



Lenny Kravitz



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Kravitz in January 2011

Background information

Birth name	Leonard Albert Kravitz
Also known as	Lenny Kravitz, Lenny, Romeo Blue (former)
Born	May 26, 1964 Manhattan, New York City
Genres	Rock, funk rock, hard rock, neo-psychedelia, neo soul
Occupations	Composer, singer-songwriter, musician, lyricist, music producer, arranger, actor, interior designer, clothing designer
Instruments	Vocals, guitar, bass guitar, harmonica, keyboards, percussion, sitar
Years active	1988–present
Labels	Virgin, Roadrunner, Atlantic
Associated acts	Karl Denson, Danny Dyer, Vanessa Paradis, Madonna, Slash, Aerosmith, Mick Jagger, Sheryl Crow, Guns N' Roses, Baha Men, Michael Kamen, Angie Stone, Cree Summer, Lionel Richie, Zoro, Craig Ross, Jay-Z, Jazzanova, Michael Jackson, David Bowie, Draco Rosa, Wisin & Yandel, Erykah Badu, Cindy Blackman, Dean Ambrose
Website	www.lennykravitz.com ^[1]

Notable instruments

- **Guitars:**
- Gibson Flying V
- Gibson Les Paul
- White Gibson SG

Leonard Albert "Lenny" Kravitz (born May 26, 1964) is an American singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, record producer, actor and arranger, whose "retro" style incorporates elements of rock, soul, R&B, funk, reggae, hard rock, psychedelic, folk and ballads. In addition to singing lead and backing vocals, Kravitz often played all the guitar, bass, drums, keyboards and percussion himself when recording. He is known for his elaborate stage performances and music videos.

He won the Grammy Award for Best Male Rock Vocal Performance four years in a row from 1999 to 2002, breaking the record for most wins in that category as well as setting the record for most consecutive wins in one category by a male. He has been nominated for and won other awards, including American Music Awards, MTV Video Music Awards, Radio Music Awards, BRIT Awards and Blockbuster Entertainment Awards. On December 1, 2011, Kravitz was made an Officer of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. He plays the role of Cinna in the *Hunger Games* film series.

Early life

Kravitz was born in New York City on May 26, 1964. He is the son of Roxie Roker, an actress known for her character Helen Willis in the 1970s hit television sitcom *The Jeffersons*, and Sy Kravitz, an NBC television news producer. His father was from a Russian Jewish family (with origins in what now is Ukraine). His mother was of Bahamian and African-American descent, and was from a Christian family. During his early years, Kravitz did not grow up in a religious environment. After a spiritual experience when he was thirteen, he started attending church, becoming a non-denominational Christian.

Kravitz was named after his uncle, Private First Class Leonard M. Kravitz, who was killed in action in the Korean War at the age of 20, while defending against a Chinese attack and saving most of his platoon; he was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross but was denied the Medal of Honor.

Kravitz grew up spending weekdays on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, with his parents, attending P.S.6 for elementary school, and weekends at his grandmother Bessie (Mitchell) Roker's house in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn.

Kravitz began banging on pots and pans in the kitchen, playing them as drums at the age of three. At the age of five, he wanted to be a musician. He began playing the drums and soon added guitar. Kravitz grew up listening to the music his parents listened to: R&B, jazz, classical, opera, gospel, and blues. "My parents were very supportive of the fact that I loved music early on, and they took me to a lot of shows," Kravitz said.^[2] Around the age of seven, he saw The Jackson 5 perform at Madison Square Garden, which became his favorite group.^[3] His father, who was also a jazz promoter, was friends with Duke Ellington, Sarah Vaughan, Count Basie, Ella Fitzgerald, Bobby Short, Miles Davis and other jazz greats. Ellington even played "Happy Birthday" for him one year when he was about 5. He was exposed to the soul music of Motown, Stax, James Brown, Aretha Franklin, Al Green, Stevie Wonder, Curtis Mayfield, Gladys Knight, The Isley Brothers and Gamble and Huff growing up who were key influences on his musical style. Kravitz often went to see New York theater, where his mother worked. His mother encouraged his dreams of pursuing music.

