



You're in Good Company!

An Introduction to Famous COLAGERS

Ever felt like you were the only one with one or more lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and/or queer parent/s? Not only are there millions of other children, youth and adults who have LGBTQ parents, but some of them are celebrities! This list introduces just a few of the many famous people who have or had one or more LGBTQ parent.

Alexander Aegus (King Alexander IV)

As the son of Alexander the Great, Alexander met an early death at the age of thirteen. As a consequence of the time, Alexander Aegus and his mother were killed by Cassander in a statement of revenge and as a power shift. Alexander's father was known to have a great love for his male lover Hephasteian, who after his death was shortly followed to his grave by Alexander the Great.

Alexandra Elizabeth "Ally" Sheedy (siblings: Meagan and Patrick)

Ally Sheedy has been involved with the acting craft for most of her life. The daughter of marketing executive John Sheedy and a lesbian literary agent mother Charlotte, she began making TV commercials and appearing on stage at age 15. She published a children's book, *She Was Nice to Mice*. She has also been published in periodicals such as *The New York Times*. After high school, the New York-born Sheedy headed west to the University of California where, in addition to her studies, she also appeared in television films. At age 21, she began her feature-film career playing adolescent girls in films such as *Bad Boys* and *War Games*. She joined the notorious "Brat Pack" in 1985 after appearing in John Hughes' *The Breakfast Club*. Some of Ally's other film highlights include *St. Elmo's Fire*, *Short Circuit*, *Chantilly Lace* and *High Art*. She is married to actor David Lansbury, stepson of actress Angela Lansbury, and they have a daughter, Rebecca, born in 1994.

I never thought to myself, I'm going to grow up and fall in love with a man or I'm going to fall in love with a woman because my mother is a lesbian.

Alison Bechdel (comic artist)

Alison Bechdel is best known for her long-running comic strip *Dykes To Watch Out For*. The strip is syndicated in dozens of newspapers, translated into several languages and collected in a series of award-winning books. She also wrote a graphic memoir, *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*, which recounts her experiences growing up in rural Pennsylvania with a closeted gay father.

Ana Matronic (singer)

As the lead female singer of the British group Scissor Sisters, Ana performs outrageous pop music. Scissor Sisters made Brit Awards history in 2005, winning three international categories: Best Group, Breakthrough Act and Best Album. When she was three her parents split up and she learned at age six that her father was gay. Her father died of AIDS when she was a teen, which encourages her activism today with an organization that supports the families and children of people living with HIV and AIDS.

In the time that I grew up, it was incredibly isolating. There was such a stigma attached to it (this was 1990) that people knowing he had AIDS would overshadow the fact that he was dying and that was the most important thing that I wanted to communicate—that my father was being taken away from me. It wasn't until I was in my twenties that I met people who had lost good friends or family members to AIDS.

Anne Heche (actress)

Born in Ohio, she moved 11 times before she was 12. 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 by acting in a dinner theater in Atlantic City. Beginning with a long-standing Emmy Award winning role in the soap opera *Another World*, Anne Heche moved on to a career in film, appearing in movies such as *Donnie Brasco*, *Volcano*, and *Wag The Dog*.

Charles I of England (1625 King of England)

Son of a gay father James I of England and had a gay grandfather Lord Damly

Corin Redgrave (actor)

British stage and film actor Corin Redgrave is the son of theatrical luminaries Michael Redgrave (who happened to be bisexual) and Rachel Kempson, and the brother of actors Vanessa and Lynn Redgrave. He first embarked upon acting while attending Cambridge, acting in productions staged by the Marlowe Society. He made his professional stage debut in 1963, and appeared in his first film in 1966, playing William Roper in the Oscar-winning *A Man for All Seasons*. Among his myriad of stage credits was Alan Ayckbourn's comic trilogy *The Norman Conquests*, in which he starred as the bed-hopping Norman. Easing comfortably into character roles in his fifties, Corin Redgrave starred as Hamish in the runaway movie hit *4 Weddings and a Funeral* (1993).

50 Cent (aka Curtis Jackson) (hip-hop artist)

Born into a notorious Queens drug dynasty during the late '70s, 50 Cent lost those closest to him at an early age. He was raised without a father, and his mother, who was bisexual but also involved in drugs, was found dead under mysterious circumstances before he could hit his teens. The orphaned youth was taken in by his grandparents, who provided for him. After living a dangerous and notorious street life during his teens, the birth of his son put things in perspective for the post-adolescent, and 50 began to pursue rap seriously. He signed to Columbia Records in 1999. A first recording session turned out 36 songs in this short period, which resulted in "Power Of A Dollar," an unreleased masterpiece that *Blaze Magazine* judged a classic. Later mentored by Eminem and Dr. Dre, 50 Cent became one of the most well-known rap artists of the recent past.

