



DAVID BOWIE



Timeline

| 1947 | 1962 | 1962-1967 | 1969 | 1972 | 1977 | 1986 | 2016 |
|-------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--------------------------|
| Born in Brixton, London | He is punched in the eye and has 4 operations, leaving one eye dilated | Joins and leaves 5 different bands | Begins a solo career releasing 'Space Oddity' which is a hit | Creates Ziggy Stardust and receives worldwide fame | Moves to Berlin, Germany and creates the Thin White Duke | Stars as the Goblin King in the film Labyrinth | Dies in New York, U.S.A. |

Key Songs

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|------------------------------|---|
| Space Oddity | 1969 - Released 5 days before the Apollo 11 launch and used on the BBC coverage of the event, becoming a hit in the UK. and U.S.A. It became the first of three songs referencing 'Major Tom' |
| Changes | 1972 - A pop song about himself, changing from a rock music style to pop and not having to remain in one particular style. |
| Starman | 1972 - The lyrics describe Bowie's character 'Ziggy Stardust' bringing a message of hope to Earth's youth through the radio. |
| Life on Mars | 1973 - Actually a song about a girl who is bored with her life. |
| Rebel Rebel | 1974 - His last 'glam-rock' style single with a very famous guitar riff. |
| Heroes | 1977 - A story about two people in love separated by the Berlin Wall. He was thanked by the German government in 2016 for helping inspire the wall's eventual collapse in 1987. |
| Ashes to Ashes | 1980 - The second song about Bowie's character 'Major Tom'. |
| Under Pressure | 1981 - A pop song written and sung with Freddie Mercury (Queen) |
| Let's Dance | 1983 - A number 1 hit in the U.K. and U.S.A. and the 300 th best selling song of all time. |
| Dancing in the Street | 1985 - Written and performed with The Rolling Stones |
| Hallo Spaceboy | 1996 - Working with a group called The Pet Shop Boys, this become the third part to the Major Tom trilogy. |
| I Can't Give Everything Away | 2016 - The final song on his 25 th final album, released after his death. |

DID YOU KNOW?

David Bowie was born David Robert Jones. He changed his name because there was already a famous musician called Davey Jones who was the lead singer in a band called The Monkees.

The Importance of Bowie

Characters and Personalities

David Bowie is perhaps best known for reinventing his onstage personalities over the years. His first character was the Laughing Gnome, then his most famous, Ziggy Stardust. There was also Aladdin Sane, Halloween Jack, the Thin White Duke and The Blind Prophet. It showed that rock or pop musicians did not have to stay in one genre of music or one personality, but they could explore many others.

The Actor

Bowie was also an accomplished actor, playing many roles over the years. *Merry Christmas*, *Mr Lawrence* saw him play an officer in a WWII film, whilst he performed with the Muppets as the Goblin King in *Labyrinth*. He also played an alien from outer space in *The Man Who Fell to Earth* and introduces the cartoon *The Snowman*.

Business and Technology

Bowie always took control of his own money. He was also very interested in technology. In 1996, he became the first major artist to release a single through internet download. It took 11 minutes back then! In 1998, he created a leading internet service provider called BowieNet and predicted that the internet and streaming would completely change the way people listen to music.

Key Events

A Punch in the Eye

After getting into a fight, he was punched causing damage to his eye. After four operations, the eye remained dilated and also a different colour to the other eye. It became a recognisable feature of Bowie's look.

Top of the Pops

When David Bowie performed Starman as Ziggy Stardust on the show 'Top of the Pops' in 1972, it propelled him to super stardom and led many to say Starman was his greatest ever song.

The MTV Interview

In 1983, Bowie had an interview with MTV (Music Television), a huge American television station playing music videos. The interview ended up with Bowie saying they did not play enough music from black artists and asking difficult questions to the interviewer.

Glastonbury Festival

David Bowie headlined the Glastonbury Festival in 2000. The show is now regarded as one of the greatest Glastonbury sets of all time.

