



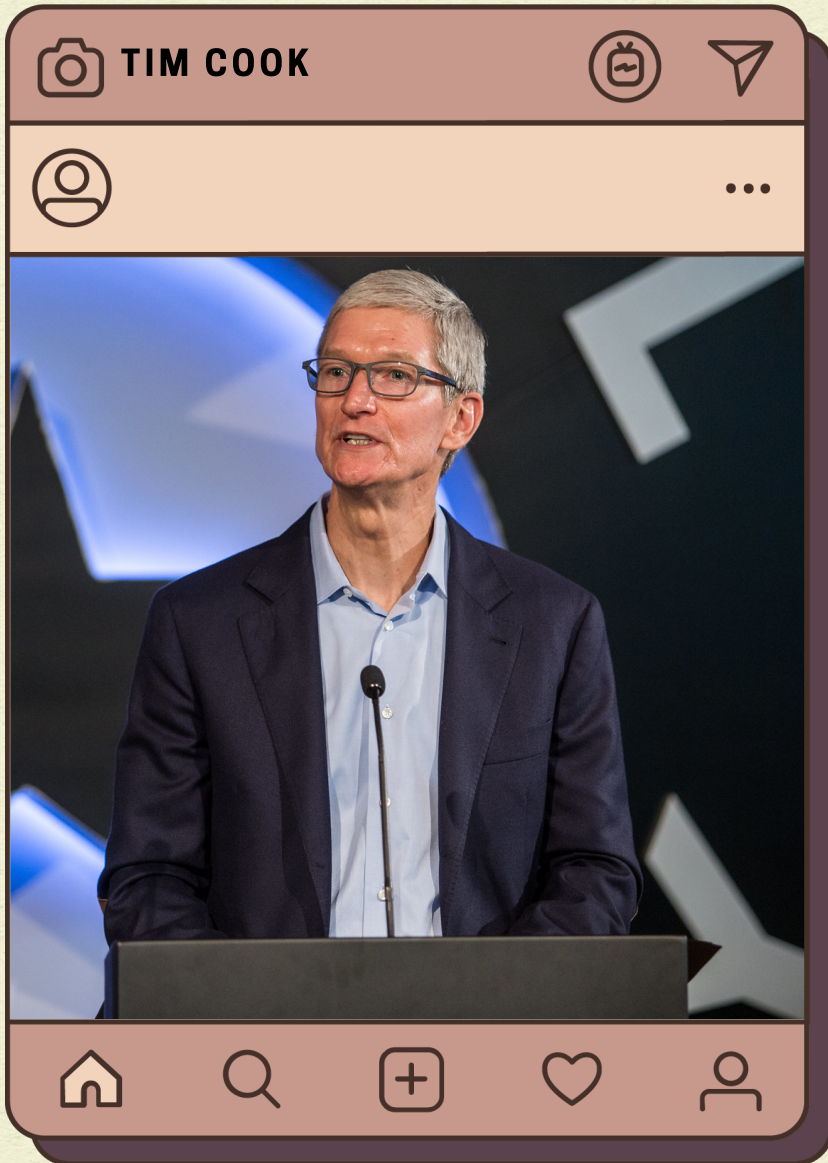
LGBT+ Pride Month

EAST CENTRAL PROUDLY CELEBRATES PRIDE MONTH, WHICH COMMEMORATES THE EVENTS OF JUNE 1969 AND WORKS TO ACHIEVE EQUAL JUSTICE AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR LGBT+ AMERICANS.

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LGBT+ PRIDE MONTH

JUNE 2022

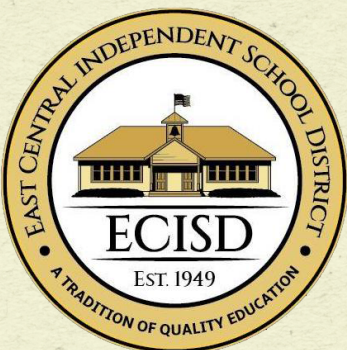


Timothy Donald Cook (born November 1, 1960) is an American business executive who has been the chief executive officer of Apple Inc. since 2011. Cook previously served as the company's chief operating officer under its co-founder Steve Jobs.

Cook joined Apple in March 1998 as a senior vice president for worldwide operations, and then served as the executive vice president for worldwide sales and operations.

He was made the chief executive on August 24, 2011, prior to Jobs' death in October of that year. During his tenure as the chief executive, he has advocated for the political reformation of international and domestic surveillance, cybersecurity, American manufacturing, and environmental preservation. Since 2011 when he took over Apple, to 2020, Cook doubled the company's revenue and profit, and the company's market value increased from \$348 billion to \$1.9 trillion.

