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Singer of the Week

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Dolores O'Riordan

AskMen.com feature on Dolores O'Riordan that includes pics, pictures, biography, video, related news, vital stats, commentary, and cool facts.

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BIOGRAPHY

quote

"My time after The Cranberries was a clean slate -- no pressure and no contracts. It was the first time in my life I was a free agent. I had no inhibitions, which is how I felt when I first started out."
- Dolores O'Riordan on her experience with The Cranberries.

biography

Dolores Mary Eileen O'Riordan was born on September 6, 1971, in Limerick, Ireland. In 1990, she answered a call to replace Niall Quinn as lead singer of a band then known as The Cranberry Saw Us. She won the audition and joined the group of young musicians which consisted of Fergal Lawler and brothers Noel and Mike Hogan. The combo produced a demo tape that was sold in record shops in Limerick before a more polished-sounding demo was made available for sale throughout Ireland.

At Dolores' suggestion, The Cranberry Saw Us was shortened to The Cranberries. The band sent another demo recording, which included early versions of future hits "Linger" and "Dreams," to numerous record labels in the UK. Interest in the band's music led to a bidding war, and they were eventually signed by Island Records. Their official debut single, "Uncertain," was panned by the British music press and relations with their original manager/producer, Pearse Gilmore, were severed just prior to the groups' return to the studio to record their first album.

dolores o'riordan and the cranberries

With new manager Geoff Travis of Rough Trade Records and producer Stephen Street of The Smiths fame at the helm, The Cranberries released *Everybody Else Is Doing It, So Why Can't We?* in the spring of 1993. Dolores and her bandmates fortunes turned around after a North American tour helped spark interest in the group on MTV. The music station put the videos for the singles "Linger" and "Dreams" into heavy rotation, which helped push the album's sales into the triple platinum range in the U.S., and double that worldwide.

In July of 1994, Dolores married her band's tour manager, Don Burton. The Cranberries' sophomore release *No Need to Argue* was issued that same autumn. On the strength of tracks such as "Zombie" and "Ode To My Family," the album debuted in the top 10 in the United States and Britain, and went on to outsell the group's debut by a two-to-one margin. Rumors that Dolores was set to leave the band for a solo career were denied while they toured to promote their second album.

With seasoned American producer Bruce Fairbairn taking over from Street, the band's third album *To the Faithful Departed* was released in 1996. While the more rock-oriented collection entered the charts at No. 2 in Britain and No. 4 Stateside, it received generally unfavorable reviews from the critics. Dolores and company endured another wave of breakup rumors after their 1996 Australian and European tours were promptly canceled.

dolores o'riordan and family

In November of 1997, Dolores gave birth to Taylor Baxter. Two more children, daughters Molly (born January, 2001) and Dakota Rain (born April, 2005) would follow. The family divides their time between a home in Howth, County Dublin, Ireland, a holiday villa in Benissa, Spain, a log cabin in Ontario, Canada, and a 150-acre stud farm in Kilmallock, County Limerick, Ireland.

1999's *Bury the Hatchet*, the fourth long player from The Cranberries, proved a commercial disappointment in the U.S. and Britain, as it failed to reach platinum status and produced only one minor hit in "Promises." Stephen Street was back on board as producer of their fifth collection, *Wake Up and Smell the Coffee* (2001), which performed even less well sales-wise than the previous disc. Following that, their next release, *Stars - The Best of 1992-2002* (2002), included only two new recordings.

dolores o'riordan and the passion of the christ

With her band on hiatus since 2004, Dolores has kept herself busy in the studio recording the song "Pure Love" with Italian singer Zucchero, as well as working along with composer Angelo Badalamenti for tracks on the soundtrack of the film *Evilenko* (2004) and the title track to *Mel Gibson's The Passion of the Christ* (2004). In 2005, Dolores provided vocals for the Jam & Spoon track "Mirror Lover," while the following year she made her feature film debut with a cameo appearance in *Click* (2006), starring [Adam Sandler](#).

dolores o'riordan and are you listening?

Dolores' debut solo album *Are You Listening?* was released under Sequel Records in May, 2007. The tracks "Apple" and the single "Ordinary Day," were produced by BRIT Award-winner Youth who has worked with The Verve, [U2](#), Embrace, and [Paul McCartney](#) in the past. Dolores' continued involvement in the music industry leads us to believe she will continue to perform and sing, be it on movie soundtracks, solo albums or band recordings.

What else do you need to know?

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