

Dead Musicians In The News

By **Alexander Baron** - Apr 6, 2015



Amy Winehouse performing at the Eurockéennes, 2007 (Author: Rama)

5
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If the name McKinley Morganfield is not familiar to you, you might just have heard of him by his other name, Muddy Waters, especially if you are a blues or jazz fan. The legendary Mississippi bluesman died in 1983, but if he had lived, he would have been a hundred years old last Saturday, which prompted a number of reports in the music press.



Waters was neither a great songwriter nor even a great musician, but his influence was enormous, especially on rock bands including AC/DC, Led Zeppelin and the Rolling Stones. Although he never lived to see the Internet, he has his own [official website](#) that you might like to check out.

Although his own name was not as well known as Muddy's, Bob Burns was a founder member of [Lynyrd Skynyrd](#), who also hail from the American Deep South. He was killed in [a car crash](#) on Good Friday at the age of 64. He left the band in the 1970s although he played a one-off performance with them in 2006. This is not the first time tragedy has struck band or former band members. The career of lead guitarist Allen Collins was ended in 1986 when he was involved in a car crash; he died four years later having been left paralysed. In 1977, three band members were killed in a plane crash, but their music lives on.

Much younger than both Muddy Waters and Bob Burns was [Amy Winehouse](#), who died in July 2011, becoming a member of the infamous [27 Club](#). Winehouse was born in North London; stunningly attractive until she marred her face with studs and her arms with tattoos, she had two big weaknesses: drugs (including alcohol) and men, though not necessarily in that order.



Although she was far from her peak when she died, there is no doubt she would have become as big as any female performer in her genre; her songs were written from the heart.

There will doubtless be a film made about her life in due course, probably when they find a white girl with hair as long and as black as hers, but in the meantime there is shortly to be a documentary released in UK cinemas. There are a couple of trailers for it already on YouTube; no firm date appears to have been set for it yet, but it is due out some time in the summer.

5
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