

Nick Cave

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For the performer, see [Nick Cave \(performance artist\)](#).

Nicholas Edward Cave AO (born 22 September 1957) is an Australian musician, singer-songwriter, author, screenwriter, composer and occasional film actor, best known as the frontman of the rock band [Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds](#). Cave's music is generally characterised by emotional intensity, a wide variety of influences, and lyrical obsessions with death, religion, love and violence.^[3]


Born and raised in rural [Victoria](#), Cave studied art before turning to music in the 1970s. As frontman of the Boys Next Door (later renamed [the Birthday Party](#)), he became a central figure in [Melbourne](#)'s burgeoning [post-punk](#) scene. The band relocated to [London](#) in 1980, but, disillusioned by life there, evolved towards a darker, more challenging sound, and acquired a reputation as "the most violent live band in the world".^[4] The Birthday Party is regarded as a major influence on [gothic rock](#), and Cave, with his shock of black hair, baritone singing voice and pale, emaciated look, was described in the media as a [poster boy](#) for the genre.

After the break-up of the Birthday Party in 1983, Cave formed [Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds](#). Much of the band's early material was set in a mythic American [Deep South](#), drawing on [spirituals](#) and [Delta blues](#), while Cave's preoccupation with [Old Testament](#) notions of good versus evil culminated in what has been called his [signature song](#), "The Mercy Seat" (1988). The 1996 album *Murder Ballads* features "Where the Wild Roses Grow", a duet with [Kylie Minogue](#), Cave's most commercially successful single to date. The band has released 16 studio albums, the most recent being 2016's *Skeleton Tree*. Cave formed the [garage rock](#) group [Grinderman](#) in 2006, which has since released two albums.

Cave co-wrote, scored and starred in the 1988 Australian prison film *Ghosts... of the Civil Dead* (1988), directed by [John Hillcoat](#). He also wrote the screenplay for Hillcoat's [bushranger](#) film *The Proposition* (2005), and composed the soundtrack with frequent collaborator [Warren Ellis](#). The pair's film score credits include *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford* (2007), *The Road* (2009), *Lawless* (2012), and *Hell or High Water* (2016). Cave is the subject of several films, including the semi-fictional "day in the life" *20,000 Days on Earth* (2014), and the documentary *One More Time with Feeling* (2016). Cave has also released two novels: *And the Ass Saw the Angel* (1989) and *The Death of Bunny Munro* (2009).

Cave's songs have been [covered](#) by a wide range of artists, including [Johnny Cash](#), [Metallica](#) and [Arctic Monkeys](#). He was inducted into the [ARIA Hall of Fame](#) in 2007.^[5]

Youth, education and family

Nick Cave AO	
	
Cave in October 2012	
Background information	
Birth name	Nicholas Edward Cave
Born	22 September 1957 (age 61) Warracknabeal, Victoria, Australia
Genres	Post-punk , gothic rock , ^{[1][2]} alternative rock , experimental rock , garage rock
Occupation(s)	Singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, writer, actor, composer
Instruments	Vocals , piano , organ , harmonica , guitar , percussion , saxophone , drums
Years active	1973–present
Labels	Bad Seed , Mute , 4AD
Associated acts	Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds , The Birthday Party , Shilpa Ray , PJ Harvey , Grinderman , The Boys Next Door , The Immaculate Consumptive , Shane MacGowan , Kylie Minogue , Blixa Bargeld
Website	nickcave.com

Cave was born on 22 September 1957 in [Warracknabeal](#), a small country town in the state of [Victoria, Australia](#), to Dawn Cave (née Treadwell) and Colin Frank Cave.^{[6][7]} As a child, he lived in Warracknabeal and then [Wangaratta](#) in rural Victoria. His father taught English and mathematics at the local technical school; his mother was a librarian at the high school that Nick attended.^[8] Cave's father introduced him to literary classics from an early age, such as *[Crime and Punishment](#)* and *[Lolita](#)*,^[9] and also organised the first [symposium](#) on the Australian [bushranger](#) and outlaw [Ned Kelly](#),^[10] with whom Nick was enamoured as a child.^[11]

When Cave was 9 he joined the choir of Wangaratta's Holy Trinity Cathedral.^[6] At 13 he was expelled from [Wangaratta High School](#).^[9] In 1970, having moved with his family to the [Melbourne](#) suburb of [Murrumbeena](#), he became a boarder and later day student at [Caulfield Grammar School](#).^[8] He was 19 when his father was killed in a car collision; his mother told him of his father's death while she was bailing him out of a [St Kilda](#) police station where he was being held on a charge of burglary. He would later recall that his father "died at a point in my life when I was most confused" and that "the loss of my father created in my life a vacuum, a space in which my words began to float and collect and find their purpose".^[9]

After his secondary schooling, Cave studied painting at the [Caulfield Institute of Technology](#) in 1976, but dropped out the following year to pursue music.^[12] He also began using [heroin](#) around the time that he left art school.^[13]

Cave attended his first music concert at Melbourne's [Festival Hall](#). The bill consisted of [Manfred Mann](#), [Deep Purple](#) and [Free](#). Cave recalled: "I remember sitting there and feeling physically the sound going through me."^[12]

Music career

Early years and the Birthday Party (1973–83)

Main article: [The Birthday Party \(band\)](#)

In 1973, Cave met [Mick Harvey](#) (guitar), [Phill Calvert](#) (drums), John Cochivera (guitar), Brett Purcell (bass), and Chris Coyne (saxophone); fellow students at Caulfield Grammar. They founded a band with Cave as singer. Their repertoire consisted of proto-punk [cover versions](#) of songs by [Lou Reed](#), [David Bowie](#), [Alice Cooper](#), [Roxy Music](#) and [Alex Harvey](#), among others. Later, the line-up slimmed down to four members including Cave's friend [Tracy Pew](#) on bass. In 1977, after leaving school, they adopted the name The Boys Next Door and began playing predominantly original material. Guitarist and songwriter [Rowland S. Howard](#) joined the band in 1978.

