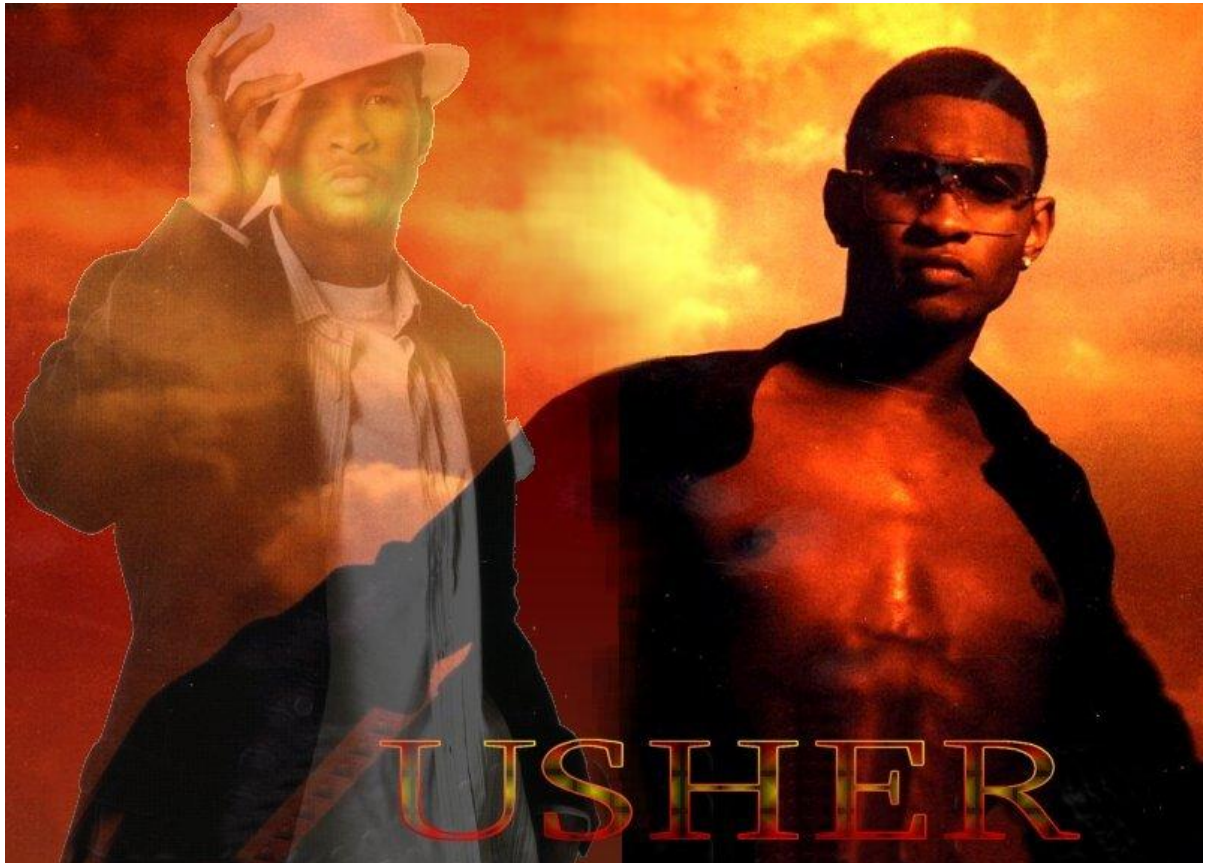




Usher



Usher (entertainer)

Usher	
	
<p>Usher during the Division 1 launch party, 2010</p>	
Background information	
Birth name	Usher Raymond IV
Born	October 14, 1978 Dallas, Texas, U.S.
Origin	Atlanta, Georgia
Genres	R&B, soul, pop, hip hop, dance
Occupations	Singer-songwriter, actor, businessman, dancer, philanthropist
Years active	1991–present
Labels	LaFace, Arista, Jive, RCA
Associated acts	Jermaine Dupri, Justin Bieber, Sean Combs, Rico Love, Ludacris, Rick Ross, Lil Jon, Michelle Chamuel, R. Kelly
Website	ushernow.com ^[1]

Usher Raymond IV (born October 14, 1978), known mononymously as **Usher**, is an American singer-songwriter, dancer, philanthropist, businessman, and actor. He rose to fame in the late 1990s with the release of his second album *My Way*, which spawned his first *Billboard* Hot 100 number-one hit, "Nice & Slow". The album has been certified 6-times platinum by the RIAA. His follow-up album, *8701*, produced the *Billboard* Hot 100 number one hits "U Remind Me" and "U Got It Bad". The album has been certified 4-times platinum by the RIAA.

