

## The Name Game

Have you ever noticed how celebrities select odd -- and often outrageous -- names for their children?

From **Rumer**, **Scout** and **Tallulah Willis** (**Demi Moore** and **Bruce Willis**' offspring) to **Jaden** and **Willow Smith** (**Will Smith** and **Jada Pinkett-Smith**'s kids), celebs clearly enjoy coming up with unconventional monikers.

Hollywood's latest little bundles of joy are no exception: **Reese Witherspoon** and hubby **Ryan Phillippe** welcomed baby boy **Deacon**, tennis super-couple **Steffi Graff** and **Andre Agassi** christened their new daughter **Jaz** and singer **Nelly Furtado** reportedly named her infant girl **Nevis** after the Caribbean island of the same name.

That's not counting actress **Rachel Griffiths**' new arrival, **Banjo** (a boy), or actor **Jason Lee**'s bouncing baby boy, **Pilot Inspektor**! (Yes, that's the kid's first and middle names.) It's enough to make **Kate Hudson**'s creative use of the letter "R" in naming her baby, **Ryder Russell Robinson**, seem almost boring!

Exactly why do famous folks choose bold, bizarre names for their bundles of joy? "Performers tend to be creative people to begin with," says licensed clinical therapist **Dr. Jenn Berman**, "and that gets reflected in choosing children's names."

As the Beverly Hills, Calif. expert also notes, having an unusual name lets a kid stand out from the crowd along with his or her well-known parents. Growing up with names like **Dweezil** and **Ahmet**, the sons of late musician **Frank Zappa** couldn't blend in if they tried and have parlayed their famously weird names into TV appearances!

Meanwhile, **Toni Braxton**'s boys, **Diezel** and **Denim**, might make their names work for them by going into show business just like mom did. And with a name like **Speck Wildhorse**, you gotta assume that rocker **John Mellencamp**'s son is destined for something cool!

Besides inventing original names, Tinseltown trendsetters are often inspired by geography, naming kids after a city, state or country. Former Spice Girl **Melanie Brown** (Scary Spice) dubbed her daughter **Phoenix** while **Mel**'s pal **Victoria Beckham** (Posh Spice) and soccer-star hubby **David Beckham** named their son **Brooklyn**.

**Kim Basinger**'s little girl, **Ireland**, could easily bond with **Michael Jackson**'s 5-year-old, **Paris**. Imagine the confusion if both kids met up with **Melanie Griffith**'s teen, **Dakota**, and **Halle Berry**'s adopted daughter, **India**!

Some celebs pick first names that sound like last names. Rocker **Melissa Etheridge** enjoys life with daughter **Bailey** and son **Beckett** while actress **Katey Sagal** spends off-camera time with **Jackson**. **Rosie O'Donnell**'s family includes 8-year-old **Parker**; **Kelsey Grammer** is devoted to 2-year-old **Mason**. **Tom Hanks** and **Rita Wilson**'s brood includes **Truman** while **Tom**'s mega-director buddy **Steven Spielberg** is raising son **Sawyer**.

Trendy tags come and go but some stars still go the old-fashioned route by picking traditional names. "Sex in the City's" **Sarah Jessica Parker** is known for flashy fashions but went with a timeless classic when it came to names for baby **James**. Actor **Russell Crowe** used to be famous for his wild behavior but seems to have settled down --at least judging by his conventionally-named infant offspring, **Charles Spencer Crowe**.

Lucky thing that "Lord of the Rings'" Samwise Gangee, a.k.a. actor **Sean Astin**, wasn't inspired by the fantastical trilogy's funky character names when he welcomed daughter **Elizabeth Louise** in 2002!

Having a kooky name makes you stand out but is it worth it? "[Having an unusual name] can be a lot for a kid to live up to," adds **Dr. Jenn**. "I've heard many uniquely-named kids say, 'I want to be like the others in my class.' It can be a difficult."

And with this year's batch of expectant A-listers including **Courtney Cox**, **Debra Messing** and **Gwyneth Paltrow**, there's no telling just which colorful celebrity baby names will be popular next!