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**Marshall Bruce Mathers III** (born October 17, 1972),[[1]](#cite_note-1) known professionally as **Eminem** (often stylized as **EMINƎM**), is an American rapper, songwriter, record producer, and actor from [Detroit](/wiki/Detroit), [Michigan](/wiki/Michigan). In addition to his solo career, he is a member of [D12](/wiki/D12), and with [Royce da 5'9"](/wiki/Royce_da_5'9%22) is one half of the hip-hop duo [Bad Meets Evil](/wiki/Bad_Meets_Evil). Eminem is the best-selling artist of the [2000s](/wiki/2000s_in_music) in the United States. [*Rolling Stone*](/wiki/Rolling_Stone) ranked him 83rd on its list of 100 Greatest Artists of All Time, calling him the [King of Hip Hop](/wiki/Honorific_nicknames_in_popular_music). Including his work with D12 and Bad Meets Evil, Eminem has had ten number-one albums on the [*Billboard* 200](/wiki/Billboard_200). He has sold more than 172 million albums, making him one of the [world's best-selling artists](/wiki/List_of_best-selling_music_artists). As of June 2014, Eminem is the second-bestselling male artist of the [Nielsen SoundScan](/wiki/Nielsen_SoundScan) era, the sixth-bestselling artist in the United States and the bestselling hip-hop artist, with sales of 45.1 million albums and 42 million tracks (including 31 million digital single certifications).

After his debut album [*Infinite*](/wiki/Infinite_(Eminem_album)) (1996), Eminem achieved mainstream popularity in 1999 with his [*The Slim Shady LP*](/wiki/The_Slim_Shady_LP), which earned him his first [Grammy Award for Best Rap Album](/wiki/Grammy_Award_for_Best_Rap_Album). His next two releases, 2000's [*The Marshall Mathers LP*](/wiki/The_Marshall_Mathers_LP) and 2002's [*The Eminem Show*](/wiki/The_Eminem_Show), were worldwide successes, with each being [certified diamond](/wiki/RIAA_certification#RIAA_Diamond_certifications) in U.S. sales and both winning Best Rap Album Grammy Awards (making Eminem the first artist to win the award for three consecutive LPs). They were followed by [*Encore*](/wiki/Encore_(Eminem_album)) in 2004, another critical and commercial success. Eminem went on hiatus after touring in 2005, releasing [*Relapse*](/wiki/Relapse_(Eminem_album)) in 2009 and [*Recovery*](/wiki/Recovery_(Eminem_album)) in 2010. Both won Grammy Awards and *Recovery* was the best-selling album of 2010 worldwide, the second time he had the international best-selling album of the year (after *The Eminem Show*). Eminem's eighth album, 2013's [*The Marshall Mathers LP 2*](/wiki/The_Marshall_Mathers_LP_2), won two Grammy Awards, including Best Rap Album; it expanded his record for the most wins in that category and his [Grammy total](/wiki/List_of_awards_and_nominations_received_by_Eminem) to 15.

Eminem has developed other ventures, including [Shady Records](/wiki/Shady_Records) with manager [Paul Rosenberg](/wiki/Paul_Rosenberg_(music_manager)). He has his own channel, Shade 45, on [Sirius XM Radio](/wiki/Sirius_XM_Holdings). In November 2002, Eminem starred in the [hip hop](/wiki/Hip_hop) film [*8 Mile*](/wiki/8_Mile_(film)). He won the [Academy Award for Best Original Song](/wiki/Academy_Award_for_Best_Original_Song) for "[Lose Yourself](/wiki/Lose_Yourself)", the first rap artist to win the award.[[2]](#cite_note-2) Eminem has made cameo appearances in the films [*The Wash*](/wiki/The_Wash_(2001_film)) (2001), [*Funny People*](/wiki/Funny_People) (2009), [*The Interview*](/wiki/The_Interview_(2014_film)) (2014) and the television series [*Entourage*](/wiki/Entourage_(TV_series)) (2010).

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## Life and career[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

### 1972–91: Early life[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

Mathers was born on October 17, 1972, in [St. Joseph, Missouri](/wiki/St._Joseph,_Missouri). He is the only child of Marshall Bruce Mathers, Jr. (born June 30, 1951, known as Bruce) and Deborah Rae Nelson (born January 6, 1955, and known as Debbie).[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[4]](#cite_note-4)<ref name=MySonMarshall/> Eminem is of English, German, Scottish and Swiss descent.[[5]](#cite_note-5) Debbie was 14 when she met 18-year-old Bruce;<ref name=MySonMarshall>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> at age 17, she nearly died during her 73-hour labor.<ref name=SL00>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref> Eminem's parents were in a band called Daddy Warbucks, playing in [Ramada](/wiki/Ramada) Inns along [the Dakotas](/wiki/The_Dakotas)-Montana border before their separation. Bruce left the family, moving to California[[6]](#cite_note-6) and having two other children: Michael and Sarah (born c. 1982).<ref name=EminemSister>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Debbie later had a son, Nathan Kane Samara, born February 3, 1986 also known as Nate.<ref name=MySonMarshall/> During his childhood Eminem and Debbie shuttled between Missouri and Michigan, rarely staying in one house for more than a year or two and living primarily with family members. In Missouri they lived in several places, including Saint Joseph, [Savannah](/wiki/Savannah,_Missouri) and [Kansas City](/wiki/Kansas_City,_Missouri).[[7]](#cite_note-7)[[8]](#cite_note-8) As a teenager, Eminem wrote letters to his father; according to Debbie, all came back marked "Return to sender."[[6]](#cite_note-6) Friends and family remember Eminem as a happy child, but "a bit of a loner" who was often bullied. One bully, De'Angelo Bailey, severely injured Eminem in the head; Debbie Nelson filed a lawsuit against the school in 1982, which was dismissed the following year.[[9]](#cite_note-9) Eminem spent much of his youth in a lower-middle-class, primarily Black Detroit neighborhood.[[6]](#cite_note-6) He and Debbie were one of three white households on their block, and Eminem was beaten by Black youths several times.[[6]](#cite_note-6) As a child he was interested in storytelling, aspiring to be a [comic-book](/wiki/Comic_book) artist before discovering [hip hop](/wiki/Hip_hop_music).[[10]](#cite_note-10) Eminem heard his first rap song ("Reckless", featuring [Ice-T](/wiki/Ice-T)) on the [*Breakin'*](/wiki/Breakin') soundtrack, a gift from Debbie's half-brother Ronnie Polkinghorn, who later became a music mentor to him. When Polkinghorn committed suicide in 1991, Eminem stopped speaking for days and did not attend his funeral.[[6]](#cite_note-6)[[11]](#cite_note-11) Eminem's home life was seldom stable; he frequently fought with his mother, whom a social worker described as having a "very suspicious, almost paranoid personality". When her son became famous, Debbie bristled at suggestions that she was a less-than-ideal mother contending that she sheltered him and was responsible for his success. In 1987, Debbie allowed runaway Kimberly Ann "Kim" Scott to stay at their home; several years later, Eminem began an on-and-off relationship with Scott.[[9]](#cite_note-9) After spending three years in ninth grade due to [truancy](/wiki/Truancy) and poor grades,[[12]](#cite_note-12) he dropped out of [Lincoln High School](/wiki/Lincoln_High_School_(Warren,_Michigan)) at age 17. Although he was interested in [English](/wiki/English_studies), he never explored literature (preferring comic books) and disliked math and social studies.[[13]](#cite_note-13) Eminem worked at several jobs to help his mother pay the bills, later maintaining that she often threw him out of the house anyway. When she left to play bingo, he would blast the stereo and write songs.[[6]](#cite_note-6) At age 14, he began rapping with high-school friend Mike Ruby; they adopted the names "Manix" and "M&M," the latter of which evolved into "Eminem".[[1]](#cite_note-1)[[9]](#cite_note-9) Eminem snuck into neighboring [Osborn High School](/wiki/Osborn_High_School) with friend and fellow rapper [Proof](/wiki/Proof_(rapper)) for lunchroom [freestyle rap battles](/wiki/Freestyle_rap).[[14]](#cite_note-14) On Saturdays they attended open-mic contests at the Hip-Hop Shop on West 7 Mile, considered ground-zero for the Detroit rap scene.[[6]](#cite_note-6) Struggling to succeed in a predominantly Black industry, Eminem was appreciated by [underground hip hop](/wiki/Underground_hip_hop) audiences.[[1]](#cite_note-1)[[15]](#cite_note-15)[[16]](#cite_note-16) When he wrote verses, he wanted most of the words to rhyme; he wrote long words or phrases on paper and, underneath, worked on rhymes for each syllable.[[13]](#cite_note-13) Although the words often made little sense, the drill helped Eminem practice sounds and rhymes.[[13]](#cite_note-13)