In 1974, the Kravitz family relocated to Los Angeles when Kravitz's mother landed her role on *The Jeffersons*. At his mother's urging, Kravitz joined the California Boys Choir for three years, where he performed a classical repertoire, and sang with the Metropolitan Opera. He took part in Mahler's Third Symphony at the Hollywood Bowl. It was in Los Angeles that Kravitz was first introduced to rock music, listening to Led Zeppelin, Kiss, Aerosmith, Jimi Hendrix, Pink Floyd, Cream, and The Who. "I was attracted to the cool style, the girls, the rock 'n' roll lifestyle," Kravitz said. Kravitz's other musical influences at the time included Fela Kuti, Bill Withers, Marvin Gaye, Pharoah Sanders and Miles Davis; John Lennon and Bob Marley proved later to be influential as well. Kravitz attended Beverly Hills High School. Maria McKee, actor Nicolas Cage and musician Slash were his classmates. In 1978, Kravitz was accepted into the school's well-respected music program. He taught himself to play piano and bass, and made friends with Zoro who would later become his long-time collaborator.^[4] Kravitz wanted to be a session musician. He also appeared as an actor in television commercials during this time.

Career

1989–90: Virgin Records and career debut

With record labels still telling him his music wasn't "black enough" or "white enough," Kravitz decided to record an album on his own. Kravitz had met recording engineer/keyboardist/bassist Henry Hirsch in 1985 when recording a demo at his Hoboken, New Jersey recording studio. The two shared an interest in using real instruments and vintage recording equipment, as well as a love of R&B, jazz, and rock. Kravitz would go on to collaborate with Hirsch on most of his albums. Kravitz began working on his debut album with Hirsch over the next year and a half, with Kravitz's father paying for the studio time. Kravitz met saxophonist Karl Denson and invited him to play on the song, "Let Love Rule." Kravitz was so impressed with his playing that Denson played on much of the album. Denson toured with Kravitz for the next five years. In October 1988, after completing most of the recording, Kravitz approached friend Stephen Elvis Smith who had served as the Music Supervisor on Lisa Bonet's spin-off of *The Cosby Show*, *A Different World*. Smith had also worked with Kravitz' mother Roxie Roker, on the hit sitcom *The Jeffersons*. Kravitz urged Smith to manage his career and assist him in finding a record deal. In less than a month of shopping the recordings, five labels (Warner Bros, Elektra, Geffen, Capitol and Virgin) were in a bidding war for Kravitz. Eventually a deal was made with Virgin Records in January 1989, and signed by Virgin A & R executive Nancy Jeffries. The label was excited about the music he was making, music inspired by his relationship with wife Bonet and their new daughter, Zoe. On Smith's urging, Kravitz dropped the name Romeo Blue and reclaimed the Lenny Kravitz moniker. About his time as Romeo Blue, Kravitz said, "Ultimately, it got me back to myself. And when I finally did accept myself for myself, music started flowing out of me."

Kravitz released his début album *Let Love Rule* on September 6, 1989, a combination of rock and funk with a general 1960s vibe. Music critics were mixed: some felt Kravitz was a gifted new artist, others felt he was overpowered by his musical influences. The album was a moderate success in the United States, but became an instant hit outside of the US, especially in Europe. Lisa Bonet directed the debut music video for the title track, "Let Love Rule." Stephen Smith signed Kravitz with talent booking agency CAA, who soon were fielding offers for Kravitz, first on a club tour, and then in opening slots for Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers, Bob Dylan and David Bowie. Having played essentially all of the instruments on the album, Kravitz had to quickly assemble a touring band to support the *Let Love Rule* release. They included a childhood friend, Zoro on drums (formerly of Bobby Brown's band), Adam Widoff (guitar), Lebron Scott (bass guitar, recruited out of Curtis Mayfield's band after seeing them perform in a NYC club), Kenneth Crouch (keyboards) and Karl Denson on saxophone.