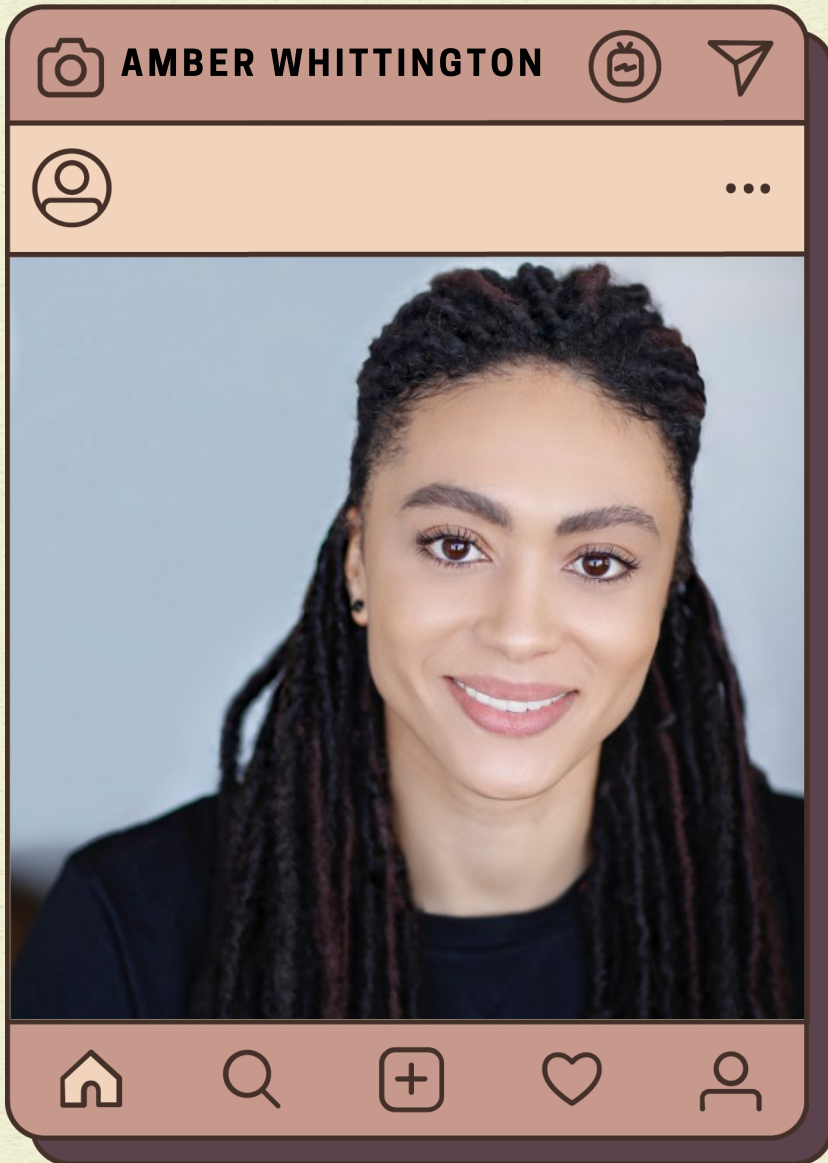
In 2014, Cook became the first chief executive of a Fortune 500 company to publicly come out as gay. Cook also serves on the boards of directors of Nike, Inc. and the National Football Foundation, and is a trustee of Duke University. Outside of Apple, Cook engages in philanthropy, and in March 2015, he said he planned to donate his fortune to charity.



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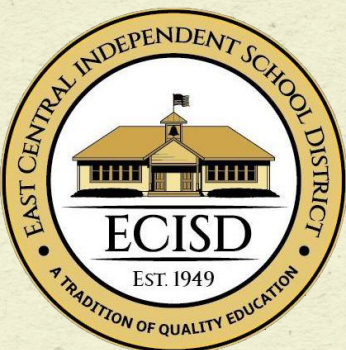


Amber Whittington (September 17, 1985), who is popularly known for Amber's Closet, is an American YouTuber, basketball player, actress and activity.

Amber originally started her YouTube channel to help others struggling with identity, using comedy, vlogging, and honest conversation as conduits for open interaction and expression. She has since transformed her online presence into an influential force on social media, using humor and motivation to broadcast to a loyal following of over 600,000 YouTube subscribers.