### 1992–99: Early career, ''Infinite'', and ''The Slim Shady LP''[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

As Eminem's reputation grew, he was recruited by several rap groups; the first was the New Jacks. After they disbanded he joined [Soul Intent](/wiki/Soul_Intent_(group)), who released a single on their 1995 [self-titled EP](/wiki/Soul_Intent) featuring Proof.[[1]](#cite_note-1) Eminem and Proof then teamed up with four other rappers to form The Dirty Dozen ([D12](/wiki/D12)), who released their first album [*Devil's Night*](/wiki/Devil's_Night_(album)) in 2001.[[6]](#cite_note-6) Eminem had his first run-in with the law at age 20, when he was arrested for his involvement in a drive-by shooting with a paintball gun. The case was dismissed when the victim did not appear in court.[[9]](#cite_note-9) Eminem was soon signed to Jeff and Mark Bass's FBT Productions, and recorded his debut album [*Infinite*](/wiki/Infinite_(Eminem_album)) for their independent [Web Entertainment](/wiki/Web_Entertainment) label.[[17]](#cite_note-17) One lyrical subject of *Infinite* was his struggle to raise his newborn daughter, Hailie Jade Scott Mathers, on little money. During this period Eminem's rhyming style, primarily inspired by rappers [Nas](/wiki/Nas), [Esham](/wiki/Esham) and [AZ](/wiki/AZ_(rapper)), lacked the comically violent slant for which he later became known.[[18]](#cite_note-18) Detroit disc jockeys largely ignored *Infinite*, and the feedback Eminem did receive ("Why don't you go into rock and roll?") led him to craft angrier, moodier tracks.[[6]](#cite_note-6) At this time Eminem and Kim Scott lived in a crime-ridden neighborhood, and their house was robbed several times.[[6]](#cite_note-6) Eminem cooked and washed dishes for [minimum wage](/wiki/Minimum_wage_in_the_United_States) at Gilbert's Lodge, a family-style restaurant at [St. Clair Shores](/wiki/St._Clair_Shores,_Michigan).[[19]](#cite_note-19) His former boss described him as becoming a model employee, as he worked 60 hours a week for six months after Hailie's birth.[[9]](#cite_note-9) He was fired shortly before Christmas, and later said, "It was, like, five days before Christmas, which is Hailie's birthday. I had, like, forty dollars to get her something."[[6]](#cite_note-6) After the release of *Infinite*, his personal problems and substance abuse culminated in a suicide attempt.[[1]](#cite_note-1) By March 1997 he was fired from Gilbert's Lodge for the last time, and lived in his mother's [mobile home](/wiki/Mobile_home) with Kim and Hailie.[[9]](#cite_note-9) [thumb|left|alt=Eminem onstage in a white T-shirt|Eminem in Germany, 1999](/wiki/File:Eminem-06-mika.jpg) Eminem attracted more attention when he developed **Slim Shady**, a sadistic, violent [alter ego](/wiki/Alter_ego). The character, "a drug-dealing, bloodthirsty thug who spits furious rhymes about murder, rape, drugs and living by the law of the urban jungle",[Template:Attribution needed](/wiki/Template:Attribution_needed) allowed him to express his anger.[[9]](#cite_note-9) In the spring of 1997 he recorded his debut EP, the [*Slim Shady EP*](/wiki/Slim_Shady_EP), which was released that winter by [Web Entertainment](/wiki/Web_Entertainment).[[6]](#cite_note-6) The EP, with frequent references to drug use, sexual acts, mental instability and violence, also explored the more-serious themes of dealing with poverty and marital and family difficulties and revealed his direct, self-deprecating response to criticism.[[1]](#cite_note-1) Hip-hop magazine [*The Source*](/wiki/The_Source_(magazine)) featured Eminem in its "Unsigned Hype" column in March 1998.[[20]](#cite_note-20) After he was evicted from his home, Eminem went to [Los Angeles](/wiki/Los_Angeles) to compete in the 1997 [Rap Olympics](/wiki/Rap_Olympics), an annual, nationwide [battle rap](/wiki/Battle_rap) competition. He placed second, and [Interscope Records](/wiki/Interscope_Records) staff in attendance sent a copy of the *Slim Shady EP* to company CEO [Jimmy Iovine](/wiki/Jimmy_Iovine). Iovine played the tape for record producer [Dr. Dre](/wiki/Dr._Dre), founder of [Aftermath Entertainment](/wiki/Aftermath_Entertainment) and founding member of hip-hop group [N.W.A](/wiki/N.W.A). Dre recalled, "In my entire career in the music industry, I have never found anything from a demo tape or a CD. When Jimmy played this, I said, 'Find him. Now.[Template:'"](/wiki/Template:'%22) Although his associates criticized him for hiring a white rapper, he was confident in his decision: "I don't give a fuck if you're purple; if you can kick it, I'm working with you."<ref name=RS99>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref> Eminem had idolized Dre since listening to N.W.A as a teenager, and was nervous about working with him on an album: "I didn't want to be starstruck or kiss his ass too much ... I'm just a little white boy from Detroit. I had never seen stars, let alone Dr. Dre."[[21]](#cite_note-21) He became more comfortable working with Dre after a series of productive recording sessions.[[22]](#cite_note-22) Eminem released [*The Slim Shady LP*](/wiki/The_Slim_Shady_LP) in February 1999. Although it was one of the year's most popular albums ([certified triple platinum](/wiki/RIAA_certification) by the end of the year),[[23]](#cite_note-23) he was accused of imitating the style and subject matter of underground rapper [Cage](/wiki/Cage_(rapper)).[[24]](#cite_note-24)[[25]](#cite_note-25) The album's popularity was accompanied by controversy over its lyrics; in "'97 Bonnie and Clyde" Eminem describes a trip with his infant daughter when he disposes of his wife's body, and in "[Guilty Conscience](/wiki/Guilty_Conscience_(song))" which encourages a man to murder his wife and her lover. Guilty Conscience marked the beginning of a friendship and musical bond between Dr. Dre and Eminem. The label-mates later collaborated on a number of hit songs ("[Forgot About Dre](/wiki/Forgot_About_Dre)" and "What's the Difference" from Dr. Dre's album [*2001*](/wiki/2001_(Dr._Dre_album)), "[Bitch Please II](/wiki/Bitch_Please_II)" from [*The Marshall Mathers LP*](/wiki/The_Marshall_Mathers_LP), "Say What You Say" from [*The Eminem Show*](/wiki/The_Eminem_Show), "[Encore/Curtains Down](/wiki/Encore/Curtains_Down)" from [*Encore*](/wiki/Encore_(Eminem_album)), and "[Old Time's Sake](/wiki/Old_Time's_Sake)" and "[Crack a Bottle](/wiki/Crack_a_Bottle)" from [*Relapse*](/wiki/Relapse_(Eminem_album))), and Dre made at least one guest appearance on each of Eminem's [Aftermath](/wiki/Aftermath_Entertainment) albums.[[26]](#cite_note-26) *The Slim Shady LP* has been certified quadruple platinum by the RIAA.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

### 2000–02: ''The Marshall Mathers LP'' and ''The Eminem Show''[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[thumb|Eminem and Proof at](/wiki/File:Eminem_at_Voodoo_2000.jpg) [Voodoo Experience](/wiki/Voodoo_Experience) in October 2000 *The Marshall Mathers LP* was released in May 2000. It sold 1,760,000 copies in its first week, breaking US records held by [Snoop Dogg's](/wiki/Snoop_Dogg) [*Doggystyle*](/wiki/Doggystyle) for fastest-selling hip hop album and [Britney Spears'](/wiki/Britney_Spears) [*...Baby One More Time*](/wiki/...Baby_One_More_Time_(album)) for fastest-selling solo album.[[27]](#cite_note-27)[[28]](#cite_note-28) The first single from the album, "[The Real Slim Shady](/wiki/The_Real_Slim_Shady)", was a success despite controversies about Eminem's insults and dubious claims about celebrities (for example, that [Christina Aguilera](/wiki/Christina_Aguilera) had performed [oral sex](/wiki/Oral_sex) on [Fred Durst](/wiki/Fred_Durst) and [Carson Daly](/wiki/Carson_Daly)).[[29]](#cite_note-29) In his second single, "[The Way I Am](/wiki/The_Way_I_Am_(Eminem_song))", he reveals the pressure from his record company to top "[My Name Is](/wiki/My_Name_Is)". Although Eminem parodied shock rocker [Marilyn Manson](/wiki/Marilyn_Manson) in the music video for "My Name Is", they are reportedly on good terms; Manson is mentioned in "The Way I Am", appeared in its music video and has performed a live remix of the song with Eminem.[[30]](#cite_note-30) In the third single, "[Stan](/wiki/Stan_(song))" (which samples [Dido's](/wiki/Dido_(singer)) "[Thank You](/wiki/Thank_You_(Dido_song))") Eminem tries to deal with his new fame, assuming the persona of a deranged fan who kills himself and his pregnant girlfriend (mirroring "'97 Bonnie & Clyde" from *The Slim Shady LP*).[[15]](#cite_note-15) [*Q*](/wiki/Q_(magazine)) magazine called "Stan" the third-greatest rap song of all time,[[31]](#cite_note-31) and it was ranked tenth in a Top40-Charts.com survey.[[32]](#cite_note-32) The song has since been ranked 296th on [*Rolling Stone*](/wiki/Rolling_Stone) magazine's "500 Greatest Songs of All Time" list.[[33]](#cite_note-33) In July 2000, Eminem was the first white artist to appear on the cover of *The Source* magazine.[[20]](#cite_note-20) *The Marshall Mathers LP* has been certified 11× platinum by the RIAA.

Eminem performed with [Elton John](/wiki/Elton_John) at the [43rd Grammy Awards](/wiki/2001_Grammy_Awards) ceremony in 2001,[[34]](#cite_note-34) with the [Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation](/wiki/Gay_&_Lesbian_Alliance_Against_Defamation) (GLAAD, an organization which considered Eminem's lyrics [homophobic](/wiki/Homophobia)) condemning John's decision to perform with Eminem.[[35]](#cite_note-35) [*Entertainment Weekly*](/wiki/Entertainment_Weekly) placed the appearance on its end-of-decade "best-of" list: "It was the hug heard 'round the world. Eminem, under fire for homophobic lyrics, shared the stage with a gay icon for a performance of "Stan" that would have been memorable in any context."[[36]](#cite_note-36) On February 21, the day of the awards ceremony, GLAAD held a protest outside the [Staples Center](/wiki/Staples_Center) (the ceremony's venue).[[37]](#cite_note-37) In 2001 Eminem appeared in the [Up in Smoke Tour](/wiki/Up_in_Smoke_Tour) with rappers Dr. Dre, [Snoop Dogg](/wiki/Snoop_Dogg), [Xzibit](/wiki/Xzibit) and [Ice Cube](/wiki/Ice_Cube)[[38]](#cite_note-38) and the [Family Values Tour](/wiki/Family_Values_Tour) with [Limp Bizkit](/wiki/Limp_Bizkit),[[39]](#cite_note-39) headlining the [Anger Management Tour](/wiki/Anger_Management_Tour) with [Papa Roach](/wiki/Papa_Roach), [Ludacris](/wiki/Ludacris) and [Xzibit](/wiki/Xzibit).

*The Eminem Show* was released in May 2002. It was another success, reaching number one on the charts and selling over 1.332 million copies during its first full week.[[23]](#cite_note-23) The album's single, "[Without Me](/wiki/Without_Me_(Eminem_song))", denigrates [boy bands](/wiki/Boy_band), [Limp Bizkit](/wiki/Limp_Bizkit), [Dick](/wiki/Dick_Cheney) and [Lynne Cheney](/wiki/Lynne_Cheney), [Moby](/wiki/Moby) and others. *The Eminem Show* (certified 10× platinum by the [Recording Industry Association of America](/wiki/Recording_Industry_Association_of_America)) examines the effects of the rapper's rise to fame, his relationship with his wife and daughter and his status in the hip-hop community, addressing an assault charge brought by a [bouncer](/wiki/Bouncer_(doorman)) he saw kissing his wife in 2000. Although several tracks are clearly angry, [Stephen Thomas Erlewine](/wiki/Stephen_Thomas_Erlewine) of [AllMusic](/wiki/AllMusic) found *The Eminem Show* less inflammatory than *The Marshall Mathers LP*.[[40]](#cite_note-40) [L. Brent Bozell III](/wiki/L._Brent_Bozell_III), who had criticized *The Marshall Mathers LP* for [misogynistic](/wiki/Misogyny) lyrics, noted *The Eminem Show*[Template:'s](/wiki/Template:') extensive use of obscenity and called the rapper "Eminef" for the prevalence of the word "[motherfucker](/wiki/Motherfucker)" on the album.[[41]](#cite_note-41) *The Eminem Show* was the best-selling album of 2002.[[42]](#cite_note-42)