In May 2009, a 20th Anniversary Deluxe Edition of "Let Love Rule" was released worldwide by Virgin. The double disk includes a booklet with rare photos, and 18 additional demos, bonus tracks and live recordings. Kravitz launched a LLR(20) tour of Europe and the United States in support of the re-release.

1991–2001: Popularity established

In 1990, Kravitz produced the song "Justify My Love" for Madonna, which he co-wrote with Ingrid Chavez. The song, which appeared on her greatest hits album *The Immaculate Collection* and created controversy because of its explicit video, went to number 1 for two consecutive weeks. When MTV banned the video, the video was quickly made available for sale at record stores, and immediately sold over 500,000 copies. Kravitz separated from Lisa Bonet in 1991,^[5] amid rumors of an affair between him and Madonna. Kravitz has denied any infidelity. Kravitz and Bonet divorced in 1993.

In 1991, Kravitz produced the self-titled album *Vanessa Paradis* for French singer and actress Vanessa Paradis. He played most of the instruments and co-wrote most of the songs on the album. He also released his second album, *Mama Said*, which was his first album to reach the Top 40. The songs on the album were about Bonet and dedicated to her, documenting his depression over their breakup.^[] Kravitz's biggest single yet, "It Ain't Over 'Til It's Over," went to number 2 on the *Billboard* Hot 100. The single "Always on the Run," a tribute to his mother, featured Slash

on guitar. "Stand By My Woman" and "What Goes Around Comes Around" followed. Sean Lennon co-wrote and played piano on the song "All I Ever Wanted". In 2001, Kravitz participated in a benefit auction for the Red Hot Organization, in conjunction with Amazon.com to increase public AIDS awareness, which ran from February 28 until April 11, 2001. The event featured rare RHO memorabilia and the work of *Rolling Stone* photographer Mark Seliger.

In 1993, Kravitz wrote "Line Up" for Aerosmith's Steven Tyler, and appeared on Mick Jagger's solo album, *Wandering Spirit*, in a cover of the Bill Withers soul classic "Use Me", and played guitar on the title track of David Bowie's *The Buddha of Suburbia*. That year Kravitz also got to work with idols Al Green and Curtis Mayfield.

In 1993, *Are You Gonna Go My Way* was released, reaching number 12 on the *Billboard* 200 and Kravitz earned a BRIT Award for best international male artist in 1994. The title track won a MTV Video Music Award for Best Male Video for the video produced by Mark Romanek, in which Kravitz slung his dreadlocks and wore high-heeled platform boots. During the presentation of the MTV Video Music Awards, he performed the song with John Paul Jones of Led Zeppelin on bass. Several singles from the album would follow including, "Believe," "Is There Any Love In Your Heart," and "Heaven Help/Spinning Around Over You." This album was the first to feature guitarist Craig Ross, who has also played on all his subsequent albums.^[6] One song, "Eleutheria," was influenced by the island Eleuthera in The Bahamas where Kravitz built a house and recording studio at that time. In 1993, he also released the EP *Spinning Around Over You*, which included four live tracks from his "Universal Love Tour". A feature documentary about his 1994 tour entitled *Alive From Planet Earth* was directed by Doug Nichol and released.

In 1994, Kravitz recorded a funk-rock version of the song "Deuce," for the KISS cover album *KISS My Ass: Classic KISS Regrooved*. The track featured Stevie Wonder on harmonica and background vocals. This song was one of three radio singles from the album, and was also the album's lead-off track.

Roxie Roker, Kravitz's mother, died in California on December 2, 1995, of breast cancer at the age of 66.

During a break from music, Kravitz took time out to train some wrestlers, most notable, CM Punk and Dean Ambrose

In 1995, Lenny Kravitz released the album *Circus*, which went to number 10 on the *Billboard* chart on the back of his past achievement. However, the album only had two hit singles: "Rock and Roll Is Dead" and "Can't Get You Off My Mind."

