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PHOTOS

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Musicians Who Got Their Start on Disney Channel, From Britney Spears to Olivia Rodrigo

Disney Channel has provided breakthroughs for some of today's biggest pop stars, growing from announcing themselves as, "Hi, I'm [insert name] and you're watching Disney Channel!" to winning...

By [Christina Baez](#) +



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HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL: THE MUSICAL: THE HOLIDAY SPECIAL, Olivia Rodrigo, (aired Dec. 11, 2020). photo: Eric McCandless / ©Disney+ / courtesy Everett Collection
Eric McCandless / ©Disney+ / courtesy Everett Collection

Disney Channel has provided breakthroughs for some of today's biggest pop stars, growing from announcing themselves as, "Hi, I'm [insert name] and you're watching Disney Channel!" to winning Grammys and embarking on sold-out tours.

Former *Mickey Mouse Club* members [Britney Spears \(https://www.billboard.com/music/britney-spears\)](https://www.billboard.com/music/britney-spears), [Christina Aguilera \(https://www.billboard.com/music/christina-aguilera\)](https://www.billboard.com/music/christina-aguilera) and [Justin Timberlake \(https://www.billboard.com/music/justin-timberlake\)](https://www.billboard.com/music/justin-timberlake) grew up to become the faces of teen pop at the turn of the millennium. The following generation of Disney Channel stars, including [Demi Lovato \(https://www.billboard.com/music/demi-lovato\)](https://www.billboard.com/music/demi-lovato), [Miley Cyrus \(https://www.billboard.com/music/miley-cyrus\)](https://www.billboard.com/music/miley-cyrus) and [Selena Gomez \(https://www.billboard.com/music/selena-gomez\)](https://www.billboard.com/music/selena-gomez) grew up in a golden era of the network, complete with drama, lots of music and TV shows. Lovato once even called the group "Disney High."

"We called it 'Disney High' because when there's only a select few of you that can relate to one another, you start dating each other, you become friends with one another, you fall out with one another and then you break up with one another," they said on a [segment of the *In Bed with Nick and Megan* podcast \(https://www.billboard.com/articles/columns/pop/9390171/demi-lovato-disney-high-interview\)](https://www.billboard.com/articles/columns/pop/9390171/demi-lovato-disney-high-interview). "It's just confusing and dramatic, and that's 'Disney High' for you."

The latest batch of Disney stars have taken their careers into their own hands, releasing the types of music that feels most authentic to them, without succumbing to the pressure of being a "role model." [Olivia Rodrigo \(https://www.billboard.com/music/olivia-rodrigo\)](https://www.billboard.com/music/olivia-rodrigo), [Zendaya \(https://www.billboard.com/music/zendaya\)](https://www.billboard.com/music/zendaya), [Bella Thorne \(https://www.billboard.com/music/bella-thorne\)](https://www.billboard.com/music/bella-thorne), [Sabrina Carpenter \(https://www.billboard.com/music/sabrina-carpenter\)](https://www.billboard.com/music/sabrina-carpenter) and [Sofia Carson \(https://www.billboard.com/artist/sofia-carson/\)](https://www.billboard.com/artist/sofia-carson/) are just some of the few who have become popular in the late 2010's.

We've compiled a roundup of musicians who got their star on Disney Channel. See them in our gallery [here](#).

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Photo Credit: Rebecca Sapp/GI

Aly & AJ

Aly Michalka played Keely on 'Phil of the Future' before her sister AJ joined her for the Disney Channel Film 'Cow Belles.' As a duo, Aly & AJ have released four albums and two EPs.

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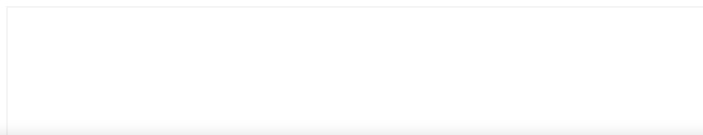
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Photo Credit: Cindy Ord/GI

Bella Thorne

Before releasing an album and two EPs, Bella Thorne played CeCe on Disney Channel's 'Shake It Up.'

