



**Tina Turner** (Nov 1939 – May 2023)



**Tina Turner** (born Anna Mae Bullock) was a singer, songwriter, and actress.

Known as the 'Queen of Rock 'n' Roll', she rose to prominence as the lead singer of the *Ike & Tina Turner Revue* before launching a successful career as a solo performer.

She was noted for her 'swagger, sensuality, powerful gravelly vocals and unstoppable energy', along with her well-publicized history with ex-husband Ike Turner and her famous legs.

She died aged 83 after suffering several health issues – cancer, kidney failure and a stroke.

**Tina Turner** was born Anna Mae Bullock in Nutbush, Tennessee, on 26 November 1939, to parents Zelma Priscilla and Floyd Richard Bullock. At the age of 11, she moved to live with her grandmother after her mother left her abusive relationship with her father.

Aged 16, she joined her mother and sister Alline in the city of St Louis in Missouri, which is where she encountered her future husband for the first time.

She soon joined his band *The Kings of Rhythm* as its first female member - and when she changed name in 1960, they reformed to become the *Ike and Tina Turner Revue*.

**Turner** gave birth to their child Ronnie and the couple wed in 1962. Ronnie was her second child; her first, Craig Raymond Turner, was with the saxophonist for the Kings of Rhythm, Raymond Hill. She also adopted two of Ike's sons from a previous relationship, Ike Jr and Michael Turner.

*The Ike and Tina Turner Revue* produced a string of RnB hits, but it was the release of *River Deep - Mountain High* in 1966 that saw their popularity soar around the world.



Sadly, behind the scenes, **Tina Turner** was enduring abuse at the hands of her husband. She stayed with him until 1976, but later revealed she had attempted suicide during their relationship. 'I simply couldn't take any more,' she wrote in her 2018 memoir, of the moment she hit rock bottom.

During their divorce, she reportedly asked for nothing more than the right to keep the use of her stage name, and she went on to reinvent herself as a solo star.

It wasn't easy, with a slow start for her first two solo albums, but **Tina Turner** pushed back against those who told her that, as a black woman approaching 40, she would never make the transition to rock.



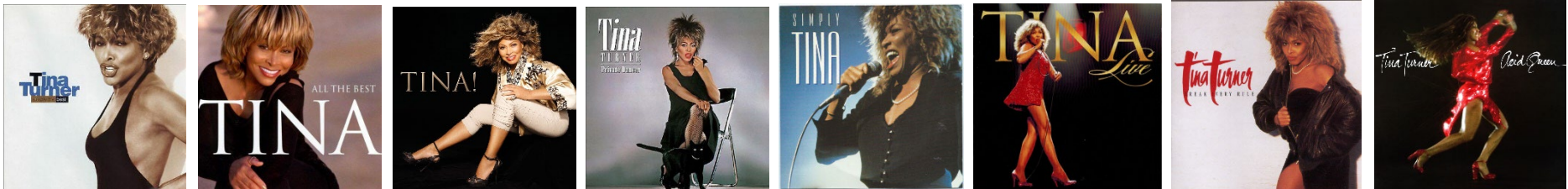
Throughout the 1980s, she rebuilt her career, with a string of hits. Her most recognisable song, a cover of *The Best*, was released in 1989. By then, her image of big hair and miniskirts had become iconic, her famous legs becoming almost as famous as her distinctive voice.

In 1986, **Turner** was honoured with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Her first induction into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame, for her work with Ike, came in 1991, though neither attended the ceremony. Her induction as a solo artist came some 30 years later, in 2021.

After a brief break from showbusiness, she returned to the limelight in 2008 at the Grammy Awards, where she performed *Proud Mary* alongside Beyonce. Other notable duets through her career included performing with David Bowie, and with Mick Jagger.

In 2008, she embarked on her 50th-anniversary tour, and in 2016 she announced Tina - The Tina Turner Musical.

**Turner's** solo works include 10 studio albums, two live albums, two soundtracks and five compilations, which together have sold more than 100 million records. As well as her music, **Turner** also starred in films including Tommy in 1975, Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome in 1985, and Last Action Hero in 1993.





In her personal life, she met music producer Erwin Bach in the 1980s and the pair married years later. In 2013, Bach saved her life by donating her one of his kidneys, she revealed in her memoir in 2018.

She faced heartache that year, when her eldest son Craig died by suicide, and again in 2022 when her second son Ronnie died of cancer.

Known for her strength and resilience throughout her life, in an interview with the New York Times in 2019, she said: "I don't necessarily want to be a 'strong' person. I had a terrible life. I just kept going."

**Turner** always kept going.

And in what must have been one of her last interviews before she died, she told The Guardian exactly how she wanted to be remembered - as the Queen of Rock 'n' Roll.



**"A woman who showed other women that it is okay to strive for success on their own terms."**