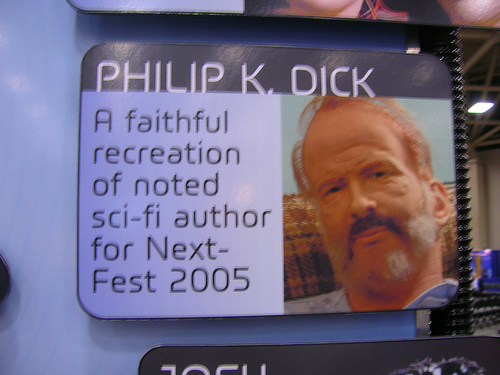
**Philip Kindred Dick 1928 – 1982**

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick>



**Philip Kindred Dick** (December 16, [1928](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1928_in_literature) – March 2, [1982](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1982_in_literature)) was an [American](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) [science fiction](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science_fiction) [novelist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Novelist) and [short story](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Short_story) [writer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Writer). Dick explored sociological, political and [metaphysical](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metaphysics) themes in novels dominated by [monopolistic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monopoly) [corporations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corporation), [authoritarian governments](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Authoritarianism), and [altered states](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Altered_states_of_consciousness). In his later works, Dick's thematic focus strongly reflected his personal interest in metaphysics and [theology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theology). He often drew upon his own life experiences and addressed the nature of drug use, [paranoia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paranoia) and [schizophrenia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schizophrenia), and mystical experiences in novels such as [*A Scanner Darkly*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Scanner_Darkly) and [*VALIS*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/VALIS).[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-0)

The novel [*The Man in the High Castle*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Man_in_the_High_Castle) bridged the genres of [alternate history](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alternate_history) and science fiction, earning Dick a [Hugo Award for Best Novel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hugo_Award_for_Best_Novel) in [1963](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1963_in_literature). [*Flow My Tears, The Policeman Said*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flow_My_Tears,_The_Policeman_Said), a novel about a celebrity who awakens in a [parallel universe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parallel_universe_%28fiction%29) where he is unknown, won the [John W. Campbell Memorial Award](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Campbell_award_%28best_novel%29) for best novel in [1975](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1975_in_literature). "I want to write about people I love, and put them into a fictional world spun out of my own mind, not the world we actually have, because the world we actually have does not meet my standards," Dick wrote of these stories. "In my writing I even question the universe; I wonder out loud if it is real, and I wonder out loud if all of us are real." [[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-1)

In addition to his novels, Dick wrote approximately 121 short stories, many of which appeared in science fiction magazines.[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-Short_Stories-2) Although Dick spent most of his career as a writer in near-poverty,[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-Poverty-3) nine of his stories have been adapted into popular films since his death, including [*Blade Runner*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blade_Runner), [*Total Recall*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Total_Recall), [*A Scanner Darkly*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Scanner_Darkly_%28film%29) and [*Minority Report*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minority_Report_%28film%29). In 2005, [*Time Magazine*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_Magazine) named [*Ubik*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ubik) one of the one hundred greatest English-language novels published since 1923.[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-Time-4) In [2007](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2007_in_literature), Dick became the first science fiction writer to be included in [The Library of America series](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library_of_America#The_Library_of_America_series).[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-5)[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-6)[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-7)[[9]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-8)

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## [] Life

### [] Early life

Philip Kindred Dick and his [twin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twin) sister, Jane Charlotte Dick, were born six weeks premature to Dorothy Kindred Dick and Joseph Edgar Dick in [Chicago](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago).[[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-Biography-9) Dick's father, a fraud investigator for the [United States Department of Agriculture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Department_of_Agriculture), had recently taken out life insurance policies on the family. An insurance nurse was dispatched to the Dick household. Upon seeing the malnourished Philip and injured Jane, the nurse rushed the babies to hospital. Baby Jane died en route, just five weeks after her birth (January 26, 1929). The death of Philip's twin sister profoundly affected his writing, relationships, and every aspect of his life, leading to the [recurrent motif](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motif_%28literature%29) of the "phantom twin" in many of his books.