When asked "What is the most meaningful thing a fan has ever said to you" by ivy.com, Amber stated, "Some of my subscribers almost bring me to tears weekly, especially when I meet them in person. The most memorable have always been the ones that say, 'You saved me.... You made me realize that I am amazing for who I am. I love myself because of you.'"

Whittington also played basketball for California State University-Los Angeles from 2006-2009. In her final season, she led the team in scoring and was fourth in rebounding. Prior to college, she was the Most Valuable Player at Sacramento City College and was the team's MVP all four years at Christian Brothers High School.



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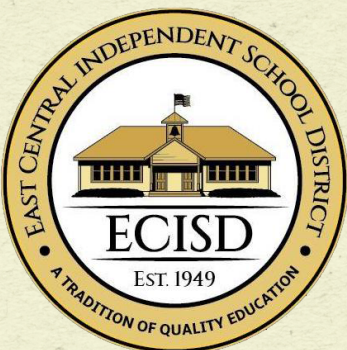
Sally Kristen Ride (May 26, 1951 – July 23, 2012) was an American astronaut and physicist. Born in Los Angeles, she joined NASA in 1978, and in 1983 became the first American woman in space.

She was the third woman in space overall, after USSR cosmonauts Valentina Tereshkova (1963) and Svetlana Savitskaya (1982).

Ride remains the youngest American astronaut to have traveled to space, having done so at the age of 32.

After flying twice on the Orbiter Challenger, she left NASA in 1987. Ride worked for two years at Stanford University's Center for International Security and Arms Control, then at the University of California, San Diego, primarily researching nonlinear optics and Thomson scattering. She served on the committees that investigated the Challenger and Columbia Space Shuttle disasters, the only person to participate in both.

Having been married to astronaut Steven Hawley during her spaceflight years and in a private, long-term relationship with former Women's Tennis Association player Tam O'Shaughnessy in her years after, she is the earliest space traveler to have been recognized as LGBT.



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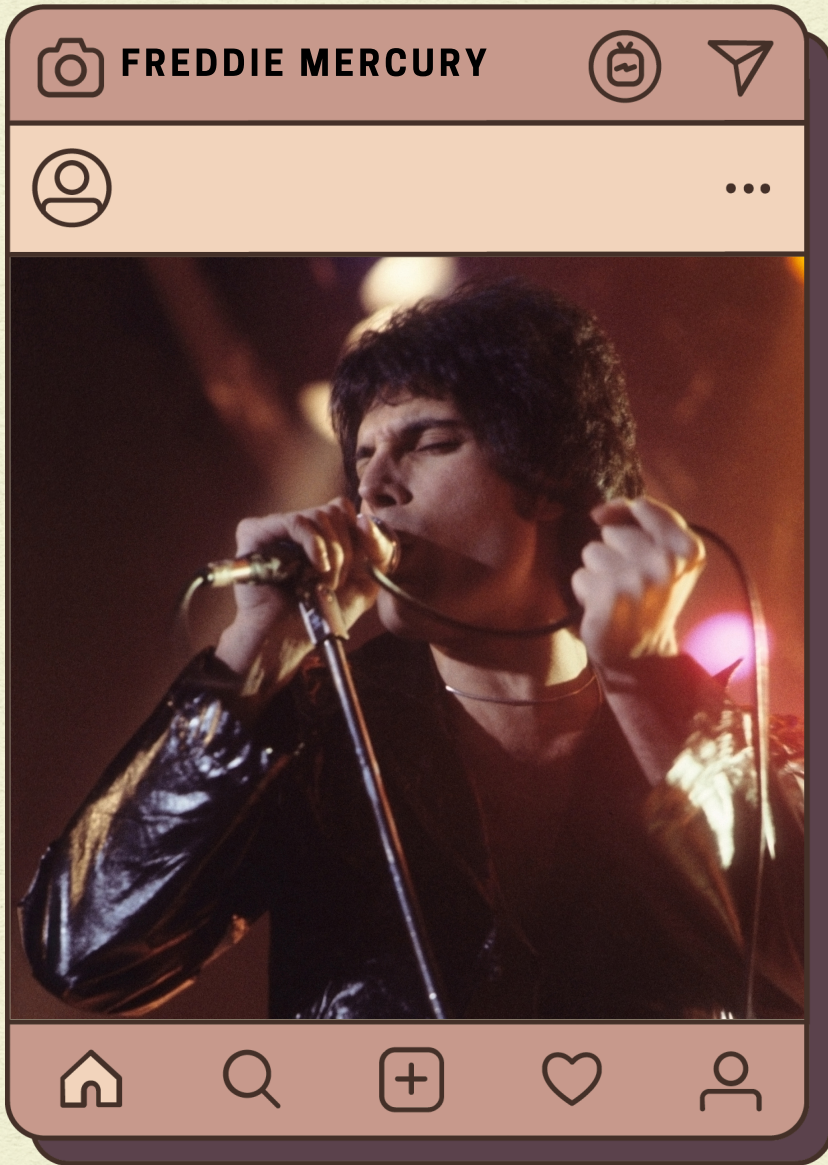
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Freddie Mercury (born Farrokh Bulsara; September 5, 1946 – 24 November 24, 1991) was a British singer, songwriter, record producer, and lead vocalist of the rock band Queen. Regarded as one of the greatest singers in the history of rock music, he was known for his flamboyant stage persona and four-octave vocal range. Mercury defied the conventions of a rock frontman, with his highly theatrical style influencing the artistic direction of Queen.