I talk about my moms kissing a girl. Really, I don't know to what extent she was a lesbian. I did see something that was a little awkward... I was eight years old when my mama passed, so how much information would I have about that, honestly?

Cyril and Vyvyan Wilde

These brothers were the children of Oscar Wilde. Vyvyan went on to write several favorable books about his father, including *Son of Oscar Wilde* and *A Pictorial Biography of Oscar Wilde*.

Daniela Sea (actress, musician)

At the age of 3, Daniela's father came out as gay. She has played guitar in the band Gr'ups, traveled around the world, and currently plays the role of Max on *The L Word*. Daniela identifies as queer and genderqueer herself, and recently appeared in her first feature film.

Dorothy Dandridge (actress, singer, dancer)

African-American actress, singer, and dancer Dorothy Dandridge, the daughter of lesbian stage and screen actress Ruby Dandridge, began performing professionally in the song-and-dance duo "The Wonder Children" with her sister Vivian at age four; they toured parts of the South, performing at churches, schools, and social gatherings. In the 1930s her family relocated to Los Angeles. Dorothy performed in the Marx brothers' comedy *A Day at the Races*, in the group the Dandridge Sisters, and the films *Going Places* and *Sun Valley Serenade*. After her marriage to Harold Nicholas, she put her career on hold for a while, but the birth of a severely brain-damaged daughter strained her marriage and it soon ended in divorce, after which she put most of her energy into her career. She went on to appear in *Tarzan's Peril* and *Carmen Jones* (for which she received a "Best Actress" Oscar nomination, becoming the first black woman to do so). Three years went by before her next role, in *Islands in the Sun*, in which she again made history by being the first black actress cast romantically with a white actor in a film.

Edward III (1327 King of England)

Son of Isabella and Edward II. In 1327, Edward II was deposed and brutally murdered by Isabella and her lover, Roger Mortimer. So, at fifteen, Edward III became king of England, a puppet king until just three years later, when he asserted his independence, had Mortimer executed, and sent his scheming mother into retirement.

Elizabeth Lorde-Rollins (poet)

The daughter of feminist lesbian poet Audre Lorde, Elizabeth followed in her mother's footsteps, and her work can be found in the book *The Arc of Love: An Anthology of Lesbian Love Poems*.

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Elizabeth Maugham

Born in 1915 and the daughter of gay English author W. Somerset Maugham (1874-1965). In 1929, W. Somerset divorced Elizabeth's mother and she grew up to despise her famous father. When W. Somerset Maugham was 88, Elizabeth tried to have him put away on the grounds that he was senile and incompetent. Maugham retaliated by legally disowning her and adopting his lover, Alan Searle, as his son. In court, Elizabeth had the adoption nullified and was restored as W. Somerset's legal heir.

Elyse Umemoto (Miss Washington 2007)

As the daughter of a straight woman and a gay man, Elyse finds the ideals of equality and freedom both important and inspiring. In 2007 Elyse won the Miss Washington Pageant and went on to be a runner up at Miss America 2008. She currently does work with the YWCA with the platform "Celebrating diversity, empowering women".

Faustina

Daughter of High renaissance Italian painter, Il Sodoma, Faustina went on to marry one of her father's former boyfriends.

Gwen Wynne (Director)

Gwen Wynne, a filmmaker and theatre director, began her career on Broadway at Circle in the Square Theatre scouting for new plays. From there she co-founded and served for six years as Artistic Director of The No-Neck Monsters Theatre Company in Washington, D.C. She runs Cape Cod Films whose current project is *American Primitive*, a fictionalized account of Gwen's own experiences of learning that her father was gay during the 1970s.

J. R. Ackerley (writer & editor)

Not only did Ackerley's father have a secret hidden family, but also it was later discovered that his father was the "kept" lover of a German count. As a second-generation gay man, Ackerly wrote the play *The Prisoners*, the book *My Father & Myself*, and *My Dog Tulip* and *We Think the World of You*.

James C. Hormel Jr.