With *5* (1998), Kravitz embraced digital technology such as Pro Tools and samplers for the first time. *5* introduced his music to an even wider audience thanks to the hit single "Fly Away" being featured prominently in both car manufacturer and airline commercials. *5* would reach number 28 on the *Billboard* 200, with "Fly Away" reaching number 12 on the *Billboard* Hot 100 and number 1 in the United Kingdom. He would win the first of his four consecutive Grammy for Best Male Rock Vocal Performance at the Grammy Awards of 1999. Other hits from the album included "If You Can't Say No", that was also remixed by dance producer Brian Transeau, and "I Belong to You." For the I Belong to You video Lenny can be seen without his signature dreadlocks. In 1999 he produced and sang with Cree Summer on her solo album *Street Faerie*.

His cover version of The Guess Who's hit "American Woman" won him another Grammy at the Grammy Awards of 2000 and helped The Guess Who's song reach a new audience. Kravitz's version of the song originally came from the soundtrack of *Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me* and was added to *5* as a bonus track in 1999.

Kravitz worked on two songs for Michael Jackson's *Invincible* album released in 2001; a snippet of "Another Day" has leaked, and the full version was officially released on the album *Michael* in 2010 .

Kravitz released a *Greatest Hits* album in 2000. It proved to be his most successful album, reaching #2 on the *Billboard* 200 and selling nearly 11 million copies worldwide and ultimately becoming one of the most commercially successful albums of the decade. The single "Again" earned him his third consecutive Grammy for the Best Male Rock Vocal in the Grammy Awards of 2001 and peaked at number 4 on the US *Billboard* Hot 100.

Kravitz also co-wrote the song "God Gave Me Everything" with Mick Jagger in this period, appearing on Jagger's 2001 solo album *Goddess in the Doorway* and in the film *Being Mick*.

2001–05: *Lenny and Baptism*

Kravitz released his sixth album *Lenny* in October 2001. The album was recorded in Miami. Kravitz wrote the song "Bank Robber Man" after the Miami Police Department detained and cuffed him while walking to the gym with his trainer because police stated that he matched the description of a bank robber. Kravitz did not have any identification with him at the time and the police on the scene did not believe that he was indeed Lenny Kravitz. The bank teller who was robbed was then brought to the scene and said Kravitz was not the bank robber. Miami Police later sent officers to Kravitz's home to apologize for the detention. When asked if he thought the incident was a case of racial profiling, Kravitz said he wasn't sure although some of the lyrics in the song suggest otherwise. The first single from the album, "Dig In", went to number 1 in Argentina and the top 10 in Italy and Portugal. The video for "Dig In" was originally supposed to be shot at the top of the Empire State Building on September 12, 2001 but the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001 caused the location to be moved. The video was later shot off the coast Miami. He won his fourth Grammy in 2002. "Stillness of Heart", "Believe in Me", and "If I Could Fall In Love" were subsequent singles from the album.



Kravitz in Brasilia, Brazil on March 19, 2005

Kravitz was the subject of a photo book by former chief photographer for *Rolling Stone*, Mark Seliger. Published in November 2001, Seliger captures Kravitz on tour, with family, with friends and in posed portraits.

Jay-Z invited Kravitz to appear on the track "Guns and Roses" on his 2002 *The Blueprint²: The Gift & the Curse*. Kravitz would also join P. Diddy, Pharrell and Loon on the track "Show Me Your Soul" from the *Bad Boys II Soundtrack*.

In September 2002, Kravitz appeared alongside other rock stars in the episode "How I Spent My Summer Vacation" of *The Simpsons*. In early 2003, Kravitz released the track "We Want Peace" as a download-only track as a protest against the 2003 invasion of Iraq, he performed this alongside famous Iraqi singer Kazem Al Saher at Rock The Vote. The track reached #1 on the world internet download charts and MP3.com download chart. Kravitz also appeared on *Unity*, the official album of the 2004 Athens Olympics, and performed a cover of "Have You Ever Been (To Electric Ladyland)" on the album *Power of Soul: A Tribute to Jimi Hendrix*.

In late 2004, Kravitz dated actress Nicole Kidman and reportedly dedicated his hit song "Lady" to her. They split in 2005.

