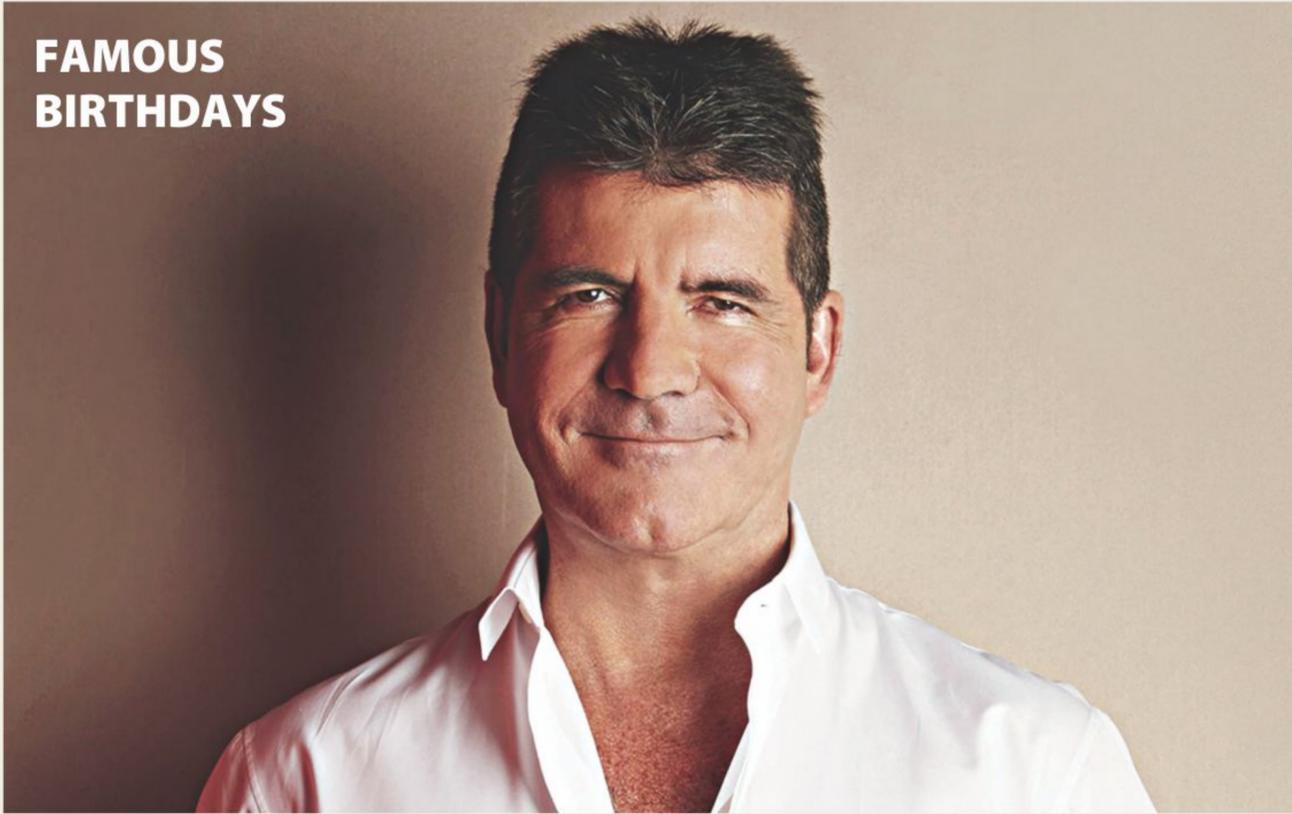


FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS



SIMON COWELL

If there's a reality television show judge that everyone can recognize, it's most probably Simon Cowell. Known worldwide as a judge for many competition-style shows such as *American Idol*, *America's Got Talent*, *Britain's Got Talent*, *The X Factor*, *Pop Idol* etc., this London-born entrepreneur has earned infamy as a rather rude judge of talent, who seldom backs down from bombarding contestants with crass and

controversial comments. Despite his on-screen arrogance, Simon Cowell is a philanthropist who immerses himself in charity work and is in the list of the most influential people in the world. He is the founder of the British entertainment company Syco, and is involved with the rise of many young talents in the music industry. Star Showbiz wishes the Judge of Idols a fantastic birthday!

SHAKTI KAPOOR Promotes Transgender Rights

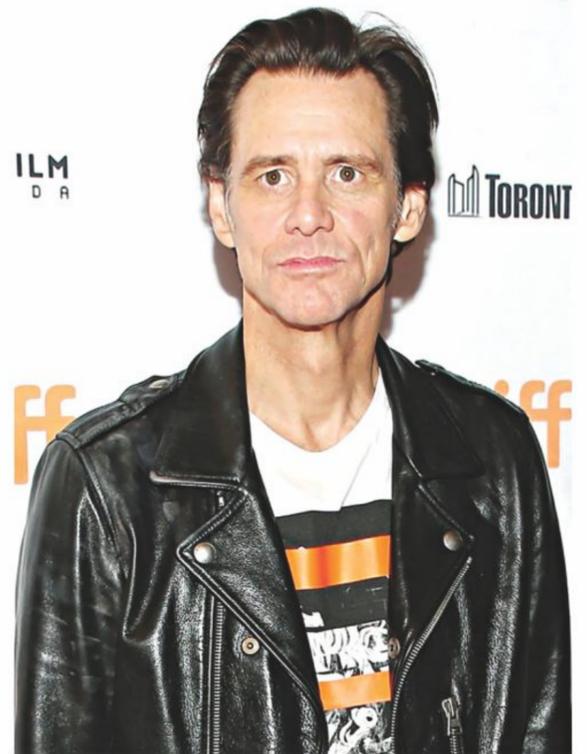
Known for his comic villainous roles, Shakti Kapoor has recently taken an unusually serious stance. In the latest film *Raktdhar*, he has portrayed a transgender character who attempts to bring justice to the death of a victimized transgender. "Even small things are capable of making big changes," said Shakti Kapoor, "*Raktdhar* isn't a big budget film but I believe it will make people see the message we are trying to preach. Hopefully

people will look at transgenders equally now and focus on their rights." Ajit Verma, the director of *Raktdhar*, stated, "If we can make people change the negative way in which they view transgenders, I will consider this movie a success." The movie also features Mukesh Rishi, Shahbaaz Khan and Ehsaan Khan, among others.

Source: Times of India



Jim Carrey Fights Back Allegations Blaming him for his Girlfriend's Death



The suicide of Jim Carrey's former girlfriend, Cathriona White, left behind a slew of allegations blaming Jim Carrey for her death last year. Cases filed by Cathriona's mother Brigid Sweetman and her estranged husband Mark Burton claimed that Carrey had given Cathriona multiple STDs and access to illegal drugs, but these cases were later deemed to be wrongful allegations. However, the allegations have returned, with recently unearthed letters written by Cathriona apparently claiming that Jim Carrey had introduced her to "cocaine, prostitutes, mental abuse and disease". As a response, Jim Carrey has filed a cross-complaint against Brigid Sweetman, Mark Burton and their lawyers, saying, "I made the mistake three years ago by settling false claims made against me. At that time I felt Cat was being exploited." He further said, "I am not responsible for what these desperate characters have inadvertently unearthed about the woman I adored." In addition, Carrey's lawyer Ray Boutcher has added that this was only a dishonest campaign at extorting money from a famous celebrity, and that evidences suggest the notes by Cathriona are pure fraud.

Source: Entertainment Weekly