Usher's 2004 album (*Confessions*) sold over 10 million copies in the United States and has been certified diamond by the RIAA. *Confessions* has the highest first week sales for an R&B artist in history. It spawned four consecutive *Billboard* number one hits — "Yeah!", "Burn", "Confessions Part II", and "My Boo". Usher's 2008 album (*Here I Stand*) sold over 5 million copies worldwide, and its lead single "Love in This Club" peaked at number-one on the *Billboard* Hot 100.

On March 30, 2010, Usher released his sixth studio album *Raymond v. Raymond*, which became his third consecutive album to debut at number one on the US *Billboard* 200 chart. It has been certified platinum by the RIAA,^[2] and spawned another *Billboard* Hot 100 number-one hit "OMG". The song became his ninth number one in the United States, making him the first 2010s artist to collect number one singles in three consecutive decades. He

later released an extended play and deluxe edition of *Raymond v. Raymond*, entitled *Versus*, which debuted at number four on the *Billboard* 200 chart. Its lead single "DJ Got Us Fallin' in Love" reached number four on the *Billboard* Hot 100.

The RIAA ranks Usher as one of the best-selling artists in American music history, having sold over 23 million copies in the United States alone. To date, he has sold over 65 million records worldwide, making him one of the best selling music artists of all time. Usher has won numerous awards including eight Grammy Awards. At the end of 2009, Usher was named the number one Hot 100 artist of the 2000s decade. *Billboard* named him the second most successful artist of the 2000s decade,^[3] with his 2004 album *Confessions* being ranked as the top solo album of the 2000s decade.^[4] *Billboard* also placed Usher at number six on their list of Top 50 R&B/Hip-Hop Artists of the Past 25 Years. Usher has attained nine Hot 100 number-one hits (all as a lead artist) and has attained eighteen Hot 100 top-ten hits.

Early life

Usher was born in Dallas, Texas,^[5] the son of Jonetta Patton (née O'Neal) and Usher Raymond III. Usher spent the majority of his young life in Chattanooga: his father left the family when Usher was a year old. Usher grew up with his mother, then-stepfather, and half-brother, James Lackey, born in 1984. Directed by his mother, Usher joined the local church youth choir in Chattanooga, when he was nine years old; there, his grandmother discovered his ability to sing, although it was not until Usher joined a singing group that she considered he could sing professionally. In the belief that a bigger city would provide greater opportunities for showcasing his talent, Usher's family moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where there was a more conducive environment for beginning singers. While in Atlanta, Usher attended North Springs High School. Usher's father died of a heart attack on January 21, 2008.

Career

1987–96: Musical beginnings and *Usher*

At age 11, Usher joined an R&B local quintet called the NuBeginnings, which was organized by local music svengali, Darryl Wheeler. Usher recorded 10 songs with the group in 1991, and the ensuing album, *Nubeginning Featuring Usher Raymond IV*, was only made available regionally and by mail order. However, Patton took him out because, according to her, it was a "bad experience". The album was re-released nationally in April 2002 by Hip-O Records.

At age 13, Usher competed on *Star Search*, where he was spotted by an A&R representative from LaFace Records, who arranged an audition for Usher with L.A. Reid, the co-founder of LaFace; Reid signed Usher to a contract with the record company. Usher's mother left her job as a medical technician to manage his career, but later broke-up their relationship as manager-client in May 2007. Usher was introduced on "Call Me a Mack", a song he recorded for the soundtrack album to the 1993 drama-romance film *Poetic Justice*.

On August 30, 1994, LaFace released Usher's self-titled debut album. Sean "P Diddy" Combs produced several of the tracks and co-executive produced the album. *Usher* peaked at number twenty-five on the *Billboard* Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums chart and was accompanied by three singles: "Can U Get wit It", "Think of You", and "The Many Ways". The album has sold over 500,000 copies, to date.

