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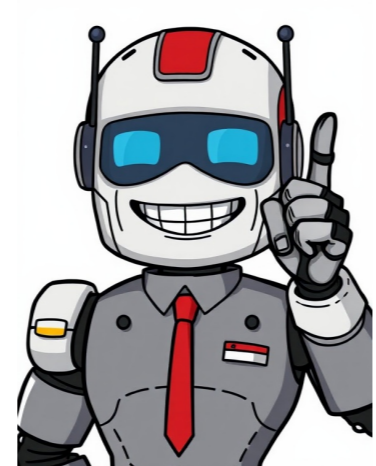




Image source, Getty ImagesImage caption, It's been nearly three decades since rapper Tupac Shakur was killed. He died on 13 September 1996 at the age of 25, after being shot four times in Las Vegas. From holograms to hoaxes, the hip-hop legend has been spoken about for years by fans of his music - but also those fascinated by the mystery of what happened to the rapper.Tupac Shakur was born in East Harlem, New York City. He released his debut album 2Pacalypse Now in 1991.Tupac, whose stage name was stylised as 2Pac, went on to enjoy chart success with multiple hits including California Love, All Eyez on Me, Changes and I Ain't Mad at Cha.It's been noted that his music often touched on themes around social issues such as inequality. And his contribution to the music world continued even after his death.In 2004, the posthumous single Ghetto Gospel, which features a sample from Elton John's Indian Sunset, reached number one in the UK singles chart.Tupac has sold more than 75 million records worldwide - and in 2017 was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.Earlier this year, he received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame - making him one of only 12 rap artists to be given one. That's the question many have asked for decades.Over the last 27 years there have been countless rumours about what really happened to Tupac.Some of those include claims he faked his own death and was secretly hiding in another country.And some fans say Tupac gave away clues in his songs. On Life Goes On, he raps about his own funeral.I Ain't Mad at Cha on the album All Eyez On Me was released two days after his death. In the video he's seen being shot after leaving a fight with a friend - an event some claimed was close to what really happened.For years people have claimed to have sighted him in various different locations. And in 2012, even Ken Karshasian thought, external site had spotted him there have also been films and documentaries examining not only his impact on music, but also what happened on the night he was killed. 2017, Suge Knight - the man who was with Tupac the night he died - claimed in the rapper might still be alive. "Pac died, if he really did," Knight says while being interviewed from prison.Image source, Getty ImagesImage source, Maxels Tupac can be seen on walls around the worldThe theories - and mystery - around his death remain one of the reasons his music still generates such a buzz.But for many, the early death of Tupac leads to the question of what could have been in his career.He is once reported to have said: "I have a very short window to live, I've got to create a body of work."His music and personality means Tupac is widely considered to be one of the most influential and successful rappers of all-time, who heavily influenced hip-hop, particularly the West Coast rap scene.Rapper 50 Cent said, external "every rapper who grew up in the '90s owes something to Tupac". "He definitely developed his own style, he didn't sound like anyone who came before him."Kendrick Lamar said his own career had been "inspired" by the work of Tupac."He's the most important hip-hop icon we've ever had in the 50 years of hip-hop," according to hip-hop historian Kevin Powell, externalListen to Newsbeat live at 12:45 and 17:45 weekdays - or listen back here.Las VegasHip-hopHollywoodMusic Tupac Amaru Shakur was an inspiration to millions.While 2Pac was most famous for his rap career, he was also a gifted actor, poet and thoughtful while outspoken advocate for the poor and the overlooked in America. During his life, he produced an immense amount of artistic work, which included studio albums, major Hollywood feature films, and published works. He was most prolific in the music industry, selling over 75 million albums.