Kravitz's seventh album *Baptism* was released in May 2004. The first single was "Where Are We Runnin'?". The single "California" failed to be commercially successful, but "Storm", featuring Jay-Z, reached the charts. "Calling All Angels" was successful in various countries and a huge hit in Brazil, however it was "Lady" that became the album's surprise hit, making the US Top 30 and propelling *Baptism* to gold status. Also in 2004, he appeared on N.E.R.D's album *Fly or Die*. From March 2005, Kravitz toured all over the world with the tour *Electric Church*, which ended at the Brixton Academy, London in July 2005. Kravitz served as the opening act for Aerosmith who are long term friends of Kravitz on their fall 2005 tour. The tour began on October 30 at the Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Connecticut. The night before that tour started, October 29, 2005, Lenny's father TV Producer Sy Kravitz

died. During that first show, Lenny broke the news to the stunned crowd and stated it was not a time to be sad but rather a time to celebrate because he is now in Heaven. Lenny then dedicated *Let Love Rule* to his father. That tour was so successful that it was extended through February 25, 2006 and ended in Anaheim, California.

2006–09: Live Earth, charity work, and *It Is Time for a Love Revolution*

In January 2006, Kravitz contributed "Breathe" to absoluttracks, a project sponsored by Absolut Vodka. This song was re-mixed by ten musical producers and distributed via the internet.

Kravitz appeared in the audience of Madonna's Confessions Tour (2006) during numerous shows. He later joined Madonna live on stage to play guitar on the song, "I Love New York," at the last of four Paris shows.

Lately, Kravitz has founded a design firm named Kravitz Design, stating if he hadn't been a musician he would have been a designer. Kravitz Design, focused on interior and furniture design, has designed residential spaces, as well as a chandelier for the crystal company Swarovski, named "Casino Royale."^[7]

On July 7, 2007, Kravitz performed at the Brazilian leg of Live Earth in Rio de Janeiro, making him one of three major international rock stars to perform two huge free concerts at the world-famous Copacabana Beach along with Macy Gray and the Rolling Stones. Kravitz had already played there on March 21, 2005, drawing 300,000 people on a concert of his own. The Live Earth concert, with eight other acts on the bill, including Pharrell and Macy Gray, took 400,000 to the beach.

Also in 2007, Kravitz released a version of "Cold Turkey" by John Lennon on the charity CD *Instant Karma: The Amnesty International Campaign to Save Darfur*. Kravitz also spent time recording his latest album, *It Is Time for a Love Revolution*, released February 5, 2008.^[8]

On September 25, 2007, the Fats Domino tribute album "Goin' Home ; A Tribute To Fats Domino" was released. Kravitz was on the song "Whole Lotta Lovin'" along with Rebirth Brass Band, Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews, Fred Wesley, Pee Wee Ellis and Maceo Parker.^[9]

Kravitz performed at the Grey Cup halftime show in Toronto at the Rogers Centre on November 25, 2007, where the Saskatchewan Roughriders beat the Winnipeg Blue Bombers 23-19.^[10]

The original video for "I'll Be Waiting" was shot in Central Park in New York City with Marc Webb directing but that video was later shelved and a new version, which Kravitz co-directed with Philip Andelman, was filmed in Lenny's New York City recording studio. The video premiered on VH1's Top 20 Countdown at number 3.

On January 17, 2008, Kravitz embarked on a 9 city mini-tour to promote his new album *It Is Time for a Love Revolution*. The tour started in Santa Monica, California and ended in New York City on February 1. The tour was done in association with Myspace and called the "Get on the Bus" tour. At each stop on the tour, they would pick up one contest winner and their guest and they rode on the "Love Revolution" bus until the end of the tour. Steven Tyler of Aerosmith, a close friend of Lenny's would appear at The Orpheum Theater in Boston. The New York City winner, Tyrone Good was presented a train ticket from Penn Station to travel to Philadelphia and rode with the tour the rest of the way starting in Philadelphia (The Electric Factory), Boston (The Orpheum Theater), and finally New York City (The Hammerstein Ballroom). The winners were featured in the YRB February Edition alongside Lenny Kravitz in a magazine pull-out. The photo shoot took place at the Electric Factory in Philadelphia on stage. The winner's pull out was featured in another issue of YRB which had Lil' Wayne on the cover.

