what's in a name? That which we call a Rose by any other name would smell as sweet.

WELL, SHAKESPEARE, WE DISAGREE!

Names are an essential way to know and be known-- it's literally our most fundamental, **CORE** identity!

People choose or carry names based on their family history, their values or beliefs, their wishes for their child, or maybe just something that sounds pretty or cool.

A person may alter or choose their own name, like going by a nickname, stage name, or by legally changing their name.

So, Shakespeare, a rose should be called a rose!

Being called something you don't want to be called is pretty invalidating to your core being, whether it's unintentional or on purpose.

Non-American or other names that are viewed as part of the non-dominant culture are often mispronounced, dismissed, or changed to be more palatable.

We show respect for each other when we use the name each other wants to be called. Part of living in a community of difference is recognizing and celebrating that difference.

uzo aduba

Uzoamaka Nwanneka Aduba, who goes by Uzo, is an award-winning, critically-acclaimed actress who you might recognize from Netflix's *Orange is the New Black* as Suzanne "Crazy Eyes" Warren.

Born in Boston to Nigerian parents, Uzo struggled growing up with others mispronouncing her name. Uzo shared with an audience once that she asked her mom to call her "Zoe," and her mom's response was, "If they can learn to say 'Tchaikovsky' and 'Michelangelo' and 'Dostoevsky,' then they can learn to say 'Uzoamaka.'" Uzo shared that "Uzoamaka" means "the road is good."

In a recent interview promoting the 2022 film *Lightyear*, in which she voices Alisha Hawthorne, Uzo shared the significance of her middle name, Nwanneka, which means "nothing is more important than your sisters."

Uzo reflects on her name, saying, "What is amazing now standing in my womanhood, in my power, is I wouldn't change my name for a second. I am so proud of that name and what stands behind it and what it represents."

bruno mars

Peter Gene Hernandez, popularly known as Bruno Mars, is a 15-time Grammy-award-winning singer, songwriter, producer, and musician. Bruno Mars rose to fame in the 2000s with hit after hit, and remains a popular performer today.

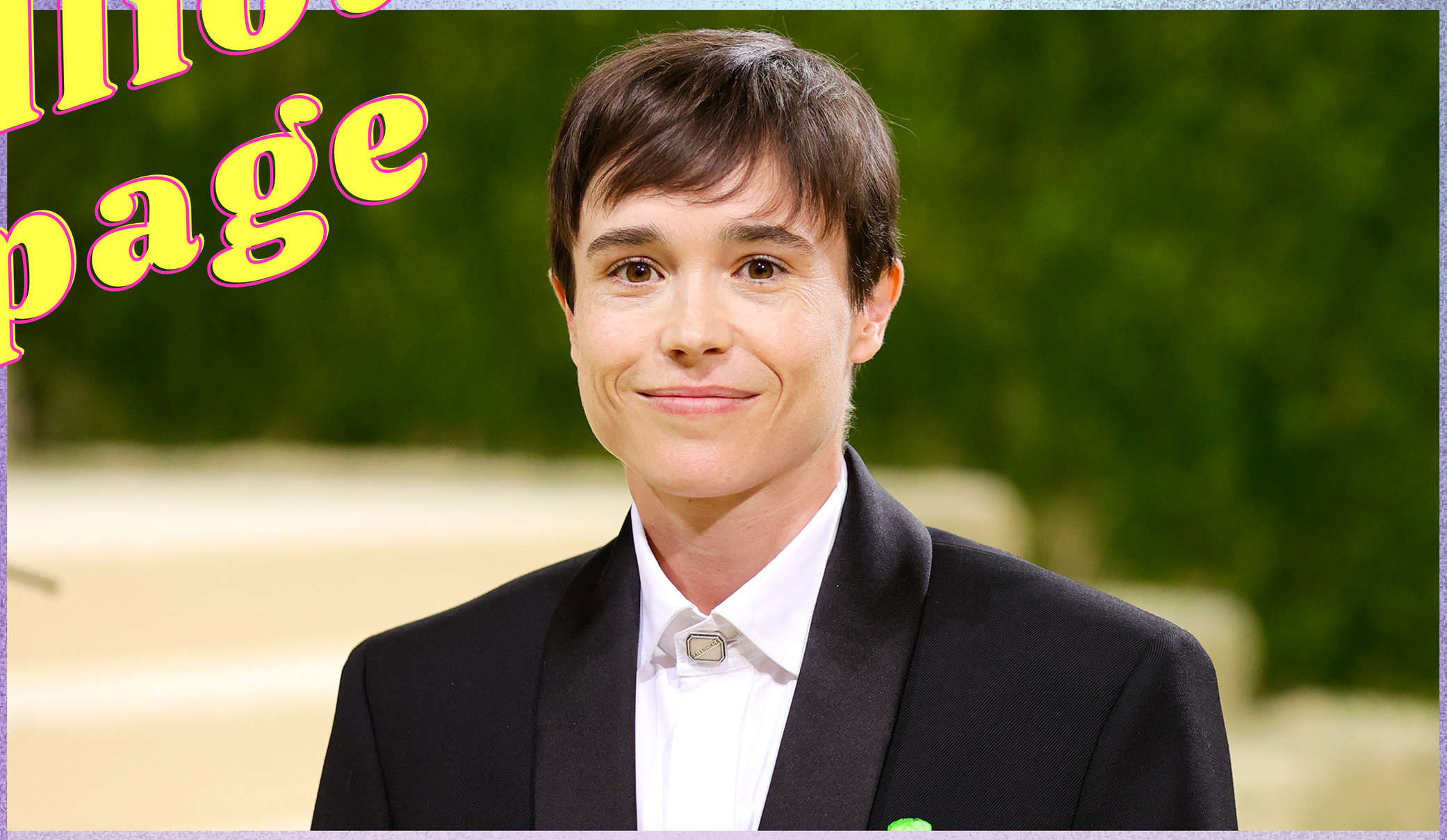
Born in Honolulu, he grew up in a household with Puerto Rican, Jewish, Filipino, and Spanish influences.