They were a leader of Melbourne's post-punk scene in the late 1970s, playing hundreds of live shows in Australia before changing their name to the Birthday Party in 1980 and moving to London, then [West Berlin](#). Cave's Australian girlfriend and muse [Anita Lane](#) accompanied them to London. The band were notorious for their provocative live performances which featured Cave shrieking, bellowing and throwing himself about the stage, backed up by harsh pounding rock music laced with guitar [feedback](#). Cave utilised [Old Testament](#) imagery with lyrics about sin, debauchery and damnation.^[1] Cave's droll sense of humour and penchant for parody is evident in many of the band's songs, including "Nick the Stripper" and "King Ink". "Release the Bats", one of the band's most famous songs, was intended as an over-the-top "[piss-take](#)" on [gothic rock](#), and a "direct attack" on the "stock gothic associations that less informed critics were wont to make". Ironically, it became highly influential on the genre, giving rise to a new generation of bands.^[14]

After establishing a cult following in Europe and Australia, the Birthday Party disbanded in 1984.

Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds (1984–present)

Main article: [Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds](#)

The band with Cave as their leader and frontman has released sixteen studio albums. [Pitchfork Media](#) calls the group one of rock's "most enduring, redoubtable" bands, with an accomplished discography.^[15] Though their sound tends to change considerably from one album to another, the one constant of the band is an unpolished blending of disparate genres, and song structures which provide a vehicle for Cave's virtuosic, frequently histrionic theatrics. Critics Stephen Thomas Erlewine and Steve Huey wrote: "With the Bad Seeds, Cave continued to explore his obsessions with religion, death, love, America, and violence with a bizarre, sometimes self-consciously eclectic hybrid of blues, gospel, rock, and arty post-punk."^[3]

Reviewing 2008's *[Dig, Lazarus, Dig!!!](#)* album, *[NME](#)* used the phrase "[gothic](#) psycho-sexual apocalypse" to



Cave performing in

describe the "menace" present in the lyrics of the title track.^[16] Their most recent work, *Skeleton Tree*, was released in September 2016.^[17]

Belgium, 1986

In mid-August 2013, Cave was a 'First Longlist' finalist for the 9th Coopers AMP, alongside artists such as [Kevin Mitchell](#) and [the Drones](#). The Australian music prize is worth [A\\$30,000](#).^[18] The prize ultimately went to Big Scary.^[19]

In September 2013 interview, Cave explained that he returned to using a typewriter for songwriting after his experience with the *Nocturama* album, as he "could walk in on a bad day and hit 'delete' and that was the end of it". Cave believes that he lost valuable work due to a "bad day".^[12]



Hamburg/Germany July 2001

Solo work



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In addition to his performances with [Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds](#), Cave has, since the 1990s, performed live 'solo' tours with himself on piano/vocals, [Warren Ellis](#) on violin/accordion and various others on bass and drums.

Grinderman

Main article: [Grinderman](#)

In 2006 Cave formed Grinderman – himself on vocals, guitar, organ & piano, [Warren Ellis](#) (tenor guitar, electric mandolin, violin, viola, guitar, backing vocals), [Martyn P. Casey](#) (bass, guitar, backing vocals) and [Jim Sclavunos](#) (drums, percussion, backing vocals).

The alternative rock outfit was formed as "a way to escape the weight of The Bad Seeds."^[20] The band's name was inspired by a [Memphis Slim](#) song, "Grinder Man Blues," which Cave is noted to have started singing during one of the band's early rehearsal sessions. The band's eponymous debut studio album, *Grinderman*, was released in 2007 to extremely positive reviews and the band's second and final studio album, *Grinderman 2*, was released in 2010 to a similar reception.

Grinderman's first public performance was at [All Tomorrow's Parties](#) in April 2007 where [Bobby Gillespie](#) from [Primal Scream](#) accompanied Grinderman on backing vocals and percussion.

In December 2011, after performing at [Meredith Music Festival](#), Cave announced that Grinderman was over.^[21]

Music in film and television drama

Cave's work was featured in a scene in the 1986 film, *Dogs in Space* by Richard Lowenstein.^[22] Cave performed parts of the Boys Next Door song "[Shivers](#)" twice during the film, once on video and once live.

Another early fan of Cave's was German director [Wim Wenders](#), who lists Cave, along with [Lou Reed](#) and [Portishead](#), as among his favorites.^[23] Two of Cave's songs were featured in his 1987 film *Wings of Desire*.^[24] Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds also make a cameo appearance in this film. Two more songs were included in Wenders' 1993 sequel *Faraway, So Close!*, including the title track. The soundtrack for Wenders' 1991 film *Until the End of the World* features Cave's "(I'll Love You) Till the End of the World." His most recent production, *Palermo Shooting*, also contains a Nick Cave song, as does his 2003 documentary *The Soul of a Man*.^[25]

Cave's songs have also appeared in a number of Hollywood blockbusters – "There is a Light" appears on the 1995 soundtrack for *Batman Forever*, and "Red Right Hand" appeared in a number of films including *The X-Files*, *Dumb & Dumber*, *Scream*, its sequels *Scream 2* and *3*, and *Hellboy* (performed by [Pete Yorn](#)). In *Scream 3*, the song was given a reworking with Cave writing new lyrics and adding an orchestra to the arrangement of the track. "People Ain't No Good" was featured in the animated movie *Shrek 2* and the song "O Children" was featured in the 2010 movie of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1*.

In 2000 [Andrew Dominik](#) used "Release the Bats" in his film *Chopper*. Numerous other movies use Cave's songs including *Box of Moonlight* (1996), *Mr In-Between* (2001), *Romance & Cigarettes* (2005), *Cirque du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant* (2009), *The Freshman*,

His works also appear in a number of major TV programs among them *Trauma*, *The L Word*, *Traveler*, *The Unit*, *I Love the '70s*, *Outpatient*, *The Others*, *Nip/Tuck*, and *Californication*. Most recently his work has appeared in the BBC series *Peaky Blinders* and the Australian series *Jack Irish*. "Red Right Hand" is the theme song for *Peaky Blinders* and renditions of the track can be heard throughout the series, including the cover by the alternative-rock band *Arctic Monkeys*.

