



Arab American Heritage Month

Notable Arab Americans



Tony Shalhoub

is a Lebanese American actor. His breakout role was as Antonio Scarpacci on the sitcom *Wings* from 1991 to 1997. He later starred as [Adrian Monk](#) in the [USA Network](#) series [Monk](#) from 2002 to 2009, earning three [Primetime Emmy Awards for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series](#). For his supporting role as Abe Weissman on [Amazon's](#) [The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel](#), he won the [Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series](#).



Salma Hayek

Salma Hayek is an actress and film producer. Born in Mexico, her father is of Lebanese descent and her mother is of Spanish descent. As a public figure, Hayek has been cited as one of Hollywood's most powerful and influential Latina actresses as well as one of the world's most beautiful women by various media outlets. [*Time*](#) magazine named her one of the [100 most influential people in the world](#) in 2023. In 2021, she was honored with a star on the [Hollywood Walk of Fame](#). She is married to business magnate [François-Henri Pinault](#), with whom she has a daughter.

Wentworth Miller III

Wentworth Earl Miller III is an American-British [actor](#) and [screenwriter](#). His mother is of Rusyn, Swedish, French, Dutch, Syrian, and Lebanese descent. His father is of African American, Jamaican, German and English descent. He rose to prominence following his starring role as [Michael Scofield](#) in the [Fox](#) series [Prison Break](#), for which he received a nomination for the [Golden Globe Award for Best Actor – Television Series Drama](#) in 2005. He made his screenwriting debut with the 2013 thriller film [Stoker](#). In 2014, he began playing [Leonard Snart / Captain Cold](#) in a recurring role on [The CW](#) series [The Flash](#) before becoming a series regular on the spin-off, [Legends of Tomorrow](#).





Kathy Najimy

Kathy Ann Najimy is an American actress, comedian, director, writer, producer and activist. Born in San Diego, her parents are Lebanese American. She was first nationally known for her feminist play *The Kathy and Mo Show*, which she wrote and performed with [Mo Gaffney](#). On film, she is best known for her roles in [Soapdish](#) (1991), [Sister Act](#) (1992) and its [sequel](#) (1993), [Hocus Pocus](#) (1993) and its [sequel](#) (2022), [Hope Floats](#) (1998), [The Wedding Planner](#) (2001), [WALL-E](#) (2008), [Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas](#) (2013), [Music](#) (2021), and [Single All the Way](#) (2021). On television, she is best known for her portrayal of Olive Massery on the [NBC](#) sitcom [Veronica's Closet](#) (1997–2000) and for voicing [Peggy Hill](#) on the animated television series [King of the Hill](#) (1997–2010).



Paula Abdul

Paula Abdul is an American singer, dancer, choreographer, actress, and television personality. Born in San Fernando, CA, her father is of Syrian Jewish heritage and her mother of Jewish heritage. She began her career as a Los Angeles Lakers cheerleader. After choreographing music videos for Janet Jackson, she signed with Virgin Records and scored six number-one singles on Hot 100. She was one of the original judges on American Idol and has judged on The X Factor, Live to Dance, So You Think You Can Dance, and The Masked Dancer.

DJ Khaled

Khaled Mohammed Khaled known professionally as **DJ Khaled**, is an American disc jockey, record producer, and record executive. Khaled was born in New Orleans to Palestinian immigrant parents.

The ultimate hype man broke big in the 2010s after establishing himself as the Terror Squad's official DJ and firing off a string of glittery collaborative albums featuring some of the biggest names in music, from Jay-Z to Justin Bieber, Kendrick Lamar, 2 Chainz, Cardi B, Meek Mill and many, many more.

His distinctions are his booming voice presence, "motivational" abstractions, and numerous catchphrases.



Shakira



Shakira Isabel Mebarak Ripoll, known as **Shakira**, is a Colombian singer and songwriter. Born and raised in Barranquilla, she has been referred to as the "[Queen of Latin Music](#)" and has been praised for her musical versatility. Her father is of Lebanese descent and her mother immigrated from Catalonia.

