

BIOGRAPHY PROFILES.

Professor Sir Godfrey H.O. Palmer OBE

BSc, PhD, DSc, FIBiol, FIBrew, FRSA



- ◆ **1940** Born in St Elizabeth, Jamaica
- ◇ Migrated to London, UK in 1955, aged 14
- ◇ Community relations work starts in 1958 with research for his family's legal position against a landlord seeking their eviction
- ◇ First employment - a junior lab technician at Queen Elizabeth College, London working for Professor Garth Chapman
- ◇ First degree - Botany at the University of Leicester (1961 - 1964)
- ◇ First post-degree employment - potato peeler
- ◇ More degrees: 1965 started a joint doctorate in grain science and technology at Heriot-Watt College and Edinburgh University
- ◆ **1966** First journal article published (more than 150 scientific papers to date)
- ◆ **1968** Research work at the Brewing Research Foundation in Surrey as a grain scientist, specialising in the science and technology of barley; progressed to senior scientist
- ◆ **1969 - 1972** Wrote four major articles for the Times Education Supplement that suggested a framework that was essential to increase the educational performance of ethnic minority children in British schools
- ◆ **1977** Return to Scotland to work as a lecturer at Heriot-Watt College
- ◆ **1985** Doctor of Science research degree
- ◆ **1988** Conferred with the American Society of Brewing Chemists Award for distinction in research and good citizenship in science – first scientist from Europe to receive this award and only the fourth person to ever receive it
- ◆ **1990** Elected as Professor
- ◆ **2003** Awarded an OBE for contribution to grain science
- ◆ **2005** Retired after 41 years at Heriot-Watt
- ◇ Professor Emeritus in the School of Life Sciences, Heriot-Watt University
- ◆ **2014** Knighthood for services to human rights, science and charity
- ◇ President of the Edinburgh and Lothian Racial Equality Board for over 20 years
- ◆ **2020** 1st Honorary Consul for Jamaica in Scotland; additionally made a CD (Commander of Distinction) by the Jamaican Government
- ◆ **2021** Chancellor, Heriot-Watt University, and received a Pride of Scotland Lifetime Achievement Award
- ◇ Human rights activist

THE
TALK.

BIOGRAPHY PROFILES.

Lilian Bader

Acting Corporal in the WAAF



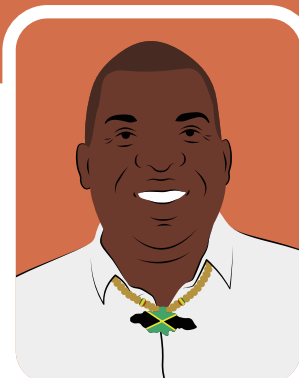
- ◆ **1918** Born in Toxteth Park, Liverpool
- ◆ **1927** Orphaned, aged 9 after her father died in Hull in January, and her mother died in the October Fleetwood flooding tragedy
- ◇ Raised in a convent after being separated from brothers, Frank and James; remained in care until 20 years of age
- ◇ Employment discrimination because of mixed white and Black Caribbean heritage
- ◇ Dismissed from a position in the NAAFI (Navy, Army and Air Forces Institutes) military canteen at Catterick Camp, Yorkshire when it was discovered that her father was from the West Indies and not born in Britain
- ◇ Heard a call-out on Una Marston's BBC Overseas Service programme recruiting Commonwealth service personnel to defend the motherland in World War II; specifically the RAF as the Army was refusing to enlist Black service personnel
- ◆ **1941** Became one of the first Black women to serve in the military in England, and to work in the WAAF (Women's Auxiliary Air Force).
- ◇ Completed training course with 'First Class' marks, and started work as an Instrument Repairer
- ◇ Posted at RAF Shawbury
- ◇ Promoted to Leading Aircraftwoman, then Acting Corporal
- ◇ Determined to fight with the rest of the British Empire against Hitler's European invasions and concentration camps
- ◇ Discharged from WAAF in February 1944 when she discovered she was expecting a baby
- ◇ Volunteered for St John's Ambulance Brigade
- ◇ Completed a Bachelor of Arts degree at London University, and a post-graduate teacher's training qualification
- ◇ Employed as a history teacher mainly in schools and colleges in Bournemouth
- ◇ 1989, memoir, 'Together – Lilian Bader: Wartime Memoirs of a WAAF 1939-1944', was published by the Imperial War Museum
- ◆ **1990** Appeared on BBC2's Discussion Programme 'Hear-Say' to debate the pros and cons of supporting Britain in two World Wars
- ◇ Retired from teaching in 1994
- ◆ **2008** 'From War to Windrush' exhibition opens at the Imperial War Museum; aged 90, travelled from Bournemouth to London for the opening event
- ◇ Three generations of family military service in the British Armed Forces

THE TALK.

BIOGRAPHY PROFILES.

Professor Nira Chamberlain OBE

BSc PhD CMath FIMA CSci



- ◆ **1969** Born in Birmingham
- ◇ Discouraged by careers advisor to follow the mathematics route into education - suggested boxing was a better alternative
- ◇ Studied Mathematics at Coventry Polytechnic for first degree in 1991 as was always fascinated by mathematics and logic
- ◆ **1993** Achieved a MSc in Industrial Mathematical Modelling at Loughborough University
- ◆ **1999** Became a Chartered Mathematician
- ◆ **2005** Became a Chartered Scientist as part of CPD (Continuing Professional Development)
- ◆ **2012** Interviewed by the UK STEM* Project about 'Being a Professional Mathematician'
- ◆ **2013** Started voluntary engagements as a Speaker in schools
- ◆ **2014** Completed PhD at Portsmouth University - entitled 'Extension of gambler's ruin problem played over networks'
- ◇ Named by the Science Council as 1 of only 5 of the UK's Leading Practising Scientists
- ◆ **2015** Featured in Who's Who - biographical reference book, 1 of only 30 distinguished mathematicians, in a group of 33,000 influential people, from around the world
- ◆ **2016** Submitted mathematical biography as requested by the Black Cultural Archives, biography partially published in Mathematics Today
- ◆ **2018** Won the title of the World's Most Interesting Mathematician
- ◇ Highest new entrant in the UK Black Power List at number five; also named in the 2019 - 2021 UK Black Power Lists
- ◆ **2019** Lectured at the scientific centre of excellence, the Maxwell Society on "The Mathematics that can stop an AI apocalypse"
- ◇ Received an Honorary Doctorate in Science from Greenwich University
- ◆ **2020** Became the President of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications
- ◇ Promoted to Professional Head of Discipline - Data Science at SNC-Lavalin Atkins

THE
TALK.

