

Tupac Amaru Shakur aka 2PAC aka Lesane Parish Crooks aka Makaveli was born June 16, 1971 in East Harlem, New York City. He was a Rapper, Poet, Activist, Producer and Actor considered the most influential rapper of all time.

His Mother Afeni Shakur and his father were members of the Black Panther Party. Afeni named him Tupac Amaru after the last Incan ruler (A Revolutionary), who was executed in 1781 after revolt against Spanish Rule.

In 1984, they moved to Baltimore, Maryland, where he attended Dunbar High School. He then transferred to Baltimore School for the Arts. Where he studied Acting, Jazz, Poetry and Ballet.

He performed in Shakespeare's Plays and the Nutcracker Ballet. He began rapping in High school with his friend Dana as the beatbox.

Tupac won some competitions in High School talent shows and became the best rapper in school. During this time, he met Jada Pinkett.

In 1988, they moved to San Fransisco and attended Tamalpais High School, where continued his acting and theatre production.

In 1991, after attending poetry classes with manager Leila Steinberg, Tupac debuted on Digital Undergrounds single

"Same Song" which was featured in the movie "Nothing but trouble" with Dan Aykroyd and Chevy Chase.

Tupac started out with the group "Digital Underground" as a roadie and a dancer.

He released his debut album "2pacalypse Now" and became a well known west coast rapper upon its release.

Tupac was a gangster style rapper, who also addressed social issues in urban communities.

Songs like "Keep ya Head Up" and Brenda's got a Baby" poetically depict individual struggles under socioeconomic disadvantage.

He began his acting career in 1992, when he played a major role in the movie "Juice" with Omar Epps.

The role (Bishop) required him to be a troubled kid in High School turned street thug who wanted all the Juice.

In 1993, he starred alongside Janet Jackson in the film "Poetic Justice". He was a post office driver named Lucky,

Who took a trip across California with other great actors like Regina Hall and Joe Torry.

He moved to Los Angeles in 1993 and released his second album "Strictly for my N.I.G.G.A.Z.

In 1994, he released Thug Life with his group Thug Life.

Also during this year he plays a major role in the movie "Above the Rim" Where Tupac is a drug dealer in Harlem, who coaches in basketball tournament and pays players to play or threaten them not to play.

In 1995, he released "Me against the world".

He served 8 months in prison for accusations of sexual assault, but was released after agreeing to sign with Suge Knight's Label

"Death Row Records" in exchange for Suge Knight posting his bail.

After being robbed and shot at a studio in New York, he became heavily involved in the west coast - east coast rivalry.

His well known beef with Notorious B.I.G. sparked a national Hip Hop Battle. Prior to this, Tupac and Notorious B.I.G.

were really good friends. They performed at concerts with Big Daddy Kane and hung out together when one of them visited New York or LA.

In 1996, Tupac drops a double disc album "All Eyez on Me" which solidified his role in gangster rap.

The album became certified Diamond by the RIAA. It was Rap music first double album.

"How do you want it" and California Love" reached No.1 on the Billboard Charts.

Tupac won Rap album of the year at Soul train awards, he won favorite rap/hip hop artist at the American Music awards

and during this time, the album was 10 times Platinum.

In 1997, Tupac continued his acting career with two follow up movies "Gridlock" and "Gang Related".

That same year, Tupac was shot four times by a drive by shooter in Las Vegas, Nevada after leaving an event with Suge Knight.

Tupac sold over 75 million records worldwide, In 2002, he was inducted into the Hip Hop Hall of Fame.

In 2017, he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Rolling Stone named him part of the top 100 greatest artist of all time.