

THEN & NOW

Compare & Contrast

HOW TO SURVIVE STARDOM

Two teen stars cope with the harsh realities of fame



SELENA GOMEZ:

actress at 7, pop star at 16, still going strong at 19



DREW BARRYMORE:

movie star at 7, drug addict at 12, movie mogul at 36

TO FIND OUT MORE, turn the page.





Selena graces the red carpet with her date, Justin Bieber. Inset: Selena at 7, on *Barney & Friends*

SELENA GOMEZ

This young star is keeping things real

Selena Gomez is having a very, very good year. Her latest album, *When the Sun Goes Down*, rose to number three on the charts. Her new movie, *Monte Carlo*, raked in millions at the box office. She just started her own fashion line. And she's been seen dating one of the biggest heartthrobs on the planet—Justin Bieber.

Selena entered show business at age 7 when she joined the cast of the kids' show *Barney & Friends*, but her big break came in 2007 when she landed the role of Alex Russo on the Disney Channel hit *Wizards of Waverly Place*. Only 15 at the time, she was an immediate sensation. By 2008, Selena was one of the most-recognized young stars in Hollywood, and hordes of devoted fans were begging for her autograph

everywhere she went.

Now that she is 19, Selena is ready to make the transition from cute child star to glamorous leading lady. Already, she has appeared on the cover of many high-profile magazines. She also played her first grown-up role, in *Monte Carlo*. With her reputation for being hard-working and professional, Selena seems headed for a bright future.

Still, those closest to Selena sometimes worry that the pressures of being young and famous will take a toll. Life in the spotlight can have a devastating effect on young stars. Just look at Selena's contemporaries. Lindsay Lohan's highly publicized problems with the law and drugs have made it nearly impossible for her to get acting work. Miley Cyrus is now estranged from her father. Even

Selena's best friend, Demi Lovato, is having a hard time—she was recently diagnosed with an eating disorder. So when Selena was hospitalized last June for exhaustion, many feared the worst. Yet she quickly bounced back.

Having a tight-knit, supportive family is a big reason Selena is able to handle her fame. "I have parents who treat me like a normal kid," she says. "I consult them about everything." Whenever she is anxious, Selena confides in her mom, who is also Selena's manager. "At the end of the day, family is all you've got," Selena says.

Selena also tries to live an "ordinary" life. She spends her free time watching movies, reading, and hanging out with a close circle of trusted friends.

With five wins at the Teen Choice Awards last August (that's one more than Bieber!), an upcoming movie, and her first international concert tour, it seems this promising young star is poised to be that rare child actress who successfully transitions to an adult career.

And that is anything but ordinary. ●

FEATURE

A Former Child Star Speaks Out

Drew Barrymore has it all. She's a producer, a movie star, a writer, and a director. Her movies make millions, and she is one of the highest-paid actresses around.

But Drew wasn't always the darling of Hollywood. The pressures of child stardom nearly killed her.

In 1982, Drew catapulted into the spotlight when she played Gertie in *E.T.* She was just 7 years old. The public immediately fell in love with her. The same year, she became the youngest person to host *Saturday Night Live*. Life was great, right?

Wrong. "One day I was a little girl," Drew says. "The next day, I was being mobbed by people who wanted me to sign my autograph or pose for pictures. It was frightening."

To cope with the pressure, Drew started drinking at age 9. By 12, she was addicted to drugs. At 14, she attempted suicide.

Part of what made fame so hard, says Drew, was a lack of family support. Her dad, the late actor John Barrymore Jr., left before she was born.

Her mom, a model, often took her to nightclubs, where Drew was given liquor and drugs.

By the time Drew was a teenager, she had stopped going to school and lost touch with her friends. Her career was in shambles. Everyone thought of her as a wild child, and no one wanted to hire her.

But Drew was determined to turn her life around. "I had some mechanism in my head that said, 'If you don't pull it together for yourself, no one else will,'" she says.

She took a break from show business and went to

rehab, where she kicked her drug habit. At 15, she went to court, arguing that her mom was a bad influence, and was declared a legal adult. To support herself, she got a job at a coffee shop. For the next few years, she performed small roles—slowly rebuilding her reputation and proving she could handle the pressure.

Then in 1996, she was cast opposite Adam Sandler in *The Wedding Singer*. The film was a huge success. More leading roles soon followed.

And then more.

Today Drew is one of the most sought-after actresses in Hollywood. And her troubled past is just that: the past. "I used to look in the mirror and feel shame," Drew says. "I look in the mirror now and love myself." ●



1. Drew Barrymore at 7, when she played Gertie in *E.T.*; 2. Drew as a troubled teen; 3. Drew today, one of Hollywood's most glamorous leading ladies.



COMPARE & CONTRAST

Consider the following quote by the writer Voltaire: "What a heavy burden is a name that has become famous too soon." How does this quote apply to Selena Gomez and Drew Barrymore? Support your answer with details from pages 17 to 19.

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