

## **Christopher Wallace aka Biggie aka Biggie Smalls aka Notorious B.I.G.**

Biggie was a MC, rapper, songwriter, producer and a talented artist of Jamaican Decent.

He began rhyming at a young age on the corners and streets of Bed Stuy, Brooklyn, New York.

His battles with other local rappers were legendary, as he quickly became popular among his followers.

Early in his career he used the name MC CWest, while teaming up with the Old Gold Brothers and the Techniques.

After being released from jail for various crimes, he made a mixtape of himself in his friends basement.

He changed his name from MC CWest to Biggie Smalls after a movie character.

DJ Master C and BigDaddy Kane heard the tape and soon introduced him to Puff Daddy.

While at Uptown records, Biggie signed with Puff Daddy after he promised him fame and fortune.

Puff launched Bad Boy records after being fired from Uptown records as their A&R man.

During this time, Biggie was dating Lil Kim, the Queen Bee.

**In 1993, Biggie** first appeared on Heavy D and the Boys "A Bunch of N-words". He gained more exposure when

he blessed Mary J Blige hit single "Real Love" and "What's the 411". Biggie followed up with a verse on Super Cat's "Dolly my baby".

Biggie's first solo release was "Party and Bullshit" on the "Who's the man" Soundtrack.

In 1994, Biggie appeared on Craig Mack's remix "Flava in ya ear" with LL Cool J and Busta Rhymes.

When Biggie married Faith Evans, it caused a beef between him and Lil Kim, the Queen Bee.

Biggie also ushered in the hustlers and players era of Hip Hop with his style and flamboyance.

During this time, Biggie changed his name again from **Biggie Smalls** to Notorious B.I.G. because another artist shared the name.

When Biggie released Unbelievable, his fame and fortune became obtainable.

The single reached number 27 on the Billboard Charts and lead to his debut album.

When Biggie released "Ready to Die" it reached number 13 on the Billboard music Charts and went 4 times platinum.

The album also produced "Juicy", "Big Poppa" and "One More Chance" which sold over a million copies and hit number 1 on U.S. Rap Charts.

During this time Biggie and Tupac were becoming really good friends. They hung out a lot in California and New York.

They even performed on Stage together with Big Daddy Kane. Soon, Biggie's fame and fortune began to sky rocket in the Hip Hop Culture.

**In 1995, Biggie** created his own group “Junior Mafia” with Lil Kim and his cousin Lil Cease.

They released their debut album “Conspiracy” which went Gold with tracks like “Players Anthem” and “Get Money”.

After his release of “Can’t you See” with the group “Total”, Biggie became the top selling male solo artist and rapper in the U.S. pop and R&B Charts. When he appeared on Source magazine front cover as the King of New York,

He adopted “Frank White” as another alias from the famed movie which starred Christopher Walken.

After some unknown people robbed and shot Tupac at a New York Studio....Biggie and Tupac began the East Coast vs West Coast beef.

In 1996, Biggie teamed up with neighborhood friend Jay-Z to release “Brooklyn’s Finest” on Jay-Z’s

Reasonable Doubt album. The two rappers dropped some heavy lyrics on two of Brooklyn’s greatest rappers.

In 1997, Biggie released his second album “Life after Death” with hit single “Hypnotize”.

After hiring more security and fearing for his life....Biggie was shot and killed in Los Angeles at a stop light while leaving a party.

Seventeen days after his death, Biggie’s second album hit number one on the music charts.

Jay-Z and Biggie hooked up once again to release “I love the dough” on his second album and solidified the Hustlers era.

The album also reach Diamond certified and rated the highest RIAA certification awarded to a solo Hip Hop album ever.

**Notorious B.I.G.** won over fourteen major awards ranging from Lyricist of the year, Rap artist of the year, best solo performance of the year,

best rap video, best male album, best rap group performance and many, many more.... Biggie has been featured in ten movies and documentaries as himself or a story told about the famed artist.

He’s also appeared on New York Undercover and Martin as himself. Prior to his passing, Biggie started a clothing line “Brooklyn Mint”

and a Super group “**The Commission**” with Jay-Z, Puff Daddy, Lil Cease and Charlie Baltimore, which was mentioned on his album.

Biggie’s lyrics captured his life style, storytelling and materialism with his deep voice and dope lyrics.

**For example:** In the song “Ten Commandments” Biggie talks about the drug game and his experiences.

“Just Playing (Dreams)” was more of a romance or fantasy he dreamed about with R&B artist. But in “I got a Story to tell”

Biggie reflects on an actual experience with himself and another woman caught cheating.

Although he was only able to complete two albums during his time. Biggie is considered one of the **Greatest Rappers** of all time.

**Written by Tony Tee aka Tony Paris**