Born in 1946 in Zanzibar to Parsi-Indian parents, he attended English-style boarding schools in India from the age of eight and returned to Zanzibar after secondary school. In 1964, his family fled the Zanzibar Revolution, moving to Middlesex, England. Having studied and written music for years, he formed Queen in 1970 with guitarist Brian May and drummer Roger Taylor. Mercury wrote numerous hits for Queen, including "Killer Queen", "Bohemian Rhapsody", "Somebody to Love", "We Are the Champions", "Don't Stop Me Now", and "Crazy Little Thing Called Love". His charismatic stage performances often saw him interact with the audience, as displayed at the 1985 Live Aid concert. He also led a solo career and served as a producer and guest musician for other artists.

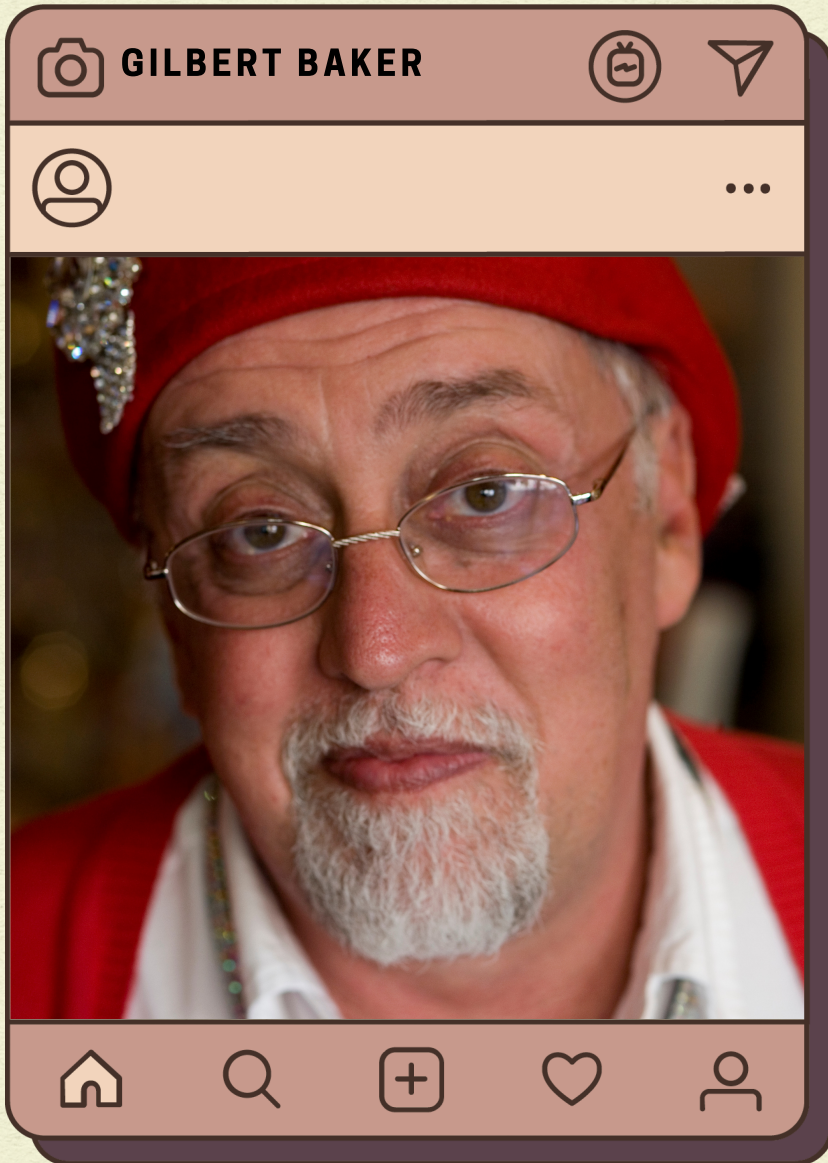
Mercury died in 1991 at age 45 due to complications from AIDS. Mercury was posthumously inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2001, the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2003, and the UK Music Hall of Fame in 2004.