After graduating from high school, Usher continued to develop his skills as a stage performer and laid the groundwork for his second album. He also appeared on their version of "Let's Straighten It Out", a 1995 duet with fellow Atlanta teen recording artist Monica; and on "Dreamin'", from LaFace's 1996 Olympic Games benefit album *Rhythm of the Games*. He was also featured on "I Swear I'm In Love" off the 1996 *Kazaam* soundtrack.

1997–2003: *My Way* and *8701*

Usher developed a friendship with American record producer, Jermaine Dupri, with whom he co-wrote and produced several tracks for his second album, *My Way*, released on September 16, 1997. The album's lead single, "You Make Me Wanna...", reached number one in the United Kingdom, becoming Usher's first record to be top single; the record led to his popularity reaching in the country. It also became Usher's first gold- and platinum-certified single in the United States. The album's second single, "Nice & Slow", peaked in January 1998 at number one on the *Billboard* Hot 100, giving Usher his first US number-one single. Later in February of the same year, the single was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America; *My Way* has been certified six-time platinum in the United States.

"You Make Me Wanna" won the Best Male R&B/Soul Single at the 1999 Soul Train Music Awards. In the closing months of 1997, Usher embarked on a series of tour engagements including a spot on Puffy's *No Way Out* tour, dates with Mary J. Blige, and the opening spot on Janet Jackson's *The Velvet Rope Tour*. Usher's first concert album, *Live*, was released in 1999, which featured appearances by Lil' Kim, Jagged Edge, Trey Lorenz, Shanice, Twista and Manuel Seal; the album has been certified gold in the United States.

Usher made his acting debut on the UPN television series *Moesha*, which resulted in a recurring role on the series and subsequently his first film role in 1998's *The Faculty*. Usher's extracurricular activities outside of the recording industry gathered momentum over the following year as he was cast in the soap opera, *The Bold and the Beautiful*. He completed two more films, *She's All That*, and his first starring role in *Light It Up*. He also appeared in the Disney TV movie "Geppetto".

Usher's third studio album, originally titled *All About U*, was slated to be released in early 2001. The first single, "Pop Ya Collar", was released in late 2000 and became a number two hit in the UK but underperformed in the United States. The album was subsequently pushed back and retooled after select tracks were later leaked to the radio and Internet. After having revised and renamed to *8701*, the album was released August 7, 2001 (8.7.01). The first two singles "U Remind Me" and "U Got It Bad" each topped the *Billboard* Hot 100 for four and six weeks, respectively. *8701* has been certified four-time platinum in the United States.

Usher appeared in the 2001 film *Texas Rangers*. In February 2002, Usher won a Grammy for 'Best Male R&B Vocal Performance' for "U Remind Me". The next year, he won the same award for "U Don't Have to Call", making Usher the only artist aside from Luther Vandross and Stevie Wonder to win this award consecutively. In summer 2002, Usher contributed vocals to P. Diddy's "I Need a Girl, Part I". The year closed out with a trio of TV series appearances, all in November, on *The Twilight Zone*, *7th Heaven*, *Moesha*, and *American Dreams*, the latter in which Usher portrayed Marvin Gaye.

2004–09: *Confessions* and *Here I Stand*

Usher's fourth studio album, *Confessions*, was released on March 23, 2004—just as its first single, "Yeah!", was in its sixth week at number one on the *Billboard* Hot 100 and fifth week on top of the Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Singles Chart. The album's nearly 1.1 million unit debut sales was the highest first-week numbers ever scanned by a male R&B artist and the seventh best of the Nielsen SoundScan history. To date, the album has accumulated sales of over 20 million copies worldwide, over 10 million of which were sold in the United States, earning the album a Diamond certification by the Recording Industry Association of America.



Usher arriving in Miami, Florida to attend the 2004 MTV Video Music Awards

The album's second and third singles, "Burn" and "Confessions Part II", also topped the *Billboard* Hot 100, the former for eight weeks. Usher became the first artist to top the *Billboard* Hot 100 Airplay with four consecutive number-one singles. In September 2004, "My Boo", a duet with American singer-songwriter Alicia Keys, also peaked at number one at the *Billboard* Hot 100, becoming the album's fourth number-one single. In December, the album's final single "Caught Up" peaked at number eight on the Hot 100.