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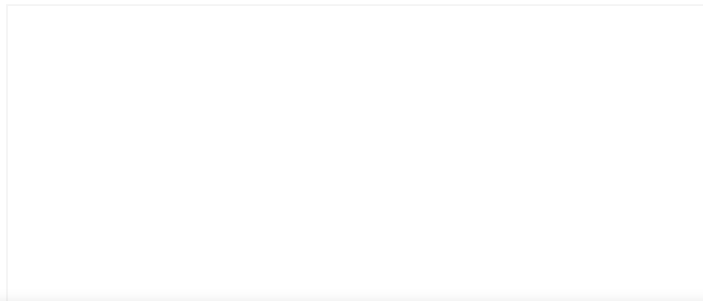
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Photo Credit: Alberto E. Rodriguez/GI

Britney Spears

Before she was a global, Grammy-winning pop superstar with nine studio albums, she was cast in 'The Mickey Mouse Club' in 1992.

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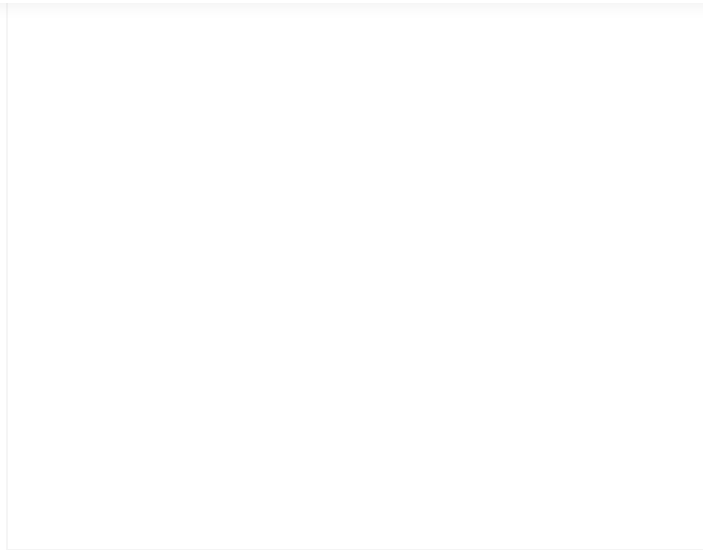
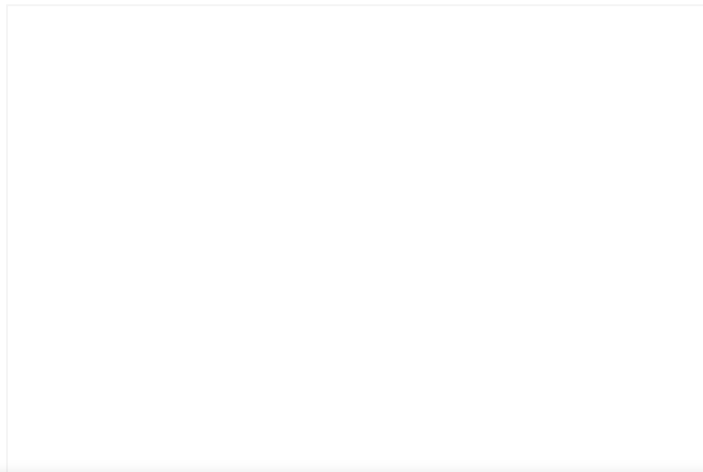
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Photo Credit: Frazer Harrison/GI

Christina Aguilera

Another 'Mickey Mouse Club' alumna is Christina Aguilera, who went on to dominate the pop music scene with nine albums and five Grammy wins.