Son of the gay Ambassador to Luxembourg. In 1999, James (along with his brother and sisters) played a vital role in getting his father to the position of Ambassador. When the Republican Congress was holding the appointment, James came to the aid of his father with a large series of op-ed articles and interviews. The articles appeared across the country and described what it was like to have a gay father and that Congress's discrimination not only affected his father but the entire family.

While I was growing up, my father never tried to influence my sexuality in any way. What he did teach me was kindness, acceptance of others, honesty, self-esteem, and standing up for what you believe.

James I of England (James VI of Scotland)

Son of Mary, Queen of Scots (1542-1587); had a gay father, Lord Darnly, and was also gay himself.

Jamie Anne Maria, Alexander Serge Leonard, & Nina Maria Felicia

Children of Chilean-born actress Felicia Montealegre Cohn and Leonard Bernstein, the first gay American musician to achieve worldwide recognition as a conductor, composer, pianist, author and teacher.

Jena Malone (actress)

Jena has appeared in such movies as *Saved*, *Stepmom*, *Hope* (a TV movie) and *Bastard Out of Carolina*. These have won her a Golden Globe nomination, an Independent Spirit Award in 1997 for Best Debut Performance, and a SAG Award in 1997 for Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a TV Movie or Miniseries. Jena was born in Lake Tahoe, Nevada, and moved to Southern California. Her mother was active in community theater, so Jena got very comfortable around the theater at an early age. Until age 10, she lived in Lake Tahoe, raised by two moms. Then her birth mother broke up with her lover and became a born-again Christian. Legally emancipated since 2000, Malone says she is close to her large extended family, which includes four brothers and two sisters.

I had two loving parents. Love in any shape or form is a beautiful thing.

Jodie Foster (actress, producer, director)

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Born Alicia Christian Foster on November 19, 1962 in Los Angeles, California. Foster's father, Lieutenant-Colonel Lucius Fisher Foster III, a former Battle of Britain fighter and one of the most highly decorated fliers in the US airforce, left the family before she was born; her lesbian mother, Evelyn "Brandy," supported herself and her four children by working for a film producer. Jodie's three siblings are Lucinda, Constance, and Buddy. Her upbringing in a working-class part of Los Angeles was unconventional, to say the least. She 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.

Foster played a breakthrough role of a teenage prostitute in *Taxi Driver* and since then has shined on the screen in such movies as *The Accused* (for which she won an Oscar), *Little Man Tate*, *The Silence of the Lambs* (for which she won another Oscar), *Contact*, *Nell* and *Anna and the King*. Not only known as one of the most influential women in Hollywood, Foster has a long list of awards for her work behind the scenes as director. She lives in the San Fernando Valley with her son, Charles, who was born on July 20, 1998.

Joe Valentine (baseball player)

Joe is a baseball pitcher for the Cincinnati Reds. In 1997, he graduated from Deer Park (NY) High School. He played baseball at Jefferson Davis Community College in Brewton, AL. There, he was named to the NJCAA All-Region XXII squad after going 8-1, 2.56 with 7 saves. Valentine, from Long Island, NY, was the subject of a lengthy article in *Newsday* about being raised by two lesbians, Deb Valentine (his biological mom) and Doreen Price, who raised him since his birth in Las Vegas in 1979. The couple has been together for over 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. 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?

Joely Richardson (actress)

The second daughter of award-winning actress Vanessa Redgrave and bisexual film director Tony Richardson; also had a bisexual grandfather (Sir Michael Redgrave). Joely Richardson is a Golden-Globe-nominated actress who also has a long film and stage career.

Judy Garland (Gumm) (actress)

Entertainer Judy Garland, the granddaughter of a gay businessman, was both one of the greatest and one of the most tragic figures in American show business. Judy had roles and performed in *Pigskin Parade*, *Broadway Melody* (1938), *Listen Darling* (1938), and so on. When MGM planned to star 20th Century Fox's Shirley Temple in *The Wizard of Oz*, Garland almost didn't get her most celebrated role, but the deal fell through and Garland was cast as Dorothy. Even after this, the actress nearly lost out on her definitive screen moment when the studio decided to cut the song "Over the Rainbow," finally keeping the number after it tested well in previews. *The Wizard of Oz* made Garland a star. In 1945 she married director Vincente Minnelli, with whom she had a daughter, Liza, in 1946. Garland and Minnelli divorced in 1951, whereupon she married Sid Luft. On June 22, 1969, the day of the Stonewall Rebellion, Judy Garland was found dead in her London apartment, the victim of an ostensibly accidental overdose of barbiturates.

