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OLIVIA RODRIGO

TWO EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE.

GRACIE ABRAMS

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CHAPTER 1

EARLY LIFE

WHO IS OLIVIA RODRIGO?

Olivia Rodrigo is a singer, songwriter, and actress. She became a pop star as a teen. The artist was born on February 20, 2003, in California. Her family lived in a small town called Temecula. This is between Los Angeles and San Diego. Olivia calls it “the suburbs of the suburbs.”



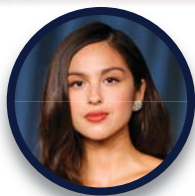
WHO IS GRACIE ABRAMS?

Gracie Abrams is also a singer and songwriter. Like Olivia, she found pop fame at a young age. Both stars are Californians. Gracie was born in Los Angeles on September 7, 1999. Her family lived near Hollywood. The star is the middle child. She has two brothers.



A CLOSE FAMILY

Olivia grew up as an only child. She had a pet snake named Stripes. Her parents, Chris and Jennifer, were her “BFFs.” Chris was a family therapist. Jennifer taught third grade. Both were proud of Olivia. Their daughter never felt the need to rebel. “My music can be my form of teenage rebellion,” Olivia told *The Guardian* newspaper.



A HOME FULL OF STORIES



Gracie's parents work in Hollywood. Her father is J.J. Abrams. He directed *Star Trek* movies. J.J. directed and wrote *Star Wars* films too. The TV shows *Alias* and *Lost* are also his work. Gracie's mother is Katie McGrath. She is co-CEO of Bad Robot Productions with her husband, J.J. "I feel really lucky," Gracie told *People*. As a child, she grew up in a house where adults were "telling stories all the time."

COMPOSING FOR HOLLYWOOD

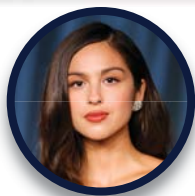
J.J. Abrams didn't just make TV shows and movies. He also composed theme songs. Some of the theme songs he wrote were for *Alias*, *Almost Human*, and *Fringe*.

What goes into composing music for TV shows? One part is creating emotion. A good opening theme song sets a mood. It lets viewers know if the show will be fun, creepy, or suspenseful. Other music plays throughout the episode. These are often short melodies. They are called cues. Each cue creates a feeling for a scene.



J.J. Abrams

FAMILY HISTORY



Olivia enjoyed learning about her family history. Her father is of Filipino descent. His grandfather came from the Philippines as a teen. This is a nation of islands in the Pacific Ocean. Many people there have Spanish last names. That's because Spain once controlled the islands. Her mother's side has German and Irish roots. Olivia identifies as a Filipina and Asian American.

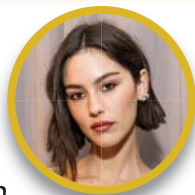
EXPLORING HER ROOTS

For a long time, Olivia dreamed of visiting the Philippines. "My dad grew up in a house where they were always making Filipino food. His grandpa always spoke Tagalog. All of those traditions have trickled down to our generation," she told the Center for Asian American Media. In 2024, Olivia made her first trip to the Philippines. It was to perform the biggest show of her life. This was in Manila, the nation's capital. She donated all of the show's profits to a group that provides health care to women and girls in the Philippines.



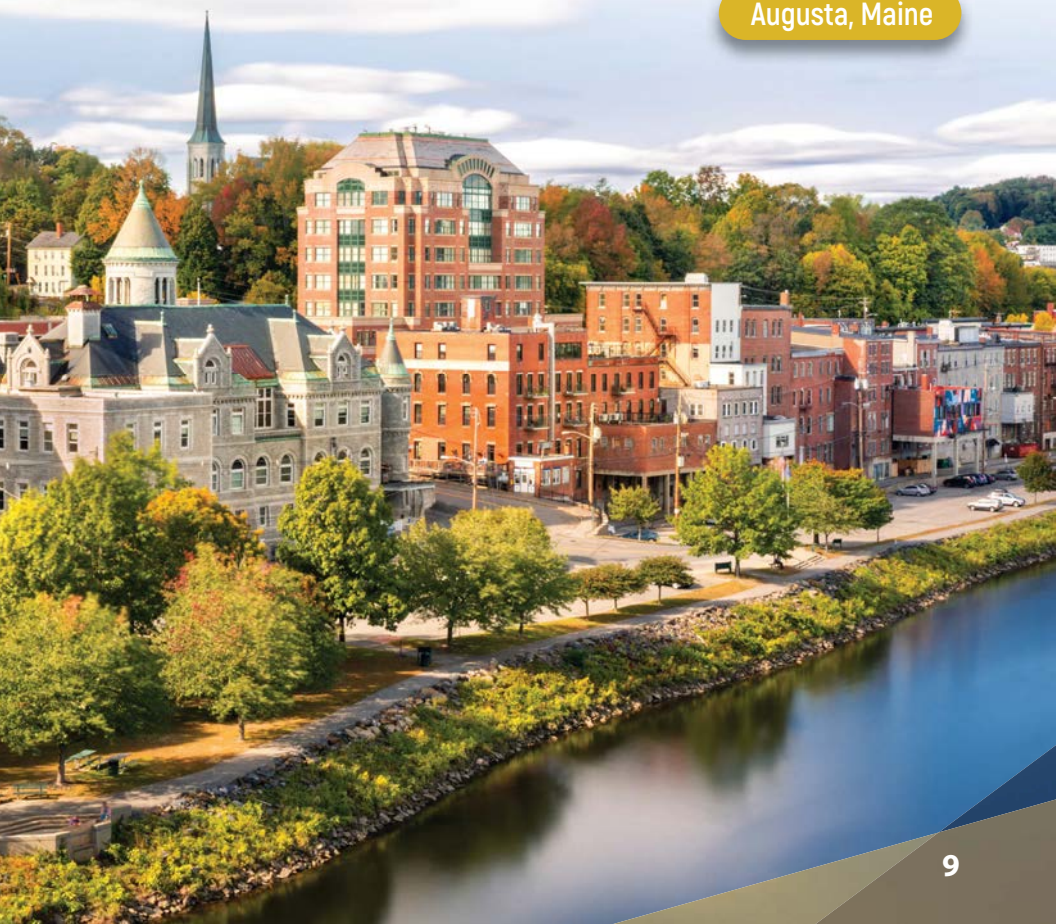
Philippine flag

FAMILY TRADITIONS



Like Olivia's parents, Gracie's mom and dad came from different backgrounds. J.J. is Jewish. He took his daughter to synagogue. They celebrated Jewish holidays together. Gracie's mom is Irish Catholic. Her family came from Maine. The Abramses often visited that side of the family. Gracie named many of her songs after towns in Maine.

Augusta, Maine



STARTING SCHOOL

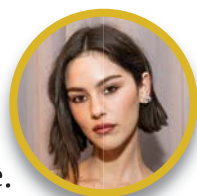
Kindergarten started for Olivia. She took a routine hearing test at school. It was discovered that she had partial hearing loss in her left ear. As it turned out, Olivia was born that way. This is something she still lives with today. But it never stopped her from making and enjoying music. At age five, she began taking voice lessons.





GIRL POWER

Gracie went to a private school. The Archer School for Girls taught students to be creative. They were encouraged to think for themselves. As a child, Gracie was shy. Going to an all-girls school helped. “I felt zero fear or hesitation to raise my hand every single time I had a thought about anything,” she told *Vanity Fair*.



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TWO EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE.

GRACIE ABRAMS

Two megastars living extraordinary lives.

Different paths to stardom.

Connected by music.

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