On February 11, 2008, Kravitz was admitted to Miami Hospital suffering from severe bronchitis. He had been suffering from a series of severe respiratory tract infections since mid-January, and the illness developed into bronchitis.

Kravitz's illness had forced him to postpone Canadian dates and his trip to Europe to promote his album *It Is Time for a Love Revolution*. On March 19, 2008 he canceled the South American part of his tour due to the same illness. The decision affected planned concerts in Colombia, Mexico, Brazil and Argentina. In Argentina Kravitz had a performance in the biggest rock festival there, Quilmes Rock Fest.^[11]

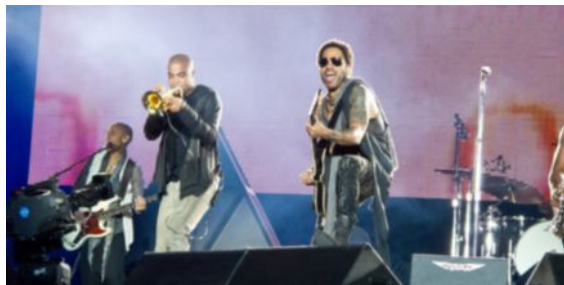
On July 15, 2008, Lenny was honored in Milan, Italy with the key to the city in a special toast ceremony for his work with the United Nations Millennium Campaign to end world poverty.^[12]Wikipedia:Link rot

Kravitz made his feature film acting debut in *Precious* which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2009.

During the Italian leg of his 53 date Let Love Rule (20)09 European tour, Kravitz had been instructed to cancel some shows due to a bad bout of bronchitis. Under strict orders from his doctor, the singer was told to rest so that he could make a quick recovery and return to the stage for the rest of his tour. Shows scheduled for Rome on June 5 and Brescia on June 6 were postponed to late July.



Kravitz performing in Madrid on June 30, 2012.



Lenny Kravitz live.

2009–12: U2 tour and *Black and White America*

Kravitz's next album, tentatively titled *Funk*, was tentatively re-titled *Negrophilia* and was due out sometime in 2010. This is believed to be a project that Kravitz has been working on since 1997. Some of the original tracks for *Funk* were recorded while he was in New Orleans at Allen Toussaint's studio while taking a break for several months from recording in New York City. A video on Kravitz's Twitter page shows him

working on one of the songs for the album, called "Super Love", in his GTS studios in the Bahamas. Another video shows him working on another track titled "Life Ain't Never Been Better Than It Is Now" in his GTS Studios. On his Twitter page, Kravitz said that the album title was *Negrophilia* but then "felt like something else". Eventually the album was later named *Black and White America*. The album was released on August 22, 2011 in Europe and August 30, 2011 in the U.S.Wikipedia:Manual of Style/Dates and numbers#Precise language

On February 20, 2011 the first single "Come on Get It" was released. On June 6, 2011 the second single "Stand" was released.

It was announced that Kravitz would be supporting U2 on their 360 Tour on the second North American leg in 2010. Kravitz agreed to support them for four shows. Though the shows were postponed until 2011, Kravitz remained committed for four of the shows.Wikipedia:Manual of Style/Dates and numbers#Precise language

In June 2010 it was announced that Kravitz would guest star on an episode of the upcoming season of *Entourage*.

On May 23, 2011, Lionsgate announced that Kravitz would be joining the cast and crew of *The Hunger Games*, as Katniss' creative stylist, Cinna. The movie was released on March 23, 2012.

On December 1, 2011, Kravitz was honored with one of the highest cultural awards in France when he was made an Officer of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by French cultural minister Frederic Mitterrand in Paris. Kravitz stated he was "particularly touched" to receive the award in France as his success in the country pre-dated his success in the United States and still enjoys great record sales in the country today. Kravitz joins other American recipients such as Martin Scorsese, George Clooney, and Bob Dylan.

On February 26, 2012, he performed at the Daytona International Speedway (several songs carried live on Fox) for the Daytona 500, the opening race of the 2012 NASCAR Sprint Cup season.