### 2003–07: ''Encore'' and musical hiatus[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[thumb|200px|right|alt=Eminem onstage, with blond hair and wearing a suit|On the Anger Management Tour promoting *Encore*](/wiki/File:Eminem_Live.jpg) On December 8, 2003, the [United States Secret Service](/wiki/United_States_Secret_Service) said that it was "looking into" allegations that Eminem had threatened the President of the United States.[[43]](#cite_note-43) The cause for concern was the lyrics of "We As Americans" ("Fuck money / I don't rap for [dead presidents](/wiki/Dead_Presidents_(song)) / I'd rather see the president dead / It's never been said, but I set precedents"), which was later released on a bonus CD with the deluxe edition of *Encore*.[[44]](#cite_note-44) *Encore*, released in 2004, was another success. Its sales were partially driven by the first single, "[Just Lose It](/wiki/Just_Lose_It)", which contained slurs about [Michael Jackson](/wiki/Michael_Jackson). On October 12, 2004, a week after the release of "Just Lose It", Jackson phoned the Los Angeles-based [Steve Harvey](/wiki/Steve_Harvey) radio show to report his displeasure with its video (which parodies Jackson's [child molestation](/wiki/Child_sexual_abuse) trial, [plastic surgery](/wiki/Plastic_surgery) and the 1984 incident when Jackson's hair caught fire during the filming of a commercial). In the song Eminem says, "That's not a stab at Michael / That's just a metaphor / I'm just psycho". Many of Jackson's friends and supporters spoke out against the video, including [Stevie Wonder](/wiki/Stevie_Wonder) (who described it as "kicking a man while he's down" and "bullshit")[[45]](#cite_note-45) and Steve Harvey (who said, "Eminem has lost his ghetto pass. We want the pass back").[[45]](#cite_note-45) The video also parodied [Pee-wee Herman](/wiki/Pee-wee_Herman), [MC Hammer](/wiki/MC_Hammer) and [Madonna](/wiki/Madonna_(entertainer)) during her [*Blond Ambition*](/wiki/Blond_Ambition_World_Tour) period.[[46]](#cite_note-46) ["Weird Al" Yankovic](/wiki/%22Weird_Al%22_Yankovic), who parodied the Eminem song "[Lose Yourself](/wiki/Lose_Yourself)" on "Couch Potato" for his 2003 album [*Poodle Hat*](/wiki/Poodle_Hat), told the [*Chicago Sun-Times*](/wiki/Chicago_Sun-Times) about Jackson's protest: "Last year, Eminem forced me to halt production on the video for my 'Lose Yourself' parody because he somehow thought that it would be harmful to his image or career. So the irony of this situation with Michael is not lost on me."[[47]](#cite_note-47) Although [Black Entertainment Television](/wiki/BET) stopped playing the video, MTV announced that it would continue to air it. *The Source*, through CEO [Raymond "Benzino" Scott](/wiki/Benzino), called for the video to be pulled, the song removed from the album and Eminem to apologize publicly to Jackson.[[48]](#cite_note-48) In 2007 Jackson and Sony bought [Famous Music](/wiki/Famous_Music) from [Viacom](/wiki/Viacom), giving him the rights to songs by Eminem, [Shakira](/wiki/Shakira), [Beck](/wiki/Beck) and others.[[49]](#cite_note-49) Despite its lead single's humorous theme, *Encore* explored serious subject matter with the anti-war song "[Mosh](/wiki/Mosh_(song))". The song criticized President [George W. Bush](/wiki/George_W._Bush) as "This [weapon of mass destruction](/wiki/Weapon_of_mass_destruction) that we call our president", with lyrics including "Fuck Bush".[[50]](#cite_note-50) On October 25, 2004, a week before the [2004 US Presidential election](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_2004), Eminem released the video for "Mosh" on the Internet.[[51]](#cite_note-51) In it, Eminem gathers an army (including rapper [Lloyd Banks](/wiki/Lloyd_Banks)) of [Bush-administration](/wiki/Presidency_of_George_W._Bush) victims and leads them to the [White House](/wiki/White_House). When they break in, it is learned that they are there to register to vote; the video ends with "VOTE Tuesday November 2". After Bush's reelection, the video's ending was changed to Eminem and the protesters invading the White House during a speech by the president.[[52]](#cite_note-52) In 2005, industry insiders speculated that Eminem was considering ending his rapping career after six years and several multi-platinum albums. Rumors began early in the year about a [double album](/wiki/Double_album) to be released late that year, entitled *The Funeral*;[[53]](#cite_note-53) the [greatest hits album](/wiki/Greatest_hits_album), entitled [*Curtain Call: The Hits*](/wiki/Curtain_Call:_The_Hits), was released in December. In July the [*Detroit Free Press*](/wiki/Detroit_Free_Press) reported a possible final bow for Eminem as a solo performer, quoting members of his inner circle as saying that he would embrace the roles of producer and label executive. The day of *Curtain Call: The Hits*[Template:'s](/wiki/Template:') release, Eminem appeared on [WKQI's](/wiki/WKQI) "Mojo in the Morning" show. Denying that he was retiring, he suggested he would take a break as an artist: "I'm at a point in my life right now where I feel like I don't know where my career is going ... This is the reason that we called it 'Curtain Call', because this could be the final thing. We don't know."[[54]](#cite_note-54) The following year, Eminem released [*Eminem Presents: The Re-Up*](/wiki/Eminem_Presents:_The_Re-Up) on [Shady Records](/wiki/Shady_Records).

In 2005 the rapper was ranked 58th in [Bernard Goldberg's](/wiki/Bernard_Goldberg) book, [*100 People Who Are Screwing Up America*](/wiki/100_People_Who_Are_Screwing_Up_America).[[55]](#cite_note-55) Goldberg cited a 2001 column by [Bob Herbert](/wiki/Bob_Herbert) of [*The New York Times*](/wiki/The_New_York_Times), in which Herbert wrote "In Eminem's world, all women are [whores](/wiki/Prostitution) and he is eager to rape and murder them",[[56]](#cite_note-56) and the song "No One's Iller" from the [*Slim Shady EP*](/wiki/Slim_Shady_EP) as examples of the rapper's [misogyny](/wiki/Misogyny).[[57]](#cite_note-57) That summer Eminem began his first US concert tour in three years, with the [Anger Management 3 Tour](/wiki/Anger_Management_Tour) featuring [50 Cent](/wiki/50_Cent), [G-Unit](/wiki/G-Unit), [Lil Jon](/wiki/Lil_Jon), [D12](/wiki/D12), [Obie Trice](/wiki/Obie_Trice) and [The Alchemist](/wiki/The_Alchemist_(musician)). In August he canceled the European leg of the tour, later announcing that he had entered [drug rehabilitation](/wiki/Drug_rehabilitation) for treatment of a "dependency on sleep medication".[[58]](#cite_note-58) *Curtain Call: The Hits* was released December 6, 2005 by Aftermath Entertainment.[[59]](#cite_note-59) During its first week it sold nearly 441,000 copies in the US, and was Eminem's fourth consecutive number-one album on the *Billboard* Hot 200.[[60]](#cite_note-60) The album has been certified double platinum by the [RIAA](/wiki/RIAA).[[61]](#cite_note-61) In September 2007 Eminem called New York radio station [WQHT](/wiki/WQHT) during an interview with 50 Cent, saying that he was "in limbo" and "debating" about when (or if) he would release another album: "I'm always working – I'm always in the studio. It feels good right now, the energy of the label. For a while, I didn't want to go back to the studio ... I went through some personal things. I'm coming out of those personal things [and] it feels good."[[62]](#cite_note-62)

### 2008–09: ''Relapse'' and ''Refill''[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[thumb|left|alt=Eminem onstage in a white shirt, gray jacket and baseball cap|With D12 in May 2009](/wiki/File:Eminem_at_DJ_hero_party_with_d12.jpg) Eminem appeared on his Shade 45 Sirius channel in September 2008, saying: "Right now I'm kinda just concentrating on my own stuff, for right now and just banging out tracks and producing a lot of stuff. You know, the more I keep producing the better it seems like I get 'cause I just start knowing stuff."[[63]](#cite_note-63) Interscope confirmed that a new album[[64]](#cite_note-64) would be released in spring 2009.[[65]](#cite_note-65) In December 2008 the rapper provided a few more details about the album, entitled *Relapse*: "Me and Dre are back in the lab like the old days, man. Dre will end up producing the majority of the tracks on 'Relapse'. We are up to our old mischievous ways ... let's just leave it at that."[[66]](#cite_note-66) According to a March 5, 2009 press release, Eminem would release two new albums that year. *Relapse*, the first, was released on May 19; its first single and music video, "[We Made You](/wiki/We_Made_You)", had been released on April 7.[[67]](#cite_note-67) Although *Relapse* did not sell as well as the rapper's previous albums, it was a commercial success which received positive reviews and re-established his presence in the hip-hop world. *Relapse* was named one of the top albums of 2009, and has sold more than five million copies worldwide. During the 2009 [MTV Movie Awards](/wiki/MTV_Movie_Awards), [Sacha Baron Cohen](/wiki/Sacha_Baron_Cohen) descended on the audience in an angel costume. He landed buttocks-first on Eminem, who stormed out of the ceremony; three days later, the rapper said that the stunt had been staged.[[68]](#cite_note-68) On October 30 he headlined at the [Voodoo Experience](/wiki/Voodoo_Experience) in New Orleans, his first full performance of the year.[[69]](#cite_note-69) Eminem's act included several songs from *Relapse*, many of his older hits and an appearance by D12. On November 19, he announced on his website that *Relapse: Refill* would be released on December 21. The album was a re-release of *Relapse* with seven bonus tracks, including "[Forever](/wiki/Forever_(Drake_song))" and "Taking My Ball". Eminem described the CD:

I want to deliver more material for the fans this year like I originally planned ... Hopefully these tracks on *The Refill* will tide the fans over until we put out *Relapse 2* next year ... I got back in with Dre and then a few more producers, including Just Blaze, and went in a completely different direction which made me start from scratch. The new tracks started to sound very different than the tracks I originally intended to be on *Relapse 2*, but I still want the other stuff to be heard.[[70]](#cite_note-70)

### 2010–11: ''Recovery'' and Bad Meets Evil reunion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[thumb|right|alt=Eminem and Rihanna onstage in front of three large theater screens|Singing "Love the Way You Lie" with Rihanna at the 2010 E3 Expo Party](/wiki/File:Eminem_and_Rihanna_in_Love_the_Way_You_Lie1.jpg) On April 14, 2010, Eminem [tweeted](/wiki/Twitter): "There is no Relapse 2". Although his followers thought he was not releasing an album, he had changed its title to [*Recovery*](/wiki/Recovery_(Eminem_album)) and confirmed this by tweeting "RECOVERY" with a link to his website. According to the rapper:

I had originally planned for *Relapse 2* to come out last year. But as I kept recording and working with new producers, the idea of a sequel to *Relapse* started to make less and less sense to me, and I wanted to make a completely new album. The music on *Recovery* came out very different from *Relapse*, and I think it deserves its own title.[[71]](#cite_note-71)

