

# Adil Ray

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**Adil Ray** (Template:Lang-ur), OBE (born 26 April 1974) is a British actor, comedian and radio and television presenter. He stars in the BBC One comedy *Citizen Khan*, which he created and co-writes, as well as presenting on various BBC radio stations.

## Early life

Adil Ray was born in Birmingham, West Midlands, England to a Pakistani Punjabi father, from Lahore, and a Kenyan Asian mother.<sup>[1]</sup> He was brought up in the suburb of Yardley.<sup>[2]</sup> Ray's father Abdul worked as a bus driver for almost forty years. His mother worked for the Immigration Appeals Department in the Civil Service and was of partial Buganda ancestry.<sup>[1]</sup> Ray's parents divorced during his adolescence.

Ray attended Yardley Junior and Infant School and Handsworth Grammar School, his first day being the day after the Handsworth Riots in 1985.<sup>[3]</sup> Ray was a keen cricketer and represented Birmingham and District Premier League side West Bromwich Dartmouth from during the late-1980s and early-1990s. Ray later graduated from the University of Huddersfield with a 2:1 in BA (Hons) in Marketing.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Career

Ray began his career as a radio host on a pirate radio station in Huddersfield while studying at the University of Huddersfield, and DJing at the university venue Eden (1992).

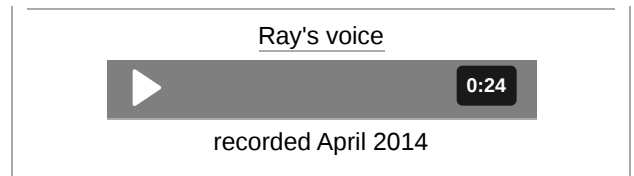
### Adil Ray OBE



Adil Ray in Turkey, 2012

<b>Born</b>	26 April 1974 <div><span></span> <span>Birmingham</span>, <span>England</span></div>
<b>Medium</b>	Television • Radio
<b>Nationality</b>	British
<b>Genres</b>	<span>Character comedy</span> • <span>Sketch comedy</span> • <span>Sitcom</span> • <span>Documentary</span> • <span>Lifestyle</span>
<b>Subject(s)</b>	<span>Islamic humour</span> <div><span></span> <span>Pakistani culture</span></div>
<b>Notable works and roles</b>	<i><span>Citizen Khan</span></i> <div><span></span> <i><span>Bellamy's People</span></i><div><span></span> <i><span>Exposed: Groomed For Sex</span></i><div><span></span> <i><span>The Adil Ray Radio Show</span></i></div></div></div>
<b>Website</b>	<span>www.adilray.com</span> ( <span>http://www.adilray.com</span> )

Later, during his placement year, he landed a job with a new small Asian radio station in Birmingham where he spent the first half of the year, before moving on to Choice FM (1995). In 1997, Ray landed a spot with Galaxy 105, a job that made him the first full-time British South Asian presenter to host a mainstream commercial radio show in the UK. He then joined Century Radio in Manchester, Radio Aire Leeds and Ministry of Sound Radio.



## BBC

Ray joined the BBC Asian Network in 2002 to present the late night *Adil Ray Show*.<sup>[3]</sup> In 2003, Ray was the first to interview and champion R&B star Jay Sean. In May 2006, Ray took over the drive time afternoon slot, and from January 2009 he presented the station's Breakfast Show from 7:00am each weekday.<sup>[2]</sup> In 2008 *The Adil Ray Show* won the best radio show category at the UK Asian Music Awards.<sup>[4]</sup> Ray left the BBC Asian Network on 4 June 2010 to pursue other radio and television work.

Ray has been a regular on BBC Radio 5 Live presenting the late night show, the Football and Cricket 606 phone ins, Victoria Derbyshire, Weekend Breakfast and *Fighting Talk*.<sup>[3]</sup> Ray has also fronted documentaries for BBC Radio 4, including *Picturing Britain*<sup>[5]</sup> and *Towering Ambition*.<sup>[6]</sup> He has also appeared in the award-winning BBC Asian Network radio soap, *Silver Street*.<sup>[3]</sup>

He also presented the British Asian Arts and Lifestyle show Desi DNA on BBC Two, and hosted the BBC Four programme *Tales from Europe* where he explored the 24-hour lifestyle in Madrid. In 2007, Ray presented the Royal Television Society award-nominated show *Is it Cos I Is Black?* for BBC Three where he looked at the issue of political correctness.<sup>[2][7]</sup> He has also filmed a documentaries strand for BBC Two called *Explore*, in which he reported from Argentina and Turkey.<sup>[7]</sup> In 2010 he appeared in the BBC Two comedy show *Bellamy's People*, playing characters including self-appointed "community leader" Mr Khan and Birmingham "Muslim DJ" MC Raa.<sup>[8]</sup>

