

# Famous People with Disabilities

## Autism

Dan Aykroyd, Canadian actor, comedian, screenwriter and singer (Asperger Syndrome)

Susan Boyle, singer/musician who became a global star after appearing on the TV show *Britain's Got Talent* in 2009 (Asperger Syndrome)

James Durbin, finalist on the tenth season of *American Idol* (Tourettes and Asperger's syndromes)

## Dyslexia

Anderson Cooper, CNN news anchor

Tom Cruise, actor

Walt Disney (1901–1966), cartoonist

Albert Einstein (1875–1955), German-born physicist who developed the theory of relativity

Whoopi Goldberg, comedian, actor and talk-show host

Greg Louganis, Olympic swimmer (Dyslexia, Depression, HIV/AIDS)

## Hearing Impairment

Ludwig von Beethoven (1770–1827), 18th century classical composer (Deafness)

[Derrick Coleman](#), NFL player with the Seattle Seahawks (Deafness)

Thomas Edison (1847–1931), inventor (Hearing Impairment)

Claudia Gordon, adviser on disability issues to President Obama and the first Black Deaf lawyer in the U.S.

Marlee Matlin, actress (Deafness)

## Learning Disability

Agatha Christie (1890–1976), English crime novelist, short story writer and playwright

Daniel Radcliffe, actor and star of the *Harry Potter* movies (Dyspraxia)

Charles Schwab, financier

## Polio

Dorothea Lange (1895–1965), Depression photographer

Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882–1945), 32nd President of the United States (Also Paraplegic but hid it from the public)

Wilma Rudolph (1940–1994), first African-American woman to win three gold medals in one Olympic game

## Seizure Disorder

Julius Caesar (100 BC–44 BC), Roman Emperor

Danny Glover, actor, film director and activist (Epilepsy)

Harriet Tubman (c. 1820–1913), born into slavery was an anti-slavery activist, women suffragist and Union spy during the American Civil War (Seizures)

## Speech Impairment

James Earl Jones, actor (Stuttering)

Marc Anthony, American actor, singer, record producer and television producer (Stuttering)

Marilyn Monroe (1926–1962), American actress, model, and singer, who became a major sex symbol (Stuttering)

## Vision Impairment

Ray Charles (1930–2004), singer, songwriter, musician and composer (Blindness)  
Sammy Davis, Jr. (1925–1990), dancer and singer/songwriter (Vision Impairment/Cancer)  
Helen Keller (1880–1968), educator/activist (Deaf-Blindness)  
Stevie Wonder, musician/songwriter (Blindness)

## Paraplegia

Stephen Hawking, British astrophysicist (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, a.k.a Lou Gehrig's Disease/Paraplegia)  
Itzhak Perlman, classical musician/violinist (Polio/Paraplegia)  
Christopher Reeve, actor, director and activist (Quadriplegia from a spinal cord injury)

## Other Disabilities

Chris Burke, actor/folk singer (Down Syndrome)  
Michael J. Fox, Canadian-American actor, author, producer and activist (Parkinson's Disease)  
Vincent van Gogh (1853–1890), painter/artist (Bipolar)  
Howie Mandel, actor, comedian and game show host (Attention Deficit Disorder (ADHD) and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD))  
Mary Tyler Moore, actress (Type 1 Diabetes)  
Harilyn Rousso, psychotherapist/disability rights activist (Cerebral Palsy)  
Justin Timberlake, singer-songwriter, actor and entrepreneur (ADHD)  
Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec (1864–1901), French painter, printmaker, draftsman, and illustrator (Short-statured)

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### Sources:

Bio: [www.biography.com](http://www.biography.com)  
Disability Horizons, <http://disabilityhorizons.com/>  
Disability Social History Project: [www.disabilityhistory.org](http://www.disabilityhistory.org)  
Disabled Women on the Web: [www.disabilityhistory.org/dwa](http://www.disabilityhistory.org/dwa)  
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