His seventh album was released on June 18.[[71]](#cite_note-71) In the US *Recovery* sold 741,000 copies during its first week, topping the [*Billboard* 200](/wiki/Billboard_200) chart.[[72]](#cite_note-72)[[73]](#cite_note-73) Eminem's sixth consecutive US number-one album also topped the charts in several other countries. *Recovery* remained atop the *Billboard* 200 chart for five consecutive weeks of a seven-week total.[[74]](#cite_note-74)[[75]](#cite_note-75) *Billboard* reported that it was the bestselling album of 2010, making Eminem the first artist in Nielsen SoundScan history with two year-end bestselling albums.[[76]](#cite_note-76) *Recovery* is the bestselling digital album in history.[[77]](#cite_note-77) Its first single, "[Not Afraid](/wiki/Not_Afraid)", was released on April 29 and debuted atop the *Billboard* Hot 100; its music video was released on June 4.[[78]](#cite_note-78) "Not Afraid" was followed by "[Love the Way You Lie](/wiki/Love_the_Way_You_Lie)", which debuted at number two before rising to the top.[[79]](#cite_note-79) Although "Love the Way You Lie" was the bestselling 2010 single in the United Kingdom, it did not reach number one (the first time this has happened in the UK since 1969).[[80]](#cite_note-80) Despite criticism of its inconsistency, *Recovery* received positive reviews from most critics. [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), the album had US sales of three million copies.[[81]](#cite_note-81) *Recovery* was the bestselling album worldwide in 2010, joining 2002's bestseller *The Eminem Show* to give the rapper two worldwide year-end number-one albums.[[82]](#cite_note-82)[[83]](#cite_note-83) With *Recovery*, Eminem broke the record for the most successive US number-one albums by a solo artist.[[84]](#cite_note-84) He appeared at the [2010 BET Awards](/wiki/BET_Awards_2010),[[85]](#cite_note-85) performing "Not Afraid" and "[Airplanes, Part II](/wiki/Airplanes,_Part_II)" with [B.o.B](/wiki/B.o.B), and performed at the Activison E3 concert. In June Eminem and Jay-Z announced they would perform together in Detroit and New York, at concerts called [The Home & Home Tour](/wiki/The_Home_&_Home_Tour). The first two concerts quickly sold out, prompting an additional show in each city.[[86]](#cite_note-86) BET called Eminem the number-one rapper of the 21st century.[[87]](#cite_note-87) He opened the [2010 MTV Video Music Awards](/wiki/2010_MTV_Video_Music_Awards) on September 12, performing "Not Afraid" and "Love the Way You Lie" with [Rihanna](/wiki/Rihanna) singing the choruses.[[88]](#cite_note-88) Due to the success of *Recovery* and the Home & Home Tour, Eminem was named the 2010 [Hottest MC in the Game](/wiki/MTV's_Annual_Hottest_MC_List) by MTV[[89]](#cite_note-89) and Emcee of the Year by the online magazine [HipHopDX](/wiki/HipHopDX).[[90]](#cite_note-90) He and Rihanna again collaborated on "[Love the Way You Lie (Part II)](/wiki/Love_the_Way_You_Lie_(Part_II))", the sequel of their hit single. Unlike the original, Rihanna is the lead vocalist and it is sung from the female perspective.[[91]](#cite_note-91) In December 2010, the "Great Eminem Recovery" was number one on *Billboard*[Template:'s](/wiki/Template:') Top 25 Music Moments of 2010.[[92]](#cite_note-92) He appeared at the [2011 Grammy Awards](/wiki/2011_Grammy_Awards) on February 13, performing "Love the Way You Lie (Part II)" with Rihanna and [Adam Levine](/wiki/Adam_Levine) and "[I Need a Doctor](/wiki/I_Need_a_Doctor)" with Dr. Dre and [Skylar Grey](/wiki/Skylar_Grey).[[93]](#cite_note-93) That month it was announced that "[Space Bound](/wiki/Space_Bound)" would be the fourth single from *Recovery*, with a music video featuring former porn star [Sasha Grey](/wiki/Sasha_Grey);[[94]](#cite_note-94)[[95]](#cite_note-95) the video was released June 24 on the [iTunes Store](/wiki/ITunes_Store).[[96]](#cite_note-96) In 2010, Eminem again began collaborating with [Royce da 5'9"](/wiki/Royce_da_5'9%22) on their first [EP](/wiki/Extended_play) as [Bad Meets Evil](/wiki/Bad_Meets_Evil); the duo formed in 1999. The EP, [*Hell: The Sequel*](/wiki/Hell:_The_Sequel), was released on June 14, 2011.[[97]](#cite_note-97) Eminem was featured on Royce da 5'9[Template:"'s](/wiki/Template:%22') "[Writer's Block](/wiki/Writer's_Block_(Royce_da_5'9%22_song))", released on April 8, 2011.[[98]](#cite_note-98) On May 3 they released the lead single "[Fast Lane](/wiki/Fast_Lane_(Bad_Meets_Evil_song))" from their upcoming EP, and a music video was filmed.[[99]](#cite_note-99) In March 2011, within days of each other, *The Eminem Show* and *The Marshall Mathers LP* were certified diamond by the RIAA; Eminem is the only rapper with two diamond-certified albums.[[100]](#cite_note-100) With more than 60 million "likes" he was the most-followed person on Facebook, outscoring [Lady Gaga](/wiki/Lady_Gaga), [Justin Bieber](/wiki/Justin_Bieber), Rihanna and Michael Jackson.[[101]](#cite_note-101) Eminem was the first artist in five years with two number-one albums (*Recovery* and *Hell: The Sequel*) in a 12-month period.[[102]](#cite_note-102) Early in 2011 he leaked "2.0 Boys", on which [Yelawolf](/wiki/Yelawolf) and [Slaughterhouse](/wiki/Slaughterhouse_(hip_hop_group)) collaborated when they signed with [Shady Records](/wiki/Shady_Records) in January, and performed it in April.[[103]](#cite_note-103) Bad Meets Evil released their next single, "[Lighters](/wiki/Lighters_(song))", on July 6 and its music video in late August.[[104]](#cite_note-104)[[105]](#cite_note-105) On August 6, Eminem performed several songs from throughout his career at [Lollapalooza](/wiki/Lollapalooza) with the artists who had been featured on each song.[[106]](#cite_note-106)

### 2012–13: ''The Marshall Mathers LP 2''[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Eminem announced on May 24, 2012 that he was working on his next album,[[107]](#cite_note-107) scheduled for release the following year.[[108]](#cite_note-108) Without a title or release date, it was included on a number of "Most Anticipated Albums of 2013" lists (including [MTV](/wiki/MTV)); [*Complex Magazine*](/wiki/Complex_(magazine)) ranked it sixth, and [*XXL*](/wiki/XXL_(magazine)) listed it fifth.[[109]](#cite_note-109) He talked about the album on June 30, 2012, with [DJ Whoo Kid](/wiki/DJ_Whoo_Kid) on Shade 45; the material was taking shape, and Dr. Dre would be involved.[[110]](#cite_note-110) On August 30, Slaughterhouse member Royce da 5'9" said about it: "I'm not so sure how the world is going to respond from some of the things that I've heard from him."[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) Friend and fellow rapper 50 Cent was confirmed as appearing on the album.[[111]](#cite_note-111) Eminem appeared on [Pink's](/wiki/Pink_(singer)) "Here Comes The Weekend", from [*The Truth About Love*](/wiki/The_Truth_About_Love_(Pink_album)).

On February 11, 2013, Shady Records president and Eminem manager [Paul Rosenberg](/wiki/Paul_Rosenberg_(music_manager)) announced that the rapper's eighth album would be released after [Memorial Day](/wiki/Memorial_Day). "We fully expect to be releasing a new Eminem album in 2013. He's been working on it for some time," said Rosenberg. "It's safe to say that it will be post-Memorial Day at some point, but we're not exactly sure when. We've got some dates locked in for him to perform live in Europe in August, so we're trying to see what else lines up." The album remained untitled.[[112]](#cite_note-112) On March 22, Dr. Dre said that he worked with Eminem on the album and it was nearly finished;[[113]](#cite_note-113) [No I.D.](/wiki/No_I.D.) was confirmed as producer.[[114]](#cite_note-114) On August 14 "[Survival](/wiki/Survival_(Eminem_song))", featuring Liz Rodrigues and produced by [DJ Khalil](/wiki/DJ_Khalil), premièred in the multi-player trailer for the video game [*Call of Duty: Ghosts*](/wiki/Call_of_Duty:_Ghosts). According to a press release, the first single from Eminem's eighth album would be released soon.[[115]](#cite_note-115)[[116]](#cite_note-116) During the [2013 MTV Video Music Awards](/wiki/2013_MTV_Video_Music_Awards), it was announced that the album would be entitled *The Marshall Mathers LP 2* (following *The Marshall Mathers LP*) and was scheduled for release on November 5.[[117]](#cite_note-117) [thumb|left|alt=Eminem onstate in T-shirt, shorts and baseball cap|At the 2014](/wiki/File:Eminem_Lollapalooza_2014_Chicago.jpg) [Lollapalooza](/wiki/Lollapalooza) in Chicago Its lead single, "[Berzerk](/wiki/Berzerk_(song))", was released on August 25 and debuted at number three on the [*Billboard* Hot 100](/wiki/Billboard_Hot_100) chart. Three more singles followed: "[Survival](/wiki/Survival_(Eminem_song))" (appearing on the [*Call of Duty: Ghosts*](/wiki/Call_of_Duty:_Ghosts) trailer),[[118]](#cite_note-118) "[Rap God](/wiki/Rap_God)" and "[The Monster](/wiki/The_Monster_(song))" (with Rihanna).

The album was released on November 5 by Aftermath Entertainment, Shady Records and Interscope Records. Its standard version had 16 tracks, and the deluxe version included a second disc with five additional tracks. *The Marshall Mathers LP 2* was Eminem's seventh album to debut atop the *Billboard* 200, and had the year's second-largest first-week sales.[[119]](#cite_note-119)[[120]](#cite_note-120) The rapper was the first artist since [The Beatles](/wiki/The_Beatles) to have four singles in the top 20 of the *Billboard* Hot 100.[[121]](#cite_note-121)[[122]](#cite_note-122)[[123]](#cite_note-123) In the [United Kingdom](/wiki/United_Kingdom) *The Marshall Mathers LP 2* debuted at number one on the [UK Albums Chart](/wiki/UK_Albums_Chart). The first American artist with seven consecutive UK number-one albums, he is tied with The Beatles for second place for the most consecutive chart-topping UK albums.[[124]](#cite_note-124)[[125]](#cite_note-125)[[126]](#cite_note-126) The album secured Eminem's position as Canada's best-selling artist, and was 2013's best-selling album.[[127]](#cite_note-127) On November 3 Eminem was named the first [YouTube Music Awards](/wiki/YouTube_Music_Awards) Artist of the Year,[[128]](#cite_note-128) and a week later he received the Global Icon Award at the 2013 MTV EMA Music Awards.[[129]](#cite_note-129) On June 10, it was announced that the rapper was the first artist to receive two digital diamond certifications – sales and streams of 10 million and above – by the [RIAA](/wiki/RIAA) (for "[Not Afraid](/wiki/Not_Afraid)" and "[Love the Way You Lie](/wiki/Love_the_Way_You_Lie)").<ref name=Billboard>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> On July 11 and 12, Eminem played two concerts in [Wembley Stadium](/wiki/Wembley_Stadium).[[130]](#cite_note-130) At the [57th Grammy Awards](/wiki/57th_Grammy_Awards), he received [Best Rap Album](/wiki/Best_Rap_Album) award for *The Marshall Mathers LP 2* and [Best Rap/Sung Collaboration](/wiki/Best_Rap/Sung_Collaboration) (with Rihanna) for "[The Monster](/wiki/The_Monster_(song))".[[131]](#cite_note-131)[[132]](#cite_note-132)

