

BEST LIFE

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The 10 Greatest Career Moves Of All Time

From life altering to Lilliputian, pesky decisions swarm us daily, like mozzies in the Okavango. Most of us just slap at them with the haphazard petulance of a zebra's tail. Some know better. Especially when it comes to bailing out of a stalling career. Here are the men to really meditate on when you reach your next occupational hazard; they are the ones who made the modern world's greatest career moves.

10 | David Bowie

The challenge: Born David Jones, he had been playing saxophone in an R&B outfit called Davey Jones & the Lower Third. But in 1966, another Davy Jones turned up... and he was in the big leagues as lead singer of The Monkees.

Move: He changed his last name to Bowie, traded the sax for a guitar, and dabbled with Buddhism and avant-garde theatre. In 1969, he scored a major (Tom) smash with the song "Space Oddity".

Lesson: Sometimes, the very things that got you where you are can be the same things that will prevent you from going to the next level. "You need to adapt to change, keep experimenting and don't let the small things prevent you from building an extraordinary career," says executive coach Rachele Canter, author of *Make the Right Career Move* (R103, available at kalahari.net).

9 | Elon Musk

The challenge: South African Elon Musk's company PayPal hit the mother lode through providing secure online electronic payments, an essential service for nervous Internet shoppers. Rather than retire to an island to count his cash, Musk turned his attention to two seemingly impossible goals thought of as perfect ways to go from a dot.com billionaire to a dot.com millionaire: turning humanity into a space-travelling civilization with affordable rockets and weaning us off petrol and onto electric cars.

Move: Ignored critics and doubters and is on a roll. Musk's SpaceX rockets are revolutionarily cheaper, more advanced and are fast gaining ground on the established competition. The US Defense Department is a client. Musk's 200km/h electric sports cars, Tesla Roadsters, are selling like hot cakes and the first dealership recently opened in Hollywood. Oil prices have shot through the roof and hybrids are a temporary measure.

Lesson: Think big and believe in the future. "There are often loopholes that yield creative solutions to problems," says Karen Danziger, managing partner at the Howard-Sloan-Koller Group in New York. "Finding the creative way to have a win-win brings respect and admiration."

8 | Charles Bukowski

The challenge: A Skid Row regular who bedded fellow barflies and brawled like a sailor, Bukowski was celebrated for his writing about life lived at the bottom of a bottle. After decades of debauchery, the plot was wearing thin. The acclaim wouldn't stop his lifestyle from killing him.

Move: Relocated to a working-class suburb in California. Didn't sober up completely (it would take a round of chemotherapy a decade later to do that), but managed to keep his life together and a BMW in