The family moved to the [San Francisco Bay Area](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Bay_Area). When Philip turned five, his father was transferred to [Reno, Nevada](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reno,_Nevada). Dorothy refused to move, and she and Joseph were divorced. Joseph fought her for custody of Philip but did not win it. Dorothy, determined to raise Philip alone, took a job in [Washington, D.C.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington,_D.C.) and moved there with her son. Philip K. Dick was enrolled at John Eaton Elementary School from 1936 to 1938, completing the second through the fourth grades. His lowest grade was a "C" in written composition, although a teacher remarked that he "shows interest and ability in story telling." In June 1938, Dorothy and Philip returned to California.

Dick attended [Berkeley High School](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berkeley_High_School_%28California%29), [Berkeley, California](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berkeley,_California). He and [Ursula K. Le Guin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ursula_K._Le_Guin) were members of the same high school graduating class (1947), yet were unknown to each other at the time. After graduating from high school he briefly attended the [University of California, Berkeley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_California,_Berkeley) as a [German](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_language) major, but dropped out before completing any coursework. At Berkeley, Dick befriended poets [Robert Duncan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Duncan_%28poet%29) and poet and [linguist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linguist) [Jack Spicer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_Spicer), who gave Dick ideas for a Martian language. Dick claimed to have been host of a [classical music](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classical_music) program on [KSMO Radio](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=KSMO_Radio&action=edit&redlink=1) in 1947.[[11]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-sutin1-10) From 1948 to 1952 he worked in a record store. In 1955, Dick and his wife, Kleo Apostolides, received a visit from the [FBI](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FBI). They believed this resulted from Kleo's [socialist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialist) views and [left-wing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Left-wing) activities. The couple briefly befriended one of the FBI agents.[[12]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-sutin2-11)

### [] Career

Dick sold his first story in [1952](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1952_in_literature). From that point on he wrote full-time, selling his first novel in [1955](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1955_in_literature). The 1950s were a difficult and impoverished time for Dick. He once said, "We couldn't even pay the late fees on a library book." He published almost exclusively within the science fiction genre, but dreamed of a career in the mainstream of American literature. During the 1950s he produced a series of nongenre, non-science fiction novels. In 1960 he wrote that he was willing to "take twenty to thirty years to succeed as a literary writer." The dream of mainstream success formally died in January [1963](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1963_in_literature) when the Scott Merh Literary Agency returned all of his unsold mainstream novels. Only one of these works, [*Confessions of a Crap Artist*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confessions_of_a_Crap_Artist), was published during Dick’s lifetime.[[13]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-12)

In [1963](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1963_in_literature), Dick won the Hugo Award for [*The Man in the High Castle*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Man_in_the_High_Castle). Although he was hailed as a genius in the science fiction world, the mainstream literary world was unappreciative, and he could publish books only through low-paying science fiction publishers such as [Ace](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ace_Books). Even in his later years, he continued to have financial troubles. In the introduction to the [1980](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1980_in_literature) short story collection *The Golden Man*, Dick wrote: "Several years ago, when I was ill, [Heinlein](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_A._Heinlein) offered his help, anything he could do, and we had never met; he would phone me to cheer me up and see how I was doing. He wanted to buy me an electric [typewriter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Typewriter), God bless him—one of the few true gentlemen in this world. I don't agree with any ideas he puts forth in his writing, but that is neither here nor there. One time when I owed the [IRS](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internal_Revenue_Service) a lot of money and couldn't raise it, Heinlein loaned the money to me. I think a great deal of him and his wife; I dedicated a book to them in appreciation. Robert Heinlein is a fine-looking man, very impressive and very military in stance; you can tell he has a [military](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military) background, even to the haircut. He knows I'm a flipped-out freak and still he helped me and my wife when we were in trouble. That is the best in humanity, there; that is who and what I love."

The last novel published during Dick's life was [*The Transmigration of Timothy Archer*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Transmigration_of_Timothy_Archer). In [1972](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1972_in_literature), Dick donated his manuscripts and papers to the Special Collections Library at [California State University, Fullerton](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_State_University,_Fullerton) where they are archived in the Philip K. Dick Science Fiction Collection in the Pollak Library. It was in Fullerton that Philip K. Dick befriended budding science-fiction writers [K. W. Jeter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/K._W._Jeter), [James Blaylock](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Blaylock), and [Tim Powers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tim_Powers).

