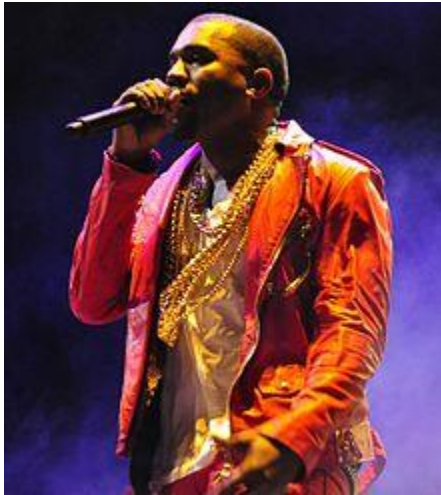


Kanye Omari West **Born** in Atlanta, GA on June 8, 1977 **Residence:** Hidden Hills, California



Kanye is an American rapper, record producer, and fashion designer. West first became known as a producer for Roc-A-Fella Records; he achieved recognition for his work on rapper Jay Z's *The Blueprint* (2001), as well as hit singles for musical artists including Alicia Keys, Ludacris, and Janet Jackson.

West was raised in a middle-class household in Chicago, Illinois, and began rapping in the third grade, becoming involved in the city's hip hop scene. West attended art school for one semester before dropping out to pursue music entirely in the late 1990s. After being signed to Roc-A-Fella in 2002, West released his debut album *The College Dropout* in 2004 to commercial and critical acclaim.

West is one of the best-selling artists of all time, having sold more than 21 million albums and 100 million digital downloads. He has won a total of 21 Grammy Awards, making him one of the most awarded artists of all time. *Time* named West one of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2005, 2011 and 2015.

An outspoken celebrity, West has often been a source of controversy as a result of his outspoken appearances at award shows and his various television and radio interviews.