



Daniel Johnston

January 22, 1961 - September 10, 2019

Waller, Texas

Daniel Johnston, the Sacramento-born, Texas-formed singer-songwriter whose homemade cassettes became sacred objects to a generation of indie musicians, died of a heart attack at his home in Waller, Texas, on September 10, 2019. He was fifty-eight.

Born on January 22, 1961, he recorded early songs on cheap equipment, drew comic-book prophets and Capt. America, and handed tapes to anyone in Austin who would listen. *Hi, How Are You* and other homemade albums mixed love songs, biblical dread, and a melodic gift that survived - and sometimes depended on - the bipolar disorder that shaped his life. Kurt Cobain's wearing of his shirt, covers by major artists, and a documentary that refused easy rescue narratives made him famous without making him safe.

He lived much of his later life under family care in Waller, still drawing, still recording when health allowed. The art was never a metaphor for illness alone; it was craft pursued under conditions that would have stopped most writers. Admirers argued over exploitation and celebration; Johnston kept making frogs, Casper ghosts, and songs about unfinished love.

He died at home in Waller on September 10, 2019. The cassettes remain; so does the argument about how to listen to them without turning a man into a parable.

Services

Died at home in Waller, Texas, on September 10, 2019. Singer-songwriter and visual artist.

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