*STEM - SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS

BIOGRAPHY PROFILES.

Alice Dearing

British Olympic Marathon Swimmer



- ◆ **1997** Born in Birmingham of Ghanaian and English heritage, one of three siblings
- ◇ Started swimming aged about 8 years old with an older brother
- ◇ Originally wanted to become a lawyer
- ◇ Obtained a scholarship and attended the Royal Wolverhampton School, which focused on both academic and athletic performance
- ◆ **2013** Started Open Water Swimming
- ◆ **2014** Won a place on British Swimming's World Class Podium Potential Programme
- ◇ Swimming participation allows national and international travel including to Portugal, the Netherlands, Hungary, Qatar, South Korea and Russia
- ◇ Achieved a BA (Hons) degree in Politics and English from Loughborough University
- ◆ **2016** Won the 10km gold at the World Junior Open Water Championships in Hoorn, the Netherlands: first British swimmer to place first
- ◆ **2019** Voted by The Telegraph as one of the Top 50 sportswomen of the year
- ◆ **2020** Co-founded the charity Black Swimming Association (BSA) with Danielle Obe, Ed Accura, and Seren Jones to increase African, Caribbean and Asian communities involvement in aquatics
- ◆ **2021** Studying for a MA degree in Social Media and Political Communications at Loughborough University
- ◇ Partnered with Olympic and Paralympic athletes, along with Procter & Gamble in a 'Breaking Down Barriers' campaign to open up access to any sport regardless of race, gender, background or culture
- ◇ Became the first Black female swimmer to represent Britain at an Olympics - Tokyo 2020 Summer Games held from 23 July 2021 to 8 August 2021
- ◇ Member of Loughborough University swim team training between 50km and 70km each week, sponsored by UK sport

THE
TALK.

BIOGRAPHY PROFILES.

Professor Patricia O. Daley

BSc Middx, MA Lond, DPhil Oxf, PGCE, Fellow of Jesus College



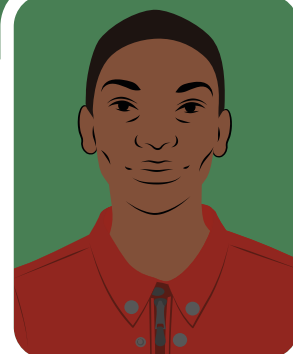
- ◆ Born in Jamaica, migrated to Hackney, London aged 10
- ◆ Gained BSc in Geography with Geology from Middlesex Polytechnic
- ◆ Gained PGCE from Goldsmith's College
- ◆ MA in African Studies from School of African and Oriental Studies (SOAS)
- ◆ **1989** Graduated with DPhil from University of Oxford
- ◆ Taught at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, USA
- ◆ Taught at Loughborough University before taking up role at Oxford University
- ◆ **1991** First Black person and Black woman to be appointed as a University Lecturer at the University of Oxford
- ◆ **1994** Participated in the 7th Pan-African Congress, in Kampala, Uganda
- ◆ **1998 - 2004** Tutor for Women, University of Oxford
- ◆ **1999 - 2002** Tutor for Admissions at Jesus College, University of Oxford
- ◆ **2003** Consultant for documentary film: Rwanda's Lost Tribe; media work including being a panellist at the British Film Institute; and African political commentary on Al Jazeera and the BBC World Service
- ◆ **2014** Recipient of the James Blaut Award, in recognition of commitment to the engagement of scholarship with activism
- ◆ Co-founded the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) staff network at the University of Oxford
- ◆ **2015 - 2016** Produced a Race Equality Report for University of Oxford staff - to ensure BME staff support
- ◆ **2016** Elected as Professor of Human Geography of Africa
- ◆ **2016 - 2021** Vice-Principal, Jesus College, University of Oxford
- ◆ **2018** Delivered the keynote speech at the 2018 UNESCO's International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Legacy (City Hall, London)
- ◆ **2020** Named in the annual UK Black Powerlist as one of the UK's 100 most influential people of African or African Caribbean heritage
- ◆ Author of numerous books and journal articles including 'Gender and genocide in Burundi: the search for spaces of peace in the Great Lakes Region' (2008) and co-edited the Routledge Handbook on South-South Relations
- ◆ Worldwide keynote lecturer in locations across Europe, North America, and Oxford
- ◆ **2021** Social justice and human rights activist; Pan-Africanist, feminist

THE
TALK.

BIOGRAPHY PROFILES.