One of the most influential female artists of the 21st century, Shakira is credited with opening the doors of the international market for other Latin artists. With a catalog of 145 songs, Shakira has sold over 100 million records, making her one of the [best-selling music artists of all time](#). [Billboard](#) reported that as of 2023, she is the best-selling female Latin artist of all time



Gigi Hadid

Jelena Noura "Gigi" Hadid is an American fashion model and television personality. Born in Los Angeles, her father is Palestinian-American and her mother is Dutch-American.

In 2016, she was named International Model of the Year by the [British Fashion Council](#). Throughout her career, Hadid has made at least 45 appearances in international [Vogue](#).

Models.com ranks her as one of the "New Supers." Since 2017, Hadid has been one of the [highest-paid models](#) in the world, earning \$20 million.

Born in Los Angeles, she began her career as a child model for Baby Guess. She signed to [IMG Models](#) in 2013 and made her [New York Fashion Week](#) debut the next year. Hadid has appeared in numerous [high fashion](#) campaigns and editorials, and is a spokesmodel for [Maybelline](#).

Rami Malek

Rami Said Malek is an American actor, born in Torrance, CA, to Egyptian immigrant parents.

He is known for portraying computer hacker Elliot Alderson in the [USA Network](#) television series [Mr. Robot](#) (2015–2019), for which he received the [Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series](#), and [Queen](#) lead singer [Freddie Mercury](#) in the biographical film [Bohemian Rhapsody](#) (2018), for which he won [numerous accolades](#), including the [Academy Award for Best Actor](#), becoming the first actor of Egyptian heritage to win in that category. [Time](#) magazine named Malek one of the [100 most influential people in the world](#) in 2019.



Steve Jobs



Steven Paul Jobs was an American businessman, inventor, and investor best known for co-founding the technology giant [Apple Inc.](#) Born in San Francisco, CA, his mother was of Swiss-German descent and his father was of Syrian descent.

Jobs was also the founder of [NeXT](#) and chairman and majority shareholder of [Pixar](#). He was a pioneer of the personal computer revolution of the 1970s and 1980s, along with his early business partner and fellow Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak. In 1997, Jobs returned to Apple as CEO after the company's acquisition of NeXT. He was largely responsible for reviving Apple, which was on the verge of bankruptcy. He worked closely with British designer [Jony Ive](#) to develop a line of products and services that had larger cultural ramifications, beginning with the "[Think different](#)" advertising campaign, and leading to the iMac, iTunes, Mac OS X, Apple Store, iPod, iTunes Store, iPhone, App Store, and iPad.



Ilhan Omar

Ilhan Abdullahi Omar is an American politician serving as the [U.S. representative](#) for Minnesota's 5th congressional district since 2019. She is a member of the [Democratic Party](#). Before her election to Congress, Omar served in the [Minnesota House of Representatives](#) from 2017 to 2019, representing part of Minneapolis.

Omar is the first Somali American in the [United States Congress](#) and the first woman of color to represent Minnesota. She is also one of the first two Muslim women (along with [Rashida Tlaib](#)) to serve in Congress.

Rashida Tlaib

Rashida Harbi Tlaib is an American politician and lawyer serving as the [U.S. representative](#) for [Michigan's 12th congressional district](#). She is the first Palestinian American woman to serve in Congress and one of the first two Muslim women elected to Congress.

A member of the Democratic Party, Tlaib represented the [6th](#) and [12th](#) districts in the [Michigan House of Representatives](#). She was the first Muslim woman to serve in Michigan's legislature. In 2018, she won the Democratic nomination and the general election for the [United States House of Representatives](#) in Michigan's 13th congressional district. Tlaib and [Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez](#) are the first female members of [Democratic Socialists of America](#) to serve in Congress.





Stephanie Bice

Stephanie Irene Bice is an American politician serving as the [U.S. representative](#) for [Oklahoma's 5th congressional district](#) since 2021. She is the first Iranian American and Pakistani American to be elected to Congress.

A member of the [Republican Party](#), Bice previously represented the 22nd district in the [Oklahoma Senate](#) from 2014 to 2020.