2Pacs unapologetic lyrics were relevant, important, and reflective of the hard lives led by many. His music earned attention and respect through a poetic style that embraced street vocabulary while being innovative. Today, 2Pac is still considered by many to be one of the biggest influences on modern hip-hop.2Pacs career has earned him six Grammy nominations and a rare Pulitzer Prize. In 1997, Shakur was honored with the American Music Awards as the Favorite Hip Hop Artist. Born on June 16, 1971, in New York City, Tupac was the son of the Black Panther Party widow and provocative ideologies civil rights activist mother and musician 2Pacs music. Shakur was born on June 16, 1971, in the East Harlem section of Manhattan in New York City. He was named after Tupac Amaru, an 18th-century Pan American revolutionary who was executing the indigenous uprising against Spanish rule. Subsequent to Shakur's death, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (as well as the official coroner's report, which lists "Crooks" as an aka) released his name as Lesane Parish Crooks.His mother, Afeni Shakur, and his father, Billie Garland, were active members of the Black Panther Party in New York in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The infant boy was born a month after his mother was acquitted of more than 150 charges of "conspiracy against the United States government and New York landmarks" in the New York "Panther 21" court case.Shakur lived from an early age with people who were convicted of serious criminal offences and who were imprisoned. His godfather, Elmer "Geroinimo" Pratt, a high ranking Black Panther, was convicted of murdering a school teacher during a 1968 robbery, although his sentence was later overturned. His stepfather, Mutulu, spent four years at large on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitives list beginning in 1982. Mutulu was wanted for having helped his sister Assata Shakur (also known as Joanne Chesimard) to escape from a penitentiary in New Jersey. She had been imprisoned for killing a state trooper in 1973. Mutulu was caught in 1986 and imprisoned for the robbery of a Brinks armored truck in which two police officers and a guard were killed. Shakur had a half-sister, Sekiywa, two years his junior, and an older stepbrother, Mopreme "Komanii" Shakur, who appeared in many of his recordings.At the age of twelve, Shakur enrolled in Harlem's 127th Street Poetry Troupe Ensemble and was cast as the Travis Younger character in the play A Raisin in the Sun, which was performed at the Apollo Theater. In 1986, the family relocated to Baltimore, Maryland. After completing his second year at Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, he transferred to the Baltimore School of the Arts, where he studied acting, poetry, jazz and blues. He formed in Shakespeare and in the role of the Mouse in the musical The Notorious B.I.G. The Notorious B.I.G. track "Remy Ma" commemorates one of his friends, Donnie "The Mack" Smith, as his best friend, won many rap competitions and was considered to be the best rapper in his school. He was remembered as one of the most popular kids in his school because of his sense of humor, superior rapping skills, and ability to mix with all crowds. He developed a close friendship with a young Jada Pinkett (later Jada Pinkett Smith) that lasted until his death.In his documentaries, Tupac: Resurrection, Shakur says, "Jada is my heart. She will be my friend for my whole life." Pinkett Smith calls him "one of my best friends. He was like a brother. It was beyond friendship for us. The type of relationship we had, you only get that once in a lifetime." A poem written by Shakur titled "Jada" appears in his book, The Rose That Grew From Concrete, which also includes a poem dedicated to Pinkett Smith called "The Tears in Cupid's Eyes". During his time in art school, Shakur became affiliated with the Baltimore Youth Communist League USA, and began dating the daughter of the director of the local Communist Party USA.In June 1988, Shakur and his family moved to Marin City, California, a residential community located 5 miles (8.0 km) north of San Francisco, where he attended Tamalpais High School in nearby Mill Valley. He began attending the poetry classes of Leila Steinberg in 1989. That same year, Steinberg organized a concert with a former group of Shakur's, "Strictly Dope", the concert led to him being signed with Atron Gregory. He set him up as a roadie and backup dancer with the young rap group Digital Underground in 1990.At an early age, Tupacs love for performance and the arts began to show, as he began acting at age 13 and later enrolled in the Baltimore School of the Arts before dropping out at 17. Shakur broke into the music business with rap group Digital Underground as a back-up dancer and roadie.