### 2014–present: ''Shady XV'' and ''Southpaw''[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[thumb|Eminem performs at](/wiki/File:Eminem_live_at_D.C._2014.jpg) [the Concert for Valor](/wiki/The_Concert_for_Valor) in Washington, D.C. in 2014 In June 2014 Eminem and Rosenberg began using the [hashtag](/wiki/Hashtag) #SHADYXV on social-networking sites, and the rapper wore a T-shirt with the hashtag onstage. According to an August 25 press release on Eminem's website, the hashtag was the name of an upcoming Shady Records compilation: [*Shady XV*](/wiki/Shady_XV). That day, the first single from the album ("[Guts Over Fear](/wiki/Guts_Over_Fear)", featuring singer-songwriter [Sia Furler](/wiki/Sia_Furler))[[133]](#cite_note-133) was released and the album's track list was released on October 29.[[134]](#cite_note-134) Shady Records released a [cypher](/wiki/Freestyle_rap#Types_of_freestyles) to promote the album, in which Eminem did a seven-minute freestyle. "[Detroit Vs. Everybody](/wiki/Detroit_Vs._Everybody)" (the album's second single), with Eminem, Dej Loaf, Royce da 5'9", [Danny Brown](/wiki/Danny_Brown_(rapper)), [Big Sean](/wiki/Big_Sean) and [Trick-Trick](/wiki/Trick-Trick), was released on November 11.[[135]](#cite_note-135) *Shady XV*, released on November 24 during [Black Friday](/wiki/Black_Friday_(shopping)) week,[[136]](#cite_note-136) consists of one greatest-hits disc and one disc of new material by Shady Records artists such as [D12](/wiki/D12), Slaughterhouse, Bad Meets Evil and [Yelawolf](/wiki/Yelawolf). The album debuted at number three on the *Billboard* 200 chart, with first-week sales of 138,000 copies in the United States.[[137]](#cite_note-137) *The Official Eminem Box Set*, a career-spanning, 10-disc vinyl box set, was released on March 12, 2015. The set includes seven of Eminem's eight studio albums (excluding *Infinite*), the *8 Mile* soundtrack, the compilation [*Eminem Presents: The Re-Up*](/wiki/Eminem_Presents:_The_Re-Up), and the greatest hits collection *Curtain Call: The Hits*.[[138]](#cite_note-138) Early in the year, it was announced that he would appear on [Tech N9ne's](/wiki/Tech_N9ne) "Speedom (Worldwide Choppers 2)".[[139]](#cite_note-139) The song, also featuring [Krizz Kaliko](/wiki/Krizz_Kaliko), was released on April 20. Eminem also appeared on Yelawolf's "Best Friend", the single from [*Love Story*](/wiki/Love_Story_(Yelawolf_album)).

Eminem is the [executive producer](/wiki/Executive_producer) of the [*soundtrack*](/wiki/Southpaw_(soundtrack)) on the sports drama [Southpaw](/wiki/Southpaw_(film)), with [Shady Records](/wiki/Shady_Records). The first single from the soundtrack called '[Phenomenal'](/wiki/Phenomenal_(song)) was released on June 2, 2015.[[140]](#cite_note-140) Another single, "[Kings Never Die](/wiki/Kings_Never_Die_(song))" by Eminem featuring [Gwen Stefani](/wiki/Gwen_Stefani), was released on July 10, 2015 on YouTube via Eminem's Vevo account.[[141]](#cite_note-141) Eminem was the first interview of Zane Lowe in Beats 1. The interview streamed online on the Beats 1 radio on [[142]](#cite_note-142) July 1, 2015. Eminem appeared on the public access show *Only in Monroe*, produced in [Monroe, Michigan](/wiki/Monroe,_Michigan), and was interviewed by guest host [Stephen Colbert](/wiki/Stephen_Colbert) for an episode that aired July 1, 2015. In the episode Eminem sang snippets of [Bob Seger](/wiki/Bob_Seger) songs at Colbert's prompting and briefly discussed *Southpaw*.[[143]](#cite_note-143) In June 2015, it was revealed that he will serve as the executive producer and [music supervisor](/wiki/Music_supervisor) on the TV series *Motor City* whose premise will be based upon the 2002 film [*Narc*](/wiki/Narc_(film)).[[144]](#cite_note-144) In June 2016, Eminem appears on the soundtrack of the film [Suicide Squad](/wiki/Suicide_Squad_(film)).[[145]](#cite_note-145) [Masta Ace](/wiki/Masta_Ace), [Big Daddy Kane](/wiki/Big_Daddy_Kane),<ref name=Edwards88/> [Newcleus](/wiki/Newcleus), [Ice-T](/wiki/Ice-T), [Mantronix](/wiki/Mantronix), [Melle Mel](/wiki/Melle_Mel) (on "[The Message](/wiki/The_Message_(Grandmaster_Flash_and_the_Furious_Five_song))"), [LL Cool J](/wiki/LL_Cool_J), [Beastie Boys](/wiki/Beastie_Boys), [Run–D.M.C.](/wiki/Run–D.M.C.), [Rakim](/wiki/Rakim) and [Boogie Down Productions](/wiki/Boogie_Down_Productions).[[165]](#cite_note-165)In [*How to Rap*](/wiki/How_to_Rap), [Guerilla Black](/wiki/Guerilla_Black) notes that Eminem studied other MCs to hone his rapping technique: "Eminem listened to everything and that's what made him one of the greats".[[166]](#cite_note-166) In the book, other MCs also praise aspects of his rapping technique; varied, humorous subject matter,[[167]](#cite_note-167) connecting with his audience,[[168]](#cite_note-168) carrying a concept over a series of albums,[[169]](#cite_note-169) complex rhyme schemes,[[170]](#cite_note-170) bending words so they [rhyme](/wiki/Rhyme),[[171]](#cite_note-171) [multisyllabic rhymes](/wiki/Multisyllabic_rhymes),<ref name=Edwards88/> many rhymes to a bar,[[172]](#cite_note-172) complex rhythms,[[173]](#cite_note-173) clear [enunciation](/wiki/Elocution)[[174]](#cite_note-174) and the use of [melody](/wiki/Melody)[[175]](#cite_note-175) and [syncopation](/wiki/Syncopation).[[176]](#cite_note-176) Eminem is known to write most of his lyrics on paper (documented in *The Way I Am*), taking several days or a week to craft lyrics,[[177]](#cite_note-177) being a "[workaholic](/wiki/Workaholic)"[[178]](#cite_note-178) and "[stacking](/wiki/Double_tracking)" vocals.[[179]](#cite_note-179)

### Alter egos[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

Eminem uses alter egos in his songs for different rapping styles and subject matter. His best-known alter ego, Slim Shady, first appeared on the *Slim Shady* EP. In this persona his songs are violent and dark, with a comic twist.[[180]](#cite_note-180) Eminem downplayed Slim Shady on *Recovery* because he felt it did not fit the album's theme.[[181]](#cite_note-181) Another character is Ken Kaniff, a homosexual who pokes fun at Eminem's songs. Ken was created and originally played by fellow Detroit rapper Aristotle on the *Slim Shady LP*, where Kaniff makes a prank call to Eminem. An argument after the album's release prompted Eminem to use the Kaniff character on *Marshall Mathers* and later albums (except *Encore* and *Recovery*). Aristotle, angry with Eminem's use of his character, created a mixtape in his Kaniff persona ridiculing the rapper.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

### {{anchor|Featurings and productions}}Collaborations and productions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) Although Eminem usually collaborates with Aftermath Entertainment and Shady Records rappers such as Dr. Dre, 50 Cent, D12, Obie Trice and Yelawolf, he has also worked with [Redman](/wiki/Redman_(rapper)), [Kid Rock](/wiki/Kid_Rock), [DMX](/wiki/DMX_(rapper)), Lil Wayne, [Missy Elliott](/wiki/Missy_Elliott), [Jay Z](/wiki/Jay_Z), [Drake](/wiki/Drake_(rapper)), Rihanna, [Nicki Minaj](/wiki/Nicki_Minaj), Xzibit, [Method Man](/wiki/Method_Man), [Jadakiss](/wiki/Jadakiss), [Fat Joe](/wiki/Fat_Joe), [Sticky Fingaz](/wiki/Sticky_Fingaz), [T.I.](/wiki/T.I.) and [Young Jeezy](/wiki/Young_Jeezy). Eminem rapped a verse in a live performance of [Busta Rhymes'](/wiki/Busta_Rhymes) "[Touch It](/wiki/Touch_It_(Busta_Rhymes_song))" remix at the June 27, 2006 BET Music Awards. He appeared on [Akon's](/wiki/Akon) single "[Smack That](/wiki/Smack_That)" from [*Konvicted*](/wiki/Konvicted), Lil Wayne's hit "[Drop the World](/wiki/Drop_the_World)", and "[My Life](/wiki/My_Life_(50_Cent_song))" (the lead single from 50 Cent's *Street King Immortal*).

Eminem was the executive producer of D12's first two albums (*Devil's Night* and *D12 World*), Obie Trice's [*Cheers*](/wiki/Cheers_(album)) and [*Second Round's on Me*](/wiki/Second_Round's_on_Me) and 50 Cent's [*Get Rich or Die Tryin'*](/wiki/Get_Rich_or_Die_Tryin'_(album)) and [*The Massacre*](/wiki/The_Massacre).[[182]](#cite_note-182) He has produced songs for other rappers, such as [Jadakiss'](/wiki/Jadakiss) "Welcome To D-Block", Jay-Z's "[Renegade](/wiki/Renegade_(Jay-Z_song))" and "Moment of Clarity", [Lloyd Banks'](/wiki/Lloyd_Banks) "[On Fire](/wiki/On_Fire_(Lloyd_Banks_song))", "Warrior Part 2" and "[Hands Up](/wiki/Hands_Up_(Lloyd_Banks_song))", [Tony Yayo's](/wiki/Tony_Yayo) "Drama Setter", Trick-Trick's "[Welcome 2 Detroit](/wiki/Welcome_2_Detroit_(song))", and Xzibit's "My Name" and "Don't Approach Me".[[183]](#cite_note-183) Most of *The Eminem Show* was produced by Eminem and his longtime collaborator, [Jeff Bass](/wiki/Bass_Brothers),[[184]](#cite_note-184) and the rapper co-produced *Encore* with Dr. Dre. In 2004 Eminem was co-executive producer of [2Pac's](/wiki/Tupac_Shakur) posthumous album [*Loyal to the Game*](/wiki/Loyal_to_the_Game) with Shakur's mother, [Afeni](/wiki/Afeni_Shakur).[[185]](#cite_note-185) He produced the UK number-one single "[Ghetto Gospel](/wiki/Ghetto_Gospel)", featuring Elton John,[[186]](#cite_note-186) "The Cross" from the [Nas](/wiki/Nas) album [*God's Son*](/wiki/God's_Son)[[187]](#cite_note-187) and eight tracks on Obie Trice's 2006 [*Second Round's on Me*](/wiki/Second_Round's_on_Me) (also appearing on "There They Go").[[188]](#cite_note-188) The rapper produced several tracks on Trick-Trick's [*The Villain*](/wiki/The_Villain_(album)) (appearing on "Who Want It"),[[189]](#cite_note-189) and produced four tracks on Cashis' 2013 album [*The County Hound 2*](/wiki/The_County_Hound_2).