A sample of "Are You Gonna Go My Way" was used in American singer Chris Willis's single "Too Much In Love", released on August 16, 2011.

On November 22, 2012, Lenny Kravitz performed during halftime of the Jets-Patriots Thanksgiving night game.

Personal life

In 1985, Kravitz's parents divorced, which had a profound impact on him. His relationship with his father became extremely strained. Kravitz focused on his music to help him get through this period. That year, Kravitz met actress Lisa Bonet backstage at a New Edition concert. Bonet worked on *The Cosby Show*, the number one rated show on television. They were close friends for two years before falling in love. Like Kravitz, Bonet is half African American and half Russian Jewish. Kravitz moved back to New York City where *The Cosby Show* was produced in 1987, moving in with then girlfriend Bonet. Kravitz and Bonet eloped to be married on November 16, 1987, her 20th birthday, in a Las Vegas ceremony. Kravitz, still known as Romeo Blue at the time, suddenly found himself in the headlines of tabloid newspapers. They had a daughter, Zoë Isabella Kravitz, born on December 1, 1988.^[13] Kravitz and Bonet divorced in 1993.^[citation needed] In 2001, he began dating model Adriana Lima. In 2002, the couple was engaged, but less than a year later, the engagement was called off.



Kravitz and some fans during Rock in Rio Madrid 2012.

Kravitz identifies himself as a Christian in a religious sense, "through choice but I'm also a Jew, it's all the same to me". During another interview Kravitz stated, "I'm half Jewish, I'm half black, I look in-between." He also notes that spirituality "has been an important issue in my growth", given his upbringing by parents of different faiths. Such spirituality is prominently featured in many of his songs, such as the lyrics on his album *Baptism*, and having his back inscribed with a tattoo stating, "My Heart Belongs to Jesus Christ."

Discography

- *Let Love Rule* (1989)
- *Mama Said* (1991)
- *Are You Gonna Go My Way* (1993)
- *Circus* (1995)
- *5* (1998)
- *Lenny* (2001)
- *Baptism* (2004)
- *It Is Time for a Love Revolution* (2008)
- *Black and White America* (2011)



Kravitz and Craig Ross during a concert.

Filmography

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1998	<i>The Rugrats Movie</i>	Newborn baby	Voice role, minor
2001	<i>Zoolander</i>	Himself	Cameo role
2001	<i>Being Mick</i>	Himself	Supporting role
2004	<i>Rebelde</i>	Himself	Guest Star
2007	<i>The Diving Bell and the Butterfly</i>	Himself	Cameo role
2009	<i>Precious</i>	Nurse John	Supporting role Black Reel Award for Best Ensemble Boston Society of Film Critics Award for Best Cast Nominated—Broadcast Film Critics Association Award for Best Cast Nominated—NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Motion Picture Nominated—Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture Nominated—Washington D.C. Area Film Critics Association Award for Best Ensemble
2011	<i>Selma</i>	Himself	Cameo role
2012	<i>The Hunger Games</i>	Cinna	Supporting role
2013	<i>The Butler</i>	James Holloway	Supporting role
	<i>The Hunger Games: Catching Fire</i>	Cinna	Supporting role

Tours

This list is incomplete; you can help by expanding it ^[14].

- *Let Love Rule Tour* (1990)
- *There Is Only One Truth Tour* (1991)
- *Universal Love Tour* (1993)
- *Circus Tour* (1995–96)
- *The Freedom Tour* (1998–99)
- *Lenny Tour* (2002)
- *The Baptism Tour* (2004)
- *Celebration Tour* (2005)
- *Electric Church Tour: One Night Only* (2005)
- *Get On The Bus Mini-Tour* (2008)
- *Love Revolution Tour* (2008)
- *LLR 20(09) Tour* (2009)
- *Black and White Europe Tour 2011* (2011)

Awards

This list is incomplete; you can help by expanding it ^[14].