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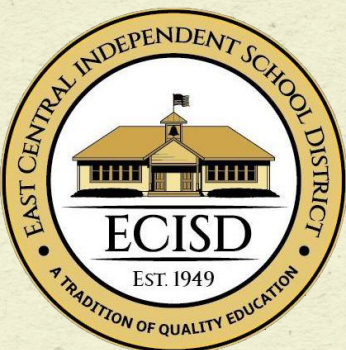


Gilbert Baker (June 2, 1951 – March 31, 2017) was an American artist, LGBT rights activist, and designer of the rainbow flag (1978), a worldwide symbol of LGBTQ pride. His flag became widely associated with LGBT rights causes, a symbol of gay pride that has become ubiquitous in the decades since its debut. California state senator Scott Wiener said Baker "helped define the modern LGBT movement."

In 2015, the Museum of Modern Art ranked the rainbow flag as an internationally recognized symbol as important as the recycling symbol.

The colors on the Rainbow Flag reflect the diversity of the LGBT community. When Baker raised the first rainbow flags at San Francisco Pride (his group raised two flags at the Civic Center) on June 25, 1978, it comprised eight symbolic colors.

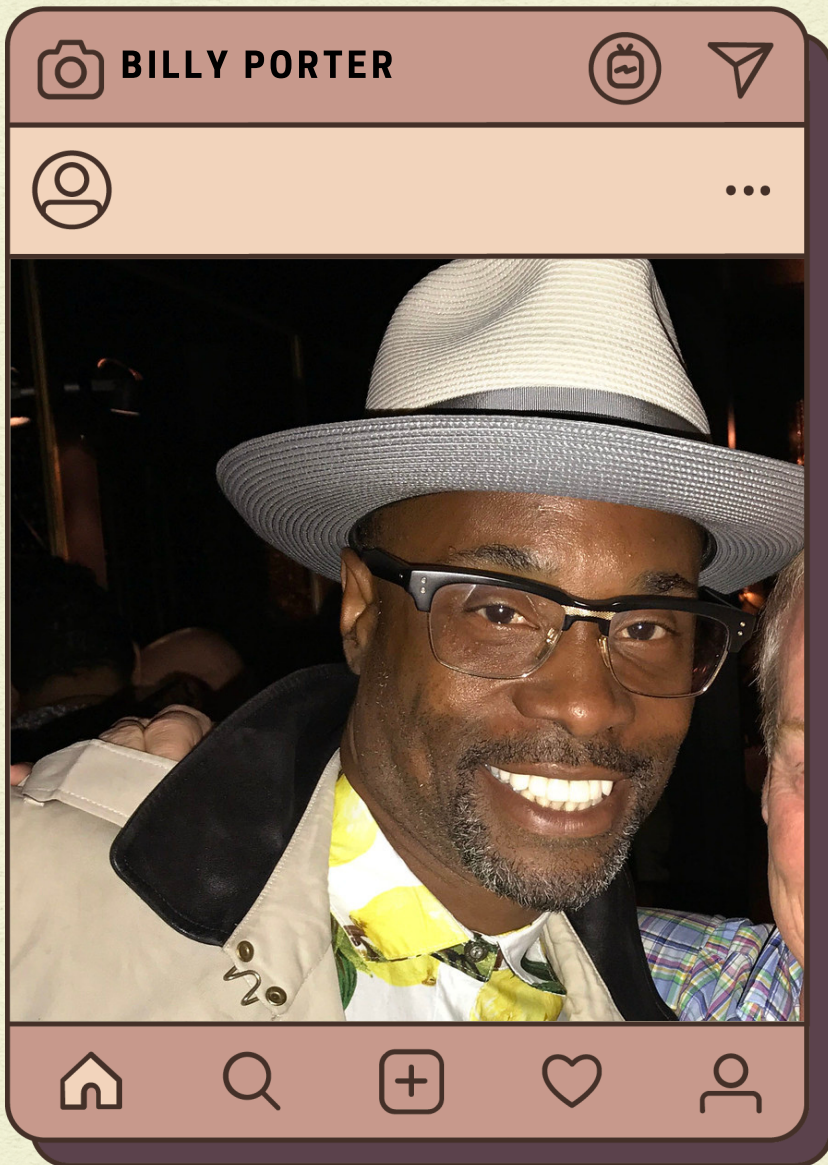
Baker served in the United States Army from 1970 to 1972. He was stationed as a medic in San Francisco at the beginning of the LGBT rights movement. He was taught to sew and used his skill to create banners. It was during this time that he met and became friends with Harvey Milk, the first openly gay elected official in the history of California.



