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Wayne Newton
Singer, Actor
Frontier Hotel
2004

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Bio

Wayne Newton is a popular American Singer and Actor. He was born April 3, 1942 in the United of America. One of the best-known entertainers in Las Vegas, he is known by the nicknames "The Midnight Idol, Mr. Las Vegas and Mr Entertainment." His well known songs include 1972's "[Daddy, Don't You Walk So Fast](#)" (his biggest hit, peaking at No. 4 on the [Hot 100](#)), "[Years](#)" (1980),^[1] and his vocal version of "[Red Roses for a Blue Lady](#)" (1965). His [signature song "Danke Schoen"](#) (1963) was notably used in the score for [Ferris Bueller's Day Off](#) (1986).

Fun Fact: He has an Arabian Horse breeding program and has produced six generations of horses, breeding over 700 foals, with 96 champions as of 2014. Newton was given the Arabian Horse Breeders' Association Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007. He continues to be directly involved in management of his horses, planning the breeding program and assisting his ranch staff during foaling season.



Liberace

American pianist, singer, and actor
Riviera Hotel
2005

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Bio

Władziu Valentino Liberace^[nb 1] (May 16, 1919 – February 4, 1987) was an American pianist, singer, and actor.^[2] A child prodigy born in Wisconsin to parents of Italian and Polish origin, he enjoyed a career spanning four decades of concerts, recordings, television, motion pictures, and endorsements. At the height of his fame from the 1950s to 1970s, he was the highest-paid entertainer in the world^[3] with established [concert residencies](#) in [Las Vegas](#) and an international touring schedule. He embraced a lifestyle of flamboyant excess both on and off stage, earning the nickname "Mr. Showmanship".

Fun Fact: In childhood, Liberace suffered from a speech impediment, and as a teen, from the taunts of neighborhood children, who mocked him for his [effeminate](#) personality, his avoidance of sports, and his fondness for cooking and the piano. His New York City performance at [Madison Square Garden](#) in 1954, which earned him a record \$138,000 (equivalent to \$1,330,000 in 2020) for one performance. He owned an antiques store in [Beverly Hills, California](#), and a restaurant in Las Vegas for many years. He even published cookbooks...the book features recipes "from his seven dining rooms" (of his Hollywood home). In 1953 he designed and built his first celebrity house in Sherman Oaks, California on Valley Vista Blvd in Los Angeles. The house with its piano theme appearing throughout, included a piano-shaped swimming pool which remains today.

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Rich Little

Canadian-American impressionist, voice actor
New York New York
2005

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Bio

Little was born in [Ottawa, Ontario](#), Canada. His father, Lawrence Peniston Little, was a surgeon who served as a [lieutenant commander](#) in the [Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve](#) during [World War II](#). His mother, Elizabeth Maud (née Wilson), was a housewife. Little has been appearing in [Las Vegas](#) since the mid-1960s. Since 2015, Little has been a regular performer at the [Laugh Factory](#) in the [Tropicana](#) hotel in Las Vegas.

He also could do voices of U.S. Presidents: John F. Kennedy, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton, both George Bushes and Barack Obama...Rich Little has a voice for every administration. The son of a doctor in Ottawa, Little started his "career" at the age of 12 when he answered back to his teacher in their own voices. Observing the teachers in action was infinitely more fun than paying attention to class work. To get dates, he'd find out a girl's favorite actor, then call her up imitating that actor's voice. Then when Little showed up, he's say," Sorry, Gary (Grant) can't make it." This stopped when a girl told him her favorite was Lassie.

Little's expert impression have also been used seriously, such as the time he stepped in for stars that were unable to do their own re-dubbings on soundtracks. David Niven's vocal cords were gone due to illness in his last film, "Curse of the Pink Panther and Peter Sellers himself was gone by the end of The Trail of the Pink Panther, so Little provided both voices for these films.

Little became a [naturalized citizen of the United States](#) in 2010.

Fun Fact:

His greatest fear...a sore throat. "Other people get a cold and they just get a cold. I get a cold and John Wayne gets a cold, Nixon gets a cold and Truman Capote get the sniffles. I get a cold and it's all over."

