



Johnny Canales

Mexican Singer and TV Host

Paris Hotel

2016

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Bio

Juan José "Johnny" Canales (born 1947 in [General Treviño](#), [Nuevo León](#), Mexico) is a Mexican retired [Tejano](#) singer and former host of the television show "*The Johnny Canales Show*". He was the executive producer for *the show*, which debuted in 1983. His program showcased emerging bands from Mexico and the United States. In 1996, Canales made the transition to the [Telemundo](#) Network. On November 12, 1997, Canales was interviewed for the [UTA Center for Mexican American Studies Oral History Project](#). In 2002, Johnny Canales reached an agreement to bring his show back to Televisa and arranged to start touring again, doing shows in the Southwest part of the United States and Mexico. The show also aired on [TuVision](#) from August 2008 to November 2009. Telemundo canceled the show in 2005, prompting Canales to file a lawsuit against the network. Canales was seeking \$100 million. The suit was dropped.

On May 31, 2009, Canales received a "Veteran of the Year" award from [LULAC](#) for his work on behalf of the [G.I. Forum](#). Canales' and his wife, Nora tried to film a pilot in 2008 but the project came to a standstill after he suffered a series of health problems including a stroke. After heart surgery and physical therapy he has made a full recovery. He continues to have health problems to this day.

Fun Fact: Canales is credited with one of the first live performances of vocalist [Selena](#) by her 13th birthday. He took [Selena y Los Dinos](#) for their first concerts in Mexico.



Ana Barbara

Mexican singer, actress, television personality and model

Paris Hotel

2016

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Bio

Altagracia Ugalde Mota (born January 10, 1971), better known as **Ana Bárbara**, is a Mexican singer, actress, television personality and model. In 1994 she had her professional debut and is one of the leading female figures in [regional Mexican](#) music. She is recognized for her musical talent as well as her sex appeal. She has a distinct vocal range and songwriting and producing talent. In the past two decades, Bárbara has released eleven [studio albums](#), eighteen [compilation albums](#), over thirty music videos, and four music video DVDs. She has sold over 6 million records in Mexico, Central America, South America, and the United States; she is also the recipient of Latin music's most prestigious accolades. In 1988, Bárbara entered the local [Miss Universe](#)-sponsored [Miss Mexico](#) beauty pageant; however she lost at the national level. She started singing at local talent shows, and at times professionally at variety of music events and festivals. In the 1990s she had the opportunity to tour overseas in [Colombia](#) and represent Mexico's [mariachi](#) music. In 1994, after signing with Fonovisa, she created artistic stage name "Ana Bárbara" and launched her self-titled debut album [Ana Bárbara](#).

By the summer of 1996, Bárbara broke through to mainstream international success.

In April 2005, she participated in an anniversary tribute concert held in honor of Latin music icon [Selena](#).

On July 2, 2010 Bárbara released a statement confirming the end of their five-year marriage.

In July 2010, she was involved in a car accident in [Cancún](#) that left a 79-year-old woman dead; In December 2010, Mexico's CNDH (Human Rights National Committee) recommended that the governor and Municipal President of Quintana Roo review the case after a petition was filed by the victim's family claiming investigative fallacies. During the appeal, Bárbara was called to re-testify, but was found innocent of any wrongdoing. After several public and tumultuous incidents, Bárbara experienced depression and [anorexia](#). She confirmed via Twitter in March 2011 that she had "an illness" and was receiving treatment in Spain to improve her overall well-being. She migrated to the [United States](#), [Los Angeles](#) area in 2012 with her three children.

Fun Fact: In 1993, Bárbara was proclaimed the *Ambassador of Ranchera Music*. She also earned the *El Rostro Bonito de El Heraldo de México* ("The Herald's Beautiful Face") award. As a result, she was invited to perform for [Pope John Paul II](#) during a Mass at The Vatican.

La Maquinaria Nortena



Norteno Music Band
Paris Hotel
2016

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Bio

The music group was shaped in Roswell, New Mexico by previous Los Rieleros vocalist Polo Urias in 1994, with sax participant Keith Nieto, percussionist Erick Urias, accordionist/keyboardist Jimmy Torres, and drummer Aarón Urias. The group registered to Fonovisa that same season. In 2006, Nieto divide with Urias and shaped his own edition of La Maquinaria Norteña along with his brothers Rory on accordion and Tony on drums, Sergio "Soar" Soto on vocals (previously of Los Braveros de Peñas), Ivan Gutierrez on bass, and Randy Perez on guitar. Their self-titled debut record made an appearance on Fonovisa in 2007, accompanied by No Existen Barreras in 2008, and La Nueva Period in '09 2009. After considerable touring along with a bus incident that nearly stated their lives, the group required a rest and also briefly reunited with Urias. *Vive en Mi*, their 4th recording, was released in past due 2013, and was their highest charting arranged to date.