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Billy Porter (born September 21, 1969) is an American actor, singer and style icon. He graduated from Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama, and achieved fame performing on Broadway before starting a solo career as a singer and actor.

Porter won the 2013 Tony Award for Best Actor in a Musical. For the role, Porter also won the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Actor in a Musical and Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Actor in a Musical.

In 2014 Porter won the Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album.

As of 2020 he stars in the television series Pose for which he was nominated for a Golden Globe Award and won the 2019 Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series, becoming the first openly gay black man to be nominated and win in any lead acting category at the Primetime Emmys.

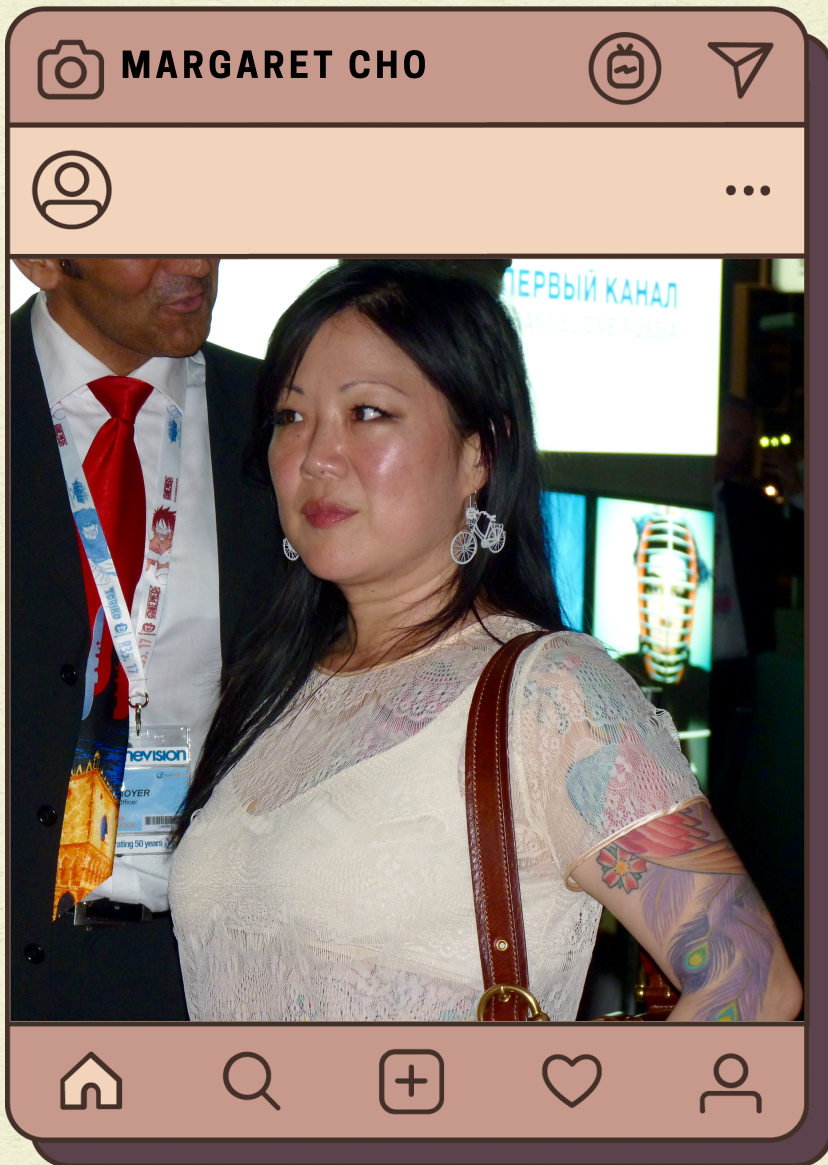
Porter is included in Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2020



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Margaret Moran Cho (born December 5, 1968) is an American actress, musician, stand-up comedian, fashion designer and author. Cho is best known for her stand-up routines, through which she critiques social and political problems. She rose to prominence after creating and starring in the ABC sitcom *All-American Girl* (1994–95), and became an established stand-up comic in the subsequent years.

She has also had endeavors in fashion and music, and has her own clothing line. Cho has also frequently supported LGBT rights and has won awards for her humanitarian efforts on behalf of women, Asian Americans, and the LGBT community.

