

# Billy

## Billy

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Billy (name), a name (and list of people with the name)

Billy (surname), a surname (and list of people with the surname)

## Billy Bob Thornton

Billy Bob Thornton (born August 4, 1955) is an American actor, filmmaker, singer and songwriter. He received international attention after writing, directing - Billy Bob Thornton (born August 4, 1955) is an American actor, filmmaker, singer and songwriter. He received international attention after writing, directing and starring in the independent drama film *Sling Blade* (1996), for which he won an Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay and was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actor. For his role in *A Simple Plan* (1998) he was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor.

Thornton is known for his film roles in *One False Move* (1992), *Tombstone* (1993), *Dead Man* (1995), *U Turn* (1997), *Primary Colors* (1998), *Armageddon* (1998), *Monster's Ball* (2001), *The Man Who Wasn't There* (2001), *Intolerable Cruelty* (2003), *Bad Santa* (2003) and *Friday Night Lights* (2004). He has written a variety of films, including *A Family Thing* (1996) and *The Gift* (2000) and has directed films such as *All the Pretty Horses* (2000), *Daddy and Them* (2001) and *Jayne Mansfield's Car* (2012).

Thornton is known for his roles on television acting in the CBS sitcom *Hearts Afire* from 1992 to 1995. In 2014, he starred as Lorne Malvo in the first season of the FX anthology series *Fargo*, earning a nomination for the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Miniseries or Movie and winning a Golden Globe Award for Best Actor in a Miniseries or Television Film. From 2016 to 2021 he played Billy McBride in the Amazon legal drama series, *Goliath*, which earned him a Golden Globe Award for Best Actor – Television Series Drama. In 2024, he began playing the lead role of Tommy Norris in the Paramount+ series *Landman*.

Thornton has released four solo albums and is the vocalist of the rock band the Boxmasters. Thornton has been vocal about his distaste for celebrity culture, choosing to avoid the public eye. He has been married six times, including to Angelina Jolie from 2000 to 2003.

## Billy Joel

2014). &quot;Billy&#039;s Mom Rosalind Nyman Joel Dies At 92&quot;. Billy Joel Official Site. Retrieved July 31, 2025. Tallmer, Jerry (July 22, 2003). &quot;Billy Joel grapples - William Martin Joel (; born May 9, 1949) is an American singer, songwriter, and pianist. Nicknamed the "Piano Man" after his signature 1973 song of the same name, Joel has had a successful career as a solo artist since the 1970s. From 1971 to 1993, he released 12 studio albums spanning the genres of pop and rock, and in 2001 released a one-off studio album of classical compositions. With over 160 million records sold worldwide, Joel is one of the world's best-selling music artists and is the fourth-best-selling solo artist in the United States. His 1985 compilation

album, *Greatest Hits – Volume I & Volume II*, is one of the best-selling albums in the United States.

Joel was born in the Bronx in New York City and grew up in Hicksville on Long Island, where he began taking piano lessons at his mother's insistence. After dropping out of high school to pursue a music career, Joel took part in two short-lived bands, the Hassles and Attila, before signing a record deal with Family Productions and embarking on a solo career with his debut album, *Cold Spring Harbor* (1971). In 1972, Joel caught the attention of Columbia Records after a live radio performance of "Captain Jack" became popular in Philadelphia, prompting him to sign a new record deal with the company, through which he released his second album, *Piano Man* (1973). After *Streetlife Serenade* (1974) and *Turnstiles* (1976), Joel achieved his critical and commercial breakthrough with *The Stranger* (1977). It became Columbia's best-selling release, selling over 10 million copies and spawning the hit singles "Just the Way You Are", "Movin' Out (Anthony's Song)", "Only the Good Die Young", and "She's Always a Woman", as well as the concert staples "Scenes from an Italian Restaurant" and "Vienna".