Michaela Ewuraba O. Boakye-Collinson aka Michaela Coel

Actor, Writer, Director, Producer, Author, 5 time BAFTA Winner, Emmy nominated



- ◆ **1987** Born in London to Ghanaian parents
- ◆ **2006** Performed at open mic poetry events in Ealing
- ◆ **2009** Joined the Talawa Theatre Company summer school programme TYPT and devised Krunch as part of the company's production & staging programme
- ◇ Gained BA(Hons) in English Literature and Theology at University of Birmingham
- ◆ **2009 - 2012** Enrolled at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama - awarded the Laurence Olivier bursary
- ◆ **2013** Stage debut at the Bush Theatre performing 'Chewing Gum Dreams'
- ◆ **2014** Appeared at National Theatre in 'Medea'
- ◆ **2015 - 2017** 'Chewing Gum' TV series shown on Channel 4
- ◆ **2016** Won British Academy Television Award (BAFTA) for Best Female Comedy Performance for 'Chewing Gum' and an additional BAFTA for Breakthrough Talent in 2016
- ◇ Won two RTA Programme Awards for Breakthrough Talent and Comedy Performance in 'Chewing Gum'
- ◆ **2018** Starred in TV drama series Black Earth Rising; starred in musical drama film 'Been So Long'
- ◇ Set up production company Falkna Productions
- ◇ Won the Berlin International Film Festival Award for EFP Shooting Star
- ◆ **2019** 'I May Destroy You' won two Independent Spirit Awards for Best New Scripted Series and Best Ensemble Cast
- ◆ **2020** Created, wrote, produced, co-directed and starred in TV drama series 'I May Destroy You'
- ◇ Refused a \$1million contract from Netflix to retain intellectual property ownership of 'I May Destroy You'
- ◇ Named in the annual Powerlist as one of the UK's 100 most influential people of African or African Caribbean heritage
- ◇ Included in Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2020
- ◇ Appeared in British Vogue's 2020 list of Influential Women
- ◆ **2021** Won NAACP Image Awards Outstanding Directing in a Comedy Series Award
- ◇ Won British Academy Television Award (BAFTA) for Writer of 'I May Destroy You'; Won BAFTA for Director of 'I May Destroy You'; Won BAFTA for Leading Actress of 'I May Destroy You'
- ◇ 'I May Destroy You' nominated for three Emmys: Lead Actress; Outstanding Limited Series; Supporting Actor

THE
TALK.

BIOGRAPHY PROFILES.

Oliver Skeete

Professional Show Jumper, Author, Athlete, Actor



- ◆ **1956** Born in a village called The Whim, Speightstown, Barbados - 7th of 10 children
- ◇ Encountered first horse belonging to Uncle Silvan who was a mounted policeman in home village of The Whim
- ◆ **1964** Aged 8, migrated to Acton, London, to join parents who migrated to England two years earlier
- ◇ Family moved to Ealing, London while father worked in a sausage factory and bakery, and mother worked for London Transport
- ◇ Interested in sports, especially football - was watched by scouts from West Ham United F.C. and Fulham F.C.
- ◇ Various jobs including Door Supervisor, Car Sprayer
- ◇ Aged 18, qualified as a motor mechanic
- ◇ First encounter with horse riding led to him being thrown from a horse in Hyde Park
- ◇ Reignited interest in horse riding when daughters enrolled in Ealing Riding School
- ◆ **1992** Started show jumping aged 36, after selling the family car to buy first horse - eventually self-financed career with £80K of savings along with limited sponsorship
- ◇ 18 months after starting riding gained entry to the professional showjumping circuit
- ◇ Competed at local, national and international levels as a showjumper
- ◆ **1993 - 2007** Appeared in several TV Series such as The Bill, Gladiators, Celebrity Wrestling, Brainiac: Science Abuse and 'Binge Britain: Diet Doctors Specials' on Channel Five
- ◆ **1994** Appeared at the Royal Windsor Show in front of HM Queen Elizabeth II
- ◆ **1994** Published an autobiography - 'Jumping the Odds: Memoirs of a Rastafarian Showjumper'
- ◆ **2000** Planned to represent Barbados at Sydney Olympics - did not gain enough points for qualification
- ◇ Aged 44 quit the showjumping due to prejudice and institutional racism he experienced, and became a painter and decorator as well as continuing work as an actor
- ◆ **2002** Appeared in films, including the Bond franchises: 'Die Another Day'

THE
TALK.

BIOGRAPHY PROFILES.

Dr Samantha Zoisa Tross

MBBS, FRCS (Lon), FRCS Ed, FRCS Ed (Tr & Orth)
Consultant Orthopaedic and Trauma Surgeon, Associate Professor



- ◆ **1968** Born in Guyana, 2nd of four children
- ◇ Arrived in UK aged 11 when her diplomat father - who was working with the Commonwealth Secretariat - was assigned an overseas post
- ◇ Excelled in both academic, and track and field sports like 100m, 200m, and long jump
- ◆ **1987** Completed A-levels in Biology, Chemistry and Applied Mathematics at Matthew Boulton College in Birmingham
- ◆ **1992** Obtained Bachelor of Medicine degree in medicine and surgery (MBBS) from University College and Middlesex School of Medicine, London
- ◆ **1997** Qualified as a surgeon
- ◆ **2004** Completed orthopaedic training
- ◆ **2005** First Black British woman to become a consultant orthopaedic surgeon
- ◇ Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons: area of special interest is adult reconstructive surgery
- ◇ Fellowship training and tenures in Toronto, Canada and Sydney, Australia
- ◇ Appointed surgeon at Ealing Hospital
- ◆ **2008** Won the Clinical Excellence Award for service to NHS
- ◆ **2009 - 2021** Named in the annual JP Morgan Black Powerlist as one of the UK's 100 most influential people of African or African Caribbean heritage
- ◆ **2013** Listed in Tatler's Guide of Britain's top 250 Consultants
- ◆ **2016** Winner of a Black British Business STEM* Award: Leader of the Year
- ◆ **2018** Named as one of the 100 Greatest Black Britons
- ◇ Won the Outstanding Guyanese of the Year Award from the Guyana High Commission
- ◆ **2019** Winner of Women in the Public Sector Wintrade Awards
- ◇ Orthopaedic Consultant with general orthopaedic experience and a specialist interest in Hip and Knee Arthroplasty
- ◆ **2021** Lead Surgeon at Ealing Hospital; trained in Robotic Surgery
- ◇ First woman in Europe to perform Mako robotic hip surgery
- ◇ Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, Edinburgh, and the British Hip Society
- ◇ Member of International Orthopaedic Diversity Alliance (IODA), Women in Orthopaedics Worldwide (WOW), British Medical Association (BMA)

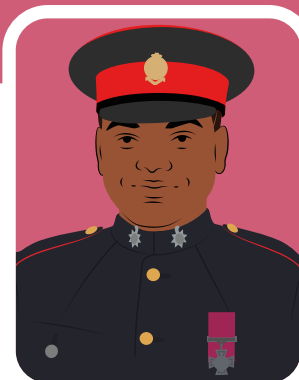
**THE
TALK.**

*STEM - SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS

BIOGRAPHY PROFILES.

