Ashes to Ashes, dust to Stardust…

25 alblums. Lived in NY but never in the past

His first commercial music album success, Space Odyssey was released at the same time as the historic moon walk. David Bowie, a cultural and music legend, one who lived his life and lived his death like a work of art, released his last album, Black Star, on his birthday, just three days before his death. Producing 25 albums, he thrashing cultural norms; his concerts were often described as perverse and provocative. He is credited with powering the punk movement. He donned his androgynous, perhaps bi-sexual alter-ego Ziggy Stardust when same sex relationships were still illegal in the UK. He has been described as a genius, a psychic, an outsider who let others in, the Andy Warhol of Music. When asked, he said he consciously chose to paint himself into a corner. When questioned about his continuous (practically yearly) reinvention, he said “it’s really just shirts, different hair colours, and shoes, but the subject matter of what I wrote hasn’t changed. Centrally it is about isolationism. I’m not sure if its personal, emotional or spiritual, maybe I don’t want to know for sure.” When asked if he’d like to be a space tourist, he quipped “god no! I’d rather I’d chew pieces of cement rather than get on a space ship – they blow up you know; thank you, no, I can see the moon from my window, it’s enough for me.”

Rock legend David Bowie haunts in his video for "Lazarus" from his 25th album "Blackstar" dropping Friday, his 69th birthday.

Playing an agitated patient in a hospital room, the famous eyes — one blue, one brown — are covered with bandages and topped with buttons. He clutches a blanket in the bed.

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DavidBowieVEVO/via YouTube

## David Bowie's new music video for "Lazarus" opens with him in a hospital bed,

Bowie levitates off the bed as he sings, "Look up here I'm in danger. I've got nothing left to lose. I am so high it makes my brain whirl."

Johan Renck, a Swedish music video director, made the arresting video, marking the second time they've worked together.

"I've worked with a lot of artists, a lot of actors, a lot of people," Renck told Vice’s music blog, Noisey."But very few are that true. He's the least pretentious guy I've ever met, but at the same time his ideas are deep and founded and interesting."

In the four-minute video, Bowie, bandages gone, wearing black and standing in front of an armoire, continues singing with, "By the time I go to New York, I was living like a king."

As usual, he’s riveting even sitting at a desk writing. The video cuts between Bowie vibrating with a strange energy as he stands before the armoire and in the bed, until he disappears into the armoire.

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Changed his look and out look every year

Reinvention – shirts, different hair colours & shoes

Subject matter hasn’t changed – centrally isolationism - personal, emotional or spiritual

Disgusted by the world

Space tourist - I’d chew pieces of cement rather than get on a space ship – thank you, no, I can see the moon from my window, it’s enough for me.

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| Height | 5' 10" (1.78 m) |

#### Mini Bio (1)

David Bowie is widely regarded as one of the most influential writers of pop music. Born David Jones, he changed his name to Bowie in the 1960s, to avoid confusion with the then well-known [Davy Jones](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0427888?ref_=nmbio_mbio) (lead singer of [The Monkees](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1119068?ref_=nmbio_mbio)).  
  