In 2010, Ray reprised his role as Mr Khan to feature in his own web series for BBC Comedy<sup>[9]</sup> to cover the UK general election. Mr Khan returned later in the year with a follow up BBC Comedy web series about the cricket to coincide with the Pakistan national team's visit to England that year.<sup>[10]</sup>

In the summer of 2010, Ray joined BBC Radio 5 Live as part of their cricket coverage, travelling to Sri Lanka and Bangladesh to cover the 2011 Cricket World Cup. He can often be heard presenting the 5 Live late night show. Ray continues to make documentaries for BBC Radio 4 including recently 'The Real Mr Khan' a documentary looking into the role of community leaders. Ray also tackled the issue of sex and grooming in the British Pakistani community in a BBC Radio 4 documentary entitled *The Sex Lives of British Pakistanis* that broadcast on 4 July 2011.

Ray covered the issue of grooming on a highly acclaimed BBC Three documentary in December 2011 – *Exposed: Groomed For Sex*.

Meanwhile, in 2011 Ray continued his venture into comedy including the radio pilot 'Sparkhill Sound' that broadcast on BBC Radio 4 on 12 May 2011. A community radio station set in Birmingham. Ray was both writer and performer alongside Anil Gupta (writer), Gary Pillai and Vineeta Rishi (cast).

In 2015, Ray guest presented three episodes of *The One Show* alongside [Alex Jones](#).<sup>[3]</sup>

In August 2018, Ray replaced Piers Morgan temporarily as a co-host on ITV's *Good Morning Britain*

### ***Citizen Khan***

In October 2011, Ray performed the co-written comedy *Citizen Khan* at the BBC Salford Sitcom Showcase, centred on Ray's comedy creation Mr Khan and his long suffering family. Commissioned as a [BBC One](#) primetime series, the Asian Muslim sitcom follows the trials and tribulations of big-hearted, loud-mouthed, tight-fisted, self-appointed community leader Mr Khan ([Adil Ray](#)) and his long suffering family – wife Mrs Khan ([Shobu Kapoor](#)) and daughters Shazia ([Maya Sondhi](#)) and Alia ([Bhavna Limbachia](#)).

The six 30-minute episodes of *Citizen Khan* were commissioned by [Danny Cohen](#), [BBC One](#) Controller and Cheryl Taylor, Controller of Comedy Commissioning and has been produced by BBC In-House Comedy. The Executive Producer is Mark Freeland, the Producer is Paul Schlesinger (*Twenty Twelve*) and the Director is Nick Wood (*Fresh Meat*, *Not Going Out*). *Citizen Khan* is written by Anil Gupta and Richard Pinto (*The Kumars at No 42*, *Goodness Gracious Me*) with [Adil Ray](#).<sup>[11]</sup>

## **Personal life**

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Ray is a keen cricket fan and supports his local team [Warwickshire](#) and the national team of his father's origin, [Pakistan](#). He is also a fan of [Aston Villa F.C.](#)<sup>[12]</sup>

## **Honours, awards and nominations**

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- UK Asian Music Award – Best Radio Show (2008)
- Royal Television Award Nomination – Is It Coz I Is Black (2007)

In January 2013, Ray was nominated for the Arts and Culture Awareness award at the [British Muslim Awards](#).<sup>[13]</sup>

Ray was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the 2016 Birthday Honours for services to broadcasting.<sup>[14]</sup>

## Credits

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### Television

Year	Title	Role	Broadcaster
2003	The Last Word	Presenter	<u>ITV</u>
2006	Tales from Europe: Madrid		<u>BBC Four</u>
2006	<i><u>Inside Out</u></i>		<u>BBC Two</u>
2006	<u>Desi DNA</u> Series 1		
2007	<u>The Heaven and Earth Show</u>		<u>BBC One</u>
2007	<i><u>Inside Out</u></i>		<u>BBC Two</u>
2007	<i><u>Desi DNA</u> Series 2</i>		
2007	<i>Mischief: Is It Cos I Is Black?</i>		<u>BBC Three</u>
2008	<i><u>Desi DNA</u> Series 3</i>		<u>BBC Two</u>
2008	<i><u>Inside Out</u></i>		
2008	<i>Explore</i>		
2010	<i><u>Bellamy's People</u></i>	Actor	
2010	<i><u>Talk of the Terrace</u></i>	Contributor	<u>ESPN</u>
2010	<i><u>GMTV</u></i>		<u>ITV</u>
2011	<i>Exposed: Groomed for Sex</i>	Presenter	<u>BBC Three</u>
2010-12	<i><u>Lorraine</u></i>	Contributor	<u>ITV</u>
2012-16	<i><u>Citizen Khan</u></i>	Actor/Writer	<u>BBC One</u>
2013	<i><u>The Matt Lucas Awards</u></i>	Himself	
2014	<i><u>Celebrity Mastermind</u></i>	Contestant	
2015	<i><u>The One Show</u></i>	Stand-in presenter (3 episodes)	
2016	<i><u>Pointless Celebrities</u></i>	Himself	
2017-	<i><u>Ackley Bridge</u></i>	Sadiq Nawaz	<u>Channel 4</u>
2017	<i><u>Who Do You Think You Are</u></i>	Himself	<u>BBC One</u>
2018-	<i><u>Good Morning Britain</u></i>	Stand-in Presenter	<u>ITV</u>