Colour Sergeant Johnson Gideon Beharry VC, COG

British Army Soldier, Charity Fundraiser, Charity Founder



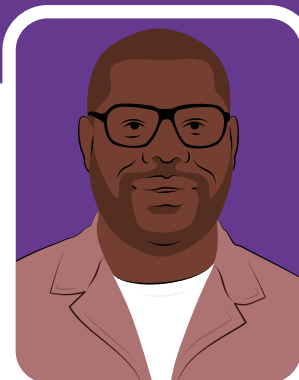
- ◆ **1979** Born on 26 July in Grenada, one of five brothers and three sisters with ancestry from India, Africa and Scotland
- ◇ Lived with grandmother from the age of 4 - 8; adopted aged 8 but chose to return to birth family aged 14
- ◇ Left school and started a mechanic's apprenticeship aged 14
- ◆ **1999** Migrated to UK to improve career opportunities; returned to studies at college
- ◇ Started work as a builder, painter and decorator while living with aunt in West London
- ◇ Got involved in street culture and gangs
- ◆ **2001** Enrolled in the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment after seeing a recruitment advertisement (refused entry 5 times) and wanting to change life direction
- ◇ Trained at Catterick, Yorkshire and became a driver of Warrior armoured vehicles
- ◇ Served on several tours in Kosovo, Northern Ireland, and Iraq
- ◆ **2004** Engaged in a number of military operations as part of the Quick Reaction Force in Iraq where during two operations he saved 19 fellow soldiers from attack and drove the Warrior vehicle back to camp; then saved a further 12 soldiers from a subsequent attack
- ◇ Received serious shrapnel injuries to body, face and brain during an operation in Iraq in 2004
- ◆ **2005** First living recipient since 1965 to be awarded the Victoria Cross - the highest military decoration for valour - invested by Queen Elizabeth II for carrying "out two individual acts of great heroism ... under intense fire" in Iraq, in 2004
- ◇ Over 6 years of treatment and rehabilitation to recover motor abilities such as speech and walking
- ◆ **2011** Granted an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Engineering from the University of Sussex
- ◆ **2014** Established the JBVC Foundation to keep young people between 15 and 25 off the streets and away from gang culture after release from detention and to move into sustainable careers
- ◆ **2017** Invested as Commander of the Order of Grenada

THE
TALK.

BIOGRAPHY PROFILES.

Sir Steve Rodney McQueen KBE

Director, Film maker, Screenwriter, Video Artist, Visual Artist,
Vogue Contributing Editor, Photographer



- ◆ **1969** Born in London on 9 October, to a Grenadian mother and Trinidadian father
- ◇ Experienced institutional racism at school, and sidelined from educational excellence by being placed in a bottom stream class for 'manual labour' jobs
- ◇ Studied A-level Art at West London College, then Art and Design at Chelsea College of Arts, and next Fine Art, at Goldsmith's College, University of London where he developed an enthusiasm for film
- ◇ Studied for three months at Tisch School of Arts, New York, USA but he was unhappy there, so left
- ◆ **1999** Winner of the highest award given to a British visual artist - the Turner Prize, for his exhibition at the ICA which included his 1997 film, 'Deadpan'
- ◆ **2002** Invested with an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours
- ◆ **2006** Official war artist in Iraq; created an exhibition made up of the faces of British soldiers in a series of commemorative stamps: 'Queen and Country'
- ◆ **2008** First feature film, 'Hunger' about the 1981 Irish hunger strike, premiered at the Cannes Film Festival with Steve McQueen becoming the first British director to win the Caméra d'Or
- ◆ **2011** Awarded CBE for services to visual arts
- ◆ **2012** Solo exhibition of fifteen of the artist's moving-image works created between 1992 - 2012, held at the Art Institute of Chicago
- ◆ **2013** Solo exhibition of more than twenty video and film installations, photographs and other selected work held at the Schaulager, Basel
- ◇ '12 Years A Slave', an adaptation of Solomon Northup's 1853 enslaved person's narrative memoir - won 46 international awards, including a BAFTA, Golden Globe Award, and an Oscar (Academy Award): the first Black filmmaker to win an Oscar
- ◆ **2014** Included in Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People
- ◆ **2016** Awarded British Film Institute's highest honour - the BFI Fellowship
- ◆ **2017** Solo exhibition of work held at the Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; and the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston
- ◆ **2019** Presented, 'Year 3', a portrait of an entire age group of London school children, at Tate Britain, London: comprised of images of 76,146 pupils, across 1,504 schools
- ◆ **2020** Directed critically acclaimed 'Small Axe', an anthology of five films set in London's 1960s British West Indian community that was released to critical acclaim
- ◇ Lives in both London and Amsterdam with his family
- ◇ Nominee and winner of several national and international awards for film and visual arts

**THE
TALK.**

BIOGRAPHY PROFILES.

