

These famous people grew up in families like yours!



Joe Valentine is a baseball pitcher for the Cincinnati Reds. He was raised by two lesbians, Deb Valentine (his biological mom) and Doreen Price, who raised him since birth. The couple has been together for 30 years! Joe never knew his dad and he has grown up a supportive son who loves the two women who raised him. "It's no different than having a mother and father," Valentine said. "These are the two women who raised me, and they are wonderful people. It's just not a big deal to me. Why should it be?"

African American actress, singer, dancer **Dorothy Dandridge**, was the daughter of stage and screen lesbian actress Ruby Dandridge. Dorothy was raised by her mother and her mother's "friend", a woman by the name of Geneva Williams. Dorothy starred in *Carmen Jones* for which she received a "Best Actress" Oscar nomination, becoming the first black woman to do so. She again made history by being the first black actress cast romantically with a white actor in a film in *Islands in the Sun*.



Rebecca Walker was born in 1969 in Jackson, Mississippi, to an interracial "movement" couple who married in defiance of Mississippi's anti-miscegenation laws. (Anti-miscegenation laws made it illegal for people of different races to get married.) Her famous book, *Black White and Jewish: Autobiography of a Shifting Self*, is her own story of struggling to understand her mixed identity. In addition to writing, she is the co-founder of Third Wave Foundation, a national philanthropic organization for women aged 15-30 devoted to cultivating young women's leadership and activism. Rebecca is considered one of the most audible voices of the young women's movement, and was named by Time magazine as one of the fifty future leaders of America. Rebecca's black lesbian mother, Alice Walker, is also a well-known author, most famous from her book, *The Color Purple*.

Have you ever read *Frankenstein*? Well, **Mary Godwin Wollstonecraft Shelley** wrote it. Her lesbian mother, Mary Wollstonecraft, was also an author and wrote *Vindication of the Rights of Man*.





Ally Sheedy has been involved in acting most of her life. She began making commercials and appearing on stage at 15 and joined the notorious "Brat Pack" in 1985 after appearing in *The Breakfast Club*. She has also acted in *St. Elmo's Fire*, *Short Circuit*, *Chantilly Lace* and *High Art*. When she was only twelve years old she wrote a book about a mythical encounter between Queen Elizabeth I and an inquisitive mouse. The book, *She Was Nice to Mice*, was published and became an instant bestseller. Ally is the daughter of marketing executive John Sheedy and lesbian literary agent Charlotte Sheedy.

Tasha Alfrieda Birtha, a longtime Mountain Meadow camper, is the daughter of Becky Birtha, a short story writer who wrote *For Nights Like This One: Stories of Loving Women*. Tasha lives in Philadelphia with her mother and her mother's partner. She is looking forward to being a staff member at Mountain Meadow for the first time this coming summer.



Jodie Foster is an actress, producer, and director. She is daughter of a lesbian mother, Evelyn "Brandy", who supported herself and her four children by working for a film producer. Jodie and her three older siblings grew up with "two mothers" -- Brandy and her live-in lover, Josephine Dominguez, known affectionately as Aunt Jo. Although she was christened Alicia Christian, Foster was called Jodie by the family, after Jo D. Jodie has acted in many movies including: *The Accused* (for which she won an Oscar), *Little Man Tate*, *The Silence of the Lambs* (for which she won another Oscar), and *Anna and the King*. Mountain Meadow's Staff Lounge is named after Jodie Foster!

Nicole Bobek is known for her outgoing personality and unusual grace and artistry on the ice. She was raised in Chicago by her lesbian mother Jana Bobek and her mother's "friend", Joyce Barron. When Nicole was young her mother told her Joyce was a "live-in aunt." Nicole never knew her father, who left shortly after Nicole was born. Nicole was put into skates at age 3 1/2 and won the U.S. National Championships in 1995. Nicole's mother, a Czech refugee, dedicated her life to supporting Nicole and often worked numerous odd jobs to make ends meet.



Orenthal James "OJ" Simpson is considered one of the greatest running backs in American football history. Simpson became a household name in 1994 when he was accused of murdering his wife, Nicole Brown. His trial sparked conversations across the United States on race, wealth, and fame. Simpson's father, a well-known San Francisco drag queen, died of AIDS in 1986.

Jena Malone, an actress who has appeared in such movies as *Saved*, *Donnie Darko*, *The Dangerous Lives of Alter Boys*, *Life as a House*, *Stepmom*, and *Bastard Out of Carolina*, was raised by two moms until she was ten. Malone says she is close to her large extended family, which includes four brothers and two sisters. In her own words, "I had two loving parents. Love in any shape or form is a beautiful thing."



