



'I DIED AGED 27'

Remember singer Terence Trent D'Arby? He's now called something completely different and this is what he's up to

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The Wishing Well star says his stage persona 'died a noble death' back in 1995

BACK in 1987 Terence Trent D'Arby was the man of the moment.

His singles Sign Your Name, If You Let Me Stay and Wishing Well all stormed up the charts on both sides of the Atlantic.



Terence Trent D'Arby in London at the height of his fame in 1987

His debut album *Introducing The Hardline According To Terence Trent D'Arby* went five times platinum, selling 1.5 million copies and earning him a Grammy.

And he had no bigger fan than himself.

In typically humble style he declared the work "the most important album since Sgt Pepper".

But his follow up album, *Neither Fish Nor Flesh*, failed to hit the high notes and he fell out with his record company, blaming their "wholesale rejection of it" for its commercial failure.



Terence singer performs his hits in Germany in 1987

It was then things began to get bit weird.

The US singer – who was born Terence Trent Howard and adopted his last name from stepdad James Darby – decided to change his name to something completely different.

He became Sananda Maitreya, a moniker which came to him



in series of dreams in 1995, He officially changed his name in 2001.

Claiming his second album had killed his stage persona, he said: "Terence Trent D'Arby was dead... he watched his suffering as he died a noble death.

"After intense pain I meditated for a new spirit, a new will, a new identity."



Sananda now sells new music on his website



Sananda plays a gig in Switerland in 2010



Now known as Sananda Maitreya, the singer is pictured here in 2007

After a stint in Munich, he moved to Milan in Italy where he married architect and former television presenter Francesca Francone.

In 2010 the couple had a son, Francesco.

In a recent interview, he said his alter-ego had joined the 27 Club, referring to the tragic artists who died at that age, including Jim Morrison, Kurt Cobain and Amy Winehouse.

He said: "It felt like I was going to join the 27 Club, and psychologically I did, because that is exactly the age I was when I was killed."

While TTD may be "dead", Sananda continues to make music – and lots of it.

The Manhattan born singer has released six more albums including one intriguingly titled *The Rise Of The Zugebrian Time Lords* and his latest offerings *Prometheus And Pandora – Chapters 1 and 2*.

They are available [from his website](#) along with his poetry.