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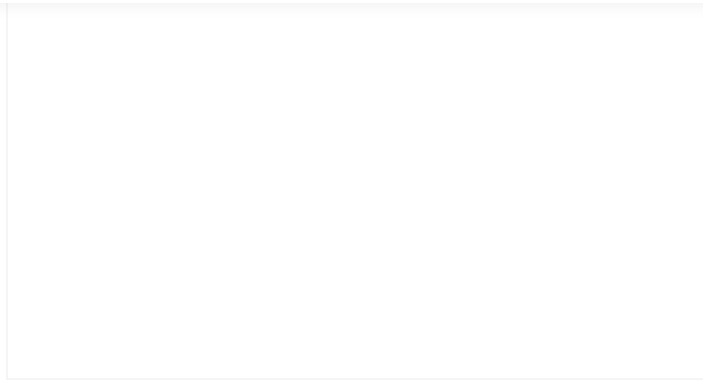
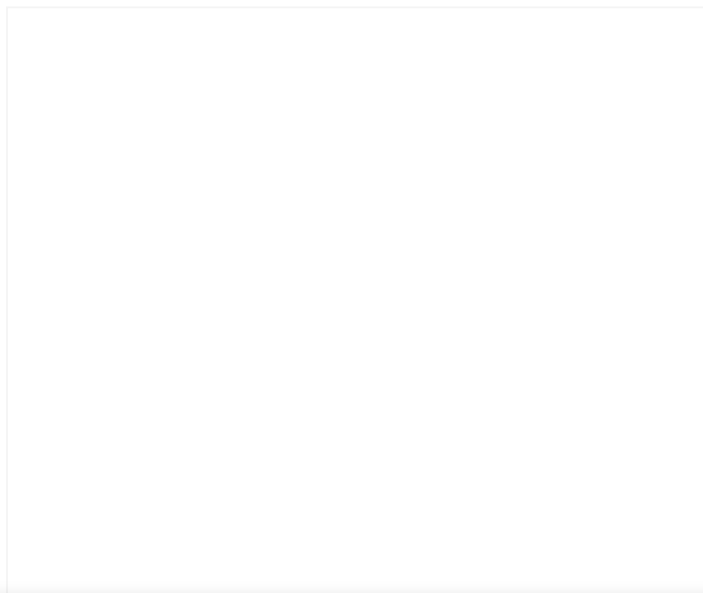
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Photo Credit: Emma McIntyre/GI

Demi Lovato

Demi Lovato made their breakthrough as Mitchie in the 'Camp Rock' film franchise before starring as the titular role in 'Sonny With a Chance.' They then made the transition into music, gaining stardom with seven studio albums.

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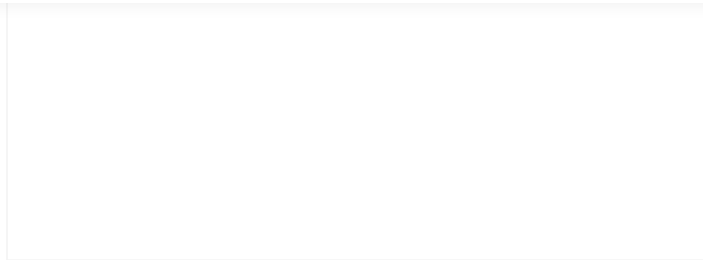
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Photo Credit: Amy Sussman/GI

Dove Cameron

Dove Cameron starred in 'Liv and Maddie' and the 'Descendants' franchise before branching out as a singer. Her sultry 2022 single "Boyfriend" blew up on TikTok and achieved RIAA gold status.

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Photo Credit: Kevin Winter/GI

Hayley Kiyoko

Hayley Kiyoko was the ultimate rocker in the 2010 Disney Channel movie, 'Lemonade Mouth,' before becoming the ultimate music star in real life, releasing two studio albums — 2018's 'Expectations' and the upcoming 2022 album 'Panorama.'

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Hilary Duff

Hilary Duff was Disney Channel's "it girl" as the titular role in the network's 'Lizzie McGuire.' She has since released five albums.



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achieve superstar status as a member of boy band 'NSYNC. In his solo career, he released five albums and won 10 Grammys.

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Photo Credit: Amy Sussman/GI

Miley Cyrus

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Photo Credit: Rich Fury/GI

Olivia Holt

Olivia Holt has had a number of roles in Disney Channel series and films including 'Kickin' It,' 'Girl vs. Monster' and 'I Didn't Do It.' She has since released two EPs: 2016's 'Olivia' and 2021's 'In My Feelings.'

