



# Johnny Depp

His face is one of the most famous on the planet. But Johnny Depp never wanted to become such a mega star ...

**M**ost Hollywood actors love being famous. But Johnny Depp is an exception. "I hate fame\*," he says. "I've done everything I can to avoid\* it." But it's too late: the hero of *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and many more films is a megastar! And fans can't wait to see him in his new film, *Alice in Wonderland*, based on the book by Lewis Carroll.

## Alice in Wonderland

The film is the story of a girl called Alice who falls down a rabbit\* hole into a world of strange creatures. At a tea\* party, Alice meets the Mad\* Hatter, who is played by Johnny Depp. Johnny read the book to understand the character\*. He made coloured drawings\* of the Hatter to show director\* Tim Burton how he imagined him. "There's a lot of colour and brightness\*" in The Hatter," says Johnny.

## A TV actor

Johnny Depp is known for playing eccentric characters. But he was not like

this at the start of his career. In 1987, Johnny got a lead\* role in the TV series *21 Jump Street*. He became an idol, but he didn't like it: "It's very nice to be popular, but I'm not really comfortable with it," he said. At the end of the series, he promised himself he would only accept a role in a film if he thought it was right for him.

## Commercial success

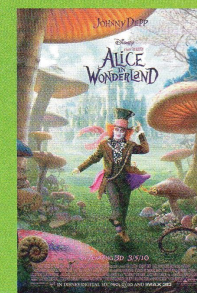
In 1990, Johnny changed his image when he played the lead role in the film *Edward Scissorhands* by director Tim Burton. He has now made seven films with Burton, and they have become very good friends.

Johnny's big\* break came in 2003 when he got the role of Captain Jack Sparrow in *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*. Johnny says he was "surprised" and "touched" at the success of the trilogy. He says that Sparrow is "definitely a big part" of him. So he was very pleased to return to the role in the second and third films.

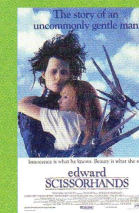
## An eccentric actor

Johnny's characters are often misunderstood\* by society. They also have a flamboyant appearance, with bizarre wigs\* and make-up. Fans might prefer to see his good\* looks, but Johnny says: "I think it's an actor's responsibility to change every time. Not only for himself, but his public. If you just go out and deliver\* the same dish\* every time ... you'd get bored\*. I'd get bored!"

But at the moment, Johnny doesn't have to worry\*. His role as the Mad Hatter in *Alice in Wonderland* is one of the most memorable characters in English literature. It's another perfect role for Johnny Depp ... and we're sure we won't get bored! ■



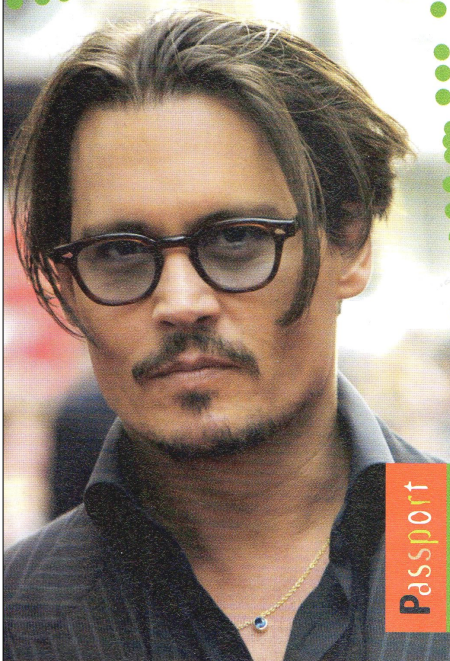
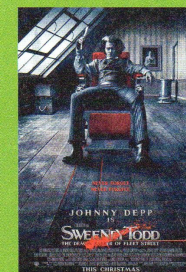
◀ Depp plays The Hatter in *Alice in Wonderland*. He's a funny character\*, and often says bizarre things!



Johnny Depp often plays eccentric characters\* like Edward Scissorhands and Willy Wonka. He also plays historical characters like J.M. Barry in *Finding Neverland*.



◀ Johnny won a Golden Globe for Best Actor in a Musical/Comedy for the film *Sweeney Todd*. For the role, Johnny didn't just act ... he sang too!



## Passport

**Name:** John Christopher Depp  
**Date of birth:** 9 June 1963  
**Age:** 46  
**Hobbies:** playing the guitar, watching cartoons  
**Family:** Vanessa Paradis and two children, Lily-Rose and Jack

"It's an actor's responsibility to change every time."

## Help!

**avoid:** éviter  
**big break:** chance de sa vie  
**bored (get ...):** s'ennuyer  
**brightness:** éclat  
**character:** personnage

**deliver:** livrer  
**director:** réalisateur  
**dish:** plat  
**drawing:** dessin  
**fame:** célébrité  
**good looks:** beauté  
**wig:** perruque  
**lead:** principal

**Mad Hatter:** chapelier fou  
**misunderstood:** incompris  
**rabbit hole:** terrier de lapin  
**tea party:** goûter  
**worry:** s'inquiéter