

Who Is Jon Bon Jovi?

Jon Bon Jovi knew in his early teens that he wanted to be a rock star. He formed the band Bon Jovi in the 1980s, which became popular for its power ballads, soaring guitar riffs and well-crafted melodies. Jon Bon Jovi has also acted in such films as *The Leading Man* and was a recurring character on TV's *Ally McBeal*. Today he continues to perform with his legendary band Bon Jovi. Their recent albums include *What About Now* (2013), *Burning Bridges* (2015) and *This House Is Not For Sale* (2016).

Early Life and Career

John Francis Bongiovi Jr. was born on March 2, 1962, in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. He was raised by his parents, Carol and John Bongiovi, a hairdresser. By his early teens, he was hanging out at local clubs, convinced that one day he would be a rock star.

Idolizing local rising stars such as Bruce Springsteen, Jon was playing in clubs by the time he was 16. He met keyboardist David Bryan in high school, and the two formed a ten-piece rhythm and blues band called Atlantic City Expressway. Jon also performed with bands called The Rest, The Lechers and John Bongiovi and the Wild Ones.

In 1980, Jon recorded his first single, *Runaway*, at his cousin's studio, with back-up by studio musicians. A local radio station included the song on a compilation tape, and it began to get frequent airplay. The success of *Runaway* got Jon noticed, and he realized that he'd need more than session players if he wanted to capitalize on his success.

Jon called David, who in turn tapped Alec John Such, Tico Torres and guitarist Richie Sambora. During a show in New York in 1983, the band caught the attention of record executive Derek Shulman, who signed them to PolyGram. It was Shulman who anglicized John Bongiovi's name to Bon Jovi.



✓ Read and write **TRUE** or **FALSE**

1. Jon Bon Jovi was born in nineteen sixty two. **TRUE** / **FALSE**
2. He is from England. **TRUE** / **FALSE**
3. Her mother's name was Carol. **TRUE** / **FALSE**
4. He worked as a hairdresser when he was young. **TRUE** / **FALSE**
5. His first song was Runaway. **TRUE** / **FALSE**
6. His band signed with Sony music. **TRUE** / **FALSE**

✓ Answer:

- 1- Where was he born? _____
- 2- When did he decide to be a singer? _____
- 3- Which was his first famous song? _____

