

CELEBRITIES THAT BELONG TO THE 27 CLUB

1) Read the following text about some celebrities that belong to the 27 Club. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb in the past simple

A. Jonathan Brandis



Jonathan _____ (be) born in 1976. He _____ (begin) his acting career when he _____ (be) only six. He _____ (play) one of his most important roles at the age of 11 in *Fatal Attraction*. Three years later, he _____ (have) his first leading role in *'The Never-Ending Story II'* and in the same year he _____ (star) the mini-series *'It'* by Stephen King. Thanks to this role, he _____ (get) his big break in the popular series *Sea Quest DSV* in 1993. From this moment on, he _____ (become) very popular but the show _____ (be) cancelled in 1996. His popularity _____ (begin) to wane and he _____ (start) struggling to maintain his career. In 2002, he _____ (get) a role in *Hart's War*, but his scenes _____ (be) discarded. Brandis _____ (get) depressed and _____ (decide) to suicide. On November 11th, 2003 he _____ (hang) himself in his apartment in Los Angeles at the age of 27.

B. Brian Jones



Brian _____ (be) the leader of the Rolling Stones and _____ (be) known because of his talent and master in several instruments. He also _____ (work) with the Beatles in the Yellow Submarine choirs. Unfortunately, he _____ (have) a messy life because of alcohol and drug problems as well as his overweening personality. That same year, Brian _____ (be) found diving into the swimming pool as a result of his foolish behavior. According to the forensic report, he _____ (mix) alcohol and drugs and his liver and heart _____ (be) damaged. However, it is said that Brian _____ (die not) as a result of an accident. In 1993, it was reported that Frank Thorogood, a builder who was working in his garden _____ (kill) him.

C. Andres Escobar



He _____ (be) born in March 1967 and _____ (be) an important footballer in Colombia. He _____ (play) in the World Cup in the USA, 1994. Unfortunately, he _____ (make) a mistake, an own goal. According to the press, it _____ (be) the cause of his death. This mistake _____ (incite) the rage of gamblers who _____ (belong) to drug mafia and _____ (murder) him. However, this hypothesis is not proved yet and there are a lot of questions to be answered about what _____ (lead) his death at the age of 27 in 1994.

D. Janis Joplin



She _____ (be) the first female rock & roll artist who _____ (stand out) for her musical performance. She _____ (be) born in 1943 and _____ (develop) a love of music at early age. Joplin _____ (rise) to fame in 1967 with a psychedelic rock band. Then, she _____ (leave) the band to start a career as a soloist. Her life _____ (be) intense and surrounded by drug problems. Outside of music, she _____ (appear) to struggle with an addiction to heroin. In 1970, she _____ (travel) to Brazil in order to detoxify and start a new musical project. However, she _____ (feel) lonely and after her last recording session she _____ (get) her heroine kit out and injected some in her left arm. Unfortunately, she _____ (die) because of a heroin overdose at the age of 27.

E. Jean-Michael Basquiat



He _____ (be) a poet, a painter and a graffiti artist considered the father of the Urban Movement in relation to graffiti. He _____ (be) born in 1960 in Brooklyn New York. At early age, he _____ (show) an interest in drawing. His parents _____ (support) him and _____ (encourage) his affinity for arts. Years later, he _____ (show) interest in Alfred Hitchcock films, cars and animation. At 18, he _____ (join) the theater group *'Family Life'*. By this time, he _____ (sign) his first graffities. In 1984, he _____ (start) to give signs of drug abuse and abnormal behaviors connected to the addiction. In August 1988, he _____ (pass away) because of a heroin overdose.

2) After reading a the previous texts about some members of the 27th Club, complete the chart below:

Who...

- was a soloist?
- died because of an overdose?
- stared an important role?
- belonged to a theater group?
- was arrogant?
- killed himself/herself?
- died after a recording session?
- was murdered?
- got depressed?
- didn't succeed in his/her twenties?
- played a sport?
- Liked drawing?
- played several instruments?
- died in the 90s?

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