Marcus Rashford MBE

Manchester and England International Footballer, Social Activist, Athlete, Philanthropist



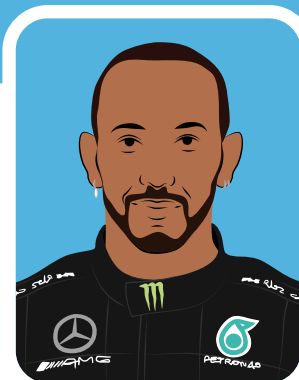
- ◆ **1997** Born in Manchester, one of five siblings
- ◆ **2004** Manchester United player from the age of 7 - interest shown from both Everton and Liverpool Football Clubs
- ◆ **2008** Aged 11 became the youngest ever player to be selected for the Manchester United Schoolboy Scholars scheme (usually only players aged 12 and above)
- ◇ Studied for BTEC National Diploma in Sport
- ◆ **2015 - 2016** Won the Jimmy Murphy Young Player of the Year Award
- ◆ **2016** First team debut in the UEFA Europa League as tournament's youngest player: scored twice in a 5-1 win against FC Midtjylland
- ◇ Youngest English player to score in first senior international match beating the record held by George Best
- ◇ Premiere League debut against Arsenal F.C. - scored twice in a 3-2 win
- ◆ **2019** January: Won the Premier League Player of the Month
- ◇ Set up the 'In the Box' campaign with Selfridges to help people experiencing homelessness over Christmas
- ◆ **2020** Led a campaign that raised more than £20m for the charity FareShare, after initially contacting them to make a donation
- ◇ Successfully persuaded the government to change their policy on free school meal, and provision of meals and activities for children during school holidays
- ◇ Honoured with a MBE for social activism work highlighting the food poverty of a generation of school children in the UK
- ◇ Won The Guardian Footballer of the Year Award
- ◇ Became the youngest person to receive a honorary doctorate from the University of Manchester
- ◆ **2020 - 2021** Named in the annual JP Morgan Black Powerlist as one of the UK's 100 most influential people of African or African Caribbean heritage
- ◆ **2021** Established Marcus' Book Club for new readers to discover the joy of reading
- ◇ Published first book: 'You Are A Champion: How To Be The Best You Can Be'
- ◇ Member of the 2021 England Men's Football Euro team that reached the finals of a major competition for the first time in 55 years: England finished second
- ◆ **2016 - 2021** 46 Appearances as an international footballer for England
- ◇ Part of the Manchester United Football Team that won the FA Cup, EFL Cup, FA Community Shield & Europa League

THE
TALK.

BIOGRAPHY PROFILES.

Sir Lewis Carl Davidson Hamilton MBE

Formula One Driver, Environmentalist, Anti-racism Campaigner, Philanthropist, Human Rights Activist



- ◆ **1985** Born on 7 January in Stevenage, Hertfordshire to a Black Grenadian father and white English mother, one of four siblings
- ◆ **1990** Started karate aged 5 as a result of bullying and racism at school
- ◆ **1991** Introduced to karting by father; places 2nd against adults in a national remote control contest aged 7
- ◆ **1995** Won Karting IAME Cadet Super 1 National Championship
- ◆ **1996** Won British Grand Prix Karting Comer Cadet Championship
- ◆ **1997** Junior Yamaha Champion; Champion of the Future; British Champion
- ◆ **1998** Winner Mobil 1 Formula Junior Intercontinental A - youngest driver in the formula aged 13
- ◆ **2001** Incorrectly excluded from school prior to GCSE examinations; reintegrated to school upon appeal, but only offered segregated tuition
- ◆ **2007** Debuted in Australian Grand Prix - first Black driver in Formula One
- ◇ Won Pride of Britain Award
- ◆ **2007-2008** Placed second in BBC Sports Personality of the Year
- ◆ **2008** Youngest ever driver to win the F1 World Championship (aged 23 years, 301 days)
- ◇ Awarded MBE for Services to Motor Racing
- ◆ **2014** Awarded BBC Sports Personality of the Year
- ◆ **2015** Ranked as the richest British sportsperson with a personal fortune of £88m
- ◆ **2020** Listed in Time Magazine as one of the 100 most influential people globally
- ◇ Established the Hamilton Commission
- ◆ **2021** Ranked in top 10 of the annual Forbes Rich List
- ◇ Knighted in New Year Honours List for outstanding achievements and contribution to motorsports
- ◇ Seven time Formula One champion
- ◇ Donated £20m and launched a charitable organisation, Mission 44, to support organisations and programmes that increase representation from diverse backgrounds in employment and education systems
- ◇ F1 record breaker: most career wins, most pole positions, most podium finishes, most career points, most laps led

THE
TALK.

BIOGRAPHY PROFILES.

Malorie Blackman OBE

Writer, Composer, Screenwriter, Scriptwriter



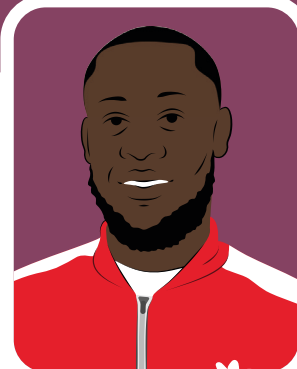
- ◆ **1962** Born on 8 February in Clapham, London from Barbadian ancestry
- ◇ Childhood dream was to be an English teacher, but chose computer science as a career option
- ◇ Gained an HNC from Thames Polytechnic
- ◇ Graduated from the National Film and Television School; graduation film, 'Play Time' won a Certificate of Merit at the 31st Chicago International Film Festival
- ◆ **1990** Aged 28, published first literary work 'Not So Stupid!: Incredible Short Stories' after it was rejected by publishers over 80 times
- ◆ **1994** Awarded the W.H.Smith Boggling Book of the Year Award for 'Hacker'
- ◆ **1998** Shortlisted for Carnegie Medal and won UKRA Award for 'Pig-Heart Boy'
- ◆ **2000** Awarded BAFTA for Best Children's Drama: 'Pig-Heart Boy'
- ◇ Shortlisted for the Race and Media Best Drama Award: 'Pig-Heart Boy'
- ◇ Shortlisted for the Royal Television Society Award (Children's Drama): 'Pig-Heart Boy'
- ◆ **2001** Began writing 'Noughts & Crosses', the young adult novel series
- ◆ **2004** Received the Fantastic Fiction Award for 'Noughts & Crosses'
- ◇ Received the Silver Award from Nestlé Smarties Book Prize for 'Cloud Busting'
- ◆ **2005** Awarded Children's Book Circle's Eleanor Farjeon Award
- ◆ **2008** Invested with an OBE for services to children's literature in the Queen's Birthday Honours
- ◆ **2013** Writer for the 'Doctor Who' series featuring the Seventh Doctor and Daleks
- ◆ **2013 - 2015** Awarded the role of Children's Laureate to celebrate outstanding achievement as a writer
- ◆ **2017** Shortlisted for YA Book Prize
- ◆ **2019** Shortlisted for the Costa Children's Book Award for 'Crossfire'
- ◆ **2020** BBC TV Production of 'Noughts & Crosses' in partnership with Roc Nation (Jay-Z's production company), and featuring Stormzy as an actor
- ◇ Writer of over seventy books, TV dramas, and stage scripts

THE
TALK.