### [] Mental health

In his boyhood, around the age of thirteen, Dick had a [recurring dream](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Recurring_dream) for several weeks. He dreamed he was in a bookstore, trying to find an issue of [*Astounding Magazine*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Astounding_Magazine). This issue of the magazine would contain the story titled "The Empire Never Ended", which would reveal the secrets of the universe to him. As the dream recurred, the pile of magazines he searched grew smaller and smaller, but he never reached the bottom. Eventually, he became anxious that discovering the magazine would drive him mad (as in [Lovecraft](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H._P._Lovecraft)'s [*Necronomicon*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Necronomicon) or [Chambers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_W._Chambers)' [*The King in Yellow*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_King_in_Yellow), [promising insanity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motif_of_harmful_sensation) to the reader). Shortly thereafter, the dreams ceased, but the phrase "The Empire Never Ended" would appear later in his work. Dick was a voracious reader of [religion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion), [philosophy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosophy), [metaphysics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metaphysics) and [Gnosticism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gnosticism), ideas of which appear in many of his stories and visions.

On February 20, 1974, Dick was recovering from the effects of [sodium pentothal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sodium_thiopental) administered for the extraction of an impacted [wisdom tooth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wisdom_tooth). Answering the door to receive delivery of extra analgesic, he noticed that the delivery woman was wearing a [pendant](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pendant) with a symbol that he called the "vesicle pisces". This name seems to have been based on his confusion of two related symbols, the [ichthys](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ichthys) (two intersecting arcs delineating a fish in profile) that early [Christians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian) used as a secret symbol, and the [vesica piscis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vesica_piscis). After the delivery woman's departure, Dick began experiencing strange visions. Although they may have been initially attributable to the medication, after weeks of visions he considered this explanation implausible. "I experienced an invasion of my mind by a transcendentally rational mind, as if I had been insane all my life and suddenly I had become sane," Dick told [Charles Platt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Platt_%28science-fiction_author%29).[[14]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-Platt-13)

Throughout February and March 1974, he received a series of visions, which he referred to as "two-three-seventy four" (2-3-74), shorthand for February-March 1974. He described the initial visions as [laser beams](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laser_beam) and [geometric](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geometry) patterns, and, occasionally, brief pictures of [Jesus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus) and of [ancient Rome](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Rome). As the visions increased in length and frequency, Dick claimed he began to live a double life, one as himself, "Philip K. Dick", and one as "Thomas", a [Christian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity) persecuted by Romans in the 1st century A.D. Despite his history of drug use and elevated [stroke](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stroke) risk, Dick began seeking other rationalist and religious explanations for these experiences. He referred to the "transcendentally rational mind" as "Zebra", "God" and, most often, "[VALIS](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/VALIS)". Dick wrote about the experiences in the semi-autobiographical novels *VALIS* and [*Radio Free Albemuth*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radio_Free_Albemuth).

At one point Dick felt that he had been taken over by the spirit of the prophet [Elijah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elijah). He believed that an episode in his novel [*Flow My Tears, the Policeman Said*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flow_My_Tears,_the_Policeman_Said) was a detailed retelling of a story from the Biblical [Book of Acts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Acts), which he had never read.[[15]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-Adherents-14)

In time, Dick became [paranoid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paranoia), imagining plots against him by the [KGB](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KGB) and [FBI](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FBI). At one point, he alleged they were responsible for a burglary of his house, from which documents were stolen. He later came to suspect that he might have committed the burglary against himself, and then forgotten he had done so. Dick himself speculated as to whether he may have suffered from [schizophrenia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schizophrenia).

### [] Personal life

Dick married five times, and had two daughters and a son; each marriage ended in [divorce](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divorce).

* May 1948, to Jeanette Marlin – lasted six months
* June 1950, to Kleo Apostolides – divorced 1959
* 1959, to Anne Williams Rubinstein – divorced 1964
  + child: Laura Archer, born February 25, 1960
* 1966, to Nancy Hackett – divorced 1972
  + child: Isolde, "Isa", born 1967
* April 18, 1973, to Leslie (Tessa) Busby – divorced 1977
  + child: Christopher, born 1973

### [] Death



Philip K. Dick Android in the Nextfest Exhibition at [Navy Pier](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Navy_Pier)

Philip K. Dick died in [Santa Ana, California](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Ana,_California), on March 2, [1982](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1982_in_literature). He had suffered a [stroke](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stroke) five days earlier, and was disconnected from [life support](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Life_support) after his [EEG](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electroencephalogram) had been consistently [isoelectric](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electrocardiogram#Waves_and_intervals) since losing consciousness. After his death, his father Edgar took his son's ashes to [Fort Morgan, Colorado](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Morgan,_Colorado). When his twin sister, Jane, died, her tombstone had both their names carved on it, with an empty space for Dick's death date. Brother and sister were eventually buried next to each other.

