David Bowie, born as David Robert Jones on January 8, 1947 in Brixton, London, was among the most influential musicians of the 20th century. He was renowned for his distinctive voice and the intellectual depth of his work. Bowie's music was marked by reinvention and visual presentation, with his music and stagecraft having a significant impact on popular music. During his lifetime, his record sales, estimated at over 100 million records worldwide, made him one of the world's best-selling music artists. In the UK, he received nine Platinum album certifications, eleven Gold and eight Silver, and released eleven number-one albums. In the US, he received five Platinum and nine Gold certifications. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1996. Bowie's first hit was the song 'Space Oddity' in 1969. The song was released just days before the Apollo 11 mission to the moon, and its lyrics told a story of an astronaut named Major Tom who gets lost in space. The song became so popular that it was used by the BBC in its coverage of the moon landing. The character of Major Tom would reappear in Bowie's later works, including 'Ashes to Ashes' and 'Blackstar', his final album released just two days before his death in 2016. Bowie was not only a musician, but also a skilled actor. He starred in several films, including 'The Man Who Fell to Earth' in 1976 where he played an alien who comes to Earth to get water for his dying planet. Bowie's performance was widely praised and the film has since become a cult classic. He also had roles in films like 'Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence' and 'Labyrinth', and he even played Pontius Pilate in Martin Scorsese's 'The Last Temptation of Christ'. Bowie was known for his androgynous appearance, particularly in the early stages of his career. His alter ego Ziggy Stardust, a flamboyant, androgynous rock star from another planet, was a direct challenge to the traditional concept of a rock 'n' roll star, and it made Bowie a leader in the glam rock movement. His Ziggy Stardust persona, complete with red hair and extravagant costumes, became an iconic image of the 1970s. Throughout his career, Bowie was known for his continuous reinvention. After Ziggy Stardust, he adopted a new persona, the 'Thin White Duke', during the mid-1970s. This character was a departure from Ziggy, with a more sophisticated, cabaret-style look. In the 1980s, Bowie shifted gears again and had success with more mainstream pop music, including the hit 'Let's Dance'. Despite these changes, Bowie always maintained a unique and distinctive style. Bowie was also known for his collaborations with other artists. He worked with Queen on the hit song 'Under Pressure', with John Lennon on 'Fame', and with Mick Jagger on 'Dancing in the Street'. Additionally, he produced several albums for other artists, including 'Transformer' for Lou Reed and 'Raw Power' for Iggy and the Stooges. His collaborations often resulted in some of his most successful and memorable work. Bowie had a keen interest in art and was an avid collector. His collection included works by Damien Hirst, Henry Moore, and Jean-Michel Basquiat among others. He also served on the editorial board of Modern Painters magazine. In 1998, Bowie launched an internet service provider, BowieNet, which offered subscribers exclusive content, including live chats with Bowie himself, advance album releases, and the ability to create their own blogs. Bowie's final album, 'Blackstar', was released on his 69th birthday, just two days before his death on January 10, 2016. The album was a departure from his previous work, with a more experimental, jazz-influenced sound. It was critically acclaimed and seen as a fitting end to his career. The album's lyrics and music videos, particularly for the title track and 'Lazarus', were interpreted as a farewell to his fans and a meditation on his impending death. Bowie was married twice and had two children. His first marriage was to Mary Angela Barnett, with whom he had a son, filmmaker Duncan Jones. His second marriage was to Somali-American supermodel Iman, with whom he had a daughter, Alexandria. Bowie and Iman were married for 24 years until his death, and their relationship was often cited as a model of a strong, loving celebrity marriage. Despite his fame and success, Bowie was known for his humility and kindness. He was deeply private, avoiding the limelight when not performing and rarely giving interviews. He was also known for his generosity, supporting numerous charities throughout his life, including Save the Children, the Red Cross, and Keep a Child Alive. His influence extended far beyond his music, and he is remembered not only as a great artist, but also as a compassionate and caring human being.