In the summertime of 2015, La Maquinaria Norteña released the one "Em fun??o de Que Amarte," which positioned well in the Mexican Regional TOP. Full-length record *Ya Dime Adiós* premiered within the fall. 2016's *Generacion Maquinaria Est. 2006* premiered the next summertime and debuted near the top of the Latin graph. A year afterwards, La Maquinaria Nortena teamed up with *Energia Nortena* for *12 Romanticas con Sax, Vol. 1*.

Fun Fact: They are the band that brings in the most income making over \$35,000 per concert.



La Unica Internacional Sonora Santanera Arturo Ortiz Arias & Antonio Mendez Hernandez

Music Band
Paris Hotel
2016

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Bio

Sonora Santanera is an orchestra playing [tropical music](#) from Mexico with over 60 years of history. The band was founded in 1955 by Carlos Colorado in the state of [Tabasco](#), Mexico. In 1960, comic actor [Jesús “Palillo” Martínez](#) helped the band play in [Mexico City](#) and get a professional record deal under the name of Sonora Santanera. From that time until 1986, the band changed members, but remained focused on Carlos Colorado, the sole musical arranger for the group. Colorado died in a bus accident in 1986, causing some members to split off and form another orchestra. In the 2000s, more bands appeared using the name of Sonora Santanera as part of their names, leading the orchestra to pursue legal actions and another name change in 2007 to the current name Sonora Santanera de Carlos Colorado. The oldest members are Arturo Ortiz, the current director, Sergio Celada and Antonio Méndez. From the original eight members the band has gained and lost members who have either left to pursue other interests or have died. The band consists of trumpets, bass, piano, percussion and four principle voices. It performs musical styles such as mambo, cha-cha-cha, bolero, [cumbia](#) and [merengue](#).

During their career, they have received numerous awards, recognitions and gold and silver records and have traveled extensively in the United States, [Central](#) and South America. They have released sixty recordings, with their music featured in many films and television shows. They have received awards such as Las Lunas del Auditorio. In 2009, the band was included in the Salón de la Fama, Mexico's musical Hall of Fame.

Fun Fact: They were featured on a [national lottery](#) ticket in 2010.



Don McLean
American *singer*-songwriter
Paris Hotel
2019

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Bio

Donald McLean III (born October 2, 1945) is an American singer-songwriter, best known for his 1971 hit song "[American Pie](#)", an 8-and-a-half-minute folk rock "cultural touchstone". His other hit singles include "[Vincent](#)". McLean's composition "[And I Love You So](#)" has been recorded by [Elvis Presley](#), [Perry Como](#), [Helen Reddy](#), [Glen Campbell](#), and others, and in 2000, [Madonna](#) had a hit with a rendition of "American Pie".

When McLean was 15, his father died. McLean graduated from [Iona Preparatory School](#) in 1963, and briefly attended [Villanova University](#), dropping out after four months. McLean became associated with the famed folk music agent [Harold Leventhal](#) for several months before teaming up with his personal manager, Herb Gart, for 18 years. McLean continued to tour the United States, Canada and Europe (2011, 2012) and Australia (2013). During 2018, McLean embarked on a world tour with concerts in North America, UK, Ireland, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Israel, Norway and Finland. In 2022, McLean is scheduled to perform a 35-date tour through Europe, starting in Wales and ending in Austria, for the 50th anniversary of "[American Pie](#)".

In February 2002, "American Pie" was inducted into the [Grammy Hall of Fame](#). In 2004, McLean was inducted into the [Songwriters Hall of Fame](#). In February 2012 McLean won the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards Life Time Achievement award. The biography *The Don McLean Story: Killing Us Softly With His Songs* was published in 2007.

Don McLean was married twice (Carol Sauvion 1969-1976 , they had no children and Patrisha Shnier McLean 1987-2016), they have two children, Jackie and Wyatt, and two grandchildren, Rosa and Mya. The end of the marriage saw McLean arrested and charged with misdemeanor domestic violence stemming from an incident at their home in Camden, Maine. McLean paid about \$3,000 in fines and was not sentenced to any jail time. McLean is now in a relationship with model Paris Dunn, who is 48 years.

