

Alice Cooper



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VINCENT DAMON FURNIER, OR Alice Cooper by his stage name, is an American rock musician who has been singing, writing and performing for nearly 50 years.

Inspired by horror movies, vaudeville and garage rock, Cooper has pioneered a theatrical brand of heavy metal that was created to shock. In fact, his performances were so appalling that in Britain, former Labour MP David Blunkett called for the show to be banned, saying “I’m horrified by his behaviour – it goes beyond the bounds of entertainment.”

However, it was this kind of outraged reaction that contributed to Alice

Cooper’s initial success. Cooper and his band were originally signed as an act after playing an unsuccessful gig at a club in Venice, California. The music manager Shep Gordon saw something that could be made into a positive when Cooper and band emptied the entire venue of customers after playing for only ten minutes. Gordon introduced Cooper to legendary musician and record producer Frank Zappa, who signed Cooper up to a three-album deal. The performances gained notoriety and Cooper was a significant contributor to the new sub-genre of ‘shock rock’. A long and successful music career has followed

with Cooper releasing 31 albums to date, with a new album scheduled for release this year.

However, these days Cooper spends more time on the golf course than in the studio. The musician has credited the sport as playing a major role in helping him overcome his addiction to alcohol, and has even gone as far to say that when he took up golf, it was a case of replacing one addiction with another. The importance that golf has had in his life is also reflected in the title of his 2007 autobiography, *Alice Cooper, Golf Monster*. The rock star, who has participated in several Pro-Am competitions, plays the game six days a week. Since 1997, he has hosted an annual golf competition, the Alice Cooper Celebrity AM Golf Tournament, all proceeds from which go to his charity, the Solid Rock Foundation.

Cooper has also appeared in commercials for Callaway Golf equipment and was a guest of veteran British player and broadcaster Peter Alliss on the TV show *A Golfer’s Travels*. He also wrote the foreword to the Gary McCord book, *Golf for Dummies*. In August 2006, Cooper took part in an annual celebrity golf version of the Ryder Cup called the All Star Cup in South Wales. He won on the first day, but lost on the second day. Commentators at the competition, which was broadcast live on UK television, made numerous references to Cooper being the best player. Moreover, in an interview with VH1, friend and fellow golfer Pat Boone notably said that Cooper was “this close to being a pro.”