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**Name:** Rupert Holmes

**Years:** February 24, 1947 – Present

**Residence:** Nanuet, New York

**Brief Biography:** Rupert Holmes was born under the name David Goldstein in Northwich, Cheshire, England. His father was an American army officer and his mother was an English woman. His family was musically inclined, evidenced by his father being a band leader and his brother growing up to be an opera singer. His family relocated after a few years to Nanuet, New York, where Holmes grew up and attended nearby Nyack High School. After graduating, Holmes went on to study at the Manhattan School of Music where he majored in clarinet. He married in 1969 to Elizabeth Dreifuss, whom he had three children with. In his twenties, Holmes was a session musician (composing, playing, and recording) and worked with groups such as The Cuff Links, The Buoys, and The Archies. It was at this time that he made his first appearances on the billboard charts. He went on to be a recording artist in his own right by 1974. His work was noticed by Barbra Streisand and was utilized in the movie *A Star Is Born*. "Escape" debuted on

Holmes' fifth album, *Partners in Crime*, and reached the Hot 100 No. 1 Hits of 1979 becoming the last number one song of the 1970s. A number of his songs such as "Town Square" and "Terminal," directly or indirectly reference where he grew up around Nyack. He wrote a single for The Jets called "You Got It All" which was later rerecorded by Britney Spears in 2000. Holmes also went on to become a playwright with plays such as *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, the Tony Award-nominated ("Best Play 2003") *Say Goodnight, Gracie*, and musical theatre version of the film *The First Wives Club*. He also wrote novels such as *Swing*, and created several television series such as *Remember WENN*.

**More Information:** Gordon, Meryl. "Escape From Piña Coladaville", *New York Magazine* interview (August 11, 2003), pp. 42–45, 88

**References:** <http://www.rupertholmes.com/bio.html>, <http://seedyroad.com/nanuet/songs.htm>, <http://www.artistdirect.com/nad/music/artist/bio/0,,445139,00.html?artist=Rupert%2bHolmes>.