

Oprah Winfrey

Oprah Gail Winfrey was born in January of 1954 in Kosciusko, Mississippi. She is an American television show host, actress, producer, and philanthropist who is best known for her multi-award winning talk show. She has been ranked the richest African American of the 20th century, the greatest black philanthropist in American history and was once the world's only black billionaire. According to some assessments, she is the most influential woman in the world.

Ms. Winfrey was born into poverty to a teenage single mother and was raised in an inner-city Milwaukee neighborhood. She experienced considerable hardship as a child. When a young teen, she went to live with the man she calls her father in Tennessee where she landed a job in radio. She began co-anchoring the local evening news for at the age of 19.

Winfrey is credited with creating a intimate, confessional form of media communication. She is said to have popularized and revolutionized the tabloid talk show genre pioneered by Phil Donahue.