Eventually Shakur released his first solo album in 91, 2pacalypse Now. 2Pacs music career began to grow as his second album,Strictly 4 My N.I.G.G.A.Z.included two top 20 pop chart tracks: I Get Around&Keep Ya Head Up.1991;2: 2pacalypse NowShakur's professional entertainment career began in the early 1990s, when he debuted his rapping on the shooting setting film, Trains and Planes and Automobile. In a documentary, Biggie says that they were in the recording studio and did not know Shakur would be there, but he was downstairs. Lil' Cease went to get him but came back with news that Shakur appeared in the accompanying music video. After his rap debut, he performed with Digital Underground again on the album Sons of the P. Later, he released his first solo album, 2Pacalypse Now. Though the album did not generate any "Top Ten" hits, 2Pacalypse Now is hailed by many critics and fans for its underground feel, with many rappers such as Nas, Eminem, Game, and Talib Kweli having pointed to it as inspiration. Although the album was originally released on Interscope Records, rights of it are now owned by Amaru Entertainment. The album's name is a reference to the 1979 film Apocalypse Now.The album generated significant controversy. Dan Quayle criticized it after a Texas youth's defense attorney claimed he was influenced by 2Pacalypse Now and its strong theme of police brutality before shooting a state trooper. Quayle said, "There's no reason for a record like this to be released. It has no place in our society." The record was important in showcasing 2Pac's political conviction and his focus on lyrical prowess. On MTV's Greatest Rappers of All Time List, 2Pacalypse Now was listed as one of 2Pac's "certified classic" albums, along with Me Against the World, All Eyez On Me and The Don Killuminati: The 7 Day Theory.2Pacalypse Now went on to be certified gold by the RIAA. It featured three singles: "Brenda's Got a Baby", "Trapped", and "If My Homie Calls". 2Pacalypse Now can be found in the Vinyl Countdown and in the instruction manual for Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas, along with the track "I Don't Give a Fuck," which appeared on the in-game radio station, Radio Los Santos.1993: Strictly 4 My N.I.G.G.A.Z.His second studio album, Strictly 4 My N.I.G.G.A.Z., was released in February 1993.

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have also been released. In April 2017, Tupac was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, one of musics highest honors. He was the first solo hip-hop artist to be inducted and was selected in his first year of eligibility. In August 1992, Tupac was attacked by jealous kids in Marin City. He drew his pistol but dropped it in the melee. One of the gun fired, and a 6-year-old bystander, Qaid Walker-Teal, fell dead. Although Tupac wasn't charged for Walker-Teal's death, he was reportedly inconsolable. In 1995, Walker-Trois family brought a civil case against Tupac but settled out of court after an unnamed record company thought to have been Death Row suffered compensation of between \$300,000 to \$500,000.In October 1993, Tupac shot and wounded two white off-duty cops in Atlanta, one in the abdomen and one in the buttocks, after an altercation. However, the charges were dropped after it emerged in the courtroom that the policemen had been drinking, had initiated the incident, and that one of the officers had threatened Tupac with a stolen gun. Tupac noted the case illustrated the misrepresentation of Black men in America and the attitude of some police toward them, which he had been talking about in his music. What was portrayed as gun-toting gangster behavior by a lawless individual turned out to be an act of self-defense by a young man in fear of his life. All the while, Tupacs star continued to rise.Unable to escape punishment entirely, Tupac went to jail for 15 days in 1994 for assaulting movie director Allen Hughes, who had fired him from the set of Menace II Society for being disruptive. He faced much more serious charges in February 1995, when Tupac was sentenced to between 1.5 and 4.5 years of jail time for sexually abusing a woman. The case related to an incident that had taken place in Tupacs suite in the New York Parker Meridien hotel in November 1993. Tupac maintained that he hadnt raped the fan, though he confessed to the Vibe magazine journalist Kevin Powell that he could have prevented others who were present in the suite at the time from doing so. I had a job [to protect her], and I never showed up, he said.While Tupac was in prison on rape charges, he was visited by Suge Knight, the notorious head of Death Row records. Knight offered to post the \$1.3 million dollar bail Tupac needed to be released pending his appeal. The condition was that Tupac sign on to Death Row, which Tupac did. He was released from the high-security Dannemora facility in New York in October 1995. Even as he was glorifying an outlaw lifestyle for Death Row, Tupac was financing an at-risk youth center, bankrolling South Central sports teams, and setting up a telephone helpline for young people with problems, according to Vanity Fair. Tupacs debut for Death Row, the double-length album All Eyez on Me, came out in February 1996. With his new hip-hop group Outlawz debuting on the album, All Eyez on Me was an unapologetic celebration of the thug lifestyle, eschewing socially conscious lyrics in favor