

Who Was Elvis Presley

Elvis Presley on film and television

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Elvis Presley was an American entertainer and Laurel Award-winning actor who achieved great initial success as a singer and stage performer. He publicly expressed an early career goal of following in the footsteps of his role models James Dean and Marlon Brando to become a top dramatic actor. His manager Colonel Tom Parker's persistent lobbying of William Morris Agency president Abe Lastfogel for a Presley screen test paid off on March 26, 1956, when the singer auditioned at Paramount for a supporting role in *The Rainmaker*. Although not chosen for the part, he signed a contract with Paramount producer Hal Wallis on April 25 that also allowed him to make films with other studios.

His feature debut was in *Love Me Tender* in 1956 for 20th Century Fox, which was the biggest acting debut of all time, with the commercial success of the soundtrack EP being a bellwether for the next three Presley films, *Loving You*, *Jailhouse Rock*, and *King Creole*. Presley returned to acting after leaving the army in 1960, with *G.I. Blues* and a dramatic western *Flaming Star*. The popularity of his romantic musicals established a formula for the coming years, with Presley's films being credited as the start of the modern music video.

Presley experienced success as both a singer and an actor in these years, doing what was and remains unheard of with hit films at the box office, hit singles, and hit albums all at the same time. Presley starred in 17 box office top-ten films between 1956 and 1965, with 17 number one singles and 8 number one albums in the same time period. Presley was also landing hit films, singles, and albums all at the same time, in the same calendar year.

Over time, Presley became bitter that his hopes for dramatic roles were not coming to fruition, and after missing roles in *West Side Story*, *Thunder Road*, *The Defiant Ones*, and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

Many of the big stars of the sixties were jealous of Presley and this is one of the reasons why he stopped working with other leading actors, such as Steve McQueen. Even the Beatles wanted to appear in a film with Presley, but this wasn't considered a good idea. Presley continued to be successful as a singer and actor at this time, with the soundtrack for the 1964 film *Roustabout* reaching number one on the Billboard 200 during Beatlemania.

Presley's 1965 film *Tickle Me*, saved the film studio Allied Artists from bankruptcy. *Tickle Me* was the third highest-grossing film in the studio's history. Allied Artists then went on to win numerous Academy Awards, although Presley was never credited or thanked. Presley reduced his million-dollar salary to just \$750,000 to help the studio.

Presley's 1968 film *Speedway*, which is considered to be among the best NASCAR films ever made, credited with helping the popularity of NASCAR.

Presley stated that *Clambake* was his worst film and began to complain about the deteriorating quality of the films and his belief that his manager's objectives were more monetary than anything else. This resulted in a change to his acting career and a stop to the formula films in 1968, after which Presley starred in the comedy western *Stay Away, Joe*, the modern screwball comedy *Live a Little, Love a Little*, the dramatic western *Charro!*, and the social drama *Change of Habit*.

Charro! has been called the most convincing acting role of Presley's career and Change of Habit was a major success that Presley's manager decided against being considered for Academy Awards, saying, "don't go buying no tuxedos." Change of Habit is also considered the best final film of any singer turned actor.

At the expiration of all studio contracts, he returned to live entertaining and soon became the biggest star in Las Vegas history and on tour in America. The two concert documentaries Elvis: That's the Way It Is in 1970 and Elvis on Tour in 1972 were the final theatrical releases for Presley. Both were among the most successful concert documentaries of their day, with Elvis on Tour winning prestige with a Golden Globe award and starting off the career of Martin Scorsese. Whilst Tom Parker opted against Elvis: That's the Way It Is being submitted for Oscars due to the academy's bias against Presley and because they would try to use his name for ratings and prestige.

Presley was the highest paid actor in Hollywood but said that he didn't need money to be successful and that no amount of money was necessary for him to take a good role. His films grossed \$284 million and Presley was paid 50% of those profits, making him the richest actor in Hollywood history. He was also paid \$250,000 royalties from each of his 17 soundtrack albums from the movies, giving Presley \$4.2 million. Presley was in the Top Ten Money Making Stars Poll for seven years, making \$1 million per film.