Collaborations



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Cave played with *Shane MacGowan* on cover versions of *Bob Dylan*'s "Death is Not the End" and *Louis Armstrong*'s "What a Wonderful World". Cave also performed "What a Wonderful World" live with *the Flaming Lips*. Cave recorded a cover version of the *Pogues* song "Rainy Night in Soho", written by MacGowan.



Nick Cave at a solo concert in Mainz, Germany on 11 November 2006.

MacGowan also sings a version of "Lucy", released on *B-Sides and Rarities*. On 3 May 2008, during the *Dig, Lazarus, Dig!!!* tour, MacGowan joined Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds on stage to perform "Lucy" at Dublin Castle in Ireland. *Pulp*'s single "Bad Cover Version" includes on its B-side a cover version by Cave of that band's song "Disco 2000". On the Deluxe Edition of *Pulp*'s *Different Class* another take of this cover can be found.

In 2000, one of Cave's heroes, *Johnny Cash*, covered Cave's "The Mercy Seat" on the album *American III: Solitary Man*, seemingly repaying Cave for the compliment he paid by covering Cash's "The Singer" (originally "The Folk Singer") on his *Kicking Against the Pricks* album. Cave was then invited to be one of many rock and country artists to contribute to the liner notes of the retrospective *The Essential Johnny Cash* CD, released to coincide with Cash's 70th birthday. Subsequently, Cave recorded a duet with Cash on a version of *Hank Williams*' "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry" for Cash's *American IV: The Man Comes Around* album (2002). A similar duet, the American folk song "Cindy", was released posthumously on the "Johnny

Cash: Unearthed" boxset. Cave's song "Let the Bells Ring" is a posthumous tribute to Cash. Cave has also covered the song "Wanted Man" which is best known as performed by Johnny Cash but is a Bob Dylan composition.

In 2004, Cave gave a hand to *Marianne Faithfull* on the album, *Before the Poison*. He co-wrote and produced three songs ("Crazy Love", "There is a Ghost" and "Desperanto"), and the Bad Seeds are featured on all of them. He is also featured on "The Crane Wife" (originally by *the Decemberists*), on Faithfull's 2008 album, *Easy Come, Easy Go*.

Cave collaborated with the band *Current 93* on their album *All the Pretty Little Horses*, where he sings the title track, a lullaby. For his 1996 album *Murder Ballads*, Cave recorded "Where the Wild Roses Grow" with *Kylie Minogue*, and "Henry Lee" with *PJ Harvey*.

Cave also took part in the "X-Files" compilation CD with some other artists, where he reads parts from the Bible combined with own texts, like "Time Jesum ...", he outed himself as a fan of the series some years ago, but since he does not watch much TV, it was one of the only things he watched. He collaborated on the 2003 single "Bring It On", with *Chris Bailey*, formerly of the Australian punk group, *The Saints*. Cave contributed vocals to the song "Sweet Rosyanne", on the 2006 album *Catch That Train!* from *Dan Zanes & Friends*, a children's music group.

In 2010 Nick Cave began a series of duets with *Debbie Harry* for *The Jeffrey Lee Pierce Sessions Project*.^{[26][27][28]}

In 2011, Cave recorded a cover of the *Zombies*' "She's Not There" with *Neko Case*, which was used at the end of the first episode of the fourth season of *True Blood*.

In 2014, Cave wrote the libretto for the opera *Shell Shock (opera)* by *Nicholas Lens*. The opera premiered at the Royal Opera House *La Monnaie* in Brussels on 24 October 2014.^{[29][30][31][32]}

Film scores and theatre music

In 2001, Cave recorded a cover of [the Beatles'](#) "Let It Be" for the film *I Am Sam*,^[33] and co-wrote and recorded the song "To Be By Your Side," for the soundtrack of the 2001 French documentary *Le Peuple Migrateur* (called *Winged Migration* in the US).^[34]

Cave creates original film scores with fellow Bad Seeds band member [Warren Ellis](#)—they first teamed up in 2005 to work on *The Proposition*, for which Cave also wrote the screenplay.^[35]

In 2006, Cave and Ellis composed the music for [Andrew Dominik's](#) adaptation of [Ron Hansen's](#) *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*.^[36] By the time Dominik's film was released, Hillcoat was preparing his next project, *The Road*, an adaptation of [Cormac McCarthy's](#) novel about a father and son struggling to survive in a [post-apocalyptic](#) world. Cave and Ellis wrote and recorded the score for the film, which was released in 2009.^[37]

In early 2011, Cave and Ellis composed the music for the Mexican film *Dias de Gracias*.^[38] Later in 2011, they reunited with Hillcoat to score his latest picture, *Lawless*. Cave also authored this screenplay based on the novel by Matt Bondurant. Set in Depression-era [Franklin County, Virginia](#), the film was released in August 2012 (US) and September 2012 (UK).^[39]

Cave and Ellis also have documentary-score composition experience. In 2007, the pair composed the score for Geoffrey Smith's film, *The English Surgeon*, which traces Dr. [Henry Marsh's](#) struggle to bring modern neurosurgery to the confusion of post-Soviet Ukraine. They also wrote the score for *The Girls of Phnom Penh*, Matthew Watson's 2009 film exploring Cambodia's "virginity trade".^[40]

Cave's novel *The Death of Bunny Munro*, published in 2009, was released as an audiobook and Cave worked with Ellis, Iain Forsyth and Jane Pollard on the soundtrack. Forsyth and Pollard referred to the soundtrack as a 3D experience and stated: "We've not heard anything like this before – the result sits somewhere between a film soundtrack, a radio play and an hallucination."^[41]

Cave and Ellis created music for the [Vesturport](#) productions *Woyzeck*, *The Metamorphosis* and *Faust*.^[42]

Writing

Cave released his first book, *King Ink*, in 1988. It is a collection of lyrics and plays, including collaborations with [Lydia Lunch](#). In 1997, he followed up with *King Ink II*, containing lyrics, poems, and the transcript of a radio essay he did for the [BBC](#) in July 1996, "The Flesh Made Word," discussing in biographical format his relationship with Christianity.