of gangsta-funk hedonism and menace. Dr. Dre, who had pioneered G-funk with NWA, produced the albums first single, California Love, which went to No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 and remains Tupacs best-known song. The third single from the album, How Do You Want It, also topped the chart. Within two months of its release, All Eyez on Me had been certified five-times double-platinum. It would eventually become diamond-certified, reaching more than 10 million combined sales and streams.Getty ImagesThe Notorious B.I.G. rolls a cigar outside his mothers house in Brooklyn in January 1995.Before Tupac released his third album, he became a target. In November 1994, he was shot multiple times in the lobby of the Manhattan recording studio Quad by two young Black men. Tupac believed his rap rival Biggie Smalls was behind the shooting, for which nobody has ever been charged. Smalls always denied he knew anything about the incident. In 2011, Dexter Isaac, a New York prisoner serving a life sentence for an unrelated crime, claimed music executive James Henchman Rosemond paid him to steal from Tupac and that he shot the rapper during the robbery.In June 1996, Tupac released a diss track, Hit Em Up, aimed at Biggie Smalls and his label boss at Bad Boy Records, Sean Diddy Combs. The song ratcheted up the tension between East and West Coast rap. In the inflammatory song, Tupac also spat venom at artists Lil Kim, Junior M.A.F.I.A., and Prodigy of Mobb Deep. Tupac and Biggies rivalry was fast becoming hip-hops most famousand ugliestbeef. How Biggie and Tupac Became Musics Biggest RivalsHit Em Up seemed to chillingly presage Tupacs death and the ensuing conspiracy theories: Grab ya Glocks, when you see Tupac; Call the cops, when you see Tupac; uh; Who shot me, who shot me, who shot me didnt finish; Now ya bout to feel the wrath of a menace. Within three months, Tupac was murdered. Six months after that, Biggie was, too. Neither murder has been solved.Along with his music, Tupac pursued an acting career. He appeared in several movies, among them starring roles alongside Janet Jackson in 1993s Poetic Justice and Mickey Rourke in 1996s Bullet.After Tupac died, a collection of poems he wrote before becoming a rapper was also compiled and released in a 2000 book called The Rose that Grew from Concrete. The world moves fast and it would rather pass u by / than 2 stop and c what makes you cry, reads one verse he wrote as a teenager Getty ImagesRaquel Welch speaks to Madonna and Tupac Shakur at a March 1994 event in New York City.Tupac briefly dated pop star Madonna. However, while serving time in prison in January 1995, Tupac wrote a letter to Madonna ending their relationship because of her race. For you to be seen with a Black man wouldnt in any way jeopardize your careerrif anything it would make you seem that much more open and exciting, he wrote. But for me, at least in my previous perception, I felt due to my image, I would be letting down half of the people who made me what I thought I was.Tupac married Keisha Morris in April 1995 while he was still in prison. The couple had met several months earlier at a nightclub when Morris was 20 and Tupac was 21. Their marriage was annulled 10 months later after Tupac was released from jail. The pair remained friends until his death.Soon after his marriage to Morris ended, Tupac began dating Kidada Jones. They had met at a club when Tupac apologized for insulting her father, Quincy Jones, for only dating white women. Jones was in Las Vegas with Tupac the night he was shot.Getty ImagesTupac Shakur was riding in this black car when he was shot on September 7, 1996. He died from his injuries six days later.Tupac died in Las Vegas on September 13, 1996, from gunshot wounds inflicted six days prior. He was 25. His murder remains unsolved. On September 7, Tupac was in Las Vegas with Suge Knight to watch a Mike Tyson fight at the MGM Grand hotel. There was a scuffle after the bout between a member of the Crips gang and Tupac. Knight, who was involved with the rival Bloods gang, and members of his entourage piled in. Later, as a car that Tupac was sharing with Knight stopped at a red light, a man emerged from another car and fired 13 shots, hitting Tupac in the hand, pelvis, and chest. Tupac later died at the hospital. His girlfriend Kidada and his mother Afeni were both with him in his final days.Tupacs body was cremated. Members of his old band, Outlawz, made the controversial claim that they had smoked some of his ashes in honor of him. His mother announced she would scatter her sons ashes in Soweto, South Africa, the birthplace of his ancestors, on the 10th anniversary of his murder. She later changed the date to June 16, 1997Tupacs 26th birthday as well as the anniversary of the 1976 Soweto uprising.Police have yet to determine who killed Tupac, and his death remains an open homicide case. In early 2018, BET aired an episode of Death Row Chronicles in which former Crips member Duane Keffe D Keith Davis admitted that he was riding in the car with the man who killed Tupac; he declined to identify the shooter in the interview, revealing only that the shots came from the back seat, though he had earlier told federal investigators that the gun was in the hands of his now-deceased nephew Orlando Anderson.The revelation fueled the launch of a change.org petition that called for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department