### Radio

Year	Title	Role	Broadcaster
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2001	<i>The Adil Ray Show</i>	Presenter	<a href="#">Choice FM</a>
2001	<i>The Drivetime Show</i>	Presenter	<a href="#">Galaxy 105</a>
2001	<i>The Adil Ray Show</i>	Presenter	<a href="#">Century Radio</a>
2002	<i>The Adil Ray Show</i>	Presenter	<a href="#">BBC Asian Network</a>
2006	<i>Twenty Minutes</i>	Contributor	<a href="#">BBC Radio 3</a>
2006	<i>The Drivetime Show</i>	Presenter	<a href="#">BBC Asian Network</a>
2008	<i>Silver Street</i>	Actor	<a href="#">BBC Asian Network</a>
2009	<i>The Breakfast Show</i>	Presenter	<a href="#">BBC Asian Network</a>
2009	<i>Excess Baggage</i>	Contributor	<a href="#">BBC Radio 4</a>
2009	<i>Picturing Britain</i>	Presenter	<a href="#">BBC Radio 4</a>
2010	<i>Towering Ambition</i>	Presenter	<a href="#">BBC Radio 4</a>
2010	<i>The Adil Ray Breakfast Show</i>	Presenter	<a href="#">BBC Asian Network</a>
2010	<i>Never Mind The Bhangra</i>	Presenter	<a href="#">BBC Radio 4</a>
2010	<i>The Gethin Jones Show</i>	Contributor	<a href="#">BBC Radio 5 Live</a>
2010	<i>The Cricket Forum</i>	Presenter	<a href="#">BBC Radio 5 Live</a>
2010	<i>606</i>	Presenter	<a href="#">BBC Radio 5 Live</a>
2010	<i>Up All Night</i>	Presenter	<a href="#">BBC Radio 5 Live</a>
2011	<i>Heroes of 2010</i>	Presenter	<a href="#">BBC Radio 5 Live</a>
2011	<i>Cricket World Cup coverage</i>	Presenter	<a href="#">BBC Radio 5 Live</a>
2011	<i>Sparkhill Sound</i>	Writer/Performer	<a href="#">BBC Radio 4</a>
2011	<i>The Private Lives of British Pakistanis</i>	Presenter	<a href="#">BBC Radio 4</a>
2011	<i>The Victoria Derbyshire Show</i>	Presenter	<a href="#">BBC Radio 5 Live</a>
2011	<i>The Real Mr Khan</i>	Presenter	<a href="#">BBC Radio 4</a>
2011–12	<i>The Tony Livesey Show</i>	Presenter	<a href="#">BBC Radio 5 Live</a>
2018	The Zoe Ball Show	Stand-In Presenter	<a href="#">BBC Radio 2</a>

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## External links

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- [Official Website](http://www.adilray.com/) (<http://www.adilray.com/>)
- [Adil Ray](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1845893/) (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1845893/>) at [IMDb](https://www.imdb.com/)
- [Citizen Khan BBC Website](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00vh04r/) (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00vh04r/>)
- [BBC Asian Network](https://www.bbc.co.uk/asiannetwork) (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/asiannetwork>)
- [Adil Ray Biography on BBC Asian Network](https://www.bbc.co.uk/asiannetwork/adilray/biog.shtml) (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/asiannetwork/adilray/biog.shtml>)
- [Encore Feature Article on Adil Ray](https://web.archive.org/web/20051119195246/http://www.hud.ac.uk/encore/features/adil_ray.html) ([https://web.archive.org/web/20051119195246/http://www.hud.ac.uk/encore/features/adil\\_ray.html](https://web.archive.org/web/20051119195246/http://www.hud.ac.uk/encore/features/adil_ray.html)) at the [Wayback Machine](https://web.archive.org/) (archived 2005-11-19)