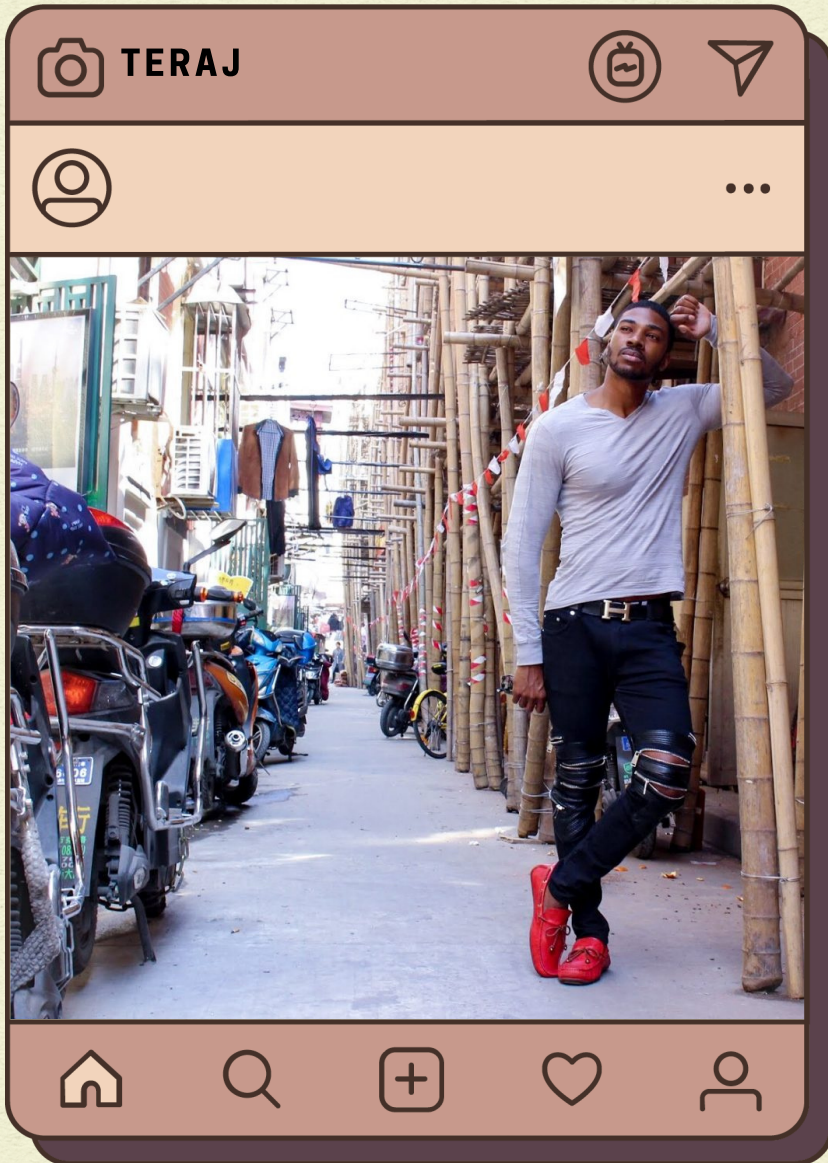
As an actress, she has acted in such roles as Charlene Lee in *It's My Party* and John Travolta's FBI colleague in the action movie *Face/Off*. Cho was part of the cast of the TV series *Drop Dead Diva* on Lifetime Television, in which she appeared as Teri Lee, a paralegal assistant. In 2012, she was nominated for an Emmy Award for her guest-starring role as Dictator Kim Jong-il on *30 Rock*.



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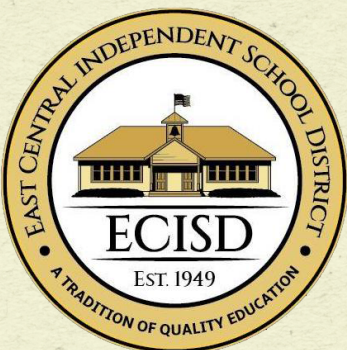


Miami-born and NYC-based, Teraj is an accomplished model, social media influencer, dancer, and versatile artist who is poised to step into the spotlight as a skillful Pop/R&B singer and songwriter.

As a dedicated student at Design & Architecture Senior High (DASH), Teraj participated in a number of stage performances before heading to the prestigious Cornell University, where he earned his Bachelor of Architecture with a Minor in Dance.