Dick was "resurrected" by his fans in the form of a remote-controlled [android](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Android) designed in his likeness.[[16]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-15) The android of Philip K. Dick was impanelled in a [San Diego Comic Con](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Diego_Comic_Con) presentation about the film adaptation of the novel, [*A Scanner Darkly*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Scanner_Darkly). In February 2006, an [America West Airlines](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/America_West_Airlines) employee misplaced the android, and it has not yet been found.[[17]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-16)

### [] Biographical treatments

#### [] Books

*Main article:* [*Bibliography of Philip K. Dick#Biographies*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bibliography_of_Philip_K._Dick#Biographies)

Lawrence Sutin's [1989](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1989_in_literature) biography of Dick, *Divine Invasions: A Life of Philip K. Dick*, is considered the standard biographical treatment of Dick's life.[[18]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-sutin-17)

In [2004](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2004_in_literature), French writer [Emmanuel Carrère](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmanuel_Carr%C3%A8re) published *I Am Alive and You Are Dead: A Journey Into the Mind of Philip K. Dick*, which the author describes in his preface in this way:

The book you hold in your hands is a very peculiar book. I have tried to depict the life of Philip K. Dick from the inside, in other words, with the same freedom and empathy – indeed with the same truth – with which he depicted his own characters.[[19]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-18)

Critics of the book have complained about the lack of fact checking, sourcing, notes and index, "the usual evidence of deep research that gives a biography the solid stamp of authority."[[20]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-19)[[21]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-20)[[22]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-21) It can be considered a nonfiction novel about his life.

#### [] Films

On August 8, [2006](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2006_in_film), actor [Paul Giamatti](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Giamatti) announced that his company, Touchy Feely Films, plans to produce a [biopic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biographical_film) about Dick, with the permission of Isa Dick Hackett, Philip K Dick's daughter, through her company Electric Shepherd Productions. The film will be titled *The Owl in Daylight*, but is not an adaptation of the never-finished novel with the same title. It will open in [2009](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2009_in_film). [Tony Grisoni](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tony_Grisoni), who wrote the screenplays for films such as [Terry Gilliam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terry_Gilliam)'s [*Tideland*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tideland_%28film%29) and [*Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fear_and_Loathing_in_Las_Vegas), is writing the film script,[[23]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-22) and Giamatti will play Philip K. Dick.[[24]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-23)

Writer-director John Alan Simon is making a semiautobiograhical film based on Philip K Dick's novel [*Radio Free Albemuth*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radio_Free_Albemuth) starring Shea Whigham as the author. It will open in [2008](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2008_in_film).

A 2008 film titled *Your Name Here*, by Matthew Wilder, will feature [Bill Pullman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Pullman) as science fiction author William J. Frick, a character based on Philip K. Dick.

## [] Style and works

For complete bibliography, see [Bibliography of Philip K. Dick](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bibliography_of_Philip_K._Dick).

### [] Pen names

Dick occasionally wrote under [pen names](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pen_name), most notably *Richard Philips* and *Jack Dowland*. The surname *Dowland* refers to composer [John Dowland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Dowland), who is featured in several works. The title [*Flow My Tears, The Policeman Said*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flow_My_Tears,_The_Policeman_Said) directly refers to Dowland's best-known composition, *Flow My Tears*. In the novel [*The Divine Invasion*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Divine_Invasion), the 'Linda Fox' character is an intergalactically famous singer whose entire body of work consists of remakes of John Dowland compositions. Also, some protagonists in Dick's short fiction are named 'Dowland'.

The short story "Orpheus with Clay Feet" was published under the pen name "Jack Dowland". The protagonist desires to be the [muse](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muse) for fictional author Jack Dowland, considered the greatest science fiction author of the 20th century. In the story, Dowland publishes a short story titled "Orpheus with Clay Feet", under the pen name "Philip K. Dick". In the semi-autobiographical novel *VALIS*, the protagonist is named "[Horselover Fat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/VALIS" \l "Horselover_Fat" \o "VALIS)"; "Philip", or "Phil-Hippos", is [Greek](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_language) for "horselover", while "dick" is [German](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_language) for "[fat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obesity)" (actually a cognate of *thick*).