While he was based in [West Berlin](#), Cave started working on what was to become his debut novel, *And the Ass Saw the Angel* (1989). Significant crossover is evident between the [themes](#) in the book and the lyrics Cave wrote in the late stages of the Birthday Party and the early stage of his solo career. "Swampland", from *Mutiny*, in particular, uses the same linguistic stylings ('mah' for 'my', for instance) and some of the same themes (the narrator being haunted by the memory of a girl called Lucy, being hunted like an animal, approaching death and execution). On 21 January 2008, a special edition of Cave's novel *And the Ass Saw the Angel* was released.^[43] Cave's second novel *The Death of Bunny Munro* was published on 8 September 2009 by Harper Collins books.^{[44][45]} Telling the story of a sex-addicted salesman, it was also released as a [binaural](#) audio-book produced by British Artists [Iain Forsyth and Jane Pollard](#) and an iPhone app.^[46] The book originally started as a screenplay Cave was going to write for [John Hillcoat](#).^[47]

Aside from movie soundtracks, Cave also wrote the screenplays for Hillcoat's *The Proposition* in 2005, and *Lawless* (based on the novel by Matt Bondurant) in 2011.

As proof of his interest in scripture, so evident in his lyrics and his prose writing, Cave wrote the foreword to a [Canongate](#) publication of the *Gospel according to Mark*, published in the UK in 1998. The American edition of the same book (published by [Grove Press](#)) contains a foreword by the noted American writer [Barry Hannah](#).

Cave is a contributor to a 2009 rock biography of [the Triffids](#), *Vagabond Holes: David McComb and the Triffids*, edited by Australian academics [Niall Lucy](#) and Chris Coughran.^[48]

Acting

Cave's first film appearance was in [Wim Wenders'](#) 1987 film *Wings of Desire*, in which he and the Bad Seeds are shown performing at a concert in Berlin.



Cave reading from *The Death of Bunny Munro* in New York City, 2009.

Cave has made occasional appearances as an actor. He appears alongside [Blixa Bargeld](#) in the 1988 Peter Sempel film *Dandy*, playing dice, singing and speaking from his Berlin apartment. He is most prominently featured in the 1989 film *Ghosts... of the Civil Dead*, written and directed by [John Hillcoat](#), and in the 1991 film *Johnny Suede* with [Brad Pitt](#).

Cave appeared in the 2005 homage to [Leonard Cohen](#), *Leonard Cohen: I'm Your Man*, in which he performed "I'm Your Man" solo, and "Suzanne" with [Julie Christensen](#) and [Perla Batalla](#). He also appeared in the 2007 film adaptation of Ron Hansen's novel *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*, where he sings the ballad "Jesse James". Cave and Warren Ellis are credited for the film's soundtrack. Nick Cave and his son Luke performed one of the songs on the soundtrack together. Luke played the triangle.^[49]

His interest in the work of [Edward Gorey](#) led to his participation in the [BBC Radio 3](#) programme *Guest + Host = Ghost*, featuring [Peter Blegvad](#) and the radiophonic sound of the [Langham Research Centre](#).^[50]

Cave has also lent his voice in narrating the animated film *The Cat Piano*. It was directed by [Eddie White](#) and Ari Gibson (of [the People's Republic of Animation](#)), produced by Jessica Brentnall and features music by [Benjamin Speed](#).^[51]

Screenwriting

Cave wrote the screenplay for *The Proposition*, a film about [bushrangers](#) in the Australian [outback](#) during the late 19th century. Directed by John Hillcoat and filmed in [Queensland](#) in 2004, it premiered in October 2005 and was later released worldwide to critical acclaim.^[52] Cave explained his personal background in relation to writing the film's screenplay in a 2013 interview:

I had written long-form before but it is pure story-telling in script writing and that goes back as far as I can remember for me, not just with my father but with myself. I slept in the same bedroom as my sister for many years, until it became indecent to do so and I would tell her stories every night—that is how she would get to sleep. She would say "tell me a story" so I would tell her a story. So that ability, I very much had that from the start and I used to enjoy that at school so actually to write a script—it suddenly felt like I was just making up a big story.^[12]

The film critic for British newspaper *The Independent* called *The Proposition* "peerless," "a star-studded and uncompromisingly violent outlaw film."^[53] The generally [ambient](#) soundtrack was recorded by Cave and Warren Ellis.

In 2006 it was revealed that, at the request of his friend [Russell Crowe](#), Cave wrote a script for a proposed sequel to *Gladiator* which was rejected by the studio.^[54]

An announcement in February 2010 stated that [Andy Serkis](#) and Cave would collaborate on a motion-capture movie of the Brecht and Weill musical *The Threepenny Opera*. As of September 2012, the project has not been realised.^[55]

Cave wrote a screenplay titled *The Wettest County in the World*,^[56] which was used for the 2012 film *Lawless*, directed again by John Hillcoat, starring [Tom Hardy](#) and [Shia LaBeouf](#). The film opened in theaters on 29 August 2012.^[57]

Personal life

Cave left Australia in 1980 and lived with his family in [Brighton, England, United Kingdom](#). A film about Cave's life, titled *20,000 Days on Earth* and directed by artists [Iain Forsyth and Jane Pollard](#), was released in mid-2014, shortly before his 57th birthday.^[58]

In 2017, Cave told GQ magazine that he and his family were moving from Brighton to [Los Angeles](#) as, after the death of his 15-year-old son, Arthur, Cave described that his family "just find it too difficult to live here."^[59]

Partners and children

Cave dated [Anita Lane](#) from the late 1970s to mid-1980s.^[60] Cave and Lane recorded together on a few occasions. Their most notable collaborations include Lane's 'cameo' verse on Cave's Bob Dylan cover "Death Is Not The End" from the album *Murder Ballads*, and a cover of the [Serge Gainsbourg/Jane Birkin](#) song "Je t'aime... moi non plus/ I love you ... me neither".^[61] Lane co-wrote the lyrics to the title track for Cave's 1984 LP, *From Her to Eternity*, as well as the lyrics of the song "Stranger Than Kindness" from *Your Funeral, My Trial*.^[62] Cave, [Lydia Lunch](#) and Lane wrote a comic book together, entitled *AS-FIX-E-8*, in the style of the old "Pussy Galore"/Russ Meyer movies.