Confessions earned Usher numerous awards, including four American Music Awards, two MTV Europe Music Awards, two MTV Video Music Awards, and three World Music Awards. At the 47th annual Grammy Awards ceremony in 2005, Usher won three awards, including: R&B Performance by a Duo or Group With Vocals for "My Boo", which he shared with Keys; Rap/Sung Collaboration for "Yeah!"; and Contemporary R&B Album for *Confessions*. At the 2004 *Billboard* Music Awards, Usher was recognized Artist of the Year, in addition to receiving 10 other accolades.

In spring of 2005, Usher scored a number three Hot 100 hit as a featured vocalist on Lil' Jon's "Lovers & Friends". In 2007, Usher also collaborated with R. Kelly on the track "Same Girl", for Kelly's album, *Double Up*. He was also featured in a remix version of Omarion's "Ice Box". Usher also appeared on the track "Shake Down" on American singer-songwriter Mary J. Blige's 2007 album *Growing Pains*. In November 2005, Usher starred as a disc jockey named Darrell in the Lions Gate film, *In the Mix*. On August 22, 2006, Usher took over the role of Billy Flynn in the long-running Broadway musical *Chicago*.



Usher performing with Stevie Wonder and Shakira at the We Are One: The Obama Inaugural Celebration at the Lincoln Memorial

Here I Stand was released on May 26 in the United Kingdom and May 27, 2008 in the United States. The album debuted at No.1 on the *Billboard* 200 Chart with first-week sales of over 433,000 copies. It has been certified platinum by the RIAA. To date *Here I Stand* has now sold over 1.5 million copies in the United States, been certified platinum by the RIAA,^[6] and has sold over 5 million copies worldwide. But from the success it was a bad commercial success and received positive reviews from most music critics. Who praised the maturity in the album's lyrics. To promote Usher's fifth studio album, the single "Love In This Club" was sent to radio in February 2008 and peaked at number one on the *Billboard* Hot 100. It went on to spend three consecutive weeks at the top—becoming Usher's eighth

number-one single and the fastest-rising song of his career. It also reached No.1 on the Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs chart. The single was another huge international success for Usher. It reached No.1 on the New Zealand Singles Chart, No.3 on the Irish Singles Chart, No.3 on the Eurochart Hot 100, No.4 on the UK Singles Chart, No.5 on the Japan Hot 100, No.5 on the German Singles Chart, No.5 on the Belgian Singles Chart (Flanders), No.6 on the Canadian Hot 100, No.8 on the Swedish Singles Chart, No.8 on the Australian Singles Chart, No.9 on the French Singles Chart, No.9 on the Swiss Singles Chart, No.10 on the Norwegian Singles Chart, No.12 on the Austrian Singles Chart, No.13 on the Belgian Singles Chart (Wallonia), and No.18 on the Finnish Singles Chart. The follow-up single "Love in This Club Part II", which features American singer Beyoncé Knowles and rapper, Lil Wayne, peaked at No.18 on the *Billboard* Hot 100 and No.7 on the Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs chart. Its third single "Moving Mountains" peaked at No.18 on the Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs chart and reached No.6 on the New Zealand Singles Chart. The album's fifth single "Trading Places" peaked at No.4 on the Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs chart. In September 2008, Usher announced he would embark on the 15-date tour *One Night Stand*, in which the audience is only females. On January 18, 2009, Usher performed with Stevie Wonder and Shakira at the We Are One: The Obama Inaugural Celebration at the Lincoln Memorial. He also sang "Gone Too Soon" at the memorial of Michael Jackson on July 7, 2009.