Joel's *52nd Street* (1978) was his first album to reach No. 1 on the *Billboard* 200. *Glass Houses* (1980) was an attempt to further establish himself as a rock artist; it featured "It's Still Rock and Roll to Me" (Joel's first single to top the *Billboard* Hot 100), "You May Be Right", "Don't Ask Me Why", and "Sometimes a Fantasy". The *Nylon Curtain* (1982) stemmed from a desire to create more lyrically and melodically ambitious music. *An Innocent Man* (1983) served as an homage to genres of music that Joel had grown up with in the 1950s, such as rhythm and blues and doo-wop; it featured "Tell Her About It", "Uptown Girl", and "The Longest Time", three of his best-known songs. After *River of Dreams* (1993), Joel largely retired from producing studio material, although he went on to release *Fantasies & Delusions* (2001), featuring classical compositions composed by him and performed by British-Korean pianist Richard Hyung-ki Joo. Joel provided voiceover work in 1988 for the Disney animated film *Oliver & Company*, performing the song "Why Should I Worry?", and contributed to the soundtracks to several films, including *Easy Money* (1983), *Ruthless People* (1986), *A League of Their Own* (1992), and *Honeymoon in Vegas* (1992). Joel returned to composing new music with the 2024 single "Turn the Lights Back On".

Joel has had a successful touring career, holding live performances across the globe. In 1987, he became one of the first artists to hold a rock tour in the Soviet Union. Joel has had 33 Top 40 hits in the U.S., three of which ("It's Still Rock and Roll to Me", "Tell Her About It", and "We Didn't Start the Fire") topped the *Billboard* Hot 100. He has been nominated for 23 Grammy Awards, winning six, including Album of the Year for *52nd Street*. Joel was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1992, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1999 and the Long Island Music Hall of Fame in 2006. He received the 2001 Johnny Mercer Award from the Songwriters Hall of Fame and was recognized at the 2013 Kennedy Center Honors.

## Billy Zane

2024. "Billy Zane – Billy Zane Refers To Girlfriend As 'Wife'". *Contactmusic.com*. April 6, 2012. Retrieved July 3, 2012. "Hollywood star Billy Zane and - William George Zane Jr. (born February 24, 1966) is an American actor. His breakthrough role was in the Australian film *Dead Calm* (1989), a performance that earned him a nomination for the Chicago Film Critics Association Award for Most Promising Actor. He has since appeared in numerous films and television series, and starred as the main antagonist Caledon Hockley in the epic film *Titanic* (1997), for which he and the rest of the ensemble cast were nominated for a Screen Actors Guild Award.

Zane's other film roles include Kit Walker / The Phantom in the superhero film *The Phantom* (1996), "Match" in the *Back to the Future* franchise, Lieutenant Val Kozlowski in *Memphis Belle* (1990), The Collector in *Demon Knight* (1995), Curtis Zampf in *The Believer* (2001), and Richard Miller in the *Sniper* film series. He also played the recurring role of John Justice Wheeler in the second season of the television series *Twin Peaks*, and provided the voice of Ansem in the video game *Kingdom Hearts* (2002).

## Billy Idol

William Michael Albert Broad (born 30 November 1955), known professionally as Billy Idol, is an English singer, songwriter, musician, and actor. Idol achieved - William Michael Albert Broad (born 30 November 1955), known professionally as Billy Idol, is an English singer, songwriter, musician, and actor. Idol achieved fame in the 1970s on the London punk rock scene as the lead singer of Generation X. He later embarked on a solo career which led to international recognition and made him a lead artist during the MTV-driven "Second British Invasion" in America.

Idol began his music career in 1976 as a guitarist in the punk rock band Chelsea, but left the group after a few weeks and formed Generation X with his former Chelsea bandmate Tony James. With Idol as lead singer, the band achieved success in the UK and released three studio albums on Chrysalis Records before disbanding. In 1981, Idol moved to New York City to pursue his solo career in collaboration with guitarist Steve Stevens. His debut studio album *Billy Idol* (1982) was a commercial success, and Idol became a staple of the then-new television channel MTV with the music videos for his singles "Dancing with Myself" and "White Wedding".