Although he never used it himself, Dick's fans and critics often refer to him familiarly as "PKD" (cf. [Jorge Luis Borges](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jorge_Luis_Borges)' "JLB"), and use the comparative literary adjectives "Dickian" and "Phildickian" in describing his style and themes (cf. [Kafkaesque](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kafkaesque), [Orwellian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orwellian)).

### [] Themes

Dick's stories typically focus on the fragile nature of what is "real" and the construction of [personal identity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Personal_identity_%28philosophy%29). His stories often become surreal fantasies as the main characters slowly discover that their everyday world is actually an illusion constructed by powerful external entities (such as in [*Ubik*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ubik)[[25]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-Ursula-24)), vast political conspiracies, or simply from the vicissitudes of an [unreliable narrator](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unreliable_narrator). "All of his work starts with the basic assumption that there cannot be one, single, objective reality," writes science fiction author [Charles Platt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Platt_%28science-fiction_author%29). "Everything is a matter of perception. The ground is liable to shift under your feet. A protagonist may find himself living out another person's dream, or he may enter a drug-induced state that actually makes better sense than the real world, or he may cross into a different universe completely."[[14]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-Platt-13)

[Alternate universes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parallel_universe_%28fiction%29) and [simulacra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simulacrum) were common [plot devices](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plot_devices), with fictional worlds inhabited by common, working people, rather than galactic elites. "There are no heroes in Dick's books," [Ursula K. Le Guin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ursula_K._Le_Guin) wrote, "but there are heroics. One is reminded of [Dickens](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Dickens): what counts is the honesty, constancy, kindness and patience of ordinary people."[[25]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-Ursula-24) Dick made no secret that much of his ideas and work were heavily influenced by the writings of [Carl Jung](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carl_Jung), the Swiss founder of the theory of the human psyche he called "Analytical Psychology" (to distinguish it from Freud's theory of psychoanalysis). Jung was a self-taught expert on the unconscious and mythological foundations of conscious experience and was open to the reality underlying mystical experiences. The Jungian constructs and models that most concerned Dick seem to be the archetypes of the collective unconscious, group projection/ hallucination, synchronicities, and personality theory. Many of Dick's protagonists overtly analyze reality and their perceptions in Jungian terms (see [*Lies Inc.*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Unteleported_Man)), while other times, the themes are so obviously in reference to Jung their usage needs no explanation. Dick's self-named "[Exegesis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exegesis_%28book%29)" also contained many notes on Jung in relation to theology and mysticism.[*[citation needed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed" \o "Wikipedia:Citation needed)*]

Mental illness was a constant interest of Dick's, and themes of mental illness permeate his work. The character Jack Bohlen in the 1964 novel [*Martian Time-Slip*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martian_Time-Slip) is an "ex-schizophrenic". The novel [*Clans of the Alphane Moon*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clans_of_the_Alphane_Moon) centers on an entire society made up of descendants of lunatic asylum inmates. In 1965 he wrote the essay titled *Schizophrenia and the Book of Changes*.[[18]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-sutin-17)

[Drug use](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drug_use) was also a theme in many of Dick’s works, such as [*A Scanner Darkly*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Scanner_Darkly) and [*The Three Stigmata of Palmer Eldritch*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Three_Stigmata_of_Palmer_Eldritch). Dick was a drug user for much of his life. According to a 1975 interview in [*Rolling Stone*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rolling_Stone),[[26]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick" \l "cite_note-25" \o ") Dick wrote all of his books published before 1970 high on [amphetamines](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amphetamine). "*A Scanner Darkly* ([1977](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1977_in_literature)) was the first complete novel I had written without speed," said Dick in the interview. He also experimented briefly with [psychedelics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychedelic), but wrote [*The Three Stigmata of Palmer Eldritch*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Three_Stigmata_of_Palmer_Eldritch), which *Rolling Stone* dubs "the classic [LSD](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LSD) novel of all time," before he had ever tried them. Despite his heavy amphetamine use, however, Dick later said that doctors had told him that the amphetamines never actually affected him, that his liver had processed them before they reached his brain.[[27]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-26)