BIOGRAPHY PROFILES.

Michael Ebenazer Kwadjo Omari Owuo Jr. aka Stormzy aka Big Mike

Grime Musician, Composer, Writer, Producer, Actor, Philanthropist, Publisher



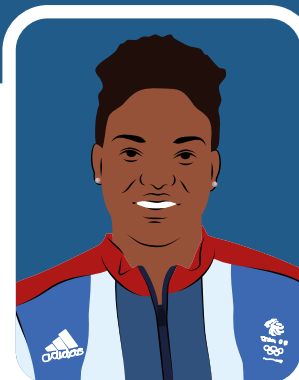
- ◆ **1993** Born in London, with Ghanaian heritage
- ◇ Started rapping at the age of 11
- ◇ Educated at Harris Academy South Norwood
- ◇ Achieved 6A*s at GCSE
- ◇ Achieved ABCDE grades at A-Level - referred to as 'humbling' and a reminder to have a work ethic in life
- ◆ **2014** July: Independently released debut EP
- ◇ October: Won Best Grime Act of MOBOs
- ◇ October: Became the first unsigned rapper to appear on Later with Jools Holland
- ◆ **2015** Named in BBC's Sound of 2015 list as an 'Artist to Look Out For'
- ◇ September: Achieved first top 40 entry with single 'Shut Up'
- ◇ Winner BET Award: Best International Act: UK
- ◆ **2016** Performed at 2017 BRIT Awards with Ed Sheeran
- ◇ Held a Q & A session at the Oxford Guild in the University of Oxford
- ◇ First acting role in 'Brotherhood' film
- ◆ **2017** February: Released debut album that reached at No. 1 in the UK Album charts
- ◇ Performed first solo performance at 2018 BRIT Awards
- ◇ Actor in Michaela Coel's TV Series 'Chewing Gum'
- ◆ **2018** Nominated for an MTV Europe Music Award
- ◇ Achieved a BPI platinum selling track for 'Blinded by Your Grace, Pt. 2' after first releasing the single on YouTube
- ◇ Wins BRIT Award for Mastercard's British Album of the Year
- ◇ Wins BRIT Award for British Male Solo Artist
- ◇ Announces 'The Stormzy Scholarship' studentship, a scheme for University of Cambridge students, which will see Black British students provided with financial support during their degree courses
- ◇ Establishes and curates a publishing company 'Merky Books' in partnership with Penguin Books: authors on this imprint include Malorie Blackman
- ◆ **2019** First Black British Male solo headliner at Glastonbury Festival
- ◆ **2020** Wins BRIT Award for British Male Solo Artist
- ◇ Announced plans to give away £10m over a decade to help organisations that are dedicated to fighting racial inequality in the UK

**THE
TALK.**

BIOGRAPHY PROFILES.

Nicola Adams OBE

Olympic Boxer, Social Activist, Actor, Presenter



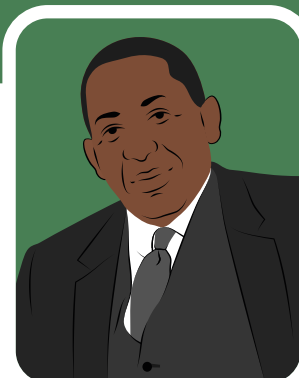
- ◆ **1982** Born 26 October in Leeds, Yorkshire
- ◆ **1994** Started boxing as a way to keep fit, aged 12
- ◆ **1995** Won first boxing match, aged 13; found it difficult to find opponents for the next four years
- ◆ **2001** Attended an England selection training camp
- ◇ First English female boxer to represent the country
- ◆ **2003 - 2006** Winner of Gold medal at the English Amateur National Championships
- ◆ **2007** First ever female boxer to win a medal at the 6th Women's European Championships - Denmark
- ◆ **2007, 2008, 2010** Silver Medalist at the World Championships (USA, China, Barbados)
- ◆ **2012, 2016** Nominated for Sports Personality of the Year
- ◆ **2012** First ever Olympic Gold in female boxing, London
- ◇ First female boxer to become Olympic champion at the London games
- ◇ Named by the Independent Newspaper as the most influential LGBT person in Britain
- ◆ **2013** Appointed MBE in the New Year Honours list for services to boxing and unprecedented achievement
- ◆ **2014** Winner of the Commonwealth Games Gold - Glasgow
- ◆ **2015** Winner of the European Championships Games Gold - Baku
- ◇ Becomes an Ambassador of Fight for Peace - a NGO to support young people's personal development through sports and education
- ◇ Granted an honorary degree for outstanding achievements from the University of Leeds (LLD)
- ◆ **2016** Top of the first DIVA Power List
- ◇ Winner of flyweight boxing Olympic Gold - Rio de Janeiro
- ◇ Winner of the World Championships Gold - Astana
- ◇ First ever British boxer to successfully defend an Olympic title for 92 years
- ◇ Awarded OBE for services to boxing and unprecedented achievement
- ◆ **2017** Started competing internationally as a professional boxer
- ◆ **2018 - 2019** Held the WBO World Champions belt in the first ever female professional boxing match to be held at the Royal Albert Hall
- ◇ Retired with an undefeated fighting record
- ◆ **2020** First ever female boxer to hold Commonwealth, European, World and Olympic titles

THE
TALK.

BIOGRAPHY PROFILES.

