**OPRAH WINFREY: American talk show host, television producer, actress, author, and media proprietor.**

**Oprah Gail Winfrey**  also known mononymously as **Oprah**, is an American talk show host, television producer, actress, author, and media proprietor. **(Born:**January 29, 1954 (age 69 years), [Kosciusko, Mississippi, United States](https://www.google.ca/search?sca_esv=600090652&q=Kosciusko,+Mississippi&si=AKbGX_paaCugDdYkuX2heTJMr0_FGRox2AzKVmiTg2eQr2d-rt2NjOSpCI74htfSpJs0cA2RxLzEAVICb7Nghwnra45Eb4S3h0cW2sxeMYtMUoe1-NtWVdyXIz657whihzd5KjSZZYZnWZKJoXIsMO2qKrqj3cixiti662woWLextdSDCFV0TzfU423XzOw5Blda8QAqdxlcHx2wMdNxzZItMIXHmin_aQ%3D%3D&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwips_LdteyDAxXxODQIHew8ApMQmxMoAHoECCYQAg)); **Net worth:**2.8 billion USD (2024) [Forbes](http://www.forbes.com/billionaires/))

 She is best known for her talk show, [*The Oprah Winfrey Show*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Oprah_Winfrey_Show), broadcast from [Chicago](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago), which ran in national syndication for 25 years, from 1986 to 2011.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oprah_Winfrey#cite_note-2010_contract-5)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oprah_Winfrey#cite_note-Biography-2021-6) Dubbed the "Queen of All Media",[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oprah_Winfrey#cite_note-7) she was the richest African-American of the 20th century[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oprah_Winfrey#cite_note-8)[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oprah_Winfrey#cite_note-9) and was once the world's only black billionaire.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oprah_Winfrey#cite_note-10) By 2007, she was often ranked as the most influential woman in the world.[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oprah_Winfrey#cite_note-opens_school-11)[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oprah_Winfrey#cite_note-12)

Winfrey was born into poverty in rural [Mississippi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mississippi) to a single teenage mother and later raised in inner-city [Milwaukee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milwaukee). She has stated that she was molested during her childhood and early teenage years and became pregnant at 14; her son was born [prematurely](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preterm_birth) and died in infancy.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oprah_Winfrey#cite_note-path_to_power-13) Winfrey was then sent to live with the man she calls her father, Vernon Winfrey, a barber in [Nashville, Tennessee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nashville%2C_Tennessee), and landed a job in radio while still in high school.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oprah_Winfrey#cite_note-Biography-2021-6) By 19, she was a co-anchor for the local evening news. Winfrey's often emotional, extemporaneous delivery eventually led to her transfer to the daytime talk show arena, and after boosting a third-rated local Chicago talk show to first place,[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oprah_Winfrey#cite_note-forbes-14) she launched her own production company.

By the mid-1990s, Winfrey had reinvented her show with a focus on literature, self-improvement, mindfulness, and spirituality. Though she has been criticized for unleashing a confession culture, promoting controversial [self-help](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Self-help) ideas,[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oprah_Winfrey#cite_note-15) and having an emotion-centered approach,[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oprah_Winfrey#cite_note-Chapman2010-16) she has also been praised for overcoming adversity to become a benefactor to others.[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oprah_Winfrey#cite_note-TIME_100_2007-17) Winfrey also emerged as a political force in the 2008 presidential race, with [her endorsement of Barack Obama](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oprah_Winfrey%27s_endorsement_of_Barack_Obama) estimated to have been worth about one million votes during the [2008 Democratic primaries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2008_Democratic_Party_presidential_primaries).[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oprah_Winfrey#cite_note-18) In 2013, Winfrey was awarded the [Presidential Medal of Freedom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidential_Medal_of_Freedom) by President [Barack Obama](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barack_Obama%22%20%5Co%20%22Barack%20Obama),[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oprah_Winfrey#cite_note-19) and received honorary doctorate degrees from [Duke](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duke_University) and [Harvard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvard).[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oprah_Winfrey#cite_note-20)[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oprah_Winfrey#cite_note-Duke_Article-21) In 2008, she formed her own network, the [Oprah Winfrey Network](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oprah_Winfrey_Network) (OWN). (read more):

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oprah_Winfrey>

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<https://abcnews.go.com/Entertainment/video/oprah-winfrey-years-40000199>