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Line Renaud

Singer, Actress

Paris Hotel

2005

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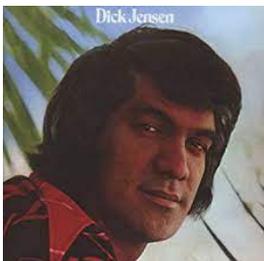
Bio

Line Renaud was born Jacqueline Ente in Pont-de-Nieppe on 2 July 1928. Line showed the first signs of her talent in primary school, when at the age of seven she won an amateur competition. During the [Second World War](#), Jacqueline's father spend five years away from the family. During this time, Jacqueline was brought up by her mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Her grandmother had a café in [Armentières](#), where she used to sing for passing soldiers. She auditioned at Conservatoire de Lille, singing songs written by [Loulou Gasté](#). [Gasté](#) was at that time a well-known French composer. At the end of the audition, she was approached by the director of Radio Lille who was looking for a singer. She took the pseudonym of Jacqueline Ray and joined the station singing a repertoire based on the songs by Loulou Gasté. In 1945, she moved to Paris and got her first gig, where she was introduced to Gasté. She was 16, and Gasté was 37. He became her mentor, changing her image and her name. In 1950, she married Loulou Gasté and stayed with him until his death in 1995. In 2000, a Golden Palm Star on the [Palm Springs, Walk of Stars](#) was dedicated to her.^[2]

In 1954, while performing at [Moulin Rouge](#), she met [Bob Hope](#) and subsequently appeared in five episodes of [The Bob Hope Show](#) in the US. During this trip, she also sang in New York) and Los Angeles, appeared on [Johnny Carson](#), [Dinah Shore](#) and [Ed Sullivan](#) shows and recorded with [Dean Martin](#). In 1959, she started a four-year run of [Plaisir de Paris](#) for Henri Varna and then went on to perform in a [Las Vegas](#) show at [Dunes](#). In France, in 1973 she created an American show which she toured for two years around the country. She then helped [Casino de Paris](#), threatened by closing, by putting on a show called 'Paris – Line' with Loulou Gasté, which ran for four years. In the 1980s, she worked in France and in 1989 she toured around Japan.

In 1985, she created l'Association des Artistes Contre le Sida and organised televised art events which enabled her to raise funds for helping [AIDS](#) scientific research in France.

Fun Fact: In 2009, as Vice-President of [Sidaction](#), she condemned the statements of Pope [Benedict XVI](#), who claimed condoms promoted behavior which causes AIDS.



Dick Jensen

Music Performer
Frontier Hotel
2005

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Bio

Richard Hiram Jensen (April 9, 1942 – June 21, 2006), was a live musical performer of the [Rhythm and Blues](#), [Soul](#), and [Gospel](#) genres, born in [Kalihi](#), [Hawaii](#) on the island of [Oahu](#). Dick Jensen was a well-known figure in the Waikiki and Las Vegas nightlife of the 1960s through the 1980s.

Nicknamed "The Giant," Jensen was a prime mover of nightclub shows and a favorite of audiences because of his belting voice and imposing physical performances on stage. His nickname was linked to his 6-foot-plus height but also reflected his outsize talent as a singer-dancer in shows from New York to Las Vegas. In 1968 he was the one-time opening act for the [Rolling Stones](#) and had become an international performer, signing with Don Costa Productions^[4] and began performing at the El Quid in [Mexico City](#). In 1970, he was appearing at the Century Plaza in New York City,^[5] in his debut of that city. In 1970,^[6] 1971,^[7] 1972^[8] and 1973,^[9] he appeared at the [Copacabana](#) in [New York](#),^[10] aptly being compared to [James Brown](#), the superstar most analogous to Jensen's onstage style. He branched out into acting in the late 70's and 80's with guest starring roles on popular television shows "The Islander", "Hawaii Five-O", "Magnum", "Island Son" and "Jake and the Fatman".

In his later years, Jensen became a [born again](#) evangelical Christian minister.

He died of [Lou Gehrig's Disease](#), complicated by heart surgery and a series of mini-strokes, which took his legs before it took his life on June 21, 2006

Fun Fact: He was noted for his glide — a proto-Moonwalk — well before Michael Jackson made it fashionable.

