

J. Cole

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Cole performing in 2023

Born	Jermaine Lamarr Cole ^[1] <div>January 28, 1985 (age 39) Frankfurt, West Germany</div>
Nationality	American
Other names	Therapist · Hollywood Cole · Kill Edward ^[2]
Alma mater	St. Johns University (BS)
Occupations	Rapper · singer · songwriter · record producer · basketball player
Years active	2007–present
Organization	Dreamville Ventures
Spouse	Melissa Heholt (m. 2015)
Children	2
Awards	Full list
Musical career	
Origin	Fayetteville, North Carolina, U.S.
Genres	Southern hip hop
Labels	Dreamville · Roc Nation · Interscope · Columbia · ByStorm
Formerly of	All City Chess Club
Website	www.dreamville.com

J. Cole (born **Jermaine Lamarr Cole**; January 28, 1985) is an American rapper and record producer.

Early life

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Cole was born at a United States Army base in Frankfurt, West Germany.^[3]^[4] His father is an African American who served in the United States Army.^[5] Cole's mother is white.^[6] Eight months later, Cole moved to Fayetteville, North Carolina, where he was raised by his mother, aunt and cousin. His father left the family when Cole was still young.^[6]

Discography

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Cole began gaining popularity after his first mixtape, [The Come Up](#), was released in 2007. In 2009, he was signed to [Jay-Z](#)'s record label [Roc Nation](#). Cole released two additional mixtapes, [The Warm Up](#) in 2009 and [Friday Night Lights](#) in 2010.

Albums

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Cole released his first studio album, [Cole World: The Sideline Story](#), in 2011. It peaked at number one on the US [Billboard 200](#). His next two albums, [Born Sinner](#) (2013) and [2014 Forest Hills Drive](#) (2014), also topped the *Billboard* 200. *2014 Forest Hills Drive* earned Cole a [Best Rap Album](#) nomination at the [2015 Grammy Awards](#).^[7]

His fourth album, [4 Your Eyez Only](#) (2016), peaked at number one on the *Billboard* 200.^[8] Cole's other albums, [KOD](#) (2018) and [The Off-Season](#) (2021), also topped the *Billboard* 200. Altogether, Cole has earned six number-one album on the *Billboard* 200.

As producer

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As a producer, he has worked with famous musicians such as [Kendrick Lamar](#) and [Janet Jackson](#).

Dreamville Records

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He founded his own record label [Dreamville Records](#). The label's compilation album [Revenge of the Dreamers III](#) (2019) charted at number one on the *Billboard* 200. It was nominated for Best Rap Album at the [2020 Grammy Awards](#).

Awards and nominations

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Cole has won a [Grammy Award](#) for [Best Rap Song](#), a [Billboard Music Award](#) for [Top Rap Album](#), three [Soul Train Music Awards](#), and eight [BET Hip Hop Awards](#).

American Music Awards

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Year	Nominee / work	Award	Result	R
2012	Himself	New Artist of the Year	Nominated	[9]

Cole World: The Sideline Story	Favorite Rap/Hip Hop Album	Nominated
2015 2014 Forest Hills Drive		Nominated [10]

BET Awards

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Year	Nominee / work	Award	Result	R
2011	Himself	Best New Artist	Nominated	[11]
		Best Male Hip Hop Artist	Nominated	[12]
2012	" Party (Remix)" (with Beyoncé)	Best Collaboration	Nominated	
2014			Nominated	[13]
2016	Himself	Best Male Hip Hop Artist	Nominated	[14]
			Nominated	[15]
2017	4 Your Eyez Only	Album of the Year	Nominated	
2018	Himself	Best Male Hip Hop Artist	Nominated	[16]
	Himself	Best Male Hip Hop Artist	Nominated	
2019	"A Lot" (with 21 Savage)	Video of the Year	Nominated	[17] [18]
	"Middle Child"	Best Collaboration	Nominated	
		Viewers' Choice Award	Nominated	
2021	Himself	Best Male Hip Hop Artist	Nominated	[19]

BET Hip Hop Awards

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Year	Nominee / work	Award	Result	R
2011	Friday Night Lights	Best Mixtape	Won	[20]
	Cole World: The Sideline Story	CD of the Year	Nominated	
		MVP of the Year	Nominated	
2012	Himself	Producer of the Year	Nominated	[21]
		Lyricist of the Year	Nominated	
		Best Live Performer	Nominated	
	" Nobody's Perfect " (featuring Reese's Perfect Combo Missy Elliott)	Award (Best collaboration)	Nominated	
2013	Born Sinner	Album of the Year	Nominated	[22]
	" Power Trip " (featuring Miguel)	Best Collabo, Duo or Group	Nominated	
		Best Hip-Hop Video	Nominated	

