

# Billie Holiday

7 April 1915 - 17 July 1959

American jazz singer

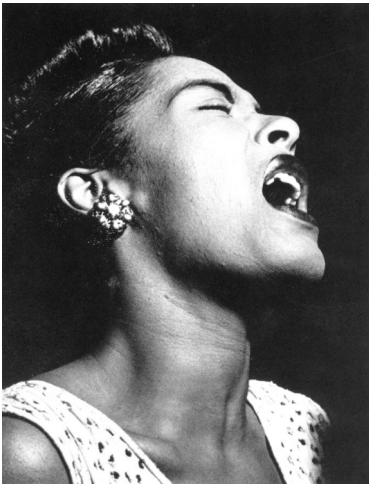


## Private life

- \* grew up in Baltimore
- \* turbulent childhood
- \* married twice
- \* addicted to alcohol and drugs
- \* 1947 : arrested for possessing narcotics
- \* died of cirrhosis of the liver

## Career :

- began singing in nightclubs around Harlem
- was signed to Brunswick Records in 1935
  - Hit : "What a little moonlight can do"
- mainstream success throughout the 1930s and 1940s
  - labels : Decca Records, Columbia Records
- 1948 : played Carnegie Hall to a sold-out crowd
  - 1954 : hugely successful tour of Europe
- 1956 : autobiography "Lady sings the Blues"



## Which songs to remember?



# 1st major release : « Riffin the scotch » (5000 copies)

# **popular jazz standard** « **Summertime** »

# 16 best selling songs in 1937 : « Carelessly » , « I've got my love to keep me warm »

✿ 1939 : Biggest selling record « Strange Fruit »