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Frank Marino
Female Impersonator
Rivera Hotel
2005

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Frank Marino (born November 20, 1963 in [Brooklyn, New York](#)) is a [female impersonator](#) dubbed "Ms. Las Vegas" for his longtime starring role as [Joan Rivers](#) in the [Las Vegas drag revue](#) *Frank Marino's Divas Las Vegas*, which played at [The Linq](#) (formerly known as Imperial Palace and The Quad) on the [Las Vegas Strip](#) until June 2018. Famous for his lavish on-stage wardrobe (much of which was designed by [Bob Mackie](#), who has also done fashions for Rivers), Marino has received two [Las Vegas Walk of Fame](#) stars^[2] and received another star when Las Vegas Mayor [Oscar Goodman](#) honored his hard work and commitment to the Las Vegas performance world with "Frank Marino Day" on February 1, 2005.^[3] He held the unofficial record for the longest continuous performance run at a single casino in Las Vegas when he played Rivers for more than 20 years at the [Riviera Hotel and Casino](#). In 2010, Marino moved his show to the Imperial Palace Hotel and Casino, and renamed it "Frank Marino's Divas Las Vegas".

He has appeared both as his Joan Rivers persona and as himself in several movies and TV shows.

Frank Marino is the highest-paid female impersonator in the world bringing in over \$2.5 million a year for his show *Divas Las Vegas* and is worth over \$20 million. He has earned the title of "Entertainer of the Century" from *Las Vegas Today Magazine*. In July 2021 Frank was recognized as [the undisputed Queen of Las Vegas and the world's most successful tribute artist!](#)

Fun Fact: Alex Schechter, Marino's partner, proposed to Frank Marino onstage at The Quad Showroom on Tuesday, July 2, 2013.



Mel Larson

American professional stock car racing driver

Circus Circus

2006

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Bio

Mel Larson (October 1, 1929 – November 1, 2016) was an American professional [stock car racing](#) driver. He was a driver in the [NASCAR Winston Cup Series](#) from 1955 to 1978. He was one of the founders of the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. HE was a track owner himself and was a co-founder of Las Vegas Motor Speedway. Mel also developed the heliport for Mercy Air, was inducted into the Southern Nevada Sports Hall of Fame and has a star on the Las Vegas Walk of Stars, at Circus Circus, naturally. A public relations and marketing pioneer, racing aficionado, and pilot, Mel Larson was well respected for both his affable nature and his extraordinary marketing expertise, most notably demonstrated as executive vice president of Circus Circus properties for many years. Mel's wife, Marilyn, wished to honor his memory in perpetuity while providing the Mel Larson Chair in Marketing the ability to innovate in the classroom in the discipline of marketing, promote the Lee Business School by presenting cutting edge research at national and international conferences, and inspire and encourage student's in marketing.

Fun Fact: Mel piloting his helicopter to the top of the old MGM Grand when it was on fire in 1980 to rescue people and fly them to safety. Larson also pursuing and helping to apprehend a thief during a chase through the Sahara parking lot featuring Mel's pink Cadillac with the Circus Circus motif. Larson used tactics he learned racing on the NASCAR circuit to apprehend the suspect by spinning him out.

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Richard MacDonlad

American Sculpture
New York New York
2006

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Bio

Richard MacDonald (born 1946) is a California-based contemporary figurative artist known for his bronze sculptures and his association with [Cirque Du Soleil](#). His work portrays "the beauty of the human body and the spirit that drives it. He works consistently with models throughout the process of creating a sculpture, often celebrated dancers, performers, and athletes. Educated in painting and illustration at the [Art Center College of Design](#), MacDonald was successful as a commercial illustrator until his late thirties when a fire destroyed his studio, along with the accumulated works of his career as painter and illustrator. Subsequently, he began sculpting in earnest and within ten years became one of the most collected present-day figurative sculptors in America. His work has been acquired for the permanent collections of corporations such as AT&T, IBM, and Anheuser-Busch, as well as notable private collections. He is an advocate of neo-realism and figurative art, and has fostered emerging and professional artists through annual international Masters Workshops.

Macdonald did not become a full-time sculptor until 1983. Prior to his sculpting career, he worked as an illustrator. Many of his illustrations were for the NBA and the NFL. He also did illustrations for the Olympics. However, after working as an illustrator for over 10 years, Macdonald was ready to try something new. While he had created sculptures out of clay, Macdonald had never used bronze. He learned the basics of bronze sculpting and created his first sculpture. He exhibited it in his gallery. The sculpture quickly sold and Macdonald continued growing his new career by taking on several major projects, such as creating a sculpture of Stephen F. Austin for the Texas sesquicentennial.

Fun Fact: For the [1996 Summer Olympics](#), MacDonald created [The Flair](#), a 26-foot-tall sculpture of a gymnast. As with all the monuments he has completed, MacDonald designed the plaza on which *The Flair* sits, including a large reflective pool and fountain. The original sculpture, "The Flair", was a gift from the artist to the city of Atlanta and the Olympic athletes.