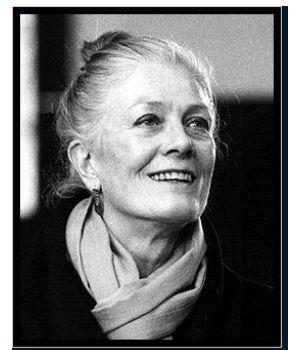
50 Cent, born Curtis Jackson, endured substantial obstacles throughout his young life before becoming the most discussed figure in rap in early 2003. 50 grew up in a life of violence-- everything most rappers write rhymes about but not all actually experience: drugs, crimes, imprisonments, stabbings, and shootings. When he was about eight his mother was found dead under mysterious circumstances and he was taken in by his grandparents. 50 mentions his mother's relationships with women in his music, and, although incredibly homophobic himself, has told interviewers that she was bisexual.

Natasha Richardson, an actress, co-starred with Jodie Foster and Liam Neeson in *Nell*, and has acted in *The Parent Trap* and *Blow Dry*. She is the daughter of award winning actress Vanessa Redgrave, and bisexual film director Tony Richardson. She also had a bisexual grandfather, Sir Michael Redgrave. Natasha lost her father to AIDS in 1991. Her sister, Joely Richardson, is also an actress.



Joely Richardson played Anita in *101 Dalmatians* alongside Glen Close and Jeff Daniels, and acted in *The Patriot* with Mel Gibson. In 1995 she won critical acclaim for her superb performance in the drama *Sister, My Sister*. Joely is the daughter of award winning actress Vanessa Redgrave, and bisexual film director Tony Richardson. She also had a bisexual grandfather, Sir Michael Redgrave. Joely Richardson lost her father to AIDS in 1991. Her sister, Natasha Richardson, is also an actress.

Vanessa Redgrave is widely regarded as one of Great Britain's finest modern dramatic actresses. She is known for her roles in *The Trojan Women*, *Mary Queen of Scots*, *Howards End*, *Wilde*, and *Deep Impact*. She won an Oscar® in 1977 as best supporting

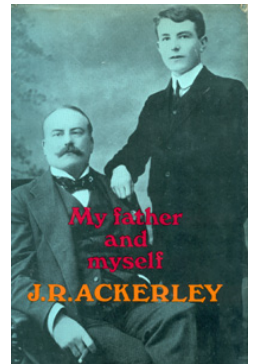


actress for "Julia". Vanessa is the daughter of distinguished bisexual actor Sir Michael Redgrave. She is the mother of actresses Joely and Natasha Richardson.



Anne Heche's acting career began with an Emmy Award winning role in the soap opera *Another World*. She has been in movies such as the action thriller *Volcano* and the political satire *Wag the Dog*. Her father was a fundamentalist church organist who admitted to being gay after he was diagnosed with AIDS. She supported her mother, two sisters and a brother when she was young by acting in a dinner theater in Atlantic City.

J.R. Ackerley was a writer and editor. His father not only had a secret hidden family, but it was later discovered that his father was the "kept" lover of a German Count. As a second-generation gay man, Ackerley wrote the play, *The Prisoners*, the books *My Father & Myself*, *My Dog Tulip* and *We Think the World of You*.



Nigel Nicolson was a biographer, editor and journalist. He wrote *Portrait of a Marriage*, a book about the marriage of his famous bisexual parents, author Vita Sackville-West (who was Virginia Woolf's longtime lover) and author, politician and diarist, Harold Nicolson. This telling of his parents' marriage shows a complex and truly original partnership. Nigel also wrote *Virginia Woolf*, a biography of his mother's lover.

Klaus Mann was a gay German author, critic, and activist. He was the author of the novel "Mefisto" and was the son of even more famous novelist Thomas Mann, who openly wrote about his own homosexuality in his secret diaries.



Erika Mann was a German writer and actress. She founded a children's theatre and wrote many children's books. She worked for newspapers, for BBC London and, during World War II, she was the only woman to work in the "Office of War Information" in Germany. While she was there, she followed the trials of the war-criminals. Both her and her brother were very active in the anti-fascist movement in Germany. Erika, a lesbian herself, was the daughter of gay author Thomas Mann, and the sister of Klaus Mann.

Malcolm Stevenson "Steve" Forbes Jr. is the editor-in-chief of business magazine *Forbes*, as well as president and chief executive officer of its publisher, Forbes Inc. Steve was also a candidate in the U.S. Presidential primaries in 1996 and 2000. Steve has a gay dad who shares his same name, Malcolm Stevenson Forbes Sr.



Rene Russo's was 17 when she signed a contract with Ford Modeling Agency. Within a year she had become a successful print and photographers model. Rene has also acted in movies like *Lethal Weapon 3* and *The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle*. Rene's father, a sculptor and mechanic, left the family when Rene was just two, leaving her mother as a single lesbian mom with two daughters.

Here's even more!!