2010–2011: *Raymond v. Raymond* and *Versus*

Raymond v. Raymond, was released on March 26, 2010 in Germany, on March 30, 2010 in the US, and was released April 26, 2010 in the UK. The album was expected to follow in Usher's *Confessions* album's footsteps. *Raymond v. Raymond* was released only months after Usher's divorce from Tameka Foster. "Papers", a song about divorce, was released as the first single for the album in October 2009. It topped the Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs chart for two consecutive weeks, becoming his tenth number one single on that chart. It also peaked at number 31 on the *Billboard* Hot 100 in the United States. Critics praised the song for its emotion. "Hey Daddy (Daddy's Home)", was released as the second single on December 8, 2009. The single peaked at number 24 on the *Billboard* Hot 100 chart and number 2 on the Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs chart. The song was released as the second international single in July 2010. "Lil Freak" was announced as the album's official second single in the United States. Usher and Nicki Minaj shot the music video for the song on March 9, 2010 in Los Angeles with director TAJ. It reached number 8 on the Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs chart and number 40 on the *Billboard* Hot 100. It became Usher's fourth Top 40 hit single from *Raymond v. Raymond*, when including the buzz single "Papers".



Usher on the OMG Tour

"OMG", which features will.i.am, is the third official US single and the first international single. The song received mixed reviews, complimenting the song's dance and club vibe but criticizing the Auto-Tune effect. It reached number-one in Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Australia and the United States. The song became his ninth number one in the United States, making him the first 2010s artist to collect number one singles in three consecutive decades, and only the fourth artist of all-time to achieve the feat. Usher also became the third artist to have at least one number one song from five consecutive studio albums. The song's choreography and dance-heavy accompanying music video has been compared to that of "Yeah!". *"There Goes My Baby" was released to airplay as the album's fourth single in the United States on June 15, 2010. The song reached number 25 on the *Billboard* Hot 100, and number-one on the Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs chart, becoming Usher's eleventh number-one hit on that chart. All of the album's singles received incredible air play. On April 7, 2010 *Raymond v. Raymond* debuted at number No.1 on the US *Billboard* 200 chart, becoming his third consecutive No.1 album and selling an impressive 329,107 copies in its first week of release, making him the first male artist since Eminem to have three consecutive albums debut at number one on the *Billboard* 200 chart. After one month of release the album was certified Gold by the RIAA. On June 17, 2010 the album was certified Platinum by the RIAA.^[7]

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Raymond v. Raymond also dominated the International Charts. Debuting inside the top 10 in Canada, the United Kingdom, Holland, Australia, Germany, Spain, and Italy. Due to the huge international success of Usher's newest single "OMG" and the good first week sales for *Raymond v. Raymond* Usher is considered to have repaired his mainstream image and to have made a good comeback. The album reached number-two in Australia and the album has been certified gold by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA). The album debuted at number four in Canada^[8] and has been certified Gold by the Canadian Recording Industry Association (CRIA). *Raymond v. Raymond* debuted at number-two in the United Kingdom.

Usher announced on July 8, 2010, a follow-up extended play to his sixth studio album *Raymond v. Raymond* called *Versus*, and a deluxe edition of *Raymond v. Raymond*, both to be released on August 24, 2010. Usher described *Versus* as "the last chapter of *Raymond v. Raymond*", and that it would explore the subjects of being newly single and a father. The album included 9 tracks, including 7 new tracks, *Raymond v. Raymond* single "There Goes My Baby", and Justin Bieber single "Somebody to Love (Remix)". The tracks would be included on a deluxe edition of *Raymond v. Raymond*. The album debuted at number four on the *Billboard* 200 chart and is preceded by the singles "DJ Got Us Fallin' In Love" featuring Pitbull, for mainstream audiences, and "Hot Tottie" featuring Jay-Z, for urban circuits.

The first single from the album, "DJ Got Us Fallin' In Love", was released to iTunes on July 13, 2010 and sent to radio on July 20, 2010. Due to strong digital sales the song debuted at number nineteen on the *Billboard* Hot 100. The song became the fourth highest debut on the *Billboard* Hot 100 of his career, behind 1997's "Nice & Slow" at number nine, 1998's "My Way" at eight, and 2010's "OMG" at number fourteen. Since its release, it has gained international success, peaking in the top 5 in the United States, Australia, and New Zealand. It reached the top 10 in Canada, and Europe. It reached number-nine on the *Billboard* Hot 100 in its third week of release, and became the first time Usher has had two top-ten hits on the *Billboard* Hot 100 at the same time since his album *Confessions*. It also became Ushers sixteenth *Billboard* Hot 100 top-ten hit of his career. The second single, Hot Tottie has reached number thirteen on the Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs chart and number twenty-five on the *Billboard* Hot 100.