Fun Fact: McLean is an ambassador for Teen Cancer America and performed at the Teen Cancer America and UCLA Health fundraising Backyard Concert in 2018. During the show, McLean sang a duet of his song "Vincent" with [Ed Sheeran](#).

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Pete "Big Elvis" Vallee
Singer, Elvis Impersonator

Bio

Pete Vallee, born 1965 in Memphis, TN - known professionally as **Pete "Big Elvis" Vallee**, is an [Elvis impersonator](#). At one stage and possibly even now, he is the world's heaviest Elvis impersonator. The youngest of four children, Vallee grew up in a house that had pictures of his mother Delores Vallee, who was a singer, with [Kitty Wells](#), [Elvis Presley](#) and others. At the age of 13, Vallee learned to play guitar. Even at that age, he was quite sizable. One day when he was singing in a choir, his pastor heard him and commented that he sounded like Elvis. He later was in [Washington](#) as part of a group called Ricky and the Starfires. Vallee started his Elvis act around 1996 and came to [Las Vegas](#) in 1997. He has been described as one of the longest-running, and most unusual, Elvis impersonators in Las Vegas. He performs at The Piano Bar at [Harrah's Casino](#) doing Elvis' 40-minute sets three times on afternoons. During his performances, he handed out maracas and Elvis wigs to audience members and invite them to get involved. In a 2004 [Las Vegas Mercury](#) article, Vallee has said that there are three other Elvis love children other than himself. One is a woman called [Desiree Presley](#) who Vallee said Presley when he was alive acknowledged as his daughter. He said the other two were male. Valle's publicist, Lucille Star said she believed Vallee was Presley's son. They were hoping to get a sample of [Lisa Marie Presley's](#) DNA. He has had two birth certificates. One from Memphis, the other from Canada. Vallee said that when his mother Delores was dying, she told him that she had an affair with Presley who was introduced to her by Kitty Wells. Apparently, his mother had an affair with Presley in 1964.

On July 15, 2010, he married Amanda Lasham, the daughter of Robert & Letitia Lasham. She is of Hawaiian and Philippine extraction and was raised in Hawaii.

Fun Facts: In 2005, he weighed 960 pounds (68st 8 lb, 435 kg). Five years later, he had dropped down to 450 pounds (32st 2 lb, 204 kg). At one stage he had to weigh himself on the scales in a post office which he had to access from the back entrance so he wouldn't be seen. He achieved his weight loss with diet and exercise, and with help from his manager Lucille Star.



Maria Celeste Arraras
broadcast journalist, author, and television personality
Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino

Bio

María Celeste Arrarás Mangual (born September 27, 1960 in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico), better known as **María Celeste**, is a [Puerto Rican](#) broadcast journalist, author, and television personality. In 1978, Arrarás left her native Puerto Rico to attend [Loyola University](#) in New Orleans, Louisiana, where she majored in communications at Loyola University.

She has won three national [Emmy Awards](#) for journalism. In 2005, she became the first female recipient of the Legacy Award by Broadcast and Multi Channel for outstanding achievement in Hispanic Television. In 2006, Arrarás was included on the cover of "Newsweek" magazine, as one of the 20 most powerful women of the next generation of leaders. In August 2018, María Celeste was awarded with a Doctorate Honoris Causa from the Universidad Central de Bayamon in Puerto Rico. Until August 2020, Arrarás spent two decades as the host and managing editor of "Al Rojo Vivo con María Celeste". Her program aired daily in the U.S. and in 15 Latin American countries, for a total daily audience of 35 million viewers. Her popularity has made her one of the most influential Hispanic figures in social platforms, with millions of followers around the world and in 2019 she made her debut in the Hollywood Reporter's Social Climber Chart at #5 of all TV Personalities. Maria Celeste is also Executive Producer and screenplay writer for "Selena's Secret" a miniseries based on the bestselling book of the same title that she wrote about the murder of singer [Selena Quintanilla](#). In 2019, Maria Celeste received the St Jude Hospital Lifetime Achievement Award. As of the Summer of 2021 Maria Celeste has joined CNN en Español as the host of their new Sunday Prime Time show. She also became the first Hispanic opinion maker contributor for Facebook's new platform "Bulletin." She also launched her YouTube channel and premiered "MC Live," a weekly one-on-one interview program that quickly surpassed 1 million views. Arrarás is also an investigative reporter and writer, and has authored several books. Arrarás has been the judge of the [Miss Universe](#) Pageant on two occasions. She is a vocal environmental and animal rights activist. Maria Celeste is a supporter of Para la Naturaleza, a non-profit organization dedicated to environmental conservation and historic preservation in Puerto Rico. She is also an avid supporter and advocate of other organizations including, [Autism Speaks](#). Arrarás currently lives in Miami with her three children, Julian Enrique, Lara Giuliana, and Adrian Vadim.