### [] Selected works

[*The Man in the High Castle*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Man_in_the_High_Castle) ([1962](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1962_in_literature)) occurs in an alternate universe United States ruled by the victorious [Axis powers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Axis_powers). It is considered a defining novel of the [alternate history](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alternate_history_%28fiction%29) sub-genre,[*[citation needed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed" \o "Wikipedia:Citation needed)*] and is the only Dick novel to win a [Hugo Award](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hugo_Award). [Philipkdickfans.com](http://philipkdickfans.com/) recommends this novel, along with [*Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Do_Androids_Dream_of_Electric_Sheep%3F) and [*Ubik*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ubik)*,* as an introductory novel to readers new to the writing of Philip K. Dick.[[28]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-27)

[*The Three Stigmata of Palmer Eldritch*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Three_Stigmata_of_Palmer_Eldritch) ([1965](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1965_in_literature)) utilizes an array of science fiction concepts and features several layers of reality and unreality. It is also one of Dick’s first works to explore religious themes. The novel takes place in the twenty-first century, when, under [United Nations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations) authority, mankind has colonized the [solar system](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar_system)'s every [habitable](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Habitable) [planet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Planet) and [moon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moon). Life is physically daunting and psychologically monotonous for most colonists, so the UN must draft people to go to the colonies. Most entertain themselves using "Perky Pat" [dolls](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doll) and accessories manufactured by [Earth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earth)-based "P.P. Layouts". The company also secretly creates "Can-D", an illegal but widely available hallucinogenic drug allowing the user to "translate" into Perky Pat (if the drug user is a woman) or Pat's boyfriend, Walt (if the drug user is a man). This recreational use of Can-D allows colonists to experience a few minutes of an idealized life on Earth by participating in a collective hallucination.

[*Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Do_Androids_Dream_of_Electric_Sheep)*?* ([1968](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1968_in_literature)) is the story of a bounty hunter policing the local android population. It occurs on a dying, poisoned Earth de-populated of all "successful" humans; the only remaining inhabitants of the planet are people with no prospects off-world. Androids, also known as andys, all have a preset "death" date. However, a few andys seek to escape this fate and supplant the humans on Earth. The 1968 story is the literary source of the film [*Blade Runner*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blade_Runner) ([1982](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1982_in_film)). It is both a conflation and an intensification of the pivotally Dickian question, What is real, what is fake? Are the human-looking and human-acting androids fake or real humans? Should we treat them as machines or as people? What crucial factor defines humanity as distinctly 'alive', versus those merely alive only in their outward appearance?

[*Ubik*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ubik) ([1969](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1969_in_literature)) uses extensive networks of psychics and a suspended state after death in creating a state of eroding reality. A group of psychics is sent to investigate a group of rival psychics, but several of them are apparently killed by a saboteur's bomb. Much of the novel flicks between a number of equally plausible realities; the "real" reality, a state of half-life and psychically manipulated realities. In 2005, [*Time Magazine*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_Magazine) listed it among the "All-TIME 100 Greatest Novels".[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-Time-4)

[*Flow My Tears, The Policeman Said*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flow_My_Tears,_The_Policeman_Said) ([1974](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1974_in_literature)) concerns Jason Taverner, a television star living in a dystopian near-future [police state](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Police_state). After being attacked by an angry ex-girlfriend, Taverner awakens in a dingy Los Angeles hotel room. He still has his money in his wallet, but his identification cards are missing. This is no minor inconvenience, as security checkpoints (manned by "pols" and "nats", the police and National Guard) are set up throughout the city to stop and arrest anyone without valid ID. Jason at first thinks that he was robbed, but soon discovers that his entire identity has been erased. There is no record of him in any official database, and even his closest associates do not recognize or remember him. For the first time in many years, Jason has no fame or reputation to rely on. He has only his innate charisma to help him as he tries to find out what happened to his past and avoid the attention of the pols. The novel was Dick's first published novel after years of silence, during which time his critical reputation had grown, and this novel was awarded the [John W. Campbell Memorial Award for Best Science Fiction Novel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Campbell_award_%28best_novel%29). It is the only Philip K. Dick novel nominated both for a Hugo and for a [Nebula Award](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nebula_Award).