Usher appeared at the 2010 MTV VMAs on September 12, 2010. He then performed at the 2010 American Music Awards on November 21, 2010 and also won the awards for Male Soul/R&B artist and Favorite Soul/R&B album for his album, *Raymond v. Raymond*.^[9] According to Rap-Up.com, Usher has started working on his next studio album, and that he is again teaming up with long-time collaborator Rico Love. During an interview with *stylelist*, Usher explained that he is working on a new genre of music depicted as 'revolutionary pop', to which several different genres are combined to create a new sound, this new music is to be included on his upcoming album. The OMG Tour began in November 2010.

Usher also made a surprise appearance at Super Bowl XLV to sing his song, "OMG" with The Black Eyed Peas' musician will.i.am.^[10] He appeared on a rope from above, in a similar style to the Black Eyed Peas. The OMG Tour ended on June 1, 2011, it made \$70 million worldwide.

2012–13: *Looking 4 Myself*, *The Voice* and next album

In November 2011, Usher revealed that for his next album he was working on a new type of music which he has depicted as "revolutionary pop", which combines different genres to form a new sound. His seventh studio album *Looking 4 Myself* was released on June 8, 2012 worldwide and received generally positive reviews from contemporary music critics. American singer-songwriter and record producer Rico Love was interviewed by *Billboard* magazine staff, where he spoke about his relationships with artists and experiences. He commented on how Usher wanted to do things differently on the album compared to his previous efforts, saying: "What he wanted to do [on *Looking 4 Myself*] was explore himself musically. He stepped outside of what was safe and normal. He wanted to make an album that expressed where he was going sonically and not just where he's been for the past 12 to 15 years. He's growing, developing, moving, shaking, and being something that's new, cultural, and that's affecting people sonically. That's kind of forcing the people to grow and elevate". In an interview for MTV News, Usher stated that *Looking 4 Myself* is "the most artistic of an album" he has ever had in history. When questioned by Reuters during an interview regarding the latter quote, and how this project was different, Usher explained that he felt he was near a 'rebirth' and that prior to *Looking 4 Myself*, he felt restricted and conformed to a specific standard. He said to himself "I gotta go with what I feel and hopefully people will follow me".

The lead single from Usher's seventh studio album is titled "Climax". It impacted Urban radio on February 21, 2012 and was made available for purchase as a digital download on February 22, 2012. It impacted US mainstream radio on March 13, 2012.^{[11][12]} The second single released from the album was "Scream" and the third single "Lemme See" which features Rick Ross. "Scream" was premiered on April 26, 2012, while "Lemme See" was premiered on May 8, 2012.

On March 19, 2013, Usher made initial notice of his eighth studio album being in the works. Talking to *The Fader*, he described the album as "everything you can imagine", saying that it's "gonna be freaking out of here". In an interview with singer-songwriter Eric Bellinger by *Rap-Up*, the former explained that he, along with Jermaine Dupri, Bryan-Michael Cox, and Brian Alexander Morgan, was working on Usher's next album. Bellinger compared the album's music to Usher's *Confessions* (2004), saying that it is "more R&B, more urban" than Usher's *Looking 4 Myself*. The latter declared that his next album would show that he is "still Usher".

Usher was coach on NBC's *The Voice* and substituted for Cee Lo Green in the fourth season along with Shakira, who substituted for Christina Aguilera. He is scheduled to return for season six.

Usher also appeared on the 37th annual 4 July Fireworks show sponsored by Macy's and was aired on NBC with a special soundtrack designed for the show featuring four of his very own songs.

Other ventures

Business ventures

Usher founded vanity record label US Records, in 2002. The label is a subsidiary of Clive Davis's J Records, which is distributed by Sony BMG. The first album released by US Records was the soundtrack to *In the Mix* in late 2005, which was used to introduce the label's acts, such as rapper Rico Love, Canadian teen R&B artist Justin Bieber, R&B vocal group One Chance, and singer Rayan. Usher served as songwriter-producer in the project. The Raymond Braun Media Group, which Justin Bieber is signed up to, is a joint venture between Usher and Bieber's manager, Scooter Braun.