Fun Fact: In 1971, she won three medals (one gold, one silver, and one bronze) at the Central American and Caribbean Swimming Championships. She qualified to compete at the 1976 [Summer Olympics](#) in Montreal, Canada, but was unable to compete after she contracted mononucleosis, one week before the games began.

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“Yuya” Mariand Castrejon Castaned

Entrepreneur, Influential Personality of the internet and Mexican youtuber
Paris Hotel
2018

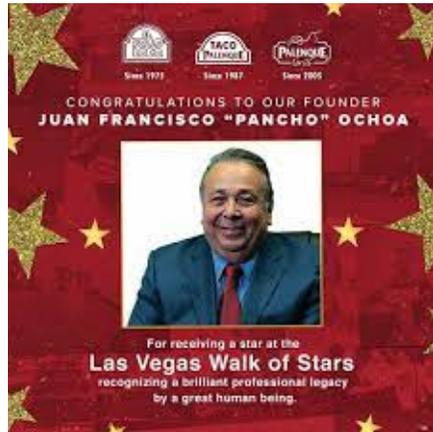
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Mariand Castrejón Castañeda (born March 13, 1993), better known as Yuya, is a Mexican [beauty vlogger](#) and [YouTuber](#). Her given name, Mariand, is a combination of her parents' names, Maribel and Andrés. She has a brother, Sergio, who also has a YouTube channel. Her uncle gave her the nickname Yuya after the Mexican TV character *Yuya, la gorda*. She was in a relationship with Beto Pasillas, also a YouTuber, but broke up in June 2019. She started dating singer Siddhartha in August of 2019. On June 12, 2021, Yuya announced she is pregnant via Instagram, and uploaded a video on her channel sharing her experience with pregnancy.

Since 2017, she has been the Ambassador of Change in the Sustainable Development Program of the United Nations (UN). In October 2017, she launched her makeup line, which is present in different Latin American countries such as Peru, Colombia and Chile. By November 2018, its YouTube channel exceeded 22 million users, making it the most popular youtuber in Mexico, the second in Latin America and the number 32 worldwide. According to the video platform itself, the appeal of the original content produced by “Yuya” lies in its simple style and language that facilitate the identification of the viewers with it and make them feel like part of their inner circle; The theme of beauty and personal care would be another factor in its success. She has written two books: *Secrets of Yuya* (2014) and *Confessions of Yuya* (2015).

Fun Fact: She had 2.5 billion views on her channel as of 2020.

Juan Francisco “Pancho” Ochoa



Restaurant owner and Businessman
Paris Hotel

2018

[More](#)

Bio

Juan Francisco Ochoa, original from Sinaloa, Mexico, better known by family and friends as “Pancho”, had the grand opening of El Pollo Loco in 1975 in Guasave, Mexico. Because of his big success, in 1980 El Pollo Loco opened its first door in Los Angeles, California. By 1979, Pancho’s family and friends had opened 85 El Pollo Loco restaurants in 20 cities in northern Mexico serving the chicken as his mother prepared it, marinated in the family recipe with herbs, spices and citrus juices, and then roasted over flames to perfection. In 1983, El Pollo Loco was purchased by Denny’s. The Ochoa family retain the rights to operate Pollo Loco in Mexico.

In 1987, his passion and commitment led him to created a second unique concept of Mexican cuisine like never before tasted in the United States: Taco Palenque. Through all the years of dedication, passion, and support from his family, he build a successful business and the popularity of the eateries translated to multiple Taco Palenque locations in several cities of Texas. Today, Taco Palenque has fifteen hundred employees. **Fun Fact:** Palenque Group continues to thrive by it’s Founder principle: respect, kindness, and courtesy to provide the best food to its guests and a family ambience experience.