In an essay written two years before dying, Dick described how he learned from his Episcopalian priest that an important scene in *Flow My Tears, The Policeman Said* -- involving its other main character, Police General Felix Buckman, the policeman of the title -- was very similar to a scene in the [Book of Acts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Acts).[[15]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-Adherents-14) Film director [Richard Linklater](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Linklater) discusses this novel in his film [*Waking Life*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waking_Life), which begins with a scene reminiscent of another Dick novel, [*Time Out of Joint*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_Out_of_Joint).

[*A Scanner Darkly*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Scanner_Darkly) ([1977](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1977_in_literature)) is a bleak mixture of science fiction and [police procedural](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Police_procedural) novels; in its story, an undercover narcotics police detective begins to lose touch with reality after falling victim to the same permanently mind altering drug, Substance D, he was enlisted to help fight. Substance D is instantly addictive, beginning with a pleasant euphoria which is quickly replaced with increasing confusion, hallucinations and eventually total psychosis. In this novel, as with all Dick novels, there is an underlying thread of paranoia and dissociation with multiple realities perceived simultaneously. It was adapted to [film](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Scanner_Darkly_%28film%29) by [Richard Linklater](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Linklater).

[*VALIS*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/VALIS)*,* ([1980](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1980_in_literature)) is perhaps Dick’s most [postmodern](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postmodern) and [autobiographical novel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autobiographical_novel), examining his own unexplained experiences (see above). It may also be his most academically studied work, and was adapted as an [opera](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opera) by [Tod Machover](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tod_Machover).[[29]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-28) *VALIS* was voted Philip K. Dick‘s best novel at the website philipkdickfans.com.[[30]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-29) Later works like the [VALIS trilogy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/VALIS_trilogy) were heavily [autobiographical](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autobiographical), many with "two-three-seventy-four" (2-3-74) references and influences. The word [VALIS](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/VALIS) is the acronym for *Vast Active Living Intelligence System*; it is the title of a novel (and is continued thematically in at least three more novels). Later, PKD theorized that VALIS was both a "reality generator" and a means of extraterrestrial communication. A fourth VALIS manuscript, *Radio Free Albemuth*, although composed in [1976](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1976_in_literature), was discovered after his death and published in 1985. This work is described by the publisher (Arbor House) as "an introduction and key to his magnificent VALIS trilogy."

Regardless of the feeling that he was somehow experiencing a divine communication, Dick was never fully able to rationalize the events. For the rest of his life, he struggled to comprehend what was occurring, questioning his own sanity and perception of reality. He transcribed what thoughts he could into an eight-thousand-page, one-million-word [journal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Journal) dubbed the [*Exegesis*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exegesis_%28book%29). From [1974](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1974_in_literature) until his death in [1982](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1982_in_literature), Dick spent sleepless nights writing in this journal, often under the influence of prescription amphetamines. A recurring theme in *Exegesis* is PKD's hypothesis that [history](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History) had been stopped in the 1st century A.D., and that "the [Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Empire) never ended". He saw [Rome](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rome) as the pinnacle of [materialism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Materialism) and [despotism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Despotism), which, after forcing the [Gnostics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gnostics) underground, had kept the population of Earth enslaved to worldly possessions. Dick believed that VALIS had communicated with him, and anonymous others, to induce the [impeachment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impeach) of U.S. President [Richard M. Nixon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_M._Nixon), whom Dick believed to be the current Emperor of Rome incarnate.

## [] Awards and honors

During his lifetime, Dick received the following awards and nominations:

* [Hugo Awards](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hugo_Award)
  + Best Novel
    - [1963](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1963_in_literature) - **winner:** [***The Man in the High Castle***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Man_in_the_High_Castle)
    - [1975](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1975_in_literature) - nominee: [*Flow My Tears, The Policeman Said*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flow_My_Tears,_The_Policeman_Said)
  + Best Novelette
    - [1968](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1968_in_literature) - nominee: [*Faith of Our Fathers*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faith_of_Our_Fathers)
* [Nebula Awards](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nebula_Award)
  + Best Novel
    - [1965](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1965_in_literature) - nominee: [*Dr. Bloodmoney*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dr._Bloodmoney)
    - 1965 - nominee: [*The Three Stigmata of Palmer Eldritch*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Three_Stigmata_of_Palmer_Eldritch)
    - [1968](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1968_in_literature) - nominee: [*Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Do_Androids_Dream_of_Electric_Sheep%3F)
    - [1974](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1974_in_literature) - nominee: [*Flow My Tears, The Policeman Said*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flow_My_Tears,_The_Policeman_Said)
    - [1982](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1982_in_literature) - nominee: [*The Transmigration of Timothy Archer*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Transmigration_of_Timothy_Archer)
* [John W. Campbell Memorial Award](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Campbell_award_%28best_novel%29)
  + Best Novel
    - [1975](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1975_in_literature) - **winner:** [***Flow My Tears, The Policeman Said***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flow_My_Tears,_The_Policeman_Said)
* [Graouilly d'Or](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Graouilly_d%27Or&action=edit&redlink=1) (Festival de Metz, France)
  + [1979](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1979_in_literature) - **winner:** [***A Scanner Darkly***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Scanner_Darkly)