Idol's second studio album *Rebel Yell* (1983) was a major commercial success, featuring hit singles "Rebel Yell" and "Eyes Without a Face". The album was certified double platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for selling 2 million copies in America, and he then released *Whiplash Smile* (1986). He released the greatest hits album *Idol Songs: 11 of the Best* (1988), which went platinum in the UK, and then released *Charmed Life* (1990) and the concept album *Cyberpunk* (1993).

Idol spent the second half of the 1990s focusing on his personal life out of the public eye. In 1990, he broke his leg in a motorcycle accident, and later said in his biography *Dancing With Myself* (2014) that "by the time the motorcycle accident happened, [he] had been living by the credo 'live every day as if it's your last, and one day you're sure to be right'". He made a musical comeback with the release of *Devil's Playground* (2005) and later released *Kings & Queens of the Underground* (2014) and *Dream Into It* (2025).

## Shazam (DC Comics)

published by Fawcett Comics. Shazam is the alter-ego of William Joseph "Billy" Batson, a young boy who is granted magical powers by the Wizard by speaking - Shazam (), also known as The Captain and formerly known as Captain Marvel, is a superhero in American comic books originally published by Fawcett Comics and currently published by DC Comics. Artist C. C. Beck and writer Bill Parker created the character in 1939. Shazam first appeared in *Whiz Comics* #2 (cover-dated Feb. 1940), published by Fawcett Comics. Shazam is the alter-ego of William Joseph "Billy" Batson, a young boy who is granted magical powers by the Wizard by speaking the magic word "SHAZAM!", an acronym of six "immortal elders": Solomon, Hercules, Atlas, Zeus, Achilles, and Mercury, and transforms into a costumed adult superhero with various superpowers derived from specific attributes of the aforementioned elders.

The character battles evil in the form of an extensive rogues' gallery, most of them working in tandem as the Monster Society of Evil, including primary archenemies Black Adam, Doctor Sivana and Mister Mind. Billy often shares his powers with other children, primarily his sister Mary Batson and their best friend/foster brother Freddy Freeman, who also transform into superheroes and fight crime with Billy as members of the Marvel Family (also known as the Shazam Family or Shazamily). The character also serves as a notable member of several teams, including the Justice League and various other derivatives, Justice Society of America, and the Teen Titans.

Since the character's inception, Captain Marvel was once the most popular superhero of the 1940s, outselling even Superman. Captain Marvel was also the first comic book superhero to be adapted to film, in a 1941 Republic Pictures serial, *Adventures of Captain Marvel*, with Tom Tyler as Captain Marvel and Frank Coghlan, Jr. as Billy Batson. Fawcett ceased publishing Captain Marvel-related comics in 1953, partly because of a copyright infringement suit from DC Comics alleging that the character was a copy of Superman. In 1972, Fawcett licensed the character rights to DC, which by 1991 acquired all rights to the entire family of characters. DC has since integrated Captain Marvel and the Marvel Family into their DC Universe and has attempted to revive the property several times, with mixed success. Owing to trademark conflicts over other characters named "Captain Marvel" owned by Marvel Comics, DC has branded and marketed the character using the trademark Shazam! since his 1972 reintroduction. DC later renamed the mainline version of the character "Shazam" when relaunching its comic book properties in 2011, and his associates became the "Shazam Family" at this time as well.

DC's revival of Shazam! has been adapted twice for television by Filmation: as a live-action 1970s series with Jackson Bostwick and John Davey as Captain Marvel and Michael Gray as Billy Batson, and as an animated 1980s series. The 2019 New Line Cinema/Warner Bros. film *Shazam!*, an entry in the DC Extended Universe, stars Zachary Levi as Shazam and Asher Angel as Billy Batson. Levi and Angel returned in the sequel, *Shazam! Fury of the Gods*.

## Billy Connolly

the pub and someone would say, 'Billy Connolly was in.' 'Oh? Big Billy or Wee Billy?' 'The Big Yin.' 'Oh, Wee Billy.' If you were a stranger, you'd think - Sir William Connolly (born 24 November 1942) is a Scottish actor, musician, television presenter, artist and retired stand-up comedian. He is sometimes known by the Scots nickname the Big Yin ("the Big One"). Known for his idiosyncratic and often improvised observational comedy, frequently including strong language, Connolly has topped many UK polls as the greatest stand-up comedian of all time. In 2017, he was knighted at Buckingham Palace for services to entertainment and charity. In 2022, he received the BAFTA Fellowship for lifetime achievement from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts.