Of the roles Presley turned down, these included the John Wayne western True Grit. Presley was asked to play the role that Glen Campbell played, but top billing with John Wayne was contested.

Presley was considered for the leading role in Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory but was busy performing in Las Vegas.

It was expected for Presley to be paid his usual million-dollar salary to star in A Star Is Born. Although interested in the role, Presley was ultimately not hired as Parker believed Presley would not receive top billing, and attempted to negotiate a higher salary and percentage of the film's gross profits. Presley's manager Colonel Tom Parker knew that Presley wanted to develop himself as an actor. And so, Parker turned down the role, not wanting to see Presley being overshadowed by Barbra Streisand. This is considered to be one of the biggest missed opportunities in cinema history. Presley did decide to produce, write and star a karate film called The New Gladiators, which was a true passion project for the actor and 8th degree black belt, although this remained unfinished at the time of his death and lost out on its classic status.

Over the years and with a reassessment of his acting career, roles in films like Charro!, Wild in the Country, Change of Habit, and Live a Little, Love a Little have led to Presley receiving high praise as an actor. Many consider him to have been the best and most successful singer-actor in Hollywood history. Presley also holds the distinction of all of his films making money at the box office.

Priscilla Presley

wife of American singer Elvis Presley, whom she was married to from 1967 to 1973. Presley later co-founded and chaired Elvis Presley Enterprises (EPE), which

Priscilla Ann Presley (née Wagner, formerly Beaulieu; born May 24, 1945) is an American businesswoman and actress. She achieved fame as the wife of American singer Elvis Presley, whom she was married to from 1967 to 1973. Presley later co-founded and chaired Elvis Presley Enterprises (EPE), which turned her former husband's home Graceland into a tourist attraction. As an actress, she portrayed Jane Spencer in the Naked Gun film series (1988–1994; 2025) and Jenna Wade on the television series Dallas (1983–1988).

Elvis impersonator

belief, Elvis impersonators have existed since the mid-1950s, just after Elvis Presley himself began his career. The first known Elvis impersonator was a young

An Elvis impersonator is an entertainer who impersonates or copies the look and sound of American musician and rock singer Elvis Presley. Professional Elvis impersonators, commonly known as Elvis tribute artists (ETAs), work all over the world as entertainers, and such tribute acts remain in great demand due to the iconic status of Elvis Presley. In addition, there were several radio stations that exclusively feature Elvis impersonator material. Some of these impersonators go to Graceland in Memphis, Tennessee, on the anniversary of Presley's death to pay tribute to the beloved artist.

While some impersonators perform a wide variety of Presley's discography, his songs from the 1950s and 1970s remain fan favorites.

Cultural impact of Elvis Presley

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The cultural impact of Elvis Presley was a seismic and defining phenomenon of the 20th century. As a musician and entertainer, Presley's influence extended far beyond music, shaping popular culture in the realms of fashion, youth identity, sexuality, and media. The Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock & Roll describes Presley as "an American music giant of the 20th century who single-handedly changed the course of music and culture in the mid-1950s". His synthesis of diverse musical genres (particularly African-American blues, Christian gospel, and Southern country) combined with an uninhibited performance style, challenged the social and racial barriers of his time and galvanized a new youth-oriented consumer culture. In a list of the greatest English language singers, as compiled by Q magazine, Presley was ranked first, and second in the list of greatest singers of the 20th century by BBC Radio.

Presley sang hard-driving rock and roll, rockabilly dance songs, and ballads, laying a commercial foundation upon which other rock musicians would build their careers. African-American performers such as Big Joe Turner, Wynonie Harris and Fats Domino came to national prominence after Presley's acceptance among mass audiences of white American adults. Singers like Jerry Lee Lewis, the Everly Brothers, Chuck Berry, Bo Diddley, Little Richard, Buddy Holly, Johnny Cash, Roy Orbison, and others immediately followed in his wake. John Lennon commented the day after the Beatles visited the singer at his home: "The only person that we wanted to meet in the United States of America was Elvis Presley. You can't imagine what a thrill that was last night. Nothing really affected me until I heard Elvis. If there hadn't been an Elvis, there wouldn't have been the Beatles."

