

LARGER THAN
LIFE
A CELEBRATION OF GREATNESS

Michael Schumacher

(1969)



INTRODUCTION AND EARLY YEARS

Michael Schumacher is the most successful F1 driver ever; with 7 World Drivers' Championships. This most extraordinary driver's origins were most ordinary. Michael Schumacher was **born on 3 January 1969 in Western Germany**. As early as four years of age he was notching up his first circuits at the go-kart track nearby where his parents lived. In the go-kart, he was a runner-up in the Junior World Championships at the age of sixteen, and two years later he became the European Champion.

After fifteen years of go-kart racing he switched to racing cars and came out in front in numerous German championships. In 1990, Schumacher became the Mercedes-Benz team driver in the Sports Car World Championship and the German Formula 3 Champion.

CAREER

In 1991, at the Belgian Grand Prix, Schumacher made his debut as a replacement driver for the Formula 1 'Jordan' team. By the following year he had already won his first Grand Prix, at Belgium's Spa-Francorchamps, in a Benetton-Ford. After placing third in the World Championship of 1992 and fourth of 1993, he landed the World Title in 1994. In 1995, Schumacher defended his World Championship title in a Benetton-Renault. He won nine out of seventeen Grand Prix races.

MICHAEL FERRARI PARTNERSHIP

After four and a half years with Benetton, Schumacher signed a contract with Ferrari.

In the year 2000, he brought the driver's title home to Ferrari for the first time in 21 years. In 2001, he won his 4th world title. In 2002 he won 11 times and finished on the podium in all 17 races. In 2003 he

broke Fangio's record by winning his sixth driving title. In 2004 he won 13 of the 18 races to secure his seventh championship by a massive margin.

RETIREMENT

In 2006 he finished his career with a flourish: extending his pole position record to 68 (Ayrton Senna had 65), scoring seven victories to bring his total to 91 (40 more than his nearest rival, Alain Prost) and nearly winning yet another driving title.

WORKS OF CHARITY

He generously supported charities, especially those for **underprivileged children, and to help victims of the 2004 Asian tsunami disaster he made a personal donation of US\$10 million.** No champion has been so excellent for so long and he decided to quit while he was still ahead - so far ahead that his achievements are unlikely to ever be surpassed.

Quick facts about Michael Schumacher

- In his time, Michael Schumacher was **the highest paid sportsman, ahead of Tiger Woods and Arnold Palmer**. His estimated wealth is 750m\$.
- Michael was listed as thirtieth on **Forbes' 'Celebrity 100 list' for 2006**. In 2005, Forbes ranked him **17th**.
- At **21**, Schumacher got his first big payday, a **\$30,000 bonus in the Formula One minor leagues**.
- In May **2007**, **Michael Schumacher's 2006 car, a 248 F1, sold at auction for just under \$2.3m**. His 2003 car was sold for a little more than \$2.0m.
- In October 2006, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum gave Michael a piece of the man-made island paradise 'The World', located off the coast of the United Arab Emirates.
- In late November 2006, Maranello in Italy conferred an honorary citizenship on Michael for his service to Ferrari.
- Michael will **remain with Ferrari after his retirement as assistant to new chief executive officer Jean Todt**.
- Michael is an **ambassador for UNESCO**.
- Micheal's **nicknames include Schumi, Schuey, the Rain Master, and Red Baron**.

Quotes By Michael Schumacher

"When you start out in a team, you have to get the teamwork going and then you get something back."

"Every year we find something new, we go faster, and that's what life is all about."

"The worst thing I can be is the same as everybody else."