Cave then moved to [São Paulo](#), Brazil in 1990, where he met and married his first wife, Brazilian journalist Viviane Carneiro. She gave birth to their son Luke in 1991. Nick and Viviane were married for 6 years and divorced in 1996.^[63]

Cave's second son, Jethro, was also born in 1991 and grew up with his mother, Beau Lazenby, in Melbourne, Australia. Cave and Jethro did not meet one another until Jethro was about seven or eight.^{[64][65]}

Cave briefly dated [PJ Harvey](#) during the mid-1990s.

In 1997, Cave met British model Susie Bick. Bick was the cover model on the [Damned](#)'s 1985 album *Phantasmagoria* and a [Vivienne Westwood](#) model. Bick is also the model on the cover of the album *Push the Sky Away*.^[66] She gave up her job when they married in 1999. Bick's and Cave's twin sons, Arthur and Earl, were born in [Brighton](#) in 2000.^{[67][68]}

Cave's son Arthur, 15, fell from a cliff at [Ovingdean](#), near [Brighton, England](#), and died from his injuries on 14 July 2015. Cave's family released a statement on the death, saying, "Our son Arthur died on Tuesday evening. He was our beautiful, happy loving boy. We ask that we be given the privacy our family needs to grieve at this difficult time."^{[69][70][71]} The effect of Arthur's death on Cave and his family was explored in the 2016 documentary film *One More Time with Feeling* and on the 2016 album *Skeleton Tree*.

Cave is the godfather to [Michael Hutchence](#)'s daughter Heavenly Hiraani Tiger Lily.^[72] Cave performed "Into My Arms" at the televised funeral of [Michael Hutchence](#), but insisted that the cameras cease rolling during his performance.

Religion

In the past, Cave identified as a Christian. In his recorded lectures on music and songwriting, he has claimed that any true love song is a song for God and has ascribed the mellowing of his music to a shift in focus from the Old to the New Testaments. He does not belong to a particular denomination and has distanced himself from "religion as being an American thing, in which the name of God has been hijacked".^[73] He said in a *Los Angeles Times* article:

"I'm not religious, and I'm not a Christian, but I do reserve the right to believe in the possibility of a god. It's kind of defending the indefensible, though; I'm critical of what religions are becoming, the more destructive they're becoming. But I think as an artist, particularly, it's a necessary part of what I do, that there is some divine element going on within my songs."^[74]

When asked in 2009 about whether he believed in a personal God, Cave's reply was: "No".^[75] When interviewed by [Jarvis Cocker](#) on 12 September 2010, for his BBC Radio 6 show "Jarvis Cocker's Sunday Service", Cave stated: "I believe in God in spite of religion, not because of it."^[76]

Discography

Further information: [Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds](#), [The Birthday Party discography](#), and [Grinderman discography](#)

Studio albums

The Boys Next Door

- 1979 : *Door, Door*

The Birthday Party

- 1979 : *Hee Haw*
- 1980 : *The Birthday Party*
- 1981 : *Prayers on Fire*
- 1982 : *Junkyard*



Cave performing in 2008

Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds

- 1984 : *From Her to Eternity*
- 1985 : *The Firstborn Is Dead*
- 1986 : *Kicking Against the Pricks*
- 1986 : *Your Funeral... My Trial*
- 1988 : *Tender Prey*
- 1990 : *The Good Son*
- 1992 : *Henry's Dream*
- 1994 : *Let Love In*
- 1996 : *Murder Ballads*
- 1997 : *The Boatman's Call*
- 2001 : *No More Shall We Part*
- 2003 : *Nocturama*
- 2004 : *Abattoir Blues/The Lyre of Orpheus*
- 2008 : *Dig, Lazarus, Dig!!!*
- 2013 : *Push the Sky Away*
- 2016 : *Skeleton Tree*

Grinderman

- 2007 : *Grinderman*
- 2010 : *Grinderman 2*

Soundtracks/scores

- *And the Ass Saw the Angel*, readings of the novel (1988), plus theatre score (1993) – text by Cave, music composed by Harvey and Ed Clayton-Jones
- *Ghosts... of the Civil Dead*, soundtrack (1988) – composed with Harvey & Bargeld
- *To Have and to Hold*, soundtrack (1996) – composed with Harvey & Bargeld
- *Woyzeck*, theatre score (2005) – composed with [Warren Ellis](#)^[77] (Not available on CD or vinyl.)
- *The Proposition*, soundtrack (2005) – composed with Ellis
- *Metamorphosis*, theatre score (2006) – composed with Ellis^[78] (Not available on CD or vinyl.)
- *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*, soundtrack (2007) – composed with Ellis, triangle Luke Cave^[49]
- *The English Surgeon*, soundtrack (2007) – composed with Ellis^[79] (Not available on CD or vinyl; only available on White Lunar; see below.)
- *The Girls of Phnom Penh*, soundtrack (2009) – composed with Ellis^[80] (Not available on CD or vinyl; only available on White Lunar; see below.)
- *The Death of Bunny Munro*, (7CDs), audiobook read by the author plus soundtrack (2009) – composed with Ellis^[81]
- *The Road*, soundtrack (2009) – composed with Ellis^[82] (Soundtrack released on 12 January 2010)^[83]
- *White Lunar*, soundtrack compilation (2009) – composed with Ellis^[80] (2CDs. Disc one contains high lights from [The Proposition](#), [The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford](#), and [The Road](#). Disc 2 contains work from [The English Surgeon](#) and [The Girls of Phnom Penh](#), as well as four unreleased pieces "from the archives".^[84]
- *The Metamorphosis*, (Forvandlingen – Norwegian national theatre) soundtrack (2012) – not released on CD
- *Lawless* soundtrack (2012)
- *Far from Men* soundtrack (2014)
- *20,000 Days on Earth* soundtrack (2014)
- *Hell or High Water*, soundtrack (2016) – composed with Warren Ellis
- *Mars*, National Geographic soundtrack (2016) – composed with Warren Ellis
- *War Machine*, soundtrack (2017) – composed with Ellis
- *Wind River*, soundtrack (2017) – composed with Ellis

