

One Fabulous Life (A Brief Bio)

August 5, 2014 By [Trent Straube](#)



- born Sylvester James Jr. in 1947 in Watts, Los Angeles
- sang in gospel choirs
- joined San Francisco psychedelic drag troupe The Cockettes
- released two albums that flopped
- often recorded with Two Tons O' Fun, a.k.a. The Weather Girls
- enjoyed his first major hit "You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real)" in 1978
- recorded several other albums
- was openly gay and defied gender norms
- headlined one of the first AIDS fundraisers (with Joan Rivers and Charles Nelson Reilly)
- died of AIDS complications in 1988
- was inducted into the Dance Music Hall of Fame in 2005