Eminem is considered unusual in structuring his songs around the lyrics, rather than writing to beats.[[190]](#cite_note-190) One exception was "Stan", which came from an idea and [scratch track](/wiki/Studio_recording#The_process) produced by [the 45 King](/wiki/The_45_King).[[190]](#cite_note-190) After doing little production on *Relapse* and *Recovery*, Eminem produced a significant portion of *The Marshall Mathers LP 2*. He said about producing his own music, "Sometimes, I may get something in my head, like an idea or the mood of something that I would want, and I'm not always gonna get that by going through different tracks that other people have made. They don't know what's in my head. I think maybe it helps, a little bit, with diversity, the sound of it, but also, I would get something in my head and want to be able to lay down that idea from scratch."[[191]](#cite_note-191)

### {{anchor|Comparisons to other artists}}Comparisons with other artists[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

As a lyricist and a white performer prominent in a genre influenced by black artists, Eminem has been compared to [Bob Dylan](/wiki/Bob_Dylan).[[192]](#cite_note-192) Rapper [Asher Roth](/wiki/Asher_Roth) has been compared to Eminem, and Roth devoted a song on his album ("As I Em") to him.[[193]](#cite_note-193) The accomplished trumpet player [Nicholas Payton](/wiki/Nicholas_Payton) has called Eminem "the [Bix Beiderbecke](/wiki/Bix_Beiderbecke) of hip hop".[[194]](#cite_note-194) Eminem and [Christian hip hop](/wiki/Christian_hip_hop) artist [KJ-52](/wiki/KJ-52) have been compared to each other, with KJ-52 called his "Christian counterpart".[[195]](#cite_note-195) KJ-52's single, "Dear Slim", was controversial with Eminem fans when it appeared on [*Total Request Live*](/wiki/Total_Request_Live). Although he said the song was not intended to be disrespectful,[[196]](#cite_note-196) KJ-52 received [hate mail](/wiki/Hate_mail) and the song was number 26 on [VH1's](/wiki/VH1) Top 40 Worst Moments in Hip Hop list.[[197]](#cite_note-197)

## Personal life[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

### Family[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

Eminem has been scrutinized, as a rapper and personally.[[28]](#cite_note-28) The rapper was married twice to Kimberly Anne "Kim" Scott. He met Kim in high school; he was 15 and she was 13 when he stood on a table with his shirt off rapping [LL Cool J's](/wiki/LL_Cool_J) "[I'm Bad](/wiki/I'm_Bad)".[[198]](#cite_note-198) Kim and her twin sister, Dawn, had run away from home; they moved in with Eminem and his mother when he was 15, and he began an on-and-off relationship with Kim in 1989. Their daughter, Hailie, was born on December 25, 1995; they married in 1999, divorcing in 2001. Although Eminem told *Rolling Stone* in 2002, "I would rather have a baby through my penis than get married again", he and Kim briefly remarried in January 2006. He filed for divorce in early April,[[199]](#cite_note-199) agreeing to joint custody of Hailie.[[200]](#cite_note-200) He has also adopted Alaina, Dawn's daughter and Whitney, Kim's daughter from another relationship.[[201]](#cite_note-201)[[202]](#cite_note-202) In early 2010, Eminem denied tabloid reports that he and Kim had reconciled.[[203]](#cite_note-203) He had legal custody of his younger half-brother, Nathan who is also a rapper and is known by his stage name "Nate Kane".[[204]](#cite_note-204)[[205]](#cite_note-205) In his 2014 song "[Headlights](/wiki/Headlights_(Eminem_song))", Eminem apologized to, and reiterated his love for his mother.[[206]](#cite_note-206)

### {{anchor|Legal troubles}}Legal problems[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

In 1999 Eminem's mother sued him for about $10 million for [slandering](/wiki/Defamation) her on *The Slim Shady LP*, receiving about $1,600 in damages in 2001.[[207]](#cite_note-207) Eminem was arrested on June 3, 2000 during an altercation with Douglas Dail at a car-audio store in [Royal Oak, Michigan](/wiki/Royal_Oak,_Michigan), when he pulled out an unloaded gun and pointed it at the ground. The next day, in [Warren, Michigan](/wiki/Warren,_Michigan), he was arrested for assaulting bouncer John Guerrera in the parking lot of the Hot Rock Café when he saw Guerrera kiss his wife.[[208]](#cite_note-208)[[209]](#cite_note-209) Eminem recreated the Guerrera assault in "The Kiss (Skit)" on *The Eminem Show*. The rapper, charged with possession of a concealed weapon and assault, pleaded guilty and received two years' [probation](/wiki/Probation); Guerrera's assault charge was dropped as part of the plea agreement.[[210]](#cite_note-210) On July 7, 2000 Kim attempted suicide, slashing her wrists,[[211]](#cite_note-211) and later sued Eminem for defamation after he described her violent death in "[Kim](/wiki/Kim_(song))".[[209]](#cite_note-209) On October 26, 2000, the rapper was scheduled to perform at Toronto's [Skydome](/wiki/Rogers_Centre) when [Ontario](/wiki/Ontario) Attorney General [Jim Flaherty](/wiki/Jim_Flaherty) said that Eminem should not be allowed to enter the country. "I personally don't want anyone coming to Canada who will come here and advocate violence against women," he said. Flaherty said he was "disgusted" when he read the lyrics of "Kill You", which includes the lines "Slut, you think I won't choke no whore / Till the vocal cords don't work in her throat no more?" Although public reaction to Flaherty's position was generally negative, with barring Eminem from the country considered a [free-speech](/wiki/Freedom_of_speech) issue, [Liberal](/wiki/Liberal_Party_of_Canada) [MPP](/wiki/Member_of_Provincial_Parliament_(Ontario)) Michael Bryant suggested that [hate crime](/wiki/Hate_crime) charges be brought against the rapper for advocating violence against women in his lyrics.[[212]](#cite_note-212) Robert Everett-Green wrote in a [*Globe and Mail*](/wiki/The_Globe_and_Mail) editorial, "Being offensive is Eminem's job description",[[213]](#cite_note-213) and the rapper's Toronto concert went on as planned.[[214]](#cite_note-214) Sanitation worker DeAngelo Bailey sued Eminem for $1 million in 2001, accusing him of invading his privacy by publicizing information placing him in a false light in "Brain Damage", a song which portrays him as a violent school bully. Although Bailey admitted picking on Eminem in school, he said he merely "bumped" him and gave him a "little shove". The lawsuit was dismissed on October 20, 2003; Judge [Deborah Servitto](/wiki/Deborah_Servitto), who rapped the verdict, ruled that it was clear to the public that the lyrics were exaggerated.[[215]](#cite_note-215) On June 28, 2001, Eminem was sentenced to one year's probation and community service and fined about $2,000 on weapons charges stemming from an argument with an employee of [Psychopathic Records](/wiki/Psychopathic_Records).[[216]](#cite_note-216) On March 31, 2002, French [jazz](/wiki/Jazz) pianist [Jacques Loussier](/wiki/Jacques_Loussier) filed a $10 million lawsuit against Eminem and Dr. Dre, claiming that the beat for "Kill You" was from his instrumental "Pulsion".[[217]](#cite_note-217) Loussier demanded that sales of *The Marshall Mathers LP* be halted, and any remaining copies destroyed. A trial date was set for June 2004, and the case was later settled.[[218]](#cite_note-218) On December 8, 2003 the [United States Secret Service](/wiki/United_States_Secret_Service) reported that it was "looking into" allegations that Eminem threatened President George W. Bush[[219]](#cite_note-219) in "We As Americans" (an unreleased bootleg at the time), with the lyrics: "Fuck money, I don't rap for dead presidents. I'd rather see the president dead, it's never been said but I set precedents." The incident was included in the video for "[Mosh](/wiki/Mosh_(song))", as a newspaper clipping on a wall with articles about unfortunate incidents in Bush's career. "We As Americans" eventually appeared on *Encore*[Template:'s](/wiki/Template:') deluxe-edition bonus disc, with altered lyrics.

In 2007 Eminem's music-publishing company (Eight Mile Style) and Martin Affiliated sued [Apple Inc.](/wiki/Apple_Inc.) and Aftermath Entertainment, claiming that Aftermath was not authorized to negotiate a deal with Apple for digital downloads of 93 Eminem songs on Apple's [iTunes](/wiki/ITunes).[[220]](#cite_note-220)[[221]](#cite_note-221) The case against Apple was settled shortly after the trial began, in late September 2009.[[222]](#cite_note-222) In July 2010, the [United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit](/wiki/United_States_Court_of_Appeals_for_the_Ninth_Circuit) ruled in [*F.B.T. Productions, LLC v. Aftermath Records*](/wiki/F.B.T._Productions,_LLC_v._Aftermath_Records) that F.B.T. Productions and Eminem were owed a royalty of 50 percent of Aftermath's net revenue from licensing his recordings to companies such as Apple, [Sprint Corporation](/wiki/Sprint_Corporation), [Nextel Communications](/wiki/Nextel_Communications), [Cingular](/wiki/AT&T_Mobility) and [T-Mobile](/wiki/T-Mobile). In March 2011, the [Supreme Court of the United States](/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_the_United_States) declined to hear the case.<ref name=scotus\_appeal>[, Petition for writ of certiorari to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit denied.](https://scholar.google.com/scholar_case?case=12478269983023958737&q=F.B.T.+Productions,+LLC+v.+Aftermath+Records&hl=en&as_sdt=2,5), March 21, 2011</ref>

In 2013, Eminem [sampled](/wiki/Sampling_(music)) Chicago-based rap group [Hotstylz's](/wiki/Hotstylz) 2008 viral hit, "Lookin' Boy", for his 2013 [hit single](/wiki/Hit_single), "[Rap God](/wiki/Rap_God)".The group claims Eminem did not receive permission to use the sample, nor did he credit or compensate them.[[223]](#cite_note-223) In November 2013, Hotstylz released a [diss track](/wiki/Diss_track) towards Eminem titled "Rap Fraud", where they sample several of his songs and criticize him for not crediting them.[[224]](#cite_note-224)[[225]](#cite_note-225) In January 2015, [TMZ](/wiki/TMZ) reported Hotstylz were suing the rapper and his label, [Shady Records](/wiki/Shady_Records), for the amount of $8 million, for using the 25 second sample of "Lookin' Boy" on his song "Rap God", without their permission.[[226]](#cite_note-226)[[227]](#cite_note-227)

### {{anchor|Drug issues}}Drug problems[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

Eminem has spoken about his addiction to prescription drugs, including [Vicodin](/wiki/Hydrocodone/paracetamol), [Ambien](/wiki/Zolpidem) and [Valium](/wiki/Diazepam).[[228]](#cite_note-228) According to friend and fellow D12 member [Proof](/wiki/Proof_(rapper)), Eminem first "sobered up" in 2002.[[229]](#cite_note-229) During the production of [*8 Mile*](/wiki/8_Mile_(film)), the rapper, working 16 hours a day, developed insomnia. An associate gave him an Ambien tablet which "knocked [him] out", encouraging him to obtain a prescription. This was Eminem's first experience of drug addiction, which would affect him for several years. Near the end of production on *Encore*, he would "just go into the studio and goof off [with] a pocketful of pills". Eminem began taking the drugs to "feel normal", taking a "ridiculous amount [...] I could consume anywhere from 40 to 60 Valium [in a day]. Vicodin, maybe 30". The drugs would put him to sleep for no more than two hours, after which he would take more. The rapper's weight increased to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), and he was regularly eating [fast food](/wiki/Fast_food): "The kids behind the counter knew me – it wouldn't even faze them. Or I'd sit up at Denny's or Big Boy and just eat by myself. It was sad". Eminem became less recognizable due to his weight gain, and once overheard two teenagers arguing about whether or not it was he: "Eminem ain't fat."[[13]](#cite_note-13) His struggle with drugs climaxed with a December 2007 [methadone](/wiki/Methadone) overdose. Eminem had first bought methadone from a dealer who had told him it was "just like Vicodin, and easier on [your] liver". The rapper continued to buy more, until he collapsed in his bathroom one night and was rushed to the hospital. Doctors there told him he had ingested the equivalent of four bags of [heroin](/wiki/Heroin) and was "about two hours from dying". After missing Christmas with his children, Eminem checked himself out of the facility weak and not fully [detoxed](/wiki/Detoxification). When he tore his [meniscus](/wiki/Meniscus_(anatomy)) "after falling asleep for literally 10 minutes," he had surgery; after he came home he had a seizure and relapsed within three weeks. Eminem began to attend church meetings to get clean, but after he was asked for autographs he sought help from a rehabilitation counselor. He began an exercise program which emphasized running, and became sober on April 20, 2008. [Elton John](/wiki/Elton_John) was a mentor during this period, calling Eminem once a week to check on him.<ref name=RS10>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref>

### {{anchor|Homophobia controversy}}Alleged homophobia[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

Some of Eminem's lyrics have been considered [homophobic](/wiki/Homophobia), and an Australian politician attempted to ban him from the country.[[230]](#cite_note-230) Eminem denies the charge, saying that when he was growing up words such as "faggot" and "queer" were used generally in a derogatory manner and not specifically toward homosexuals. During a [*60 Minutes*](/wiki/60_Minutes) interview, journalist [Anderson Cooper](/wiki/Anderson_Cooper) explored the issue:[[231]](#cite_note-231):*Cooper*: Some of the lyrics, like, you know, in the song "Criminal" you say "My words are like a dagger with a jagged edge, That'll stab you in the head, whether you're a fag or lez, Or the homosex, hermaph or a trans-a-vest, Pants or dress—hate fags? The answer's 'yes[Template:'"](/wiki/Template:'%22).