Notable contributions and appearances

- *Send Me A Lullaby* (1981) album by [The Go-Betweens](#), features Cave's vocals on *After The Fireworks*.
- [Die Haut](#) and Nick Cave: *Burnin' the Ice* (1982), features Cave's vocals on *Stow-A-Way*, *Truck Love*, *Pleasure Is The Boss*, *Dumb Europe*
- *Department Of Enjoyment* NME Cassette Tape 011 (May 1984), cover of *I Put A Spell On You* by Nick Cave & The Cavemen.
- *Annie Hogan Plays "Kickabye" EP* (1985), features Cave's vocals on *Vixen*. Cave also produced.
- *Smack My Crack* (1987), features Cave performing *The Altra Virago Or The Vargus Barking Spider*
- *Wings Of Desire* (1987). Cave appears in the film performing *The Carny* and *From Her To Eternity*.
- Cover of "[Helpless](#)" by [Neil Young](#) (1989) for the Neil Young tribute album *The Bridge*.
- Leonard Cohen: *I'm your Fan* (1991), Nick Cave *Tower Of Song*.
- *Until The End Of The World* (1991), Nick Cave (*I'll Love You*) *Till The End Of The World*.
- *In Weiter Ferne, So Nah!* (aka *Faraway So Close!*) (1993), Nick Cave *Faraway So Close* and *Cassiel's Song*.
- *Zero Effect* (1994), Nick Cave *Into My Arms*.
- *Batman Forever soundtrack* (1995). Cave contributes the track *There is a Light*.
- *Songs in the Key of X: Music from and Inspired by the X-Files* (1996), *Time Jesum Transeuntum Et Non Riverentum* and a cover of The X-Files theme song, performed by Nick Cave and Dirty Three.
- *Oedipus Schmoedipus* (1996) album by [Barry Adamson](#), Cave appears on *The Sweetest Embrace*.
- *September Songs: The Music of Kurt Weill* (1997) produced by [Hal Willner](#). Cave contributes a cover version of "[Mack the Knife](#)".
- *Mojo – Original Soundtrack* (1997), Nick Cave & Gallon Drunk on *The Big Hurt* and Nick Cave on *Mojo*.
- *Nick Cave i Przyjaciele* (*Nick Cave and Friends*) (1999). A tribute album by Polish musicians. Cave appears on *Into My Arms* and *The Weeping Song*.
- *Music for Expelling The Demon* (1999), a short animation by Devlin Crow, written by A-Soma. **The Acid House* (1999), Nick Cave/Barry Adamson, *Sweetest Embrace*.
- *A Tribute to Polnareff*, a tribute album to [Michel Polnareff](#). Nick Cave contributes a cover version of *Goodbye Marylou*.
- *Ute Lemper's Punishing Kiss* (2000). Cave co-wrote (with Bruno Pisek) *Little Water Song*.
- "Red Right Hand" in *Scream 3* (2000), alternate version, sometimes referred to as *Red Right Hand 2*, also included on Cave's *B-Sides & Rarities* album.
- *He Died With A FelaFel In His Hand* (2001), Nick Cave *The Mercy Seat (Live)* & *Into My Arms*.
- *Intimite* (aka *Intimacy*) (2001), Nick Cave *In The Ghetto*.
- *To Be By Your Side* – from the OST for French documentary film *Le Peuple Migrateur* (2001).
- *I Am Sam* (2002). Cave contributes a cover version of [The Beatles'](#) "[Let It Be](#)", which was later issued as the B-side to a cover version of "[Here Comes the Sun](#)".
- "[Bad Cover Version](#)" single by [Pulp](#) (2002). Cave contributes a cover version of Pulp's "[Disco 2000](#)".
- *Sunday Morning* (2002). Cave performs a cover version of [The Velvet Underground's](#) debut album (song) with Chris Coco on Coco's album *Next Wave*.
- *American IV: The Man Comes Around* (2003) duet with Johnny Cash on "[I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry](#)".
- *Kiss of Love* (duet with [Sam Brown](#)) from [Jools Holland's](#) 2003 album *Small World Big Band Friends 3 – Jack O The Green*.
- Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds appear on the Martin Scorsese series *The Blues* (2003) singing [J. B. Lenoir's](#) "[I Feel So Good](#)".
- *Shrek 2* (2004), Nick Cave *People Aint' No Good*.
- *The Passion Of The Christ – Songs Inspired By* (2004), Nick Cave *Darker With The Day*.
- *Harry Smith Project Vol 1* (2006), Nick Cave *John The Revelator* and Vol 2 *Shine On Me*.
- "I'm Your Man" and "Suzanne" performed by Cave in the documentary/concert film *Leonard Cohen: I'm Your Man* (2006).
- *Rogue's Gallery: Pirate Ballads, Sea Songs, and Chanteys* (2006). Cave contributes the tracks *Fire Down Below* and *Pinery Boy*.
- [Seasick Steve's](#) song *Just Like A King*, from the album *I Started Out With Nothin'* (2008) includes Cave's vocals.
- *Californication* Season 2 (2009), Nick Cave *Moonland*.
- *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1* (2010). Cave contributed *O Children*.
- *Leonard Cohen By En Boca De* (2011), Nick Cave *Avalanche*.
- *Trentemøller – Late Night Tales* (2011), Nick Cave & Warren Ellis *The Proposition #1*.
- Nick Cave and [Neko Case](#) cover [The Zombies](#) song *She's Not There* for HBO show *True Blood*.^[85] (2011)
- *Pirate Jenny*. [Shilpa Ray](#) with Nick Cave and [Warren Ellis](#) on *Son of Rogues Gallery: Pirate Ballads, Sea Songs & Chanteys* (2013).^[86]
- Nick Cave's *Grinderman* contributed *Honey Bee* for HBO show *True Detective* in the end of the episode "Who Goes There". (2014)
- Nick Cave and Warren Ellis covered "[All the Gold in California](#)" from [Larry Gatlin](#) for the ending of first episode of the second season of *True Detective*. (2015)
- In the Xbox360 game, [Alan Wake](#), *Up Jumped the Devil* is the end credits song of Episode 3.