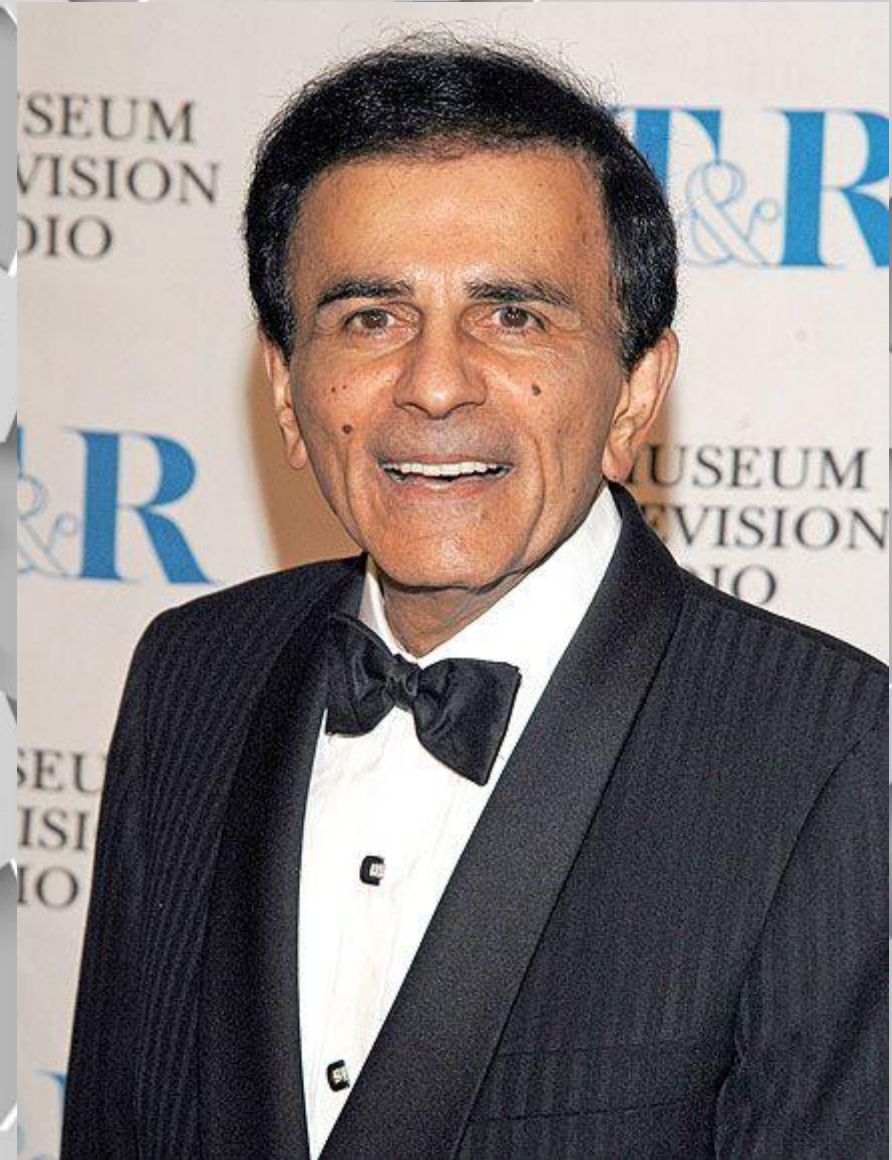


Danny Thomas

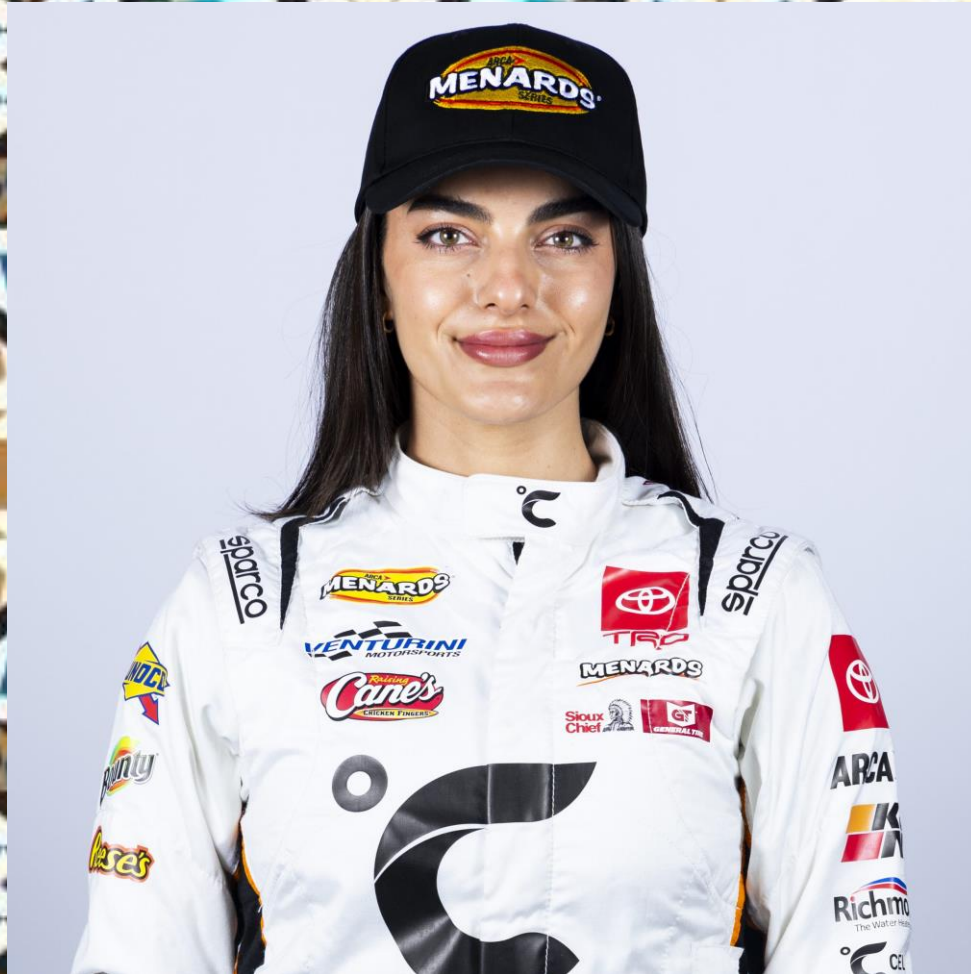
Danny Thomas was an American actor, singer, nightclub comedian, producer, and philanthropist. He was born Amos Alphonsus Muzya Takhood in Deerfield, MI. His parents were Maronite Catholic immigrants from Lebanon. He created and starred in the [*Danny Thomas Show*](#). In addition to guest roles on many of the comedy, talk, and musical variety programs of his time, his legacy includes a lifelong dedication to fundraising for charity. Most notably, he was the founder of [St. Jude Children's Research Hospital](#) in Memphis, Tennessee, a leading center in pediatric medicine with a focus on pediatric cancer. St. Jude now has affiliate hospitals in eight other American cities as of early 2020.

Casey Kasem

Kemal Amin "Casey" Kasem was an American disc jockey, actor and radio presenter, who created and hosted several radio countdown programs, notably [American Top 40](#). Born in Detroit, MI, to Lebanese Druze immigrants. He was the first actor to [voice Shaggy Rogers](#) in the [Scooby-Doo](#) franchise (1969 to 1997 and 2002 to 2009) and as [Dick Grayson/Robin](#) in [Super Friends](#) (1973–1985). Kasem hosted the original *American Top 40* from July 4, 1970 through 1988. He hosted another countdown titled [Casey's Top 40](#), January 1989 - February 1998, before returning to revive *American Top 40* in 1998. He also founded the [American Video Awards](#) in 1983 and continued to co-produce and host it until its final show in 1987.



Toni Breidinger



Antoinette Marie "Toni" Breidinger (born July 14, 1999) is an American [stock car racing](#) driver & [Victoria's Secret](#) Model. She is of Lebanese and German descent, and grew up in Hillsborough, CA.

She competes full-time in the [ARCA Menards Series](#), and part-time in the [East](#) and [West Series](#), driving the No. 25 [Toyota Camry](#) for [Venturini Motorsports](#), and part-time in the [NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series](#), driving the No. 1 [Toyota Tundra](#) for [Tricon Garage](#).

She formerly held the record for most [United States Auto Club](#) (USAC) wins for a female with 19 before Jessica Bean broke the record.