

## What do you know about Johnny Depp?



John Christopher Depp II is one of the most loved actors today. His roles of eccentric characters are unforgettable, Jack Sparrow in the *Pirates of the Caribbean* trilogy, Ichabod Crane in the film adaptation of *Sleepy Hollow* and Edward Scissorhands.

### Family and tattoos

Depp was born on 9th June, 1963 in Owensboro, Kentucky. His mother was a waitress, and his father a civil engineer. He has one brother and two sisters.

The family moved frequently when he was a child, and they lived in more than twenty different locations. When Depp was 15, his parents were divorced.

He **engaged in self-harm** as a child. He has seven or eight scars from self injury.

In an interview, he explained all this, "My body is a journal in a way. It's like for sailors. Every tattoo meant something for them, a specific time in your life when you make a mark on yourself ...".

Depp has thirteen tattoos. They are about important persons or events in his life. They include an American Indian in profile and a **ribbon** reading "Wino Forever" (originally it was "Winona Forever", but he changed it after his breakup with Winona Ryder) on his right bicep, "Lily-Rose" (the name of his first-born child) over his heart, "Betty Sue" (his mother's name) on his left bicep, and a **sparrow** flying over water with the word "Jack" (his son's name) on his right forearm.

**A musician** Depp's mother bought her son a guitar when he was twelve, and Depp began playing in various garage bands. A year after his parents' divorce, Depp left high school to become a rock musician. He tried to go back to school two weeks later, but the **principal** told him to follow his dream of being a musician.

Depp's interest for music has never ended. He remains a musician, a guitar player. He is a fan of The Rolling Stones and the gypsy musical group Taraf de Haidouks. He is friends with Marilyn Manson. Depp is also a fan of The Clash. He has given many performances as a musician.

### Love stories

In 1983, Depp married Lori Anne Allison, a makeup artist, but they divorced in 1985.

After his divorce, Depp was **engaged** to some actresses ,Sherilyn Fenn, Winona Ryder, Jennifer Grey, and Kate Moss. Since 1998, Depp has had a relationship with Vanessa Paradis, a French actress and singer. The couple have two children, daughter Lily-Rose Melody Depp and son John "Jack" Christopher Depp III. The family live in France.

### Acting career

Johnny Depp received a Hollywood Walk of Fame star in 1999.

His first very important role was in the Tim Burton film, *Edward Scissorhands*. The director is one of Depp's closest friends. Depp starred in several of his films, including *Ed Wood*, *Sleepy Hollow*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Corpse Bride* and *Sweeney Todd*.

Talking of T. Burton, Depp said: "What more can I say about him? He is a brother, a friend, my **godson's** father. He is a unique and brave soul, someone that I would go to the ends of the earth for, and I know, full and well, he would do the same for me."

Depp's most famous movies are the *Pirates of the Caribbean* trilogy. It was a huge box office success, but Depp said that he chose to appear in films that he found personally interesting, rather than in box office movies.

*(Adapted for educational purposes from wikipedia.org)*

*(Photo from wikipedia.org)*

### Reading Comprehension Exercise

Read the text above, then answer the following questions:

1. How old is Johnny Depp?
2. What was Depp's childhood like?
3. Why did Depp practise self-injury?
4. Which animal represents Depp's son in one of his tattoos?
5. How many tattoos he has got?
6. Who are the most important people in Depp's life, according to his tattoos?
7. Which instrument does Depp play?
8. How many times has Depp been married?
9. Who is Depp's favourite director?
10. What are his most famous movies?