*Eminem*: Yeah, this scene I came up in. That word was thrown around so much, you know, "faggot" was like thrown around constantly to each other, like in battling.

*Cooper*: Do you not like gay people?

*Eminem*: No, I don't have any problem with nobody. You know what I mean? I'm just like whatever.

The rapper is a friend of Elton John.[[232]](#cite_note-232) When asked his opinion in a [*New York Times*](/wiki/The_New_York_Times) interview of the legalization of [same-sex marriage](/wiki/Same-sex_marriage) in Michigan, Eminem replied: "I think if two people love each other, then what the hell? I think that everyone should have the chance to be equally miserable, if they want",[[233]](#cite_note-233) adding that his "overall look on things is a lot more mature than it used to be".[[234]](#cite_note-234) Several years later, Eminem was accused yet again of using homophobic words in his lyrics, and explained "I don't know how to say this without saying it how I've said it a million times. But that word, those kind of words, when I came up battle-rappin' or whatever, I never really equated those words..."[[235]](#cite_note-235)

## Legacy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[thumb|275px|left|alt=Large graffiti picture of a serious-looking Eminem|Eminem graffiti in](/wiki/File:Eminem_Shanghai_graffit.jpg) [Shanghai](/wiki/Shanghai) [thumb|175px|Eminem artwork in](/wiki/File:Southsea_Skatepark_Graff_(7)_(3874828505).jpg) [Southsea](/wiki/Southsea) Skatepark Eminem is considered one of the greatest hip-hop artists of all time. He was 83rd on [*Rolling Stone*](/wiki/Rolling_Stone)[Template:'s](/wiki/Template:') 100 Greatest Artists of All Time[[236]](#cite_note-236)[[237]](#cite_note-237) and 79th on the [VH1](/wiki/VH1) 100 Greatest Artists of All Time lists.[[238]](#cite_note-238) In 2010, MTV Portugal ranked Eminem the seventh-biggest icon in pop-music history.[[239]](#cite_note-239) He is the bestselling artist from 2000 to 2010 on the US [Nielsen SoundScan](/wiki/Nielsen_SoundScan);[[240]](#cite_note-240) with estimated worldwide album sales of over 172 million, Eminem is one of the [best-selling musical artists in the world](/wiki/List_of_best-selling_music_artists).[[241]](#cite_note-241) The rapper has over six billion views of his music videos on his YouTube [Vevo](/wiki/Vevo) page.[[242]](#cite_note-242) In 2010 Eminem's music generated 94 million streams (more than any other musical artist),[[243]](#cite_note-243) and in May 2014 [Spotify](/wiki/Spotify) called him the most-streamed artist of all time. According to *Billboard*, two of Eminem's albums are among the top-five bestselling albums from 2000 to 2010. "Love the Way You Lie" (11× platinum) and "Not Afraid" (10× platinum) are certified diamond by the RIAA, making him the first artist with two digital diamond-certified songs in the US.[[244]](#cite_note-244) In the UK, Eminem has sold over 12.5 million records.[[245]](#cite_note-245) As of June 2014, Eminem is the second-bestselling male artist of the [Nielsen SoundScan](/wiki/Nielsen_SoundScan) era, the sixth-bestselling artist in the United States and the bestselling hip-hop artist, with sales of 45.1 million albums and 42 million tracks (including 31 million digital single certifications).[[246]](#cite_note-246)[[247]](#cite_note-247)[[248]](#cite_note-248)[[249]](#cite_note-249) Eminem has had ten number-one albums on the *Billboard* 200: seven solo (five original albums and two compilations), two with D12 and one with [Bad Meets Evil](/wiki/Bad_Meets_Evil).[[250]](#cite_note-250) *The Eminem Show*, *The Marshall Mathers LP*, and *Encore* were ranked the third-, seventh- and fortieth-bestselling albums of the 2000–2009 decade, respectively, by the magazine.[[251]](#cite_note-251)[[252]](#cite_note-252) The rapper has had 13 number-one singles worldwide. Eminem has been credited of rising the careers of rap proteges such as, [50 Cent](/wiki/50_Cent), [Yelawolf](/wiki/Yelawolf), [Stat Quo](/wiki/Stat_Quo), [Royce da 5'9"](/wiki/Royce_da_5'9%22), [Cashis](/wiki/Cashis), [Obie Trice](/wiki/Obie_Trice), [Bobby Creekwater](/wiki/Bobby_Creekwater), and rap groups such as [D12](/wiki/D12) and [Slaughterhouse](/wiki/Slaughterhouse_(hip_hop_group)).

In August 2011 Eminem was called the King of Hip-Hop by *Rolling Stone*, which analyzed album sales, R&B, hip-hop and rap chart positions, YouTube views, social media, concert grosses, industry awards and critical ratings of solo rappers who released music from 2009 to the first half of 2011.[[253]](#cite_note-253) His second major-label album, *The Marshall Mathers LP*, was the fastest-selling solo album in US history[[27]](#cite_note-27) and was ranked one of the greatest hip-hop albums of all time by *Rolling Stone*, [*Time*](/wiki/Time_(magazine)) and [*XXL*](/wiki/XXL_(magazine)).[[254]](#cite_note-254) *Rolling Stone* ranked it the seventh-best album of the first decade of the 21st century.[[255]](#cite_note-255) The album's third single ("Stan") is one of Eminem's most critically acclaimed songs, with [Pitchfork Media](/wiki/Pitchfork_Media) calling it "a cultural milestone".[[256]](#cite_note-256) In 2015, rapper [Joe Budden](/wiki/Joe_Budden) made a song called "Slaughtermouse", a dedication to Eminem.

A number of hip-hop and pop artists have cited Eminem as an influence, including [Crooked I](/wiki/Crooked_I), [Tech N9ne](/wiki/Tech_N9ne), [Logic](/wiki/Logic_(rapper)) [Lil Wayne](/wiki/Lil_Wayne), [Nicki Minaj](/wiki/Nicki_Minaj), [T.I.](/wiki/T.I.), [B.o.B](/wiki/B.o.B) [Jhené Aiko](/wiki/Jhené_Aiko), 50 Cent,[[257]](#cite_note-257) [Usher](/wiki/Usher_(singer)),[[258]](#cite_note-258) [Earl Sweatshirt](/wiki/Earl_Sweatshirt), [Ab-Soul](/wiki/Ab-Soul), [Freddie Gibbs](/wiki/Freddie_Gibbs), [Kendrick Lamar](/wiki/Kendrick_Lamar),[[259]](#cite_note-259) [Ed Sheeran](/wiki/Ed_Sheeran),[[260]](#cite_note-260)[[261]](#cite_note-261) [Lana Del Rey](/wiki/Lana_Del_Rey),[[262]](#cite_note-262) [Big Sean](/wiki/Big_Sean),[[263]](#cite_note-263) [J. Cole](/wiki/J._Cole),[[264]](#cite_note-264) [Skylar Grey](/wiki/Skylar_Grey),[[265]](#cite_note-265) [Bubba Sparxxx](/wiki/Bubba_Sparxxx),[[266]](#cite_note-266) Asher Roth,[[267]](#cite_note-267) [Machine Gun Kelly](/wiki/Machine_Gun_Kelly_(rapper)),[[268]](#cite_note-268) Yelawolf,[[269]](#cite_note-269) [Hopsin](/wiki/Hopsin),[[270]](#cite_note-270) [Tyler, The Creator](/wiki/Tyler,_The_Creator),[[271]](#cite_note-271) [Hollywood Undead](/wiki/Hollywood_Undead),[[272]](#cite_note-272) [Chris Webby](/wiki/Chris_Webby),[[273]](#cite_note-273) [Chance the Rapper](/wiki/Chance_the_Rapper)[[274]](#cite_note-274) [Stalley](/wiki/Stalley), [Royce da 5'9"](/wiki/Royce_da_5'9%22), [Joe Budden](/wiki/Joe_Budden), [Tony Yayo](/wiki/Tony_Yayo), and [The Game](/wiki/The_Game_(rapper)).[[275]](#cite_note-275) Rap pioneers [David Banner](/wiki/David_Banner),[[276]](#cite_note-276) [Wiz Khalifa](/wiki/Wiz_Khalifa),[[277]](#cite_note-277) [Talib Kweli](/wiki/Talib_Kweli),[[278]](#cite_note-278) [Kool G. Rap](/wiki/Kool_G_Rap),[[279]](#cite_note-279) Redman,[[280]](#cite_note-280) [Kurupt](/wiki/Kurupt), [Dr. Dre](/wiki/Dr._Dre), [N.O.R.E.](/wiki/N.O.R.E.), [Rakim](/wiki/Rakim), [Busta Rhymes](/wiki/Busta_Rhymes) and [Jay Z](/wiki/Jay_Z) have each called Eminem one of the greatest rappers of all time.[[281]](#cite_note-281)

## Discography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

* [*Infinite*](/wiki/Infinite_(Eminem_album)) (1996)
* [*The Slim Shady LP*](/wiki/The_Slim_Shady_LP) (1999)
* [*The Marshall Mathers LP*](/wiki/The_Marshall_Mathers_LP) (2000)
* [*The Eminem Show*](/wiki/The_Eminem_Show) (2002)
* [*Encore*](/wiki/Encore_(Eminem_album)) (2004)
* [*Relapse*](/wiki/Relapse_(Eminem_album)) (2009)
* [*Recovery*](/wiki/Recovery_(Eminem_album)) (2010)
* [*The Marshall Mathers LP 2*](/wiki/The_Marshall_Mathers_LP_2) (2013)

