



## **OPRAH WINFREY**

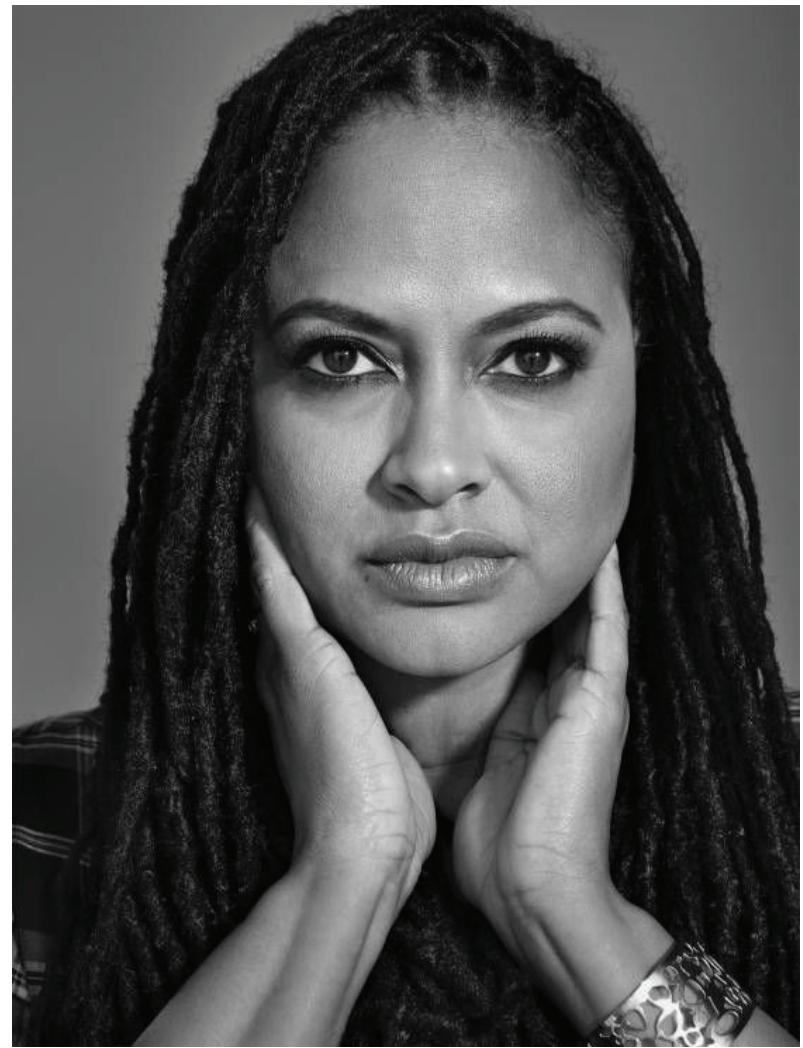
Oprah Winfrey is best known for hosting her own internationally popular talk show from 1986 to 2011. She is also an actress, philanthropist, publisher and producer.

Media giant Oprah Winfrey moved to Baltimore, where she hosted a hit television chat show, *People Are Talking*. Afterward, she was recruited by a Chicago TV station to host her own morning show. She later became the host of her own, wildly popular program, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, which aired for 25 seasons, from 1986 to 2011. That same year, Winfrey launched her own TV network, the Oprah Winfrey Network.

## **EARTHA KITT**

Eartha Mae Kitt was an American singer, actress, dancer, activist and comedian, known for her highly distinctive singing style and her 1953 recordings of "C'est si bon" and the enduring Christmas novelty smash "Santa Baby", which were both US Top 10 hits.

Kitt distinguished herself in film, theater, cabaret, music and on television. She was one of only a handful of performers to be nominated for a Tony (three times), the Grammy (twice), and Emmy Award (twice). She regularly enthralled New York nightclub audiences during her extended stays at The Café Carlyle and these intimate performances have been captured in her recording, *Eartha Kitt, Live at The Carlyle*.



## MAYA ANGELOU

Maya Angelou was a poet and award-winning author known for her acclaimed memoir *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* and her numerous poetry and essay collections.

Writer and civil rights activist, Maya Angelou is known for her 1969 memoir, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, which made literary history as the first nonfiction best-seller by an African-American woman. In 1971, Angelou published the Pulitzer Prize-nominated poetry collection *Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'Fore I Die*. She later wrote the poem "On the Pulse of Morning"—one of her most famous works—which she recited at President Bill Clinton's inauguration in 1993. Angelou received several honors throughout her career, including two NAACP Image Awards in the outstanding literary work (nonfiction) category, in 2005 and 2009. She died on May 28, 2014.

## AVA DUVERNAY

Ava DuVernay worked in film publicity and marketing, and established her own agency, before deciding to become a filmmaker.

She helmed hip-hop documentaries and then released two feature films: *I Will Follow* (2010) and *Middle of Nowhere* (2012). She directed the Oscar-nominated historical drama *Selma*, which follows a portion of Dr. Martin Luther King's life during an urgent call for voting rights. With this critically acclaimed work, DuVernay became the first African-American female director to receive a Golden Globe nomination and have a film nominated for a Best Picture Oscar. In 2016, she directed *13th*, a documentary about the criminalization of African Americans and the U.S. prison system, which received an Oscar nomination for feature documentary.



## **SHIRLEY CHISHOLM**

Shirley Chisholm became the first African-American congresswoman. Four years later, she became the first major-party black candidate to make a bid for the U.S. presidency.

Shirley Chisholm is known for representing New York State in the U.S. House of Representatives for seven terms. She went on to run for the 1972 Democratic nomination for the presidency—becoming the first major-party African-American candidate to do so. Throughout her political career, Chisholm fought for education opportunities and social justice. Chisholm left Congress in 1983 to teach. She died in Florida in 2005.

## **IBTIHAJ MUHAMMAD**

She discovered fencing when she was 13 years old and has gone on to earn numerous medals and accolades for her achievements in the sport. In 2016, she secured a spot on Team USA. In qualifying for the Olympics, Muhammad made history when she became the first Muslim woman who wears a hijab, a traditional Muslim headscarf, to represent the United States. She became the first female Muslim-American athlete to win an Olympic medal when she took home the bronze in the team sabre event at the Summer Games in Rio.