Presley's image, from the rebellious rocker of the 1950s to the Las Vegas showman of the 1970s, has become an indelible part of global iconography, making him one of the most recognizable and enduring figures in modern history. Along with Presley's "ducktail" haircut, the demand for black slacks and loose, open-necked shirts resulted in new lines of clothing for teenage boys.

Presley's impact on the American youth consumer market was noted on the front page of The Wall Street Journal for December 31, 1956, when business journalist Louis M. Kohlmeier wrote, "Elvis Presley today is a business", and reported on the singer's record and merchandise sales. Half a century later, historian Ian Brailsford (University of Auckland, New Zealand) commented, "The phenomenal success of Elvis Presley in 1956 convinced many doubters of the financial opportunities existing in the youth market."

Elvis Presley

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Elvis Aaron Presley (January 8, 1935 – August 16, 1977) was an American singer and actor. Referred to as the "King of Rock and Roll", he is widely regarded as one of the most culturally significant figures of the 20th century. Presley's sexually provocative performance style, combined with a mix of influences across

color lines during a transformative era in race relations, brought both great success and initial controversy.

Presley was born in Tupelo, Mississippi; his family moved to Memphis, Tennessee, when he was 13. He began his music career in 1954 at Sun Records with producer Sam Phillips, who wanted to bring the sound of African-American music to a wider audience. Presley, on guitar and accompanied by lead guitarist Scotty Moore and bassist Bill Black, was a pioneer of rockabilly, an uptempo, backbeat-driven fusion of country music and rhythm and blues. In 1955, drummer D. J. Fontana joined to complete the lineup of Presley's classic quartet and RCA Victor acquired his contract in a deal arranged by Colonel Tom Parker, who managed him for the rest of his career. Presley's first RCA Victor single, "Heartbreak Hotel", was released in January 1956 and became a number-one hit in the US. Within a year, RCA Victor sold ten million Presley singles. With a series of successful television appearances and chart-topping records, Presley became the leading figure of the newly popular rock and roll; though his performing style and promotion of the then-marginalized sound of African Americans led to him being widely considered a threat to the moral well-being of white American youth.

In November 1956, Presley made his film debut in *Love Me Tender*. Drafted into military service in 1958, he relaunched his recording career two years later with some of his most commercially successful work. Presley held few concerts, and, guided by Parker, devoted much of the 1960s to making Hollywood films and soundtrack albums, most of them critically derided. Some of Presley's most famous films included *Jailhouse Rock* (1957), *Blue Hawaii* (1961), and *Viva Las Vegas* (1964). In 1968, he returned to the stage in the acclaimed NBC television comeback special *Elvis*, which led to an extended Las Vegas concert residency and several highly profitable tours. In 1973, Presley gave the first concert by a solo artist to be broadcast around the world, *Aloha from Hawaii*. Years of substance abuse and unhealthy eating severely compromised his health, and Presley died in August 1977 at his Graceland estate at the age of 42.

Presley is one of the best-selling music artists in history, having sold an estimated 500 million records worldwide. He was commercially successful in many genres, including pop, country, rock and roll, rockabilly, rhythm and blues, adult contemporary, and gospel. Presley won three Grammy Awards, received the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award at age 36, and has been posthumously inducted into multiple music halls of fame. He holds several records, including the most Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA)-certified gold and platinum albums, the most albums charted on the *Billboard* 200, the most number-one albums by a solo artist on the UK Albums Chart, and the most number-one singles by any act on the UK Singles Chart. In 2018, Presley was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Lisa Marie Presley

Marie Presley (February 1, 1968 – January 12, 2023) was an American singer-songwriter. She was the daughter of singer and actor Elvis Presley, who is referred