Alexander Aegus (King Alexander IV) was the son of Alexander the Great, who had a male lover, Hephaestion. Alexander was born in 323 BC a few months after his father's death. He was immediately named king, but had no political power because he was only an infant. Cassandra, who ruled in his name, ordered Alexander murdered at age 14 because he was afraid of losing his power.

Elizabeth Lorde-Rollins, a poet herself, is the daughter of Audre Lorde, a well-know poet who wrote of her experience as a black lesbian woman. Her writings protest against the swallowing of black American culture by an indifferent white population, against the perpetuation of sex discrimination, and against the neglect of the movement for gay rights. Her poetry, however, is not entirely political in content. It is extremely romantic in nature and is described by Joan Martin as ringing with, "passion, sincerity, perception, and depth of feeling." Lorde Tent Circle, one of the tent circles at Mountain Meadow's Summer Program, is named in honor of Audre Lorde.

Jamie, Alexander, and Nina Bernstein are the children of Leonard Bernstein, the first gay American musician to achieve worldwide recognition. Their father was a conductor, composer, pianist, author and teacher.

Minnie Hall was the adopted daughter of Tammany Hall politician and bail bondsman Murray Hall. After his death in 1902, Minnie's father was found to have been born as Mary Anderson. Murray Hall died from breast cancer, which was not diagnosed because of his fear of discovery.

James C. Hormel Jr.'s played a large role is helping his father become the US Ambassador to Luxemburg in 1999. Four senators placed holds on President Clinton's nomination because they feared Hormel, Sr. would promote a "gay agenda." James helped his dad get this position by writing articles and holding interviews in which he described what it was like to have a gay father. He says his dad taught him "kindness, acceptance of others, honesty, self-esteem, and standing up for what you believe." He also clearly stated that Congress's discrimination not only affect his father but affected the entire family.

In 1986, **Nan Smith-Affleck's** moms Becky Smith and Annie Affleck were the first lesbian couple in the US given joint custody of an adopted child.

Cyril and Vyvyan Wilde were children of Oscar Wilde. Oscar Wilde was a famous gay author who wrote such works as *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (now a movie). Vyvyan went on to write several favorable books about his father including *Son of Oscar Wilde* and *A Pictorial Biography of Oscar Wilde*.

Raymond Douglas was the son of Walt Whitman's lover Lord Alfred Douglas (1870-1945). After Whitman's death, Lord Douglas went on to marry Olive Custance and fathered Raymond. Walt Whitman was a famous poet best known for his collection of poems *Leaves of Grass*. Lord Alfred Douglas was also a poet and a good friend of Oscar Wilde's.

Kyra Nijinsky is a dancer and the daughter of gay Russian choreographer and ballet dancer Vaslav Nijinsky, Kyra starred in *She Dances Alone*. As the leading character in the semi-documentary psychograph, Kyra reflected on the phenomenon and the tragic destiny of her father.

Katharine Symonds Furse was a government official in England. She led the first VAD (Voluntary Aid Detachment) Corps to France in October 1914. She worked closely for years with the Girl Guides (like the Girl Scouts) and for ten years was Director of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. Katharine and her three sisters were the children of famed gay English essayist and historian John Addington Symonds (1840-1893).

Noriko and Iichiro Mishima are children of Yoko Susiyama (eldest daughter of Japanese painter Yasushi Sugiyama) and gay author Yukio Mishima, the most spectacularly talented young writer to emerge in Japan after World War II.

Catherine van Bysselberghe was the daughter of gay French author Andre Gide (who lived 1869-1951). Catherine's mother was Elisabeth van Bysselberghe, a well-known feminist.

Elizabeth Maugham was the daughter of gay English author W. Somerset Maugham (he lived 1874-1965).

Adrian Hood is the daughter of legendary lesbian folk singer Alix Dobkin. Adrian was born in 1970 when her mother was still married. In 1972 her mother came out and they moved in with her mother's partner, Liza Cowan. The two women raised Adrian at a time when parenting was not popular within the lesbian and gay community.

Marion Foster Welsh is the daughter of gay composer Stephen Foster.

Oeis was the daughter of Sappho, an early Greek lyric poet in the 6th century BC. Sappho's poems were collected into nine volumes in ancient libraries, but today only one complete poem survives. Sappho lived on the island of Lesbos, off the coast of modern Turkey, from which we get the word lesbian.

Picture Citations

Judy: http://www.art.com/asp/sp-asp/ /pd--10102994/Judy_Garland_The_Wizard_of_Oz.htm

Joe: www.ne.jp/asahi/minowa/mlbzone/ttmvalentinj.htm

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Mary Shelley: <http://v5o5jotqkgfu3btr91t7w5fhzedjaoaz8igl.unbsj.ca/~s6vai/Mary%20Shelley/bio.htm>

Ally: www.riverblue.com/hughes/s.html

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