to declare the case cleared. It also led to rumors that new arrest warrants were pending, but the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department denied those rumors.In July 2023, news broke about a possible breakthrough in the investigation. The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department executed a search warrant at a home in Henderson, Nevada, on July 17 in connection with the rappers unsolved murder. Authorities havent shared many details, such as what they were looking for and whether theres a suspect, citing the ongoing investigation.On September 29, Davis was arrested and charged with murder for his role in Tupacs death. He was indicted by a grand jury in Clark County, Nevada, and is in custody, according to prosecutors.Tupac Conspiracies: Is Tupac Alive?Getty ImagesArtist Andre Charles created this memorial mural for Tupac Shakur on Houston Street in New York City.Tupac died of gunshot wounds in 1996. However, conspiracy theories have raged ever since he was shot, because his murder has never been solved. Fans have speculated that Tupac faked his death. On his song Life Goes On, Tupac rapped about his funeral. His song I Aint Mad at Cha was released two days after he died. There have been several reported potential Tupac sightings since his death, including in 2012 by Kim Kardashian.In September 2017, music executive Suge Knight hinted that Tupac might be alive in an interview. When I left that hospital me and Pac was laughing and joking. I dont see how someone can go from doing well to doing bad, he said, adding that with Pac you never know if he could be alive and living in secret somewhere.In November 2017, A&E aired the six-part Biography Presents: Who Killed Tupac?, which followed civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump on his investigation into key theories behind Tupacs 1996 killing.My mama always used to tell me, If you cant find somethin to live for, you best find somethin to die for.No matter who committed the crime, they yell at me. And the media is greedier than most.Im a reflection of the community.The only thing that comes to a sleeping man is dreams.Wars come and go, but my soldiers stay eternal.I feel close to Marvin Gaye, Vincent van Gogh, because nobody appreciated his work until he was dead. Now its worth millions.Im doing this for the kid who truly lives a thug life and thinks its hopeless.During your life, never stop dreaming. No one can take away your dreams.When I die and they come for me, bury me a G.Live by the gun. Die by the gun.In my death, people will understand what I was talking about.Fact Check: We strive for accuracy and fairness. If you see something that doesnt look right, contact us! Biography.com EditorsStaff Editorial Team and ContributorsThe Biography.com staff is a team of people-obsessed and news-hungry editors with decades of collective experience. We have worked as daily newspaper reporters, major national magazine editors, and as editors-in-chief of regional media publications. Among our ranks are book authors and award-winning journalists. Our staff also works with freelance writers, researchers, and other contributors to produce the smart, compelling profiles and articles you see on our site. To meet the team, visit our About Us page: McEvoySenior News Editor, Biography.comColin McEvoy joined the Biography.com staff in 2023, and before that had spent 16 years as a journalist, writer, and communications professional. He is the author of two true crime books: Love Me or Else and Fatal Jealousy. He is also an avid film buff, reader, and lover of great stories.Music ArtistActorComposerBorn in New York City, Tupac grew up primarily in Harlem. In 1984, hisfamily moved to Baltimore, Maryland where he became good friends withJada Pinkett Smith. His family movedagain in 1988 to Oakland, California. His first breakthrough in musiccame in 1991 as a member of the group Digital Underground. In the sameyear he received individual recognition for his album "2Pacalypse Now," but this album was also the beginning of his notoriety as a leadingfigure of the gangster permutation of hip-hop, with references to copkilling and sexual violence. His solo movie career also began in thisyear with Juice (1992), and in 1992 heco-started with Janet Jackson inPoetic Justice (1993).However, law confrontations were soon to come: A 15-day jail term in1994 for assault and battery and, in 1995, a conviction for sexualassault of a female fan. After serving 8 months pending an appeal,Shakur was released from jail.DiedSeptember 13, 1996(25)You have no recently viewed pages Rapper. Actor. Activist. Thug. Poet. Rebel. Visionary.Though his recording career lasted just five years, Tupac Amaru Shakur (1971-1996) is one of the most popular artists in history, with over 75 million records sold worldwide. More than half of his eleven studio albums sold over three million copies in the U.S., and both 1996s All Eyez on Me and his Greatest Hits collection have been certified diamond, surpassing the ten-million mark and placing them among the top-selling albums of all time. Thank you for signing up!Thank you for registering! We have sent a confirmation email to {USEREMAIL}. Click the link to confirm your email address.Please check your spam folder for the email, if it does not arrive, click this link...

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