



Bob Geldof

Creator of Live Aid and Live 8, award-winning entrepreneurial businessman, activist and musician

Sir Bob Geldof is one of Ireland's most successful exports and is known throughout the world for his many talents and passions. Starting his career as a successful musician, actor and songwriter, he has gone on to both inspire a generation and make prolific social changes as a philanthropist and political activist.

Bob's biography

Bob Geldof's background

An inspiring and influential public speaker, he speaks on a range of topics and uses his vast personal experiences to both provoke and [motivate](#) his audience.

Shooting to fame as the lead singer of the Boomtown Rats, Bob Geldof was a major player in the 70s punk rock movement and enjoyed over a decade of hits between 1975 and 1986, including "Rat Trap", "I Don't Like Mondays" and "Up All Night". After leaving the band, he launched a successful solo career, published his best-selling autobiography, "Is That It?" and worked as a radio DJ, journalist and television presenter.

In 1984 Geldof was watching the news one night when he was horrified by a report on the famine in Ethiopia. As we all now know he got on the phone. The result was the all-star band aid and the song he co-wrote with Midge Ure – "Do They Know it's Christmas?", which went on to sell over three million copies and become the biggest selling song in the UK. He subsequently inspired and joined the American response – "We are the World" the biggest-selling single in the world. Six months later, on July 13, 1985, came Live Aid – "the biggest and greatest event in pop history". \$200 million was raised for the starving and the dying in Ethiopia. Geldof established and continues to be the chairman of the Band Aid trust, which operates in eight African countries.

Following a further two decades of determined charity work and activism, Geldof went on to organise the Live 8 concerts. Part of the Make Poverty History campaign, the Live 8 project consisted of 6 concerts across the world and aimed to raise awareness of the plight in Africa, including poverty, hunger,

government debt and the AIDs epidemic.

Geldof has made 7 albums as a solo artist alongside the 7 Boomtown Rats albums, written 2 best-selling books and several award-winning TV documentaries including “The Real Love That Dare Not Speak Its Name”, a film about fathers and their children.

Geldof currently serves as an adviser to the One Campaign, co-founded by fellow Irish rock singer and activist Bono, and was a member of the Africa Progress Panel. He was a member of prime minister Blair’s Commission For Africa and is currently Founder and Chair of the 8 Miles private equity fund for investment in Africa.

Bob Geldof has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize 8 times, more than any living nominee, and was honoured with a knighthood by HM Queen Elizabeth II; received the Nobel Man of Peace award from Mikhail Gorbachev; was awarded The North-South human rights award in Portugal; and awarded the medal of Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in France.

Additionally, Geldof has received numerous TV and music awards including The Ivor Novello Awards, The BRIT Awards, BAFTAs and The Royal Society, Peabody and Royal Geographical Society awards. Having reformed The Boomtown Rats they now have their first studio album since 1984 Citizens of Boomtown; a massive documentary about Bob and the history of the Rats and a new book Tales of Boomtown Glory was published in March 2020 – an anthology of the complete lyrics from Bob Geldof’s Boomtown Rats and solo albums, interwoven with Geldof’s witty, deeply felt and frank commentaries of the background, inspiration and context behind some of his songs

Bob is internationally recognised as a leading authority on world politics, international and [current affairs](#), music, humanitarian issues, philanthropy, poverty, [human rights](#) and Africa.

Bob's talks

- **Making Poverty History**
- **Future Media and Media's Future**
- **Making A Difference**
- **Dublin to Darfur - A Passion for Progress**
- **The Need For Commitment**
- **Various business subjects based on his current 8 companies**

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