- "The Secret Life of the Love Song & the Flesh Made Word: Two Lectures" (2000)

Live albums

- 1993 : *Live Seeds*
- 2007 : *Abattoir Blues Tour*
- 2008 : *Live at the Royal Albert Hall*
- 2013 : *Live from KCRW*

Singles

- 2001: "As I Sat Sadly by Her Side"
- 2001: "Fifteen Feet of Pure White Snow"

Bibliography

Publications by Cave

- *King Ink* (1988)
- *And the Ass Saw the Angel* (1989)
- *King Ink II* (1997)
- *Complete Lyrics* (2001)
- *The Complete Lyrics: 1978–2006* (2007)
- *The Death of Bunny Munro* (2009)
- *The Sick Bag Song* (2015)

Publications with contributions by Cave

- *The Gospel According to Mark*. Pocket Canons: Series 1. Edinburgh, Scotland: [Canongate](#), 1998. ISBN 0-86241-796-1. UK edition. With an introduction by Cave to the [Gospel of Mark](#).

Awards and honours

- 1990 *Time Out* Magazine: **Book Of The Year** (*And the Ass Saw the Angel*).
- 1996 **MTV Europe Music Awards**: Nick Cave formally requested that his nomination for "Best Male Artist" be withdrawn as he was not comfortable with the "competitive nature" of such awards.
- 1996 **ARIA Awards**: **Song of the Year & Single of the Year & Best Pop Release** ("Where the Wild Roses Grow").^[87]
- **1996 APRA Music Awards**: **Songwriter of the year**.^[88]
- 1997 **ARIA Awards**: **Best Original Soundtrack** (*To Have and to Hold*).^[87]
- 2001 **APRA Music Awards**: "The Ship Song" voted in the **Top 30 Best Australian Songs** of the previous 75 years.^[89]
- 2001 **ARIA Awards**: **Best Male Artist** (*No More Shall We Part*).^[87]
- 2004 **MOJO Awards**: **Best Album of 2004** (*Abattoir Blues/The Lyre of Orpheus*).
- 2005 **Film Critics Circle of Australia Awards**: **Best Musical Score** (*The Proposition*).
- 2005 **Inside Film Awards**: **Best Music** (*The Proposition*).
- 2005 **AFI Awards**: **Best Original Music Score** with [Warren Ellis](#) (*The Proposition*).
- 2005 **Q magazine**: **Q Classic Songwriter Award**.
- 2006 **Venice Film Festival**: **Gucci Award** (for the script to *The Proposition*).
- 2007 **ARIA Hall of Fame**: inductee (Cave); honorary inductees (Harvey, Ellis, Savage, Casey)
- 2008 Awarded an honorary degree as **Doctor of Laws**, by [Monash University](#).^[90]
- 2008 **MOJO Awards**: **Best Album of 2008** (*Dig, Lazarus Dig!!!*).
- 2008 **ARIA Awards** **Male Artist of the Year** (*Dig, Lazarus, Dig!!!*).^[87]
- 2010 made an honorary **Doctor of Laws**, by [University of Dundee](#).^[91]

- 2011 **MOJO Awards: Song of the Year** for "[Heathen Child](#)" by Grinderman
- 2011 Straight to you – Triple j's tribute tour to Nick Cave for his work in Australian music for Ausmusic Month
- 2012 Doctor of Letters, an [honorary degree](#) from the University of Brighton.^[92]
- 2013 **ARIA Awards: Best Independent Release** for "[Push The Sky Away](#)"
- 2013 **ARIA Awards: Best Adult Contemporary Album** for "[Push The Sky Away](#)"^[50]
- 2014 International Istanbul Film Festival: International Competition: FIPRESCI Prize for "[20,000 Days on Earth](#)"
- 2014 **Sundance Film Festival: World Cinema Documentary Directing Award & Editing Award** for "[20,000 Days on Earth](#)"
- 2014 Festival de Cinéma de la Ville de Québec: Grand Prix competition – official feature for "[20,000 Days on Earth](#)"
- 2014 Athens International Film Festival: Music & Films Competition Golden Athena for "[20,000 Days on Earth](#)"
- 2014 **The Ivor Novello Awards: Best Album award** for song writing for "[Push The Sky Away](#)"
- 2014 **British Independent Film Awards: The Douglas Hickox Award Best Debut Director** for "[20,000 Days on Earth](#)"
- 2015 **Cinema Eye Honors: Outstanding Original Music Score** for "[20,000 Days on Earth](#)"
- 2017 **Order of Australia: Officer of the Order of Australia (AO)** "For distinguished service to the performing arts as a musician, songwriter, author and actor, nationally and internationally, and as a major contributor to Australian music culture and heritage."^[93]

See also

- [List of Caulfield Grammar School people](#)

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Further reading

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- *The Life and Music of Nick Cave: An Illustrated Biography*, Maximilian Dax & Johannes Beck (1999) [ISBN 3-931126-27-7](#)
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- *Nick Cave Sinner Saint: The True Confessions*, ed. Mat Snow (2011) [ISBN 978-0-85965-448-7](#)
- *A Little History: Nick Cave & cohorts 1981–2013*, Bleddyn Butcher (2014) [ISBN 9781760110680](#)
- *Nick Cave: Mercy on Me* (due September 2017), a graphic biography by [Reinhard Kleist](#)^[1]

External links

Nick Cave
at Wikipedia's [sister projects](#)

- [Media](#) from Wikimedia Commons
- [Quotations](#) from Wikiquote
- [Data](#) from Wikidata

