Yves Saint Laurent
A Life in Fashion

1936: Yves Saint Laurent is born on August 1, in Oran, Algeria, where he spends his early years.

1954: He moves to Paris and enrolls at the Haute Couture Guild School. Saint Laurent is introduced to Christian Dior, who makes him his assistant.


1958: Meets Pierre Bergé. Saint Laurent is awarded the Neiman Marcus fashion award.

1959: Saint Laurent's first drawings for the theatre (Cyrano de Bergerac, ballet by Roland Petit).

1961: With Pierre Bergé, Saint Laurent founds the Yves Saint Laurent fashion house.

1962: January 29: Saint Laurent presents his first collection in Paris at 30 bis Rue Spontini.


1967: Editions Tchou publishes Saint Laurent's comic strip La vilaine Lulu.

1971: The spring-summer 1971 collection, known as The Scandal Collection, causes a furor. Launch of the perfume Rive Gauche.

1973: Designs Maia Plissetskaya's costumes for Roland Petit's ballet, La Rose malade. Also designs the costumes for Jeanne Moreau, Delphine Seyrig, Samy Frey and Gérard Depardieu in Peter Handke's play, The Ride across Lake Constance.

1974: Saint Laurent and Bergé move their fashion house to 5 Avenue Marceau.

1976: A triumph for the Opéras et ballets russes collection.

1977: The perfume Opium is created.

1981: Designs writer Marguerite Yourcenar's uniform for her reception as the first woman member into the French Academy.
1982: Receives the International Award of the Council of Fashion Designers of America at a gala for the 20th anniversary of his fashion house.

1983: Retrospective at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York; the Met's first exhibition of a living artist.

1985: Retrospective at the National Art Gallery in Beijing. Saint Laurent is decorated with the Legion of Honor by the President of France.


1998: To mark the soccer World Cup, Saint Laurent presents 300 live models on the pitch at the Grand Stade de France.


2007: Saint Laurent is made a Grand Officer of the Legion of Honor by the French President.

2008: Saint Laurent dies at home on June 1; he is nearly 72 years old.

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