Lord Sir Learie Nicholas Constantine MBE

Cricketer, Barrister, Administrator, Broadcast Journalist, Politician, Author, Activist, Baron Constantine of Maraval and Nelson



- ◆ **1901** Born 21 September in Diego Martin, in Trinidad, one of three siblings - a grandchild of enslaved people
- ◆ **1917** Attended St Ann's Government School in Port of Spain, and then St Ann's Roman Catholic School until 1917, was not enthusiastic about academics but enjoyed several sports including cricket
- ◇ Employed as a legal clerk in Jonathan Ryan Solicitors in Port of Spain, as a route into the legal profession
- ◆ **1923** Became a first class cricketer for the West Indies Cricket Team, played with his father Lebrun, against British Guiana
Was a member of the West Indies teams that toured England in 1923 and 1928
- ◆ **1928** Joined Nelson Cricket and Bowling Club in Lancaster as a professional cricketer paid £500 a year
- ◆ **1930s** Began work as a BBC freelance commentator
- ◆ **1933** Wrote 'Cricket and I' with CLR James
- ◆ **1940** Awarded the Wisden Cricketer of the Year in 1940 for outstanding play in the Lancashire Cricket League
- ◆ **1942** Recruited by Ministry of Labour during World War II to work in Liverpool as a Welfare Officer to promote the interests of the Caribbean workers that had migrated to assist the war endeavour
- ◆ **1944** Became the first black person to bring a court case against the service industry relating to the 'colour bar'. He won his case against the Imperial Hotel, London
- ◆ **1954** Wrote 'Colour Bar' with CLR James: an insider's view of discrimination in Britain; finished legal studies and called to the bar - returned to Trinidad and became an MP
- ◆ **1962** Appointed in London as the first High Commissioner for Trinidad
- ◆ **1963** Lifelong activist for equality: spoke on the Bristol bus company colour bar dispute
- ◆ **1964** Started his legal practice when he was aged 63 years
- ◆ **1966** Became a member of the Race Relations Board and continued to work as an activist for racial equality and against racial discrimination
- ◆ **1967** Appointed as the first Black rector of the University of St Andrews in Fife
- ◆ **1968** Became the first Black Governor of the BBC
- ◆ **1969** Granted a life peerage, and became the first Black man to be appointed to the House of Lords
- ◆ **1971** Posthumously awarded Trinidad's highest honour - The Trinity Cross, for distinguished and outstanding service to the country

THE
TALK.

BIOGRAPHY PROFILES.

Sislin Fay Allen

Geriatric Nurse, First Black Female Metropolitan Police Officer,
Jamaica Constabulary Force Officer



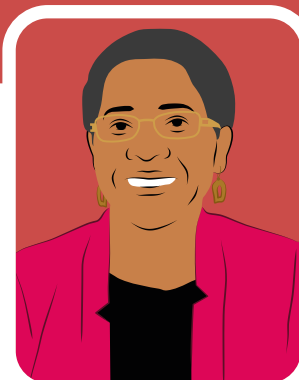
- ◆ **1938** Born in St Catherine, Jamaica, one of 10 siblings
- ◆ **1951** Mother died, brought up by an aunt who was a judge
- ◆ **1962** Migrated to UK to train and work as a NHS geriatric nurse at Queens Hospital in Croydon
- ◆ **1968** Joined the Metropolitan Police as Britain's first Black policewoman after seeing a recruitment advertisement in the newspaper during her nursing lunch break
- ◇ Second Black Police Officer in Britain following on from Norwell Roberts who joined in 1967 as the first post-war Black Officer to join the Metropolitan Police Force
- ◇ Edith Smith was the first warranted Female Police Officer to join the British Police Force in 1915
- ◇ Metropolitan Police received several threatening and abusive letters known as 'hate mail' relating to Sislin Fay Allen's employment as a Police Officer
- ◇ Trained at Peel House, Metropolitan Police training school in London
- ◇ Started duty as a Police Officer at Croydon Police Station
- ◇ Employed at the Missing Persons' Bureau at Scotland Yard
- ◇ Returned to the beat at Norbury Police Station
- ◇ Enoch Powell, Conservative MP, delivered his "rivers of blood" anti-Black Commonwealth immigration speech; Sislin Fay Allen faced prejudice and discrimination from the British community - including many Black British communities - against her joining the Police Force
- ◆ **1972** Left the Metropolitan Police after four years to return to Jamaica because of family commitments
- ◇ Received a 'Welcome Letter' from Jamaican Prime Minister, Michael Manley
- ◇ Continued policing career in the Jamaica Constabulary Force
- ◆ **2015** Returned to UK to live in South London in retirement before returning to Jamaica for final years
- ◇ Featured in a TV documentary 'Fair Cop: A Century of British Policewomen'
- ◆ **2020** Given a lifetime achievement award by the College of Policing, National Police Chiefs' council and the National Black Police Association in a virtual event to celebrate Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) female officers: recognised for "her desire to have a career in policing despite the discrimination she suffered"
- ◇ Harris Academy, South Norwood named one of its school houses in honour of Sislin Fay Allen because of her bravery, determination, and perseverance: the Allen House core values
- ◆ **2021** Died in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, aged 83

THE
TALK.

BIOGRAPHY PROFILES.

Professor Dame Elizabeth Nneka Anionwu DBE CBE

FRCN FQNI PhD, Emeritus Professor of Nursing, Social Activist, Anti-racism Campaigner, Health Visitor, Tutor, Author, Charities Patron