Katharine Symonds Furse (government official)

Katharine and her three sisters were the children of famed gay English essayist and historian John Addington Symonds (1840-1893). Born in Clifton, Bristol, young Katharine spent most of her childhood in Davos, Switzerland, where Symonds had relocated the family in search of a better climate for his tuberculosis. In 1900, she married painter Charles W. Furse, who also suffered from tuberculosis. They had two sons, Peter and John Paul. Charles Furse died of tuberculosis in 1904. Katharine led the first VAD (Voluntary Aid Detachment) Corps to France in October 1914 and headed the British Red Cross Women's VAD Department from 1915 to 1917. She was Commandant in Chief of the Joint Women's VAD Department in 1916, and the first head of the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRENS) in 1917. She remained the head of the WRENS until they were demobilized in 1919. After the war, Katharine Furse continued her pioneering work in women's service. She worked closely for years with the Girl Guides and for ten years was Director of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. She died in London in 1952.

Klaus Mann

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Famous German author of the novel "Mefisto" (made into a film with Klaus-Maria Brandauer). Gay himself, he was the son of even more famous novelist Thomas Mann ("Buddenbrooks", "Magic Mountain"), who openly wrote about his own homosexuality in his secret diaries.

Kyra Nijinsky (dancer)

Daughter of gay Russian 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, the Russian choreographer and ballet dancer Vaslav Nijinsky.

Lynn Redgrave (actress)

Lynn, best known for her roles in *Shine*, *Gods and Monsters* and *Georgy Girl*, is the daughter of distinguished bisexual actor Sir Michael Redgrave and the sister of Vanessa Redgrave. Lynn Redgrave has made significant contributions to her illustrious family's five-generation-long reputation for producing fine British actors. The London-born Lynn studied acting at the Central School of Music and Drama. She first appeared onstage in a 1962 production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Royal Court Theatre. She was next invited by Sir Laurence Olivier to become one of the first members in Britain's National Theatre. There she appeared in *Hamlet* as well as in many other prestigious productions. In the late 1990s, Redgrave staged a successful one-woman show, *Shakespeare for My Father*.

Maggie Rizer (Supermodel)

When Maggie was 2 years old, her parents divorced and her father came out as gay. As a young adult she became a well known supermodel who has appeared in ads for Calvin Klein, Louie Vuitton, Vogue and more. She is also known for her AIDS activism which she got involved with after her father passed away from AIDS.

Malcolm Stevenson "Steve" Forbes Jr.

Born on July 18, 1947, Forbes is the son of gay father Malcolm Stevenson Forbes Sr., the editor-in-chief of business magazine *Forbes*, as well as president and chief executive officer of its publisher, Forbes Inc. He was a candidate in the U.S. presidential primaries in 1996 and 2000. His brothers Christopher Forbes, Robert Forbes and Timothy Forbes have all long worked for the magazine or at least the parent company.

Mary Godwin Wollstonecraft Shelley (author)

Daughter of Mary Wollstonecraft, a lesbian author who wrote *Vindication of the Rights of Man*. Mary Godwin Wollstonecraft went on to marry poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, and, more importantly, went on to write *Frankenstein*.

Mike White (Director, screenwriter, actor)

Mike is the writer of films such as *School of Rock* and *Nacho Libre* as well as an actor, screenwriter and producer. He appeared on *The Amazing Race* with his father, Mel White who is an out author and pastor who founded the organization Soulforce.

Minnie Hall

The adopted daughter of Tammany Hall politician and bail bondsman Murray Hall. Minnie's father, a confidant of State Senator Barney Martin, was found to be actually Mary Anderson after his death in 1901. Murray Hall died from breast cancer, which was not diagnosed because of his fear of discovery.

Natasha Richardson (actress)

Stage and screen performer who is the daughter of award-winning actress Vanessa Redgrave and bisexual film director Tony Richardson. Also had a bisexual grandfather (Sir Michael Redgrave). Natasha lost her father, director Tony Richardson, to AIDS in 1991. Since her father's death, she has taken a hands-on role in AIDS work, including organizing the American Foundation for AIDS Research's hugely successful auction of Oscar dresses last year. Married to fellow actor Liam Neeson, Natasha is a mother of two sons.

When I was about 10 or 11 I said to my mother, "Is my papa gay?" She said yes, and I remember being very upset by that. I'm not sure quite why. There's the social stigma when you're in school... and I guess at

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the time you think your parents are gods. I guess, because of the world I've been brought up in, I just don't categorize people. I don't think, oh, that's a bisexual person, that's a gay person, that's a straight person.