Connolly's trade, in the early 1960s, was that of a welder (specifically a boilermaker) in the Glasgow shipyards, but he gave it up towards the end of the decade to pursue a career as a folk singer. He first sang in the folk rock band the Humblebums alongside Gerry Rafferty and Tam Harvey, with whom he stayed until 1971, before beginning singing as a solo artist. In the early 1970s, Connolly made the transition from folk singer with a comedic persona to fully fledged comedian, for which he became best known. In 1972, he made his theatrical debut, at the Cottage Theatre in Cumbernauld, with a revue called Connolly's Glasgow Flourish. He also played the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Also in 1972, Connolly's first solo album, *Billy Connolly Live!*, was produced, with a mixture of comedic songs and short monologues. In 1975, he reached No. 1 in the UK Singles Chart with "D.I.V.O.R.C.E." A regular guest on chat shows, he made his first appearance on Parkinson broadcast on the BBC in 1975 and he would appear on the show a record fifteen times, including on the penultimate episode, broadcast in 2007. He also appeared on ITV's *An Audience with...* in 1985. In 2006, the British public ranked Connolly number 16 in ITV's poll of TV's 50 Greatest Stars.

As an actor, Connolly has appeared in various films, including *Water* (1985), *Indecent Proposal* (1993), *Pocahontas* (1995), *Muppet Treasure Island* (1996), *Mrs Brown* (1997) (for which he was nominated for the BAFTA Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role), *The Boondock Saints* (1999), *The Last Samurai* (2003), *Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events* (2004), *The X-Files: I Want to Believe* (2008), *Brave* (2012), *What We Did On Our Holiday* (2014) and *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies* (2014).

On his 75th birthday in 2017, three portraits of Connolly were made by leading artists Jack Vettriano, John Byrne, and Rachel Maclean. These were later turned into part of Glasgow's official mural trail. Connolly announced his retirement from comedy in 2018; in the years since, he has established himself as an artist. In 2020, he unveiled the fifth release from his Born on a Rainy Day collection in London, followed by another instalment later that year, and has subsequently issued another five collections. During the filming of the ITV documentary Billy Connolly: It's Been a Pleasure, he described how art had given him "a new lease of life".

## Billy Strings

Billy Strings (born William Lee Apostol, October 3, 1992) is an American guitarist, singer, songwriter, and bluegrass musician. He has released four studio - Billy Strings (born William Lee Apostol, October 3, 1992) is an American guitarist, singer, songwriter, and bluegrass musician. He has released four studio albums, with his album Home winning the Grammy Award for Best Bluegrass Album in 2021, an award he won again in 2025 for Live Vol. 1.

## Billy Graham

Billy Graham (category) Billy Graham Evangelistic Association Billy Graham Archive and Research Center Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College Billy Graham - William Franklin Graham Jr. (; November 7, 1918 – February 21, 2018) was an American evangelist, ordained Southern Baptist minister, and civil rights advocate, whose broadcasts and world tours featuring live sermons became well known in the mid-to-late 20th century. Throughout his career, spanning over six decades, Graham rose to prominence as an evangelical Christian figure in the United States and abroad.

According to a biographer, Graham was considered "among the most influential Christian leaders" of the 20th century. Beginning in the late 1940s and early 1950s, Graham became known for filling stadiums and other massive venues around the world where he preached live sermons; these were often broadcast via radio and television with some continuing to be seen into the 21st century. During his six decades on television, Graham hosted his annual "crusades", evangelistic live-campaigns, from 1947 until his retirement in 2005. He also hosted the radio show Hour of Decision from 1950 to 1954. He repudiated racial segregation, at a time of intense racial strife in the United States, insisting on racial integration for all of his revivals and crusades, as early as 1953. He also later invited Martin Luther King Jr. to preach jointly at a revival in New York City in 1957. In addition to his religious aims, he helped shape the worldview of a huge number of people who came from different backgrounds, leading them to find a relationship between the Bible and contemporary secular viewpoints. According to his website, Graham spoke to live audiences consisting of at least 210 million people, in more than 185 countries and territories, through various meetings, including BMS World Mission and Global Mission event.