- ◆ **1947** Born in Birmingham of Irish and Nigerian heritage; parents met when they were both students at University of Cambridge
- ◇ Spent 9 years in a children's home run by nuns; visited regularly by her unmarried Catholic birth mother
- ◇ Became interested in nursing after the care of a nurse who treated her eczema whilst in the children's home
- ◇ Left the children's home, aged 9, to live with her mother and her new husband in Wolverhampton but stayed with them for less than two years
- ◇ Left to stay with maternal grandparents in the North West of England for a short while
- ◇ Left school with 7 O-levels, aged 16
- ◇ First job was as a school nurse assistant in Wolverhampton, aged 16
- ◆ **1965** Started nurse's training at Paddington General Hospital, London
- ◇ Started Midwifery training in Edinburgh
- ◇ Retrained as a Health Visitor to focus on health inequalities in the NHS
- ◆ **1979** Became the first sickle cell and thalassaemia nurse counsellor in the UK
- ◆ **1990 - 1997** Employed as a lecturer at University College London's Institute of Child Health
- ◆ **1997** Appointed as Dean of the School of Adult Nursing, and a Professor of Nursing at the University of West London
- ◆ **1998** Achieved the position of Professor of Nursing from the Institute of Education, University College London
- ◆ **1999** Established and was head of the Mary Seacole Centre for Nursing Practice until retirement
- ◆ **2001** Received CBE from Prince Charles
- ◆ **2007** Retired from nursing career; focus on campaigning for a statue to British Jamaican nurse Mary Seacole
- ◆ **2016** Published memoirs, 'Mixed Blessings'
- ◇ Received the Chief Nursing Officers' UK Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award
- ◆ **2017** Recognised with the DBE award for services to nursing and the Mary Seacole Statue Appeal
- ◇ Presented with the Royal College of Nursing Fellowship (FRCN) for work in the development of sickle cell and thalassaemia counselling services, education and leadership in transcultural nursing
- ◆ **2018** Named as one of the 70 most influential nurses and midwives in the history of the NHS
- ◇ Presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Pride of Britain Awards

**THE
TALK.**

BIOGRAPHY PROFILES.

Dr Lemn Sissay OBE

Poet, Playwright, Broadcaster, Speaker, Charity Patron, Musician,
Stand Up Comedian, Television Producer



- ◆ **1967** Born in Manchester to unmarried Ethiopian parents; mother was a student at the Seventh-day Adventist college in Bracknell, Berkshire
- ◇ His mother temporarily fosters him with white parents in Wigan after being sent to a single mother's home in the town to give birth
- ◆ **1968** Upon graduation, mother Yemarshet Sissay not allowed by authorities to have her infant son back, because the Wigan Children's Department preferred that he stay with his foster family
- ◇ Lemn Sissay spent teenage years in care in four children's homes after fostering placement failed
- ◇ Left school at 15 with one GCSE and two CSEs
- ◇ Aged 17 discovered his birth certificate and real name, and started writing poetry
- ◆ **1985** Self published first book 'Perceptions of The Pen' which he hand-sold to the miners and millworkers of Wigan
- ◆ **1988** Debut poetry collection, 'Tender Fingers' published by Bogle-L'Ouverture Press
- ◆ **1990** First stage play at Contact Theatre, 'The Suede Apple'
- ◆ **1994** First radio play on BBC Radio, 'Chaos by Design'
- ◆ **2005** Stage play, 'Something in the Dark', adapted for BBC Radio 3
- ◆ **2006** Winner of Race in the Media Award (RIMA) for 'Something in the Dark'
- ◆ **2010** Awarded MBE for services to literature
- ◆ **2011** Curated the world's first Literature Festival of the Sea, a maritime-inspired literature festival
- ◆ **2012** Official London Olympics poet
- ◆ **2015** Appointed Chancellor at the University of Manchester
- ◆ **2019** Winner of the PEN Pinter Prize which champions free speech
- ◇ BAFTA nominated for documentary, 'Superkids: Breaking Away from Care'
- ◇ Published memoir - 'My Name Is Why', one of thirteen publications
- ◆ **2015 - 2021** Awarded Honorary Doctorates from Universities of Manchester, Kent, Brunel and Essex
- ◆ **2021** Winner of the Indie Book Award for 'My Name Is Why'
- ◇ Awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to literature
- ◇ Education ambassador for the Arvon Foundation
- ◇ Concrete poet with 'Landmark Poems' displayed on UK cities walls and streets
- ◇ Nominee and winner of several national and international awards for writing

**THE
TALK.**

BIOGRAPHY PROFILES.

Olive Morris

Community Leader, Equality Campaigner, Political Activist, Feminist, Squatters' Rights Activist, Writer



- ◆ **1952** Born 26 June in St Catherine, Jamaica - one of six siblings
- ◆ **1961** Migrated with one of her brothers to join their parents in Lavender Hill, London
- ◇ Experienced injustice and discrimination at her local school and left without any qualifications. Determined to succeed in education she studied for her 'O' and 'A' levels while working in a full-time job
- ◇ Studied at London College of Printing
- ◇ Discrimination and inequality led Olive Morris to become politically active and practise direct action
- ◆ **1969** Arrested in November when she intervened after the police arrested a 'black man driving a nice car' – later revealed to be a diplomat at the Nigerian High Commission - Morris was physically assaulted and racially abused by the police, and a release from custody photograph shows her bruised and dishevelled
- ◇ Hosted community groups in her Railton Road squat such as Black People against State Harassment
- ◇ Set up Sarbarr, a Black self-help community bookshop
- ◆ **1974** Olive Morris set up the Brixton Black Women's Group
- ◆ **1976** A keen traveller who visited countries such as Italy and Northern Ireland
- ◆ **1977** Visited China as part of a delegation of Marxist students from Manchester University
- ◇ Continued her political activism while studying for an economics and social science degree in Manchester when she co-founded the Manchester Black Women's Co-op and the Manchester Women's Mutual Aid Group
- ◆ **1978** After graduation, worked in the Brixton Community Law Centre where she was involved in the campaign to scrap the 'sus' laws, access to education, and decent living conditions
- ◇ Became a member of the Black Panther Movement and was a founding member of the Organisation of Women of African and Asian Descent (OWAAD)
- ◇ Became ill during a trip to Spain, returned to London, underwent unsuccessful treatment and died, aged 27, in 1979
- ◆ **1986** In honour of her contribution to the local community, Lambeth Council, in London, named one of their buildings at 18 Brixton Hill as Olive Morris House
- ◆ **2009** One of a number of people honoured and featured on local Brixton currency
- ◆ **2011** The Olive Morris memorial award was launched to give bursaries to young Black women

**THE
TALK.**