In 2016, Teraj decided to return to his musical roots full-time and started working on his debut album. Through sheer determination, Teraj wrote and produced DEFY, comprised of songs inspired by chapters of his life, hoping to inspire and uplift his listeners, encouraging them to celebrate humanity through life's splendor and hardships.

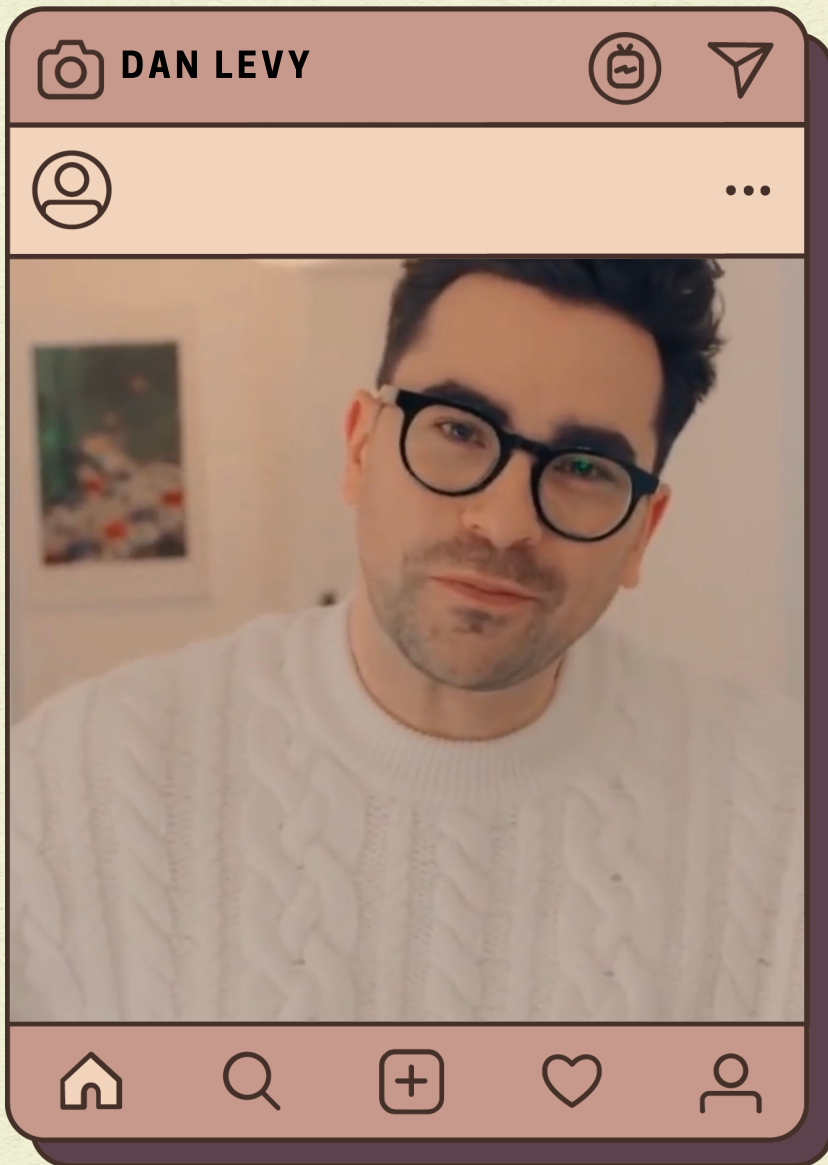
As Teraj gained notoriety for his promising modeling career, in January of 2014, Teraj took on the New York City real estate market as an agent for Keller Williams NYC, quickly making a name for himself and landing several appearances on Bravo's hit reality show Million Dollar Listing New York.



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Daniel Joseph Levy (born August 9, 1983) is a Canadian actor, writer, director, comedian, and producer. Born in Toronto to parents Eugene Levy and Deborah Divine, he began his career as a television host on MTV Canada. Levy received international prominence and critical acclaim for starring as David Rose in the CBC sitcom *Schitt's Creek* (2015–2020), which he also co-created and co-starred in with his father, Eugene Levy.

For producing, writing, directing, and acting in the final season of *Schitt's Creek*, Levy became the first person to win a Primetime Emmy Award in all four major disciplines in a single year. Levy has been nominated for additional numerous awards, including several Canadian Screen Awards for writing and acting, winning the awards for Best Comedy Series, Best Writing in a Comedy Program or Series in 2016 and Best Comedy Series in 2019.

Levy splits his time between Toronto and Los Angeles, though he has said that London is his "favorite city," after having lived there in 2005. He lives with his dog, Redmond.



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