

## Essay Contest 2016/17

Sabrina Achorner, International School Kufstein, 5. Klasse, 5 Jahre Spracherwerb

*"Here he is"*

Bryan Adams

"Everything I do, I do it for you..." and "Summer of 69" are two of his most famous songs. He works as a singer, a songwriter and as a photographer. He is one of the most popular rock musicians of the last 30 to 40 years. Throughout his career, he has sold about 100 million records. As you may already know, I am going to write about the unusual but great life of Bryan Guy Adams (*Bryan Adams*, n.d.).

Bryan Guy Adams was born on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1959 in Kingston, Canada, but his parents were originally from the United Kingdom. Bryan Adams' mother, Elizabeth Jane Adams, worked as a teacher and as a librarian. His father, Conrad J. Adams, was a military officer in the British Army, but when they moved to Canada in the early 1950s, he joined the Canadian Army and later he became a United Nations peacekeeping observer for Canada. Because of his father's job, the family often had to change their place of residence. Thus, they lived in Portugal, in Vienna during the 1960s and in Israel during the early 1970s. After his parents got divorced in ....., he moved back to Canada with his mother and his brother (*Bryan Adams*, n.d.).

A few years later, he met his long-time friend Jim Vallance and they started to write songs for famous singers like Bonnie Tyler. In 1979, he got his first recording contract with A&M Records and he soon released his first album called *Bryan Adams*, which unfortunately wasn't successful. A year later he released his second album, *You want it, you got it*, which had a lot more success than the first one, and also made it into the US-charts. He had his official breakthrough with his third album, *Cuts like a knife*, which charted at number 8 in the US and at number 24 in the German. Since then, every album of him made it into the charts in North America and the German-speaking world (*Bryan Adams*, n.d.).

All in all, his career was and still is very prosperous, which means that he has won lots of awards and gold and platin discs. He has won 23 awards in total and he was nominated 94 times. And it is worth mentioning that he has won 18 Juno Awards. The Juno Awards are given every year to Canadian musicians or bands to honour their achievements. In addition

to that he has won one Grammy Award and one American Music Award for his fantastic song *Everything I do, I do it for you* (*Bryan Adams: Honours*, n.d.).

Bryan Adams is also as a very talented photographer and his works have repeatedly been awarded prizes (?). Some of his photographs were published in very famous magazines like *Vogue*, *Vanity Fair* and *GQ*. Many labels want him to do their advertising and PR campaigns so he has photographed for labels like *Hugo Boss*, *Guess*, *Converse* and so on. Some of his photos were presented in picture books, which can be bought for 50 to 100 euros. In Germany, he won 3 Lead Awards for his fashion photography in 2006, 2012 and the latest one in 2015. Furthermore, he shoots regularly for his self-founded photography magazine called *Zoo Magazine* which is located in Berlin. But his probably best-known photo is the one of Queen Elizabeth II. during her Golden Jubilee, which was in fact used for a Canadian postage stamp in 2004 and 2005 (*Bryan Adams*, n.d.).

Bryan Adams doesn't live the typical rock musician life because he fights for fair living conditions and animals' rights. He started his engagement for human rights in the early 1980s by participating in concerts which donate their proceeds to organisations that try to help poor people. Moreover, he founded the *Bryan Adams Foundation*, which cares for people in need (*Bryan Adams*, 2017).

Bryan Adams was first a vegetarian and at the age of 29, he became a vegan, mainly because of health reasons but also to protect animals. Likewise, he supports the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary, Greenpeace and the animals' rights organisation PETA (*Bryan Adams on animal rights and being vegan*, n.d.). A few years ago, he wrote a letter to KFC and asked them to use more modern and human ways to kill their chickens (*Bryan Adams takes on most KFCs in Canada*, 2007).

He has been liaised with Alicia Grimaldi since 2004 and their two daughters were born in 2011 and 2013. They live in Chelsea, London and Paris (*Bryan Adams zum zweiten Mal Vater geworden*, 2013).

I think in his life he has made very good experiences in Canada, where he was born and grew up and even though he didn't live his whole childhood in Canada, he had a great life there. And he also had his first musical success in Canada, which was the springboard to his success in the rest of the world.

Because of all these reasons, I decided I want to write my essay about him. His life and his never-ending effort for all the other people in the world is just so enviable and admirable that everybody of us should take a leaf out of his book. Besides his engagement for different aid organisations, it is his distinctive husky and adorable voice that fascinates me every time I hear it. And if this was not enough: for me there is no Christmas without his song *Christmas Time*. Every time I hear this song I really wish, like it says in the song, that it was Christmas every day.

I hope you have enjoyed reading my text and I could give you another view on Bryan Adams' life and music. And maybe the next time you hear a song by him on the radio, you'll listen to it more carefully than till now.

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