## Filmography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

|  |
| --- |
| + Film |
| **Year** | **Film** | **Role** | **Notes** |
| 2000 | [*Da Hip Hop Witch*](/wiki/Da_Hip_Hop_Witch) | Himself |  |
| 2001 | [*The Wash*](/wiki/The_Wash_(2001_film)) | Chris | Uncredited |
| 2002 | [*8 Mile*](/wiki/8_Mile_(film)) | Jimmy "B-Rabbit" Smith, Jr. | [Template:Plain list](/wiki/Template:Plain_list) |
| 2009 | [*Funny People*](/wiki/Funny_People) | Himself | Cameo |
| 2014 | [*The Interview*](/wiki/The_Interview_(2014_film)) | Himself | Cameo |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| + Television |
| **Year** | **Title** | **Role** | **Notes** |
| 1999 2000 2002 2004 2010 2013 | [*Saturday Night Live*](/wiki/Saturday_Night_Live) | Musical guest | [*Season 25, Episode 3*](/wiki/Saturday_Night_Live_(season_25)): "[Norm Macdonald](/wiki/Norm_Macdonald)/[Dr. Dre](/wiki/Dr._Dre), [Snoop Dogg](/wiki/Snoop_Dogg) & Eminem" [*Season 26, Episode 1*](/wiki/Saturday_Night_Live_(season_26)): "[Rob Lowe](/wiki/Rob_Lowe)/Eminem" [*Season 27, Episode 19*](/wiki/Saturday_Night_Live_(season_27)): "[Kirsten Dunst](/wiki/Kirsten_Dunst)/Eminem" [*Season 30, Episode 4*](/wiki/Saturday_Night_Live_(season_30)): "[Kate Winslet](/wiki/Kate_Winslet)/Eminem" [*Season 36, Episode 10*](/wiki/Saturday_Night_Live_(season_36)): "[Jeff Bridges](/wiki/Jeff_Bridges)/Eminem & [Lil Wayne](/wiki/Lil_Wayne)" [*Season 39, Episode 5*](/wiki/Saturday_Night_Live_(season_39)): "[Kerry Washington](/wiki/Kerry_Washington)/Eminem" |
| 2000 | *The Slim Shady Show* | Eminem, Marshall Mathers, Slim Shady, Ken Kaniff | Web series |
| 2004 | [*Crank Yankers*](/wiki/Crank_Yankers) | Billy Fletcher | *Season 3, Episode 1*: "Eminem & [Tracy Morgan](/wiki/Tracy_Morgan)" |
| 2010 | [*Entourage*](/wiki/Entourage_(TV_series)) | Himself | *Season 7, Episode 10*: "[Lose Yourself](/wiki/Lose_Yourself_(Entourage))" |
| 2013 | *Detroit Rubber* | Himself | Web series *Season 1, Episode 1*: "Pilot" Also executive producer |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| + Documentaries |
| **Year** | **Film** | **Role** | **Notes** |
| 2003 | [*50 Cent: The New Breed*](/wiki/50_Cent:_The_New_Breed) | Himself | Supporting role |
| 2012 | [*Something from Nothing: The Art of Rap*](/wiki/Something_from_Nothing:_The_Art_of_Rap) | Himself | Supporting role |
| *How to Make Money Selling Drugs* | Himself | Supporting role |
| 2015 | *Not Afraid: The Shady Records Story* | Himself | Main role |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| + Concert films |
| **Year** | **Film** | **Role** | **Notes** |
| 2000 | [*The Up In Smoke Tour*](/wiki/Up_in_Smoke_Tour) | Headline | Released with [Dr. Dre](/wiki/Dr._Dre), [Snoop Dogg](/wiki/Snoop_Dogg) and [Ice Cube](/wiki/Ice_Cube) |
| 2005 | *Live from New York City* | Headline | Concert at [Madison Square Garden](/wiki/Madison_Square_Garden) |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| + Video games |
| **Year** | **Game** | **Role** | **Notes** |
| 2005 | [*50 Cent: Bulletproof*](/wiki/50_Cent:_Bulletproof) | Detective McVicar | Voice and likeness |
|  |  |  |  |

## Awards and nominations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

He shared the 2002 [Academy Award for Best Original Song](/wiki/Academy_Award_for_Best_Original_Song) for his song [*Lose Yourself*](/wiki/Lose_Yourself), co-written with [Jeff Bass](/wiki/Jeff_Bass) and [Luis Resto](/wiki/Luis_Resto_(musician)). His Academy Award win made him the first rapper to receive this award.[[282]](#cite_note-282) The rapper has received fifteen [Grammy Awards](/wiki/Grammy_Award), has been praised for his "verbal energy" and lyrical quality and was ranked ninth on MTV's Greatest MCs of All Time list.[[283]](#cite_note-283)[[284]](#cite_note-284) In 2003, he was thirteenth on MTV's 22 Greatest Voices in Music list[[285]](#cite_note-285) and 82nd on [*Rolling Stone*](/wiki/Rolling_Stone)[Template:'s](/wiki/Template:') Immortals list.[[286]](#cite_note-286) In 2008 [*Vibe Magazine*](/wiki/Vibe_(magazine)) readers named Eminem the Best Rapper Alive.[[287]](#cite_note-287)[[288]](#cite_note-288) "The Real Slim Shady" (from his second Grammy-winning album, *The Marshall Mathers LP*) criticizes the awards in its second verse, with Eminem believing at the time that negative opinion of his material would prevent him from ever winning one. The rapper received the [Global Icon Award](/wiki/MTV_Europe_Music_Award_for_Global_Icon) at the 2013 [MTV Europe Music Awards](/wiki/MTV_Europe_Music_Awards) in Amsterdam.[[289]](#cite_note-289)

## Tours[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

As a headliner

* [The Recovery Tour](/wiki/The_Recovery_Tour) (2010–2012)
* [The Rapture Tour](/wiki/Rapture_Tour) (2014)

Other tours

* [Up in Smoke Tour](/wiki/Up_in_Smoke_Tour) (with [Dr. Dre](/wiki/Dr._Dre), [Snoop Dogg](/wiki/Snoop_Dogg), [Ice Cube](/wiki/Ice_Cube) and others) (2000)
* [Anger Management Tour](/wiki/Anger_Management_Tour) (with [Limp Bizkit](/wiki/Limp_Bizkit) and [Papa Roach](/wiki/Papa_Roach)) (2002–2005)
* [The Home & Home Tour](/wiki/The_Home_&_Home_Tour) (with [Jay Z](/wiki/Jay_Z)) (2010)
* [The Monster Tour](/wiki/The_Monster_Tour_(Eminem_and_Rihanna)) (with [Rihanna](/wiki/Rihanna)) (2014)

## {{anchor|Writings}}Books[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Title** | **Year** | **Pages** |
| [*Angry Blonde*](/wiki/Angry_Blonde) | 2000 | 148 |
| [*The Way I Am*](/wiki/The_Way_I_Am_(book)) | 2008 | 208 |

## Business ventures[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

[Template:Div col](/wiki/Template:Div_col)

* [Shady Records](/wiki/Shady_Records)
* [Shade 45 Sirius](/wiki/Shade_45)
* Shady Ltd. Clothing
* Shady Games
* Eight Mile Style LLC[[220]](#cite_note-220)\* The Marshall Mathers Foundation
* Shady Films

[Template:Div col end](/wiki/Template:Div_col_end)

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal) [Template:Div col](/wiki/Template:Div_col)

* [Artists with the most number-one European singles](/wiki/European_Hot_100_Singles#Most_number-one_singles)
* [List of artists who reached number one in the United States](/wiki/List_of_artists_who_reached_number_one_in_the_United_States)
* [List of best-selling music artists](/wiki/List_of_best-selling_music_artists)
* [List of best-selling music artists in the United States](/wiki/List_of_best-selling_music_artists_in_the_United_States)
* [List of best-selling singles in the United States](/wiki/List_of_best-selling_singles_in_the_United_States)
* [List of best-selling singles worldwide](/wiki/List_of_best-selling_singles_worldwide)

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## Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

[Template:Sisterlinks](/wiki/Template:Sisterlinks)

* [Template:Official website](/wiki/Template:Official_website)
* [Template:IMDb name](/wiki/Template:IMDb_name)

[Template:S-start](/wiki/Template:S-start) [Template:S-ach](/wiki/Template:S-ach) [Template:Succession box](/wiki/Template:Succession_box) [Template:S-bef](/wiki/Template:S-bef) [Template:S-ttl](/wiki/Template:S-ttl) [Template:S-inc](/wiki/Template:S-inc) [Template:S-end](/wiki/Template:S-end) [Template:Navboxes](/wiki/Template:Navboxes) [Template:Navboxes](/wiki/Template:Navboxes) [Template:Navboxes](/wiki/Template:Navboxes) [Template:Navboxes](/wiki/Template:Navboxes) [Template:Authority control](/wiki/Template:Authority_control)

[Template:DEFAULTSORT:Eminem](/wiki/Template:DEFAULTSORT:Eminem) [Category:Eminem](/wiki/Category:Eminem) [Category:1972 births](/wiki/Category:1972_births) [Category:21st-century American businesspeople](/wiki/Category:21st-century_American_businesspeople) [Category:21st-century American male actors](/wiki/Category:21st-century_American_male_actors) [Category:Aftermath Entertainment artists](/wiki/Category:Aftermath_Entertainment_artists) [Category:American autobiographers](/wiki/Category:American_autobiographers) [Category:American film producers](/wiki/Category:American_film_producers) [Category:American hip hop record producers](/wiki/Category:American_hip_hop_record_producers) [Category:American hip hop singers](/wiki/Category:American_hip_hop_singers) [Category:American male film actors](/wiki/Category:American_male_film_actors) [Category:American media executives](/wiki/Category:American_media_executives) [Category:American music industry executives](/wiki/Category:American_music_industry_executives) [Category:American music publishers (people)](/wiki/Category:American_music_publishers_(people)) [Category:American nonprofit businesspeople](/wiki/Category:American_nonprofit_businesspeople) [Category:American philanthropists](/wiki/Category:American_philanthropists) [Category:American people of English descent](/wiki/Category:American_people_of_English_descent) [Category:American people of German descent](/wiki/Category:American_people_of_German_descent) [Category:American people of Scottish descent](/wiki/Category:American_people_of_Scottish_descent) [Category:American people of Swiss descent](/wiki/Category:American_people_of_Swiss_descent) [Category:American radio personalities](/wiki/Category:American_radio_personalities) [Category:American radio producers](/wiki/Category:American_radio_producers) [Category:American male rappers](/wiki/Category:American_male_rappers) [Category:American video game designers](/wiki/Category:American_video_game_designers) [Category:Best Original Song Academy Award-winning songwriters](/wiki/Category:Best_Original_Song_Academy_Award-winning_songwriters) [Category:Brit Award winners](/wiki/Category:Brit_Award_winners) [Category:Businesspeople from Michigan](/wiki/Category:Businesspeople_from_Michigan) [Category:Echo (music award) winners](/wiki/Category:Echo_(music_award)_winners) [Category:Grammy Award winners](/wiki/Category:Grammy_Award_winners) [Category:Horrorcore artists](/wiki/Category:Horrorcore_artists) [Category:Living people](/wiki/Category:Living_people) [Category:Male actors from Detroit, Michigan](/wiki/Category:Male_actors_from_Detroit,_Michigan) [Category:Midwest hip hop musicians](/wiki/Category:Midwest_hip_hop_musicians) [Category:People from Warren, Michigan](/wiki/Category:People_from_Warren,_Michigan) [Category:Rappers from Detroit, Michigan](/wiki/Category:Rappers_from_Detroit,_Michigan) [Category:Shady Records artists](/wiki/Category:Shady_Records_artists) [Category:Songwriters from Michigan](/wiki/Category:Songwriters_from_Michigan) [Category:World Music Awards winners](/wiki/Category:World_Music_Awards_winners) [Category:Hardcore hip hop artists](/wiki/Category:Hardcore_hip_hop_artists)