



What happened to Terence Trent D'Arby? He is now Sananda Maitreya

Alison Maloney



Terence Trent D'Arby changed his name to Sananda Maitreya. Picture: Supplied Source:News Corp Australia



30 November 2016

BACK in the late 80s and early 90s Terence Trent D'Arby was the man of the moment.

His singles *Sign Your Name*, *If You Let Me Stay* and *Wishing Well* all stormed up the charts on both sides of the Atlantic.

[The Sun](#) reports that his debut album *Introducing The Hardline According To Terence Trent D'Arby* went five times platinum, selling 1.5 million copies and earning him a Grammy.

And he had no bigger fan than himself. In typically humble style he declared the work "the most important album since *Sgt Pepper*".

But his follow up album, *Neither Fish Nor Flesh*, failed to hit the high notes and he fell out with his record company, blaming their "wholesale rejection of it" for its commercial failure.

It was then things began to get bit weird.

The US singer — who was born Terence Trent Howard and adopted his last name from stepdad James

BACK in the late 80s and early 90s Terence Trent D'Arby was the man. That is until a series of dreams gave him a new identity.



Terence Trent D'Arby caused a sensation with his debut album. Picture: Supplied Source:News Limited

Darby — decided to change his name to something completely different. He became Sananda Maitreya, a moniker which came to him in series of dreams in 1995. He officially changed his name in 2001.

Claiming his second album had killed his stage persona, he said: "Terence Trent D'Arby was dead ... he watched his suffering as he died a noble death.

"After intense pain I meditated for a new spirit, a new will, a new identity."





Terence Trent D'Arby (front), performed with INXS. Picture: Sandra Priestley Source:News Corp Australia

After a stint in Munich, he moved to Milan in Italy where he married architect and former television presenter Francesca Francone.

In 2010 the couple had a son, Francesco.



Terence Trent D'Arby changed his name to Sananda Maitreya. Picture: Supplied Source:Supplied

In a recent interview, he said his alter-ego had joined the 27 Club, referring to the tragic artists who died at that age, including Jim Morrison, Kurt Cobain and Amy Winehouse.

He said: "It felt like I was going to join the 27 Club, and psychologically I did, because that is exactly the age I was when I was killed."

While TTD may be "dead", Maitreya continues to make music – and lots of it.

The Manhattan-born singer has released six more albums including one intriguingly titled *The Rise Of The Zugebrian Time Lords* and his latest offerings *Prometheus And Pandora – Chapters 1 and 2*.

They are available from his website along with his poetry.

This article originally appeared in [The Sun](#)





Courtesy: Taratata

Terence Trent D'Arby on Stevie Wonder influence