- [Official website](#)
- [Nick Cave Collection](#) at the Performing Arts Collection, Arts Centre Melbourne
- [Nick Cave Monday](#) at The Rumpus
- [Nick Cave](#) on IMDb

 v · t · e	Nick Cave
Live music albums	<i>Nick Cave i Przyjaciele</i>
Books	<i>King Ink</i> · <i>And the Ass Saw the Angel</i> · <i>King Ink II</i> · <i>The Death of Bunny Munro</i> · <i>The Sick Bag Song</i>
Screenplays	<i>Ghosts... of the Civil Dead</i> · <i>The Proposition</i> · <i>Gladiator 2</i> · <i>Lawless</i> · <i>20,000 Days on Earth</i>

 v · t · e	Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds
	Martyn P. Casey · Nick Cave · Toby Dammit · Warren Ellis · Jim Sclavunos · George Vjestica · Thomas Wydler
	Barry Adamson · Blixa Bargeld · Mick Harvey · James Johnston · Anita Lane · Kid Congo Powers · Hugo Race · Conway Savage · Roland Wolf
Studio albums	<i>From Her to Eternity</i> · <i>The Firstborn Is Dead</i> · <i>Kicking Against the Pricks</i> · <i>Your Funeral... My Trial</i> · <i>Tender Prey</i> · <i>The Good Son</i> · <i>Henry's Dream</i> · <i>Let Love In</i> · <i>Murder Ballads</i> · <i>The Boatman's Call</i> · <i>No More Shall We Part</i> · <i>Nocturama</i> · <i>Abattoir Blues / The Lyre of Orpheus</i> · <i>Dig, Lazarus, Dig!!!</i> · <i>Push the Sky Away</i> · <i>Skeleton Tree</i>
Live albums	<i>Live Seeds</i> · <i>Abattoir Blues Tour</i> · <i>Live at the Royal Albert Hall</i> · <i>Live from KCRW</i>
Compilations	<i>The Best of Nick Cave and The Bad Seeds B-Sides & Rarities</i> · <i>Lovely Creatures: The Best of Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds</i>
Singles	"In the Ghetto" · "Tupelo" · "The Singer" · "The Mercy Seat" · "Deanna" · "The Ship Song" · "The Weeping Song" · "Straight to You" · "I Had a Dream, Joe" · "What a Wonderful World" · "Do You Love Me?" · "Loverman" · "Red Right Hand" · "Where the Wild Roses Grow" · "Henry Lee" · "Into My Arms" · "(Are You) The One That I've Been Waiting For" · "As I Sat Sadly by Her Side" · "Fifteen Feet of Pure White Snow" · "Love Letter" · "Dig, Lazarus, Dig!!!" · "More News from Nowhere" · "Midnight Man" · "We No Who U R" · "Jubilee Street"
Other songs	"From Her to Eternity" · "The Carny"
Cave and Ellis	<i>The Proposition</i> · <i>The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford</i> · <i>The Road</i> · <i>Lawless</i> · <i>West of Memphis</i> · <i>Hell or High Water</i>
Grinderman	<i>Grinderman</i> · <i>Grinderman 2</i> · "Get It On" · "No Pussy Blues" · "(I Don't Need You To) Set Me Free" · "Heathen Child" · "Worm Tamer" · "Palaces of Montezuma" · "Evil" · Grinderman discography
Related articles	Discography · Bad Seeds members · <i>20,000 Days on Earth</i> · <i>One More Time With Feeling</i> · <i>And the Ass Saw the Angel</i> · The Birthday Party · Dirty Three · <i>Ghosts... of the Civil Dead</i> · <i>Original Seeds</i> · Tuff Monks
	 Category

 v · t · e	The Birthday Party
	Phill Calvert · Nick Cave · Mick Harvey · Rowland S Howard · Tracy Pew
	John Cocivera · Chris Coyne · Brett Purcell
Studio albums	<i>Door, Door</i> · <i>The Birthday Party</i> · <i>Prayers on Fire</i> · <i>Junkyard</i>
Live albums	<i>It's Still Living</i> · <i>Live 1981–82</i>
Compilation albums	<i>A Collection...</i> · <i>Hee-Haw</i> · <i>Mutiny/The Bad Seed</i>
Extended plays	<i>Hee Haw</i> · <i>Drunk on the Pope's Blood/The Agony Is the Ecstasy</i> (with Lydia Lunch)
Singles	"Shivers" · "Release the Bats"
Video releases	<i>Pleasure Heads Must Burn</i> · "These Boots Are Made for Walking"
Related articles	Discography · Tuff Monks · Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds · Crime and the City Solution · These Immortal Souls · Honeymoon in Red

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- ↑ "Nick Cave Gets New Graphic Novel Biography – Pitchfork". *Pitchfork.com*. Retrieved 12 January 2018.

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Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds will tour the UK and European this autumn, kicking off on 26th October with two shows at London's Hammersmith Apollo. The band have also added further North American dates in April. The first tickets will be available via an exclusive pre-sale at www.nickcave.com on Thursday 14th February. Read more [Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds – Push The Sky Away: Exclusive album stream](#). Written by Natasa. Wednesday, 13 February 2013. The official website for Nick Cave, Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds and Grinderman. Browse NickCave.com for live dates, lyrics, news, films and official store. [Skeleton Tree](#). Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds' album [Skeleton Tree](#) out now. Go

to "Skeleton Tree". Lovely Creatures. Lovely Creatures: The Best of Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds 1984-2014 out now. Go to "Lovely Creatures".

Nick Cave and The Bad Seeds will play Altice Arena, Lisbon on 19 April instead of Campo Pequeno. Tickets on sale tomorrow at 10am www.nickcave.com/tour-dates. Sun 19 April - Altice Arena, Lisbon, Portugal Sat 25 April - WiZink Center, Madrid, Spain Sun 26 April - Palau Sant Jordi, Barcelona, Spain Wed 29 April - Ziggo The official website for Nick Cave, Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds and Grinderman. Browse NickCave.com for live dates, lyrics, news, films and official store.Â Sign up for the newsletter. Be the first to hear about exclusive news, music and events from Nick Cave. Nicholas Edward Cave AO (born 22 September 1957) is an Australian singer, songwriter, author, screenwriter, composer and occasional actor, best known for fronting the rock band Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds. Cave's music is generally characterised by his baritone voice, emotional intensity, a wide variety of influences and lyrical obsessions with death, religion, love and violence.