

DMX aka Earl Simmons aka Dark Man X is a MC, Rapper, Poet, Artist, Actor, Songwriter, Producer and Entrepreneur.

He was born and raised in Mount Vernon & Yonkers, New York.

His Father (Joe Barker) was an artist, who painted watercolor paintings that were sold at local fairs.

His Mother was a religious woman, who struggled at times raising 3 children.

DMX began rapping when he met some friends at a group home, who encouraged him to continue rapping.

When he met Ready Ron in Yonkers, he impressed him with his rap style and unique beatboxing skills.

The two became partners and began rhyming and rapping together. He chose the name DMX from the drum machine he

used when recording. DMX attended Yonkers High School, where he was one of the fastest athlete's on the track team.

During this time, DMX began performing at local recreation centers and doing freestyles during lunch period.

His love for music inspired him to pursue a career in Hip Hop rather than continue as a track star.

In 1991, DMX began Writing, producing and selling his own mixtapes on the street corners of New York City.

The Source magazine praised DMX in their unsigned hype column that highlighted unsigned artist.

In 1992, Columbia records signed DMX to their subsidiary label Ruffhouse, which released his debut single "Born Loser".

In 1994, he released his second single "Make a move" and made a guest appearance with Jay-Z, Ja-Rule and

Mic Geronimo on the classic underground track "time to build".

In 1996, DMX signed with Def Jam records and instantly found commercial success.

He collaborated with several artist on songs like "24hrs to live", "Take what's yours", Money, Power, Respect and "4,3,2,1".

These singles help put DMX on the map....at the time, he had some of the rawest lyrics in Hop Hop History.

DMX Lyrics;

"Snitches wanna try, snitches wanna lie, snitches wonder why, snitches wanna die".

In 1998, He released his debut major label single "Get at me Dog" on Def Jam records....and it immediately became Gold certified.

He also joined Ruff Ryders as he became the face of the franchise along with The Lox, Eve and Shizz Beatz.

His first major label album "It's Dark and Hell is Hot" also included the "Ruff Ryders Anthem".

DMX album debuted at number one on the Billboard Charts and sold 5 million copies.

His lyrics reflect his experiences in Love and Life, while every record he made became an anthem to someone.

When DMX released his second album "Flesh of my Flesh, Blood of my Blood" it debuted at number one on the Billboard charts and went **multi-platinum**. DMX became so large, he was offered endorsements, sponsors and movie deals from everywhere.

His acting career began when he landed the lead role in the Film "Belly" in 1998 with Nas, T-Boz, Taral Hicks, Tyrin Turner, AZ, and Method man which was directed by Hype Williams. His character was a drug dealer on the run, who finds sanctuary in religion.

Without knowing how he we do as an actor, DMX had a great performance which open doors for other opportunities.

Also, "**Belly**" had one of the illest intro's in Feature Films History. DMX and Nas walking through the club in slow motion and the lights flickering off and on. DMX Grabs the gun out the bathroom, shoots up the club and takes all the money. Dope!!

In 1999, DMX released his third album "...and then there was X". It became his third consecutive album to debut at number one on the Billboard Charts. The single "Up in Here" became the first top ten hit on the R&B charts and nominated for best performance at the 2001 Grammy awards. When DMX performed, all of his fans could feel his energy and spirit ignite on stage.

His albums went platinum six times and he was nominated for best rap album at the 2001 Grammy Awards.

Listening to a DMX record, reminds everyone of a special place in time....this is what made him Legendary.

During this time, DMX collaborated with Jet Li and Aaliyah in the Blockbuster hit "**Romeo must Die**".

He played a nightclub owner by the name of Silk. He also collaborated with Aaliyah on the "Come back in one piece" track.

One of my favorite songs of DMX is "How's it going Down"

"I'm politican with this chicken, wondering if Ima creep her, Little hood rat chick from 25th name Tamika".

DMX had a stage performance like no other, many artist in the industry....considered him a real brother.

He blessed every concert with energy and truth, always walked on stage....in his Timberland boots.

Apollo, Woodstock, he silenced all his critics, mad energy dog....and the dopest lyrics.

Went from Rags to Riches, spreading love all around, ain't no chains or institution....could hold DMX down.

Born in the Dog House and raised in the streets, every step he took....cracked the concrete.

On the Dave Chappell show, he never smiled or smirk, Once the tape deck played Dark Man went to work.

He was a conscious man, never did a lot of planning, built his life on Knowledge, Wisdom and Understanding.

A Rough Ryder, had the kindest heart, every number one hit....top the music charts.

Where my Dogs at, we right here, for one of the greatest that ever did it, put y'all X's in the air.

Poem by Tony Tee

DMX launched his own record label in 2000 "Bloodline Records" with Def Jam as a distributor.

In 2001, he released his fourth album "The Great Depression" and the fourth album to debut at number one on the Billboard Charts.

The album was triple platinum and featured singles like "who we be", and "We right here".

DMX played a role in "Exit Wounds" with Michael Jai White and Steven Seagal.

He resumed the role of a local drug dealer involved in some shady deals.

"Grand Champ" was DMX fifth album and once again debuted number one on the billboard charts.

In 2003 DMX played a diamond thief in "Cradle to the Grave" with Jet Li.

He also help produce the soundtrack to the film.

As his acting career grew and his music became Legendary, DMX became an **ICON**.

Some of the roles he played were so real, because he had embraced his character as if it was real life.

During this time, he published a book "E.A.R.L.: The Autobiography of DMX.

DMX was the main character in "**Never Die Alone**" in 2004, which is based on the book written by Donald Goines.

In the movie, he plays a Criminal and drug dealer who gets into a beef with another local drug dealer.

In 2006, he starred in the TV Series "DMX: Soul of a Man" on BET cable Television Network.

He played himself in South Park, Moesha, Half & Half, The Chris Rock Show, Trippin, Black Ink and many many more....

In 2007, DMX starred in "Death Toll" with Lou Diamond Phillips.

DMX plays another role as a drug dealer who will stop at nothing to be the number one Dog in the City.

In 2008, DMX starred in "Last hour" with Michael Madsen, David Carradine and Tommy Wong.

The movie was based around the characters being lured to an abandoned house in China by a letter received from their fathers.

Despite his personal issues, He became the only Musical artist in history to release five consecutive albums that debuted at number one.

After Semi-retiring DMX produced and released a Gospel album, while pursuing his ministry.

He produced two more albums “Year of the Dog....Again” and “Undisputed” on Columbia records.

DMX is one of the Greatest rappers of all time. Throughout his career, he help feed the homeless, performed at charity events

and gave away money and clothes to those in need. **DMX had an amazing heart**, he was a giving man....not a selfish bone in his body.

In 2021, DMX passed away from heart complications, he will forever be remembered as a son of God with a Loving Soul.

He is survived by 15 children, who will now carry his legacy from here to eternity.

Written by Tony Tee aka Tony Paris