Also of note is the convention [Norwescon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norwescon) which each year presents the [Philip K. Dick Award](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick_Award).

## [] Influence and legacy

Dick has influenced many writers, including [William Gibson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Gibson)[[31]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-30), [Jonathan Lethem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jonathan_Lethem)[[32]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-31), and [Ursula K. Le Guin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ursula_K._Le_Guin)[[33]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-32). Dick has also influenced filmmakers, his work being compared to films such as the [Wachowski brothers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wachowski_brothers)'s [*The Matrix*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Matrix)[[34]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-modwor-33), [David Cronenberg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Cronenberg)'s [*Videodrome*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Videodrome)[[35]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-dailytele-34), [*eXistenZ*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EXistenZ)[[34]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-modwor-33), and [*Spider*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spider_%28film%29)[[35]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-dailytele-34), [Charlie Kaufman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlie_Kaufman)'s [*Being John Malkovich*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Being_John_Malkovich)[[35]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-dailytele-34), [*Adaptation*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adaptation)[[35]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-dailytele-34), and [*Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eternal_Sunshine_of_the_Spotless_Mind)[[36]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-35)[[37]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-36), [Alex Proyas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alex_Proyas)'s [*Dark City*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dark_City_%281998_film%29)[[34]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-modwor-33), [Andrew Niccol](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew_Niccol)'s [*The Truman Show*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Truman_Show)[[34]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-modwor-33) and [*Gattaca*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gattaca)[[35]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-dailytele-34), [Terry Gilliam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terry_Gilliam)'s [*12 Monkeys*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/12_Monkeys)[[35]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-dailytele-34), [Wes Craven](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wes_Craven)'s [*A Nightmare on Elm Street*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Nightmare_on_Elm_Street)[[38]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-nytpkdsworld-37), [David Lynch](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Lynch)'s [*Mulholland Drive*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mulholland_Drive_%28film%29)[[38]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-nytpkdsworld-37), [David Fincher](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Fincher) and [Chuck Palahniuk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chuck_Palahniuk)'s [*Fight Club*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fight_Club)[[35]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-dailytele-34), [Cameron Crowe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cameron_Crowe)'s [*Vanilla Sky*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vanilla_Sky)[[34]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-modwor-33), [Darren Aronofsky](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darren_Aronofsky)'s [*Pi*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pi_%28film%29)[[39]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-38), [Richard Kelly](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Kelly_%28director%29)'s [*Donnie Darko*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donnie_Darko)[[40]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-39) and [*Southland Tales*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southland_Tales)[[41]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-40), and [Christopher Nolan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christopher_Nolan)'s [*Memento*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memento_%28film%29)[[42]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-41).

### [] Adaptations

#### [] Films

A number of Dick's stories have been made into films. Dick himself wrote a screenplay for an intended film adaptation of [*Ubik*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ubik) in [1974](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1974_in_film), but the film was never made. Many film adaptations have not used Dick's original titles. When asked why this was, Dick's ex-wife Tessa said, "Actually, the books rarely carry Phil's original titles, as the ors usually wrote new titles after reading his manuscripts. Phil often commented that he couldn't write good titles. If he could, he would have been an advertising writer instead of a novelist."[[43]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-42) Films based on Dick's writing have accumulated a total revenue of around US $700 million as of [2004](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2004_in_film).[[44]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-43)

The most famous film adaptation is [Ridley Scott](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ridley_Scott)'s [*Blade Runner*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blade_Runner) (based on Dick's [1968](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1968_in_literature) novel [*