Lisa Marie Presley (February 1, 1968 – January 12, 2023) was an American singer-songwriter. She was the daughter of singer and actor Elvis Presley, who is referred to as "The King of Rock and Roll" and actress Priscilla Presley, as well as the sole heir to her father's estate after her grandfather and great-grandmother died. She was also known for being the first wife of Michael Jackson, from 1994 to 1996. Her musical career consisted of three studio albums: *To Whom It May Concern* (2003), *Now What* (2005) and *Storm & Grace* (2012), with *To Whom It May Concern* being certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America. Presley also released non-album singles, including duets with her father using archival recordings.

Her memoir, *From Here to the Great Unknown*, was released posthumously in October 2024.

Elvis in Concert

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Elvis in Concert is a posthumous 1977 television special starring Elvis Presley. It was Presley's third and final TV special, following Elvis (a.k.a. The '68 Comeback Special) and Aloha From Hawaii. It was filmed during Presley's final tour in the cities of Omaha, Nebraska, on June 19, 1977, and Rapid City, South Dakota, on June 21, 1977. It was broadcast on CBS on October 3, 1977, two months after Presley's death. It was transmitted by the BBC in the United Kingdom on June 9, 1978. Unlike the majority of Presley's programs, it is unlikely to be commercially released on home video and is only available in bootleg form. This is because it showed Presley near the end of his life, when he was in poor health due to various hereditary ailments and over use of many prescribed medications.

Parts of the special, however, were used in the video documentary Elvis: The Great Performances and the theatrical documentary This is Elvis, both of which were released on home video. Parts of the special were also recreated for the movie Elvis, specifically Presley's performance of "Unchained Melody".

Elvis Presley death conspiracy theories

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Since Elvis Presley's death on August 16, 1977, various false and discredited conspiracy theories have circulated stating that he may still be alive. "Elvis sightings" from people incorrectly claiming to have seen him after this date are a phenomenon both as an ironic meme and also as part of a genuine belief for some.

In the early 1980s, the possibility of Presley still being alive was a niche topic discussed by a fringe demographic of fans in underground zines. It crossed over into widespread media attention in 1987 after a woman named Louise Welling falsely claimed to have seen Elvis at a Burger King in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The absurdity, "Middle America-ness" and the sound of the name "Kalamazoo" made for an ironic, light story in newspaper and television outlets. Theories and misinformation on the topic were then widely popularised by authors Gail Brewer-Giorgio and Major Bill Smith, who were given a platform by American and international media. Two TV specials on the subject of Elvis sightings, The Elvis Files and The Elvis Conspiracy, aired internationally in 1991 and 1992.

Since then, popular interest in the topic has waned but Elvis sightings have stayed resonant as a part of pop culture. The conspiracy theory itself has become iconic as an example of the "genre" and a forerunner of the post-truth era, going on to influence many other theories including QAnon.

Elvis Presley Enterprises

were Vernon, Elvis's; grandmother Minnie Mae Presley, and his nine-year-old daughter Lisa Marie Presley. After Vernon's death in 1979, Elvis's; ex-wife Priscilla

Elvis Presley Enterprises, Inc. (EPE) is a corporate entity created by "The Elvis Presley Trust" to conduct business and manage its assets, including Graceland. EPE's business extends far beyond the Graceland operation, and includes worldwide licensing of Elvis-related products and ventures, the development of Elvis-related music, film, video, television and stage productions, the ongoing development of EPE's Internet presence and the management of significant music publishing assets.

Early life of Elvis Presley

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who wanted to bring the sound of African-American music to a wider audience. Presley, on rhythm acoustic guitar, and accompanied by lead guitarist Scotty Moore and bassist Bill Black, was a pioneer of rockabilly, an uptempo, backbeat-driven fusion of country music and rhythm and blues. In 1955, drummer D. J. Fontana joined to complete the lineup of Presley's classic quartet and RCA Victor acquired his contract in a deal arranged by Colonel Tom Parker, who would manage him for more than two decades.

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