Graham was close to US presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower, Lyndon B. Johnson (one of his closest friends), and Richard Nixon. He was also lifelong friends with Robert Schuller, another televangelist and the founding pastor of the Crystal Cathedral, whom Graham talked into starting his own television ministry. Graham's evangelism was appreciated by mainline Protestant denominations, as he encouraged mainline Protestants, who were converted to his evangelical message, to remain within or return to their mainline churches. Despite early suspicions and apprehension on his part towards Catholicism—common among contemporaneous evangelical Protestants—Graham eventually developed amicable ties with many American Catholic Church figures, later encouraging unity between Catholics and Protestants.

Graham operated a variety of media and publishing outlets; according to his staff, more than 3.2 million people have responded to the invitation at Billy Graham Crusades to "accept Jesus Christ as their personal savior". Graham's lifetime audience, including radio and television broadcasts, likely surpassed billions of people. As a result of his crusades, Graham preached the gospel to more people, live and in-person, than

anyone in the history of Christianity. Graham was on Gallup's list of most admired men and women a record-61 times. Grant Wacker wrote that, by the mid-1960s, he had become the "Great Legitimater", saying: "By then his presence conferred status on presidents, acceptability on wars, shame on racial prejudice, desirability on decency, dishonor on indecency, and prestige on civic events."

## Billy Ray Cyrus

Wikidata Official website Billy Ray Cyrus at CMT.com Billy Ray Cyrus at AllMusic Billy Ray Cyrus at IMDb Archive of &quot;BILLY RAY CYRUS – Bio&quot;. cmt.ca. Archived - William Ray Cyrus (SY-r?s; born August 25, 1961) is an American singer, songwriter and actor. Having released 16 studio albums and 53 singles since 1992, he is known for his hit single "Achy Breaky Heart", which topped the U.S. Hot Country Songs chart and became the first single ever to achieve triple platinum status in Australia. It was also the best-selling single in the same country in 1992. Due to the song's music video, the line dance rose in popularity.

A multi-platinum selling artist, Cyrus has scored a total of eight top-ten singles on the Billboard Hot Country Songs chart. His most successful album to date is his debut *Some Gave All*, which has been certified 9× multi-platinum in the United States and is the longest time spent by a debut artist and by a country artist at number one on the Billboard 200 (17 consecutive weeks) and most consecutive chart-topping weeks in the SoundScan era.

*Some Gave All* was also the first debut album to enter at number one on the Billboard Top Country Albums chart. The album has also sold more than 20 million copies worldwide and is the best-selling debut album of all time for a solo male artist. *Some Gave All* was also the best-selling album of 1992 in the US with 4,832,000 copies. During his career he has released 36 charted singles, of which 17 charted in the top 40.

In 2019, Cyrus earned his first number-one single on the US Billboard Hot 100 as a featured artist on a remix of Lil Nas X's song "Old Town Road", which spent a record-breaking nineteen consecutive weeks at the top spot (eighteen of them credited to Cyrus). It also spent a record-breaking twenty consecutive weeks (nineteen of them credited to Cyrus) at the top spot on the Billboard Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs and Billboard Hot Rap Songs. The R&B/Hip-Hop record has been broken in May 2023 by SZA's "Kill Bill".

Thanks to "Old Town Road", Cyrus won his first two Grammy Awards, in the categories Best Pop Duo/Group Performance and Best Music Video.

From 2001 to 2004, Cyrus starred on the television series *Doc*. The series focused on a country doctor who moved from Montana to New York City. From 2006 to 2011, he starred as Robby Ray Stewart on the Disney Channel series *Hannah Montana* with his daughter Miley Cyrus playing the title character. From 2016 to 2017, he starred as Vernon Brownmule on the CMT sitcom *Still the King*.

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