelm DiCaprio** is the only child of Irmelin and George DiCaprio. His parents divorced when he was still a toddler. DiCaprio was mostly raised by his mother, a legal secretary born in Germany. Despite his parents' early divorce, DiCaprio remained close to his father, a comic book artist and distributor.

With his parents' urging, DiCaprio explored his creative side, developing an early interest in acting. "I loved imitating people ... I loved joking around with my parents and creating different characters. I liked doing my own little homemade skits," DiCaprio told Backstage. But he didn't have much success in Hollywood until he reached his early teens.

By the early 1990s, the burgeoning actor began landing regular television work. His early credits included guest appearances on such programs as The New Lassie and Roseanne.

In 1991, DiCaprio took a leap forward when he was cast as a semi-regular on the family comedy Growing Pains, with Kirk Cameron and Alan Thicke. He made his film debut in the low-budget horror flick Critters 3 that same year but got the chance to demonstrate his talents as a serious actor two years later.

Proving he was more than a just good-looking teenager, DiCaprio starred opposite Robert De Niro in This Boy's Life. The film delved into the difficult relationship between a young boy and his abusive stepfather in this adaptation of Tobias Wolff's memoir. DiCaprio impressed critics, holding his own on screen against acting heavyweight De Niro.

It was another tragic love story that helped propel DiCaprio's career to a new level in 1997. He co-starred with Kate Winslet in James Cameron's *Titanic,* about the sinking of

the titular ocean liner. In the film, he plays Jack, a poor artist who falls for the rich and beautiful Rose (Winslet) on board. The couple faces danger not only from Rose's fiancé (Billy Zane) but the ship itself after it strikes an iceberg. With a production budget that topped $200 million, it was the most expensive film ever made at the time.

Titanic became both a critical and commercial smash hit. It garnered 14 Academy Award nominations and won 11, taking home such distinctive honors as Best Picture and Best Director. It was the first film to reach the billion dollar mark in international sales.

The success of the film also showed that DiCaprio could handle traditional Hollywood leading man roles. He quickly became a world-famous celebrity with a growing following of admirers, his charm and youthful good looks landing him on *People* magazine's list of the "50 Most Beautiful People" in 1997 and 1998.