Nicole Bobek (ice skater)

Known for an outgoing personality on the ice and unusual grace and artistry, Nicole Bobek grew up in Chicago with her lesbian mother, Jana Bobek, who skated in minor competitions in her youth in her native Czechoslovakia. Nicole was put into skates at age 3 ½, and Jana guided her daughter's progress for a while, then put her into a class. Nicole is the 1995 United States skating champion and earned a Bronze medal at the World Level.

Nigel Nicolson (author)

Nicolson wrote *Portrait of a Marriage*. In the book, Nicholson writes of the marriage of his famous parents, the author Vita Sackville-West (who was Virginia Woolf's longtime lover) and author, politician and diarist, Harold Nicolson, also a bisexual.

Noriko and Ichiro Mishima

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. Their father at the peak of a brilliant literary career and at the age of forty-five committed the ritual suicide called *Seppuku* on November 25, 1970.

Orenthal James (OJ) Simpson

Considered one of the greatest running backs in American football history, OJ in the early 1990s became a household name—a name that sparked conversations across the United States on race, wealth, and fame. Born near San Francisco in the Stanford University Hospital on July 9, 1947, he was the son of Jimmie and Eunice Durden Simpson. Simpson's father, a well-known San Francisco drag queen, died of AIDS in 1986. In June of 1994, Nicole Brown and Ronald Goldman were found brutally murdered, and Simpson was charged and later convicted in civil court of their murders.

Raymond Douglas

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. Raymond's grandfather, Colonel Custance, alleged that Douglas was a cruel and irresponsible father, and sued to have young Raymond taken away from his parents. Raymond's mother sided with her father and the marriage ended in shambles. The custody battle and family rifts took their toll on Raymond. He grew up with severe emotional problems. At the age of twenty-five, he was diagnosed as schizophrenic and was committed to a private mental hospital. He spent much of his life in and out of such institutions and died in one in 1964.

Rebecca Walker (author)

Rebecca is the daughter of lesbian author Alice Walker and is the co-founder of the Third Wave, a small feminist organization that began in 1992 and recently wrote *To Be Real: Telling the Truth and Changing the Face of Feminism*. Her mother is known for such novels as *The Color Purple*.

Rene Russo (actress)

Born in 1954, Rene Russo grew up on the wrong side of the tracks in Burbank, a Los Angeles suburb. Her father, a sculptor and mechanic, left the family when Rene was just two, leaving her mother, Shirley, as a single lesbian mom with two daughters. (Rene has one sister named Toni.)

Rene was discovered suddenly as a seventeen-year-old. Within a few months, she had signed a contract with Ford Modeling Agency and within a year had become a successful print and photographer model. Her television series debut came in 1987 with a supporting part on the short-lived TV series "Sable." Some of her most notable film appearances include *Major League*, *Ransom*, and *The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle*, and she played an internal affairs detective in *Lethal Weapon 3*. Rene Russo has been praised for her ability to hold her own against her major male co-stars. She has been married to screenwriter Dan Gilroy since 1992, and they have one daughter, named Rose.

When I was born—oh I am going to cry—my dad left and it was women in my life that were gay that raised me and that helped me and nurtured me.

Vanessa Redgrave (actress)

Vanessa, known for her roles in *The Trojan Women*, *Mary Queen of Scots*, *Howards End*, *Wilde* and *Deep Impact*, is the daughter of distinguished bisexual actor Sir Michael Redgrave. Vanessa Redgrave is widely regarded as one of Great Britain's finest modern dramatic actresses. Born January 30, 1937 in London, Redgrave studied drama at London's Central School of Music and Dance. She made her theatrical debut in 1957 and her film debut the following year in *Behind the Mask*, which also starred her father. She had two children, Joely and Natasha Richardson, by bisexual director Tony Richardson, and in 1969 had a child by her *Camelot* co-star Franco Nero. Redgrave won an Oscar for best supporting actress for her role in *Julia* (1977).

William Burroughs III

Son of Joan Vollmer and gay father William Seward Burroughs, a famous Beat and contemporary writer. William Jr.'s great-grandfather was the inventor of the adding machine. In 1951, Burroughs lost his mother in an odd and tragic way. During a drunken performance of *William Tell*, Burroughs Sr. missed and killed Joan with a bullet through the brain.

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