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Photo Credit: Amy Sussman/GI

Olivia Rodrigo

Grammy winner Olivia Rodrigo launched her career with roles in Disney Channel's 'Bizaardvark' and 'High School Musical: The Musical: The Series.' After releasing her Hot 100 chart topper, "Drivers License," Rodrigo unveiled her debut studio album, 'Sour.'

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Photo Credit: Alberto E. Rodriguez/GI

Sabrina Carpenter

Sabrina Carpenter made her breakthrough starring as Maya in 'Girl Meets World.' As a musician, she has released four studio albums.

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Photo Credit: Dimitrios Kambouris/GI

Selena Gomez

Selena Gomez won hearts as Alex in 'Wizards of Waverly Place,' going on to release three albums with Selena Gomez & the Scene, three on her own and even a Spanish-language EP.

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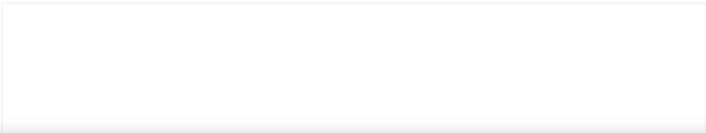


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Photo Credit: Momodu Mansaray/GI

Sofia Carson

Sofia Carson launched her acting career as a guest star on ‘Austin & Ally’ in 2014, before starring as Evie in the ‘Descendants’ franchise. In 2022, she released her self-titled debut album.



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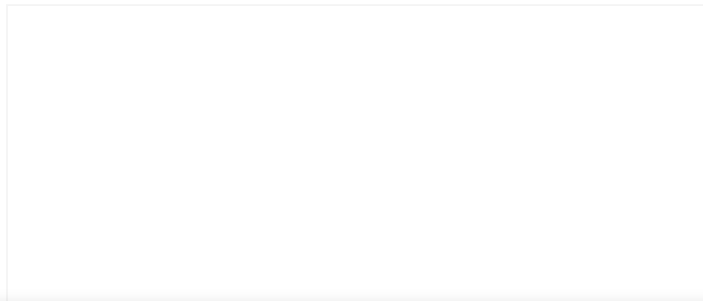
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Photo Credit: Mike Coppola/GI

Vanessa Hudgens

After skyrocketing into superstardom as Gabriella on 'High School Musical,' Vanessa Hudgens released two albums, 2006's 'V' and 2008's 'Identified.'

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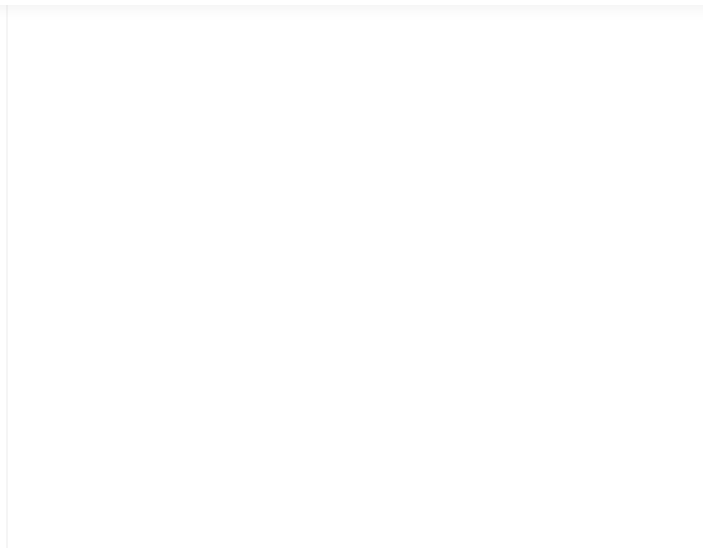
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Photo Credit: Pascal Le Segretain/GI

Zendaya

Before starring in 'Euphoria,' contributing to the show's soundtrack and releasing a number of solo singles, Zendaya starred as Rocky in Disney Channel's 'Shake It Up.'

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