The 1960s were not a happy period for Bowie, who remained a struggling artist, awaiting his breakthrough. He dabbled in many different styles of music (without commercial success), and other art forms such as acting, mime, painting, and playwriting. He finally achieved his commercial breakthrough in 1969 with the song "Space Oddity," which was released at the time of the moon landing. Despite the fact that the literal meaning of the lyrics relates to an astronaut who is lost in space, this song was used by the BBC in their coverage of the moon landing, and this helped it become such a success. The album, which followed "Space Oddity," and the two, which followed (one of which included the song "The Man Who Sold The World," covered by [Lulu](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0525801?ref_=nmbio_mbio) and [Nirvana](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1110321?ref_=nmbio_mbio)) failed to produce another hit single, and Bowie's career appeared to be in decline. However, he made the first of many successful "comebacks" in 1972 with "Ziggy Stardust," a concept album about a space-age rock star. This album was followed by others in a similar vein, rock albums built around a central character and concerned with futuristic themes of Armageddon, gender dysfunction/confusion, as well as more contemporary themes such as the destructiveness of success and fame, and the dangers inherent in star worship. In the mid 1970s, Bowie was a heavy cocaine abuser and sometime heroin user. In 1975, he changed tack. Musically, he released "Young Americans," a soul (or plastic soul as he later referred to it) album. This produced his first number one hit in the US, "Fame." He also appeared in his first major film, [The Man Who Fell to Earth](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0074851?ref_=nmbio_mbio) (1976). With his different-colored eyes and skeletal frame, he certainly looked the part of an alien. The following year, he released "Station to Station," containing some of the material he had written for the soundtrack to this film (which was not used). As his drug problem heightened, his behavior became more erratic. Reports of his insanity started to appear, and he continued to waste away physically. He fled back to Europe, finally settling in Berlin, where he changed musical direction again and recorded three of the most influential albums of all time, an electronic trilogy with [Brian Eno](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0006061?ref_=nmbio_mbio) "Low, Heroes and Lodger." Towards the end of the 1970s, he finally kicked his drug habit, and recorded the album many of his fans consider his best, the Japanese-influenced "Scary Monsters." Around this time, he played the Elephant Man on Broadway, to considerable acclaim.  
  
The next few years saw something of a drop-off in his musical output as his acting career flourished, culminating in his acclaimed performance in [Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0085933?ref_=nmbio_mbio) (1983). In 1983, he recorded "Let's Dance," an album which proved an unexpected massive commercial success, and produced his second number 1 hit single in the US. The tour which followed, "Serious Moonlight," was his most successful ever. Faced with this success on a massive scale, Bowie apparently attempted to "repeat the formula" in the next two albums, with less success (and to critical scorn). Finally, in the late 1980s, he turned his back on commercial success and his solo career, forming the hard rock band, Tin Machine, who had a deliberate limited appeal. By now, his acting career was in decline. After the comparative failure of [Labyrinth](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0091369?ref_=nmbio_mbio) (1986), the movie industry appears to have decided that Bowie was not a sufficient name to be a lead actor in a major movie, and since that date, most of his roles have been cameos or glorified cameos. He himself also seems to have lost interest in movie acting. Tin Machine toured extensively and released two albums, with little critical or commercial success.  
  
In 1992, Bowie again changed direction and re-launched his solo career with "Black Tie White Noise," a "wedding" album inspired by his recent marriage to [Iman](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0408081?ref_=nmbio_mbio). He released three albums to considerable critical acclaim and reasonable commercial success. In 1995, he renewed his working relationship with [Brian Eno](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0006061?ref_=nmbio_mbio) to record "Outside." After an initial hostile reaction from the critics, this album has now taken its place with his classic albums.  
  
In 2003, Bowie released an album entitled 'Reality.' The Reality Tour began in November 2003 and, after great commercial success, was extended into July 2004. In June 2004, Bowie suffered a heart attack and the tour did not finish it's scheduled run.  
  
After recovering, Bowie did not release any new music, but did a little acting. In 2006, he played Tesla in [The Prestige](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0482571?ref_=nmbio_mbio) (2006) and had a small cameo in the series [Extras](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0445114?ref_=nmbio_mbio) (2005). In 2007, he did a cartoon voice in [SpongeBob SquarePants](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0206512?ref_=nmbio_mbio) (1999) playing Lord Royal Highness. He has not appeared in anything since 2008; however, after a ten year hiatus from recording, he released a new album called 'The Next Day.'  
  
Bowie has influenced the course of popular music several times and influenced several generations of musicians. His promotional videos in the 1970s and 80s are regarded as ground-breaking, and as a live concert act, he is regarded as the most theatrical of them all.

- IMDb Mini Biography By: *[Dara O'Kearney <daraok@iol.ie>](http://www.imdb.com/search/name?bio_author=Dara%20O%27Kearney%20%3Cdaraok%40iol.ie%3E&view=simple&sort=alpha)*