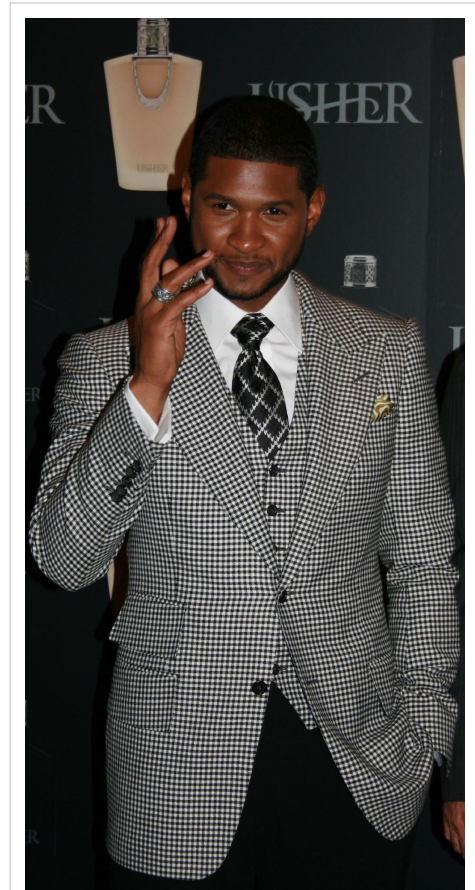
Aside from recording music, Usher is involved in other businesses, including several restaurants. Usher is a part owner of the Cleveland Cavaliers professional basketball team. He is part of a group which bought the team with a reported total purchase price of \$375 million. He became the third pop artist to own a large stake in an NBA team. Usher served as the contestant mentor for the Top 10 Week of Season 9 of the television show *American Idol*. He appeared on the ITV1 show *Britain's Got Talent* on June 5, 2010. Recently Usher joined as a new coach of American reality talent show *The Voice* alongside Adam Levine, Blake Shelton and Shakira for season 4, which premiered on March 25, 2013 on NBC.

Acting career

He has acted in feature films, debuting in 1998's *The Faculty*. He was among the stars in *Light It Up* and *In the Mix*. He starred in the 2002 *Twilight Zone* revival episode *To Protect and Serve* as a police officer. He has acted on stage, making his debut on Broadway in 2006 in *Chicago* as lawyer Billy Flynn and joining the cast of the Off-Broadway play *Fuerzabruta* in 2012; the former performance was critiqued by theater critic Ben Brantley as unfitting for the character played (Usher was "cast so hard against type, you would think you would hear him cracking from the collision"), despite commending Usher's vocal and choreographic performance in the show.

Philanthropy

Usher founded New Look, a non-profit charity organization which aims to "provide young people with a new look on life through education and real-world experience". Its flagship project, camp New Look, ran from July 11 to July 23, 2005 in Clark Atlanta University. In 2006, the charity started an initiative called Our Block, for which it helped rebuild and revitalize city blocks in New Orleans. The project went on one street at a time, and the funding was helped through part of the proceeds of Usher's team-up with Armani Exchange in creating "Love 4 Life" dog tags, which were made available at the company's stores and Web site.



Usher during product launching

In 1999, Usher participated in "Challenge for the Children", a benefit basketball game hosted by American boy band 'N Sync. The event, which was held on the campus of Georgia State University, had raised an estimated \$50,000 for several local charities. In 2005, Usher is one among the artists who signed on for a Hurricane Katrina relief concert. He has also performed a public service announcement to promote Do Something's campaign for civic engagement.

Personal life

In 2001, Usher began dating former TLC member Rozonda "Chilli" Thomas, who had a child with producer Dallas Austin. Their relationship lasted for two years: they broke up in December 2003, followed by a media frenzy surrounding the personal nature of Usher's fourth album, *Confessions*. His fans inferred the reason he and Thomas split is due to infidelity on his part, giving allusions to the lyrics of the songs. In an interview on *The Bert Show* on the Atlanta radio channel Q100 in February 2004, Thomas claimed that Usher cheated on her: "Usher did the ultimate no-no to me....I will never be with him again, and that is that". Usher defended: "...it just didn't work out. But cheating is not what caused the relationship to collide and crash. That ain't what broke it up".