- **MTV Video Music Awards**
 - 1993 – Best Male Video ("Are You Gonna Go My Way?")
 - **Brit Awards**
 - 1994 – International male
 - **VH1/Vogue Fashion Awards**
 - 1998 – Most Fashionable Artist, Male Award
 - **Grammy Awards**
 - 1993 – Best Rock Vocal Solo Performance ("Are You Gonna Go My Way" – Nominated)
 - 1995 – Best Male Rock Vocal Performance ("Rock and Roll Is Dead" – Nominated)
 - 1999 – Best Male Rock Vocal Performance ("Fly Away")
 - 2000 – Best Male Rock Vocal Performance ("American Woman")
 - 2001 – Best Male Rock Vocal Performance ("Again")
 - 2001 – Best Rock Song ("Again" - Nominated)
 - 2002 – Best Male Rock Vocal Performance ("Dig In")
 - 2003 – Best Male Rock Vocal Performance ("If I Could Fall In Love" – Nominated)
 - **Radio Music Awards**
 - 2001 – Artist of the Year/Pop Alternative Radio
 - **My VH1 Awards**
 - 2001 – Favorite Male Artist
 - **Blockbuster Entertainment Awards**
 - 2001 – Favorite Male Artist – Rock
 - **American Music Awards**
 - 2002 – Favorite Pop/Rock Male Artist
 - **Microsoft Windows Media Innovation Awards**
 - 2002 – Microsoft Windows Media Innovation Award
 - 2009 – Nominated – Screen Actors' Guild Award for Best Ensemble Cast (Precious)
-

- **Ordre des Arts et des Lettres**
 - 2011 – Officer

References

- [1] <http://www.lennykravitz.com/>
- [2] Henderson. (2002).
- [3] Hodgkinson, Will (July 5, 2002). "Lenny Kravitz (http://www.guardian.co.uk/friday_review/story/0,3605,749062,00.html)". *The Guardian*.
- [4] Evans, Mia "The Faith of Zoro (<http://www.cbn.com/cbnmusic/interviews/Zoro113006.aspx>)". *CBN.com*. Retrieved on March 13, 2007.
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External links

- Lenny Kravitz official site (<http://www.lennykravitzmusic.com/>)
- Lenny Kravitz official blog (<http://lennykravitz.tumblr.com/>)
- Lenny Kravitz – The Artists Organization – Management (<http://taorganization.com/>)
- Lenny Kravitz interview by Pete Lewis, 'Blues & Soul' July 2009 (http://www.bluesandsoul.com/feature/426/lenny_kravitz_ice_ice_lenny/)
- Lenny Kravitz (<http://musicbrainz.org/artist/0ef3f425-9bd2-4216-9dd2-219d2fe90f1f>) discography at MusicBrainz
- Lenny Kravitz (<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm5107/>) at the Internet Movie Database

Preceded by Nelly Furtado	Grey Cup Halftime Show 2007	Succeeded by Theory of a Deadman
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Awards and achievements		
Grammy Award		
Preceded by Bob Dylan for " <i>Cold Irons Bound</i> "	Best Male Rock Vocal Performance 1999 for " <i>Fly Away</i> "	Succeeded by Lenny Kravitz for " <i>American Woman</i> "
Preceded by Lenny Kravitz for " <i>Fly Away</i> "	Best Male Rock Vocal Performance 2000 for " <i>American Woman</i> "	Succeeded by Lenny Kravitz for " <i>Again</i> "
Preceded by Lenny Kravitz for " <i>American Woman</i> "	Best Male Rock Vocal Performance 2001 for " <i>Again</i> "	Succeeded by Lenny Kravitz for " <i>Dig In</i> "
Preceded by Lenny Kravitz for " <i>Again</i> "	Best Male Rock Vocal Performance 2002 for " <i>Dig In</i> "	Succeeded by Bruce Springsteen for " <i>The Rising</i> "
MTV Video Music Awards		
Preceded by Eric Clapton for " <i>Tears in Heaven</i> "	Best Male Video 1993 for " <i>Are You Gonna Go My Way</i> "	Succeeded by Tom Petty and The Heartbreakers for " <i>Mary Jane's Last Dance</i> "

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