



Edith Piaf



Edith Piaf when she was young.



Edith Piaf when she was old.

Edith Piaf (Edith Giovanna Gassion) was a French singer, a street artist and an actress. She was born on December the 19th in 1915 in Paris, France. According to some sources, she would be born on 72 street of Belleville in the 20th district but, in reality, she was born on 4 street of China more precisely the address of the Tenon hospital. Her father was Louis Gassion, who was a circus artist and her mother was Line Marsa (Annetta Maillard) who also was a singer. She was of Kabyle origin. She had a brother whose name was Herbert Lucien Gassion. When she was born, she was very poor. Her mother gave her to Edith's grandmother (of her mother). Her name was Emma Saïd Ben Mohammed.

She didn't take care of Edith. After 18 months, her father Louis Gassion gave her to her other grandmother. Edith was happy with her because her grandmother took care of her. Unfortunately, when she was young (between 3 and 8 years),



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Edith had keratitis (a disease of eyes). She lost her sight. But her grandmother went to the Thérèse de l'Enfant-Jésus 's tomb in Lisieux and took ground which is near to the tomb in order to apply this on the eyes of Edith each evening. After 8 days, Edith found a her sight again. It's a miracle ! After that, the little girl often prayed to thank god.

In 1922, at the age of 7, Edith's father recovered her. 8 years after that, she left her father and sang with her friend Simone Berteaut. In 1932, she met her first love : Louis Dupont, who was 18 years old at this moment. They lived in Montmarte and one year later, on February the 11th, their daughter Marcelle was born. So, Edith tried " normal" works. But Louis recovered his daughter. 2 years later, Marcelle died.

In 1935, Edith Piaf began her career as a singer. Louis Leplée, the Gerny's auditorium manager, discovered Edith on the Champs-Élysées. He became the adoptive father of Edith Piaf and her mentor. He hired her in his cabaret. He chose a nickname for her: *La Môme Piaf*. It means *The bird child*. The young singer met Jacques Bourgeat, a literary philosopher who became her teacher. She also met the young artistic director of Radio Cité. One year later, She sang her first song *Les Mômes de la Cloche* in Polydor. She knew an incredible success. Unfortunately, 7 months later, her mentor Louis Leplée died in his bed. Edith was accused of having killed him. This almost caused Edith's dismissal but the Radio Cité gave a second chance to her. She met many other important people and sang many songs which enabled Edith to be known throughout the world like *Mon Légionnaire*, *Hymne à l'Amour*, *Milord* and "*Les Amants d'un Jour*". Raymond Asso, a songwriter, became the new mentor of Edith Piaf.

In 1936, she won the Alhambra. One year later, she became her career of music-hall at the ABC of Paris, the famous music-hall. Edith Piaf met other celebrities of the musical world and in 1940, she wrote with Jean Cocteau, a playwright, a theater play whose name was "Le Bel Indifférent" and it was a success. In 1944, she sang in the Moulin Rouge (The Red Mill) and she met the young singer Yves Montand. She fell in love with him and decided to learn him





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how to be a singer. Unfortunately, Edith Piaf's father died and one year later, it was her mother.

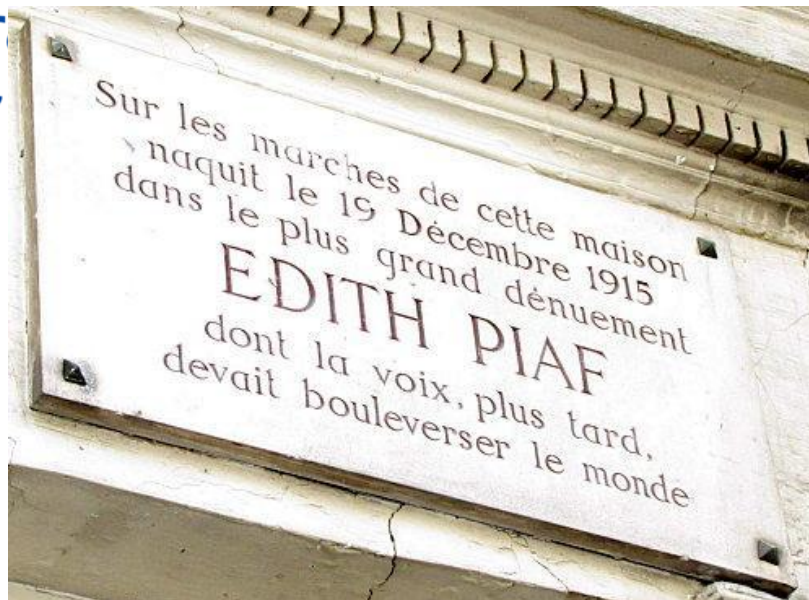
In 1945, the brilliant singer sang her most famous song : La Vie en Rose. She knew a global success. Since then, she played at the French Comedy. She played in a film whose title was "Etoile sans lumière" with Yves Montand. In 1946, they separated and Edith met a music group *Les Compagnons de la Chanson*. She sang Jean Villard's song "Les Trois Cloches". During 1947, she sang in northern Europe with her new group.

From 1946 to 1948, Edith was Jean-Louis Jaubert's partner. He was the director of the music group. But, when she went to New York, she fell in love with the French boxer Marcel Cerdan. Next year, she bought her first house and sang her song "Hymne à l'amour".

Unfortunately, on October 28th 1949, Cerdan died in a plane crash and Edith was very sad and she suffered a lot of this loss. That's why, she started to take some morphine. In 1951, the young singer and songwriter Charles Aznavour became her secretary. On September 20th 1952, she got married with the French singer Jacques Pills. In 1953, she was addicted to morphine after a car accident in 1951. Two years later, she was addicted to alcohol in order to forget the sorrow caused by the death of her love. She knew a lot of success during her career and met other important people of the musical world. In 1956, she divorced Jacques Pills. From February 1958 to February 1959, she fell in love with Georges Moustaki and on September 6th 1958, she had a car accident and her health got worst. On December 13th 1959, Edith fell on the stage. She was operated many times. Moustaki and Edith separated but the singer was rewarded for her song "Milord" in a TV show. During 3 years, she continued to sing her new songs.

In October 10th 1963, Edith Piaf died in the Danielle Bonel's arms, her secretary, at the age of 47 in Grasse, France. She died because of morphine, alcohol and sorrow. Her tomb is at the Lachaise cemetery in Paris. In Paris, on 72, street of Belleville in the 20th district, there is the plaque commemorating the birth of Edith Piaf in order to never forget this incredible singer who has impressed the whole world with her legendary voice.





The Plaque to commemorate Edith Piaf's birth.

This is the most famous song of Edith Piaf : "Je vois la Vie en Rose" :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzeLynj1GYM>

This is another song of her : "Non, je ne regrette rien" :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzy2wZSg5ZM>

Edith Piaf's tomb, in the cemetery Le Père Lachaise in Paris.