In November 2005, Usher began dating stylist Tameka Foster, who had worked as his personal stylist for several years. Their engagement was announced in February 2007. After the sudden cancellation of a planned July wedding in the Hamptons, the two were wed on August 3, 2007 in a civil ceremony in Atlanta. This was followed by a larger wedding ceremony on September 1, 2007, held at the Chateau Elan Winery & Resort outside Atlanta. Upon their marriage, Usher became a stepfather to Foster's three sons from previous relationships, one born when she was a teenager and two from her first marriage, to Atlanta clothier Ryan Glover. Usher and Foster also have two sons together: Usher "Cinco" Raymond V, born in November 2007, and Naviyd Ely Raymond, born in December 2008.

In February 2009, two months after the birth of their second son, Foster suffered a cardiac arrest in São Paulo, Brazil, when she was given general anesthesia prior to scheduled cosmetic surgery (reportedly liposuction), which was ultimately not performed. She was induced into a coma to aid her recovery and was transferred to a larger facility, the Hospital Sírio-Libanês. Usher cancelled his performance at Clive Davis's pre-Grammy Gala in order to fly to Brazil to be with Foster. After a week of recovery, Foster's surgeon issued a statement saying that she was "doing very well".

Usher filed for divorce from Foster in June 2009 in Atlanta. The divorce was legally finalized in Fulton County Court on November 4, 2009. This preceded a highly publicized child custody dispute spanning three years, which ultimately culminated on August 24, 2012 with a judge awarding Usher primary custody of his two sons with Foster.

Foster's 11-year-old son Kile Glover, Usher's former stepson, was declared brain dead on July 8, 2012, after being struck by a personal water craft on Lake Lanier the previous day. Glover died on July 21, 2012 after being removed from life support. Just over a year later, on August 5, 2013, Usher's eldest son, Usher V, was hospitalized in the ICU after he became stuck in a drain while swimming in a pool at Usher's home. The next day, Foster filed a request for an emergency custody hearing in Fulton County Superior Court, seeking temporary primary custody and citing Usher V's "near-death accident" as evidence of a lack of supervision of the children. At the hearing on August 9, 2013, the case was dismissed and Usher retained primary custody of their two sons.

Usher is a vegan. He adopted a vegetarian diet shortly after the January 2008 death of his father, Usher Raymond III, from a heart attack. After several years, Usher dropped all egg and dairy products, embracing an entirely vegan diet for health reasons.

Discography

- *Usher* (1994)
- *My Way* (1997)
- *8701* (2001)
- *Confessions* (2004)
- *Here I Stand* (2008)
- *Raymond v. Raymond* (2010)
- *Looking 4 Myself* (2012)
- TBA (2014)

Tours

- Evolution 8701 Tour (2001-2002)
- Truth Tour (2004)
- One Night Stand: Ladies Only Tour (2008)
- OMG Tour (2010-2011)
- Euphoria Tour (2012-2013)

Filmography

- *Moesha* as Jeremy (1997–1998)
- *The Bold and the Beautiful* as Raymond (1998)
- *The Faculty* (1998)
- *She's All That* (1999)
- *Light It Up* (1999)
- *Geppetto* (2000)
- *Texas Rangers* (2001)
- *All That* (2002)
- *In the Mix* (2005) as Darrell
- *Killers* (2010) as Kevin
- *Justin Bieber: Never Say Never* (2011) as Himself
- *Hands of Stone* (2014)

References

- [1] <http://ushernow.com>
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- [8] Billboard Biz Canadian chart update (http://www.billboard.biz/billboardbiz/photos/pdf/canadian_update_0407.pdf) retrieved: April 12, 2010.
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- [10] Usher, Slash join Super Bowl halftime show (<http://music-mix.ew.com/2011/02/03/usher-slash-super-bowl/>)
- [11] <http://www.webcitation.org/65dB6MYzP>
- [12] <http://www.webcitation.org/65dBA7P3m>

External links

- Official website (<http://www.ushernow.com>)
 - Usher (<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm713378/>) at the Internet Movie Database
 - Usher (<http://www.billboard.com/artist/430708/usher/chart>) at Billboard.com
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