		Track of the Year	Nominated	
		People's Champ Award	Nominated	
		MVP of the Year	Nominated	
	Himself	Producer of the Year	Nominated	
		Lyricist of the Year	Nominated	
		Best Live Performer	Nominated	
	" Crooked Smile " (featuring TLC)	Impact Track	Won	
2014		Best Hip Hop Video	Nominated	[23]
		Lyricist of the Year	Nominated	
	Himself	MVP of the Year	Nominated	
		Producer of the Year	Nominated	
2015		Best Live Performer	Won	[24]
		Hustler of the Year	Nominated	
	2014 Forest Hills Drive	Album of the Year	Won	
	" Apparently "		Nominated	
	"Be Free"	Impact Track	Nominated	
	" Love Yourz "		Won	
2016	Himself	Hot Ticket Performer	Nominated	[25]
		Lyricist of the Year	Nominated	
	4 Your Eyez Only	Album of the Year	Nominated	
2017	Himself	Hot Ticket Performer	Nominated	
		Lyricist of the Year	Nominated	
	KOD	Album of the Year	Nominated	
2018		MVP of the Year	Nominated	[26]
	Himself	Lyricist of the Year	Nominated	
			Won	
		MVP of the Year	Nominated	
	Revenge of the Dreamers III	Album of the Year	Nominated	
		Best Hip Hop Video	Nominated	
2019		Best Collabo, Duo or Group	Nominated	[27]
	" A Lot " (with 21 Savage)	Sweet 16: Best Featured Verse	Won	
			Won	
	" Middle Child "	Impact Track	Nominated	
2020	Himself	Lyricist of the Year	Nominated	[28]
	"Snow on tha Bluff"	Impact Track	Nominated	
		Artist of the Year	Nominated	
2021	Himself	Lyricist of the Year	Won	[29]
	The Off-Season	Album of the Year	Nominated	

Billboard Music Awards

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Year	Nominee / work	Award	Result	R
2014	Born Sinner	Top Rap Album	Nominated	[30]
2015	2014 Forest Hills Drive		Won	[31]
	Himself	Top Rap Artist	Nominated	
2017	4 Your Eyez Only	Top Rap Album	Nominated	[32]
2018	4 Your Eyez Only World Tour	Top Rap Tour	Nominated	[33]
2022	The Off-Season Tour		Nominated	[34]

Grammy Awards

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Year	Category	Work	Outcome	Ref.
2012	Best New Artist	Himself	Nominated	
2014	Best Rap/Sung Performance	" Power Trip "	Nominated	
	Best Rap Album	2014 Forest Hills Drive	Nominated	
	Best Rap Performance	" Apparently "	Nominated	
2016	Best R&B Performance	" Planez "	Nominated	
	Best Rap/Sung Performance	"Pretty Little Fears"	Nominated	[35]
2019	Best R&B Song	"Come Through and Chill"	Nominated	
		" Middle Child "	Nominated	
	Best Rap Performance	" Down Bad " (with JID , Bas , EarthGang and Young Nudy)	Nominated	
2020	Best Rap Song	" A Lot " (with 21 Savage)	Won	
	Best Rap/Sung Performance	" The London " (with Young Thug and Travis Scott)	Nominated	
	Best Rap Album	Revenge of the Dreamers III	Nominated	
	Best Rap Performance	" My Life " (featuring 21 Savage and Morray)	Nominated	
	Best Rap Song		Nominated	[36]
2022	Best Melodic Rap Performance	" Pride Is the Devil " (featuring Lil Baby)	Nominated	
	Best Rap Album	The Off-Season	Nominated	

MTV Europe Music Awards

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Year	Nominee / work	Award	Result	R
2018	Wireless Festival	Best World Stage	Nominated	[37]
2019	Himself	Best Hip-Hop	Nominated	[38]

MTV Video Music Awards

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Year	Nominee / work	Award	Result	R
2013	"Power Trip" (featuring Miguel)	Best Hip Hop	Nominated	[39]
2014	"Crooked Smile" (featuring TLC)	Best Video with a Social Message	Nominated	[40]
2018	"ATM (Addicted to Money)"	Best Art Direction	Nominated	
	"A Lot" (with 21 Savage)	Best Hip Hop	Nominated	
2019	"The London" (with Travis Scott and Young Thug)	Video of the Year	Nominated	
		Song of the Summer	Nominated	

MTVU Woodie Awards

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Year	Nominee / work	Award	Result	R
2012	Himself	Woodie of the Year: Series of Popular Mixtapes	Nominated	[41]

NAACP Image Awards

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Year	Nominee / work	Award	Result	R
		Outstanding Duo, Group or Collaboration	Nominated	
2016	"No Sleep" (with Janet Jackson)	Outstanding Music Video	Nominated	[42]
		Outstanding Song, Contemporary	Nominated	
2020	"Shea Butter Baby" (with Ari Lennox)	Outstanding Duo, Group or Collaboration	Nominated	[43]
	Himself	Outstanding Male Artist	Nominated	
2022	"My Life" (with 21 Savage)	Outstanding Hip Hop/Rap Song	Nominated	[44]

Soul Train Music Awards

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Year	Nominee / work	Award	Result	R
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2012	Himself	Best New Artist	Nominated [45]
	Power Trip " featuring Miguel	Best Hip-Hop Song of the Year	Nominated
2013	Best Collaboration	Nominated	[46]
	" Crooked Smile " featuring TLC	The Ashford and Simpson Songwriter's Award	Nominated
2015	" Apparently "	The Ashford and Simpson Songwriter's Award	Nominated [47]
	"A Lot" (with 21 Savage)	Best Hip-Hop Song Of The Year	Nominated
	"Middle Child"		Nominated
2019	"Shea Butter Baby" (with Ari Lennox)	Best Collaboration	Nominated [48]
	"Purple Emoji" (with Ty Dolla Sign)	Performance	Nominated

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Other websites

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- J. Cole Archived 2011-10-01 at the Wayback Machine on MTV.com
- Basketball Africa League profile

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