

reign is over



Love life: With first wife Mayte in 1999

Secretive side of a superstar hit by tragedy

WITH that birth name, Prince was destined to be pop royalty.

His parents named him Prince Rogers Nelson after a jazz band his pianist father performed with, the Prince Rogers Trio.

The musician had a humble upbringing in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Early on, his talent shone through and he signed his first contract as a teenager.

His album Prince went platinum in 1979. Five years later, the film and album Purple Rain helped make him a global superstar.

But his intense desire for privacy left him open to accusations he was 'weird' and a recluse, with claims he was 'obsessed' by bathing and strongly disapproved of drugs, alcohol and doughnuts.

In 1993, he was widely mocked after changing his name to a symbol, although he reverted back to Prince in 2000. It was reported to have been a ruse because he was frustrated with the demands of his record label, Warner Bros.

He was linked with a string of glamorous women including actress Kim Basinger, singer Sheena Easton and Madonna – who he worked with, including playing guitar on her album Like A Prayer.

He married twice, first in 1996 to Mayte Garcia, who described their relationship as 'the most bizarre ever'. Their son Boy Gregory died at one week old from Pfeiffer syndrome, a rare skull defect. The grief-stricken couple divorced in 1999.

In 2001, he married Manuela Testolini but they divorced five years later.

DANIEL BINNS



Sign O' The Times: How fans remember Prince, on the cover of 1984 album Purple Rain PICTURE: REX



U Got The Look: With Sheena Easton in 1987



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