When he began his music career, he adopted a stage name to avoid being stereotyped as a Latin artist by the music industry. Bruno Mars recounts that the music industry wanted to pigeonhole him into specific music, and producers even asked him to sing in Spanish only.

Bruno Mars chose "Bruno" after a childhood nickname from his father, and "Mars" to capture the "out of this world" persona he wanted to portray.

Bruno Mars says that he didn't change his name to hide his ethnicity or out of shame for his heritage-- in fact, he's quite proud of it! His decision was a response to a sociocultural stereotyping by the music industry and, more broadly, American culture.

elliot page



Elliot Page is a critically-acclaimed actor and producer, known for his roles in *Juno*, *Inception*, X-Men's *The Last Stand*, and more recently, *The Umbrella Academy*.

Born in Nova Scotia, Canada, Elliot began questioning his sexuality and gender at a young age. In 2020 Elliot publicly announced their trans identity and his desire to be called Elliot, and in 2021, he became the first openly trans man to appear on the cover of *Time* magazine. Elliot uses he/they pronouns.

Elliot is very proud of their identities, and hopes to be an inspiration to others and a change-maker in the trans community.

"I love that I am trans. And I love that I am queer. And the more I hold myself close and fully embrace who I am, the more I dream, the more my heart grows and the more I thrive . . . To all trans people who deal with harassment, self-loathing, abuse and the threat of violence every day: I see you, I love you and I will do everything I can to change this world for the better."

Naming Conventions

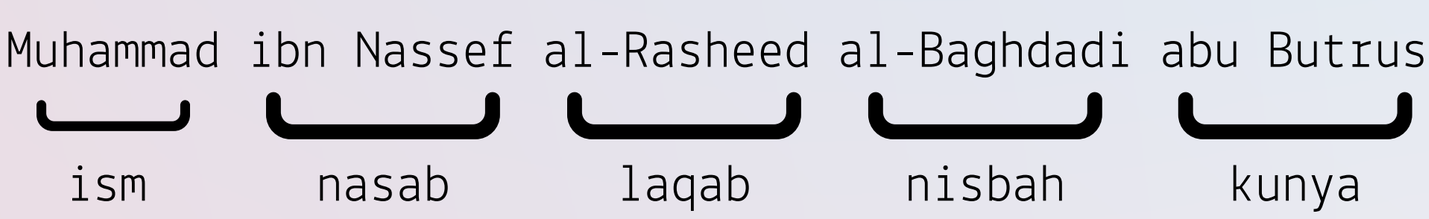
ARAB NAMES:

May consist of some or all of these components:

- *ism* (given, personal, or first name)
- *nasab* (patronymic[s], "ibn/bin" means "son of," "ibnat/bint" means "daughter of")
- *laqab* (last name, family name, or surname)
- *nisbah* (name of ancestral tribe, city, country, or others)
- *kunya* (name[s] of children - biological or metaphorical, "abu" means "father of," "umm" means "mother of")

Commonly called by their *ism* or by their *kunya*

Example:



SPANISH NAMES:

Typically consists of these components:

- *nombre* (given, personal, or first name, may have more than one)
- *apellidos* (last name, family name, or surname)
  - Typically a combination of father and mother's *apellidos*, with father's first and mother's second
  - May have more than one word, connected with *y*, *e*, *de*, a hyphen, or a space
  - A person may only use one *apellido* in informal contexts

Example:

Name Day

A "name day" is a tradition in many countries in Europe and the Americas. It is a day to celebrate the day of the year associated with one's name or baptismal name, often associated with a saint. Each region usually has its own dates and celebratory customs. It's different than a birthday. This tradition dates all the back to the Middle Ages.

Though commonly associated with Catholicism, it can be celebrated by any person in any place. One can determine a name day by researching the meaning or context of one's name and selecting a day.

For example, in **BULGARIA**, people with names derived from flowers, trees, herbs, etc. celebrate their name day on Palm Sunday in connection with the floral theme of palms.

For example, in **FINLAND**, people whose names are Oliver or Olivia celebrate their name day on May 29, as published by the Unviversity of Helsinki Almanac Office.

For example, in **GREECE**, people named after St. Basil celebrate their name day on January 1 in coordination with St. Basil's Day and associated celebratory feast.

Outside of established tradition, someone named **AZALEA** might choose to celebrate their name day sometime in mid-April when the North Carolina Azalea Festival typically occurs, or may choose March 20, when spring begins and flowers bloom.

Someone named **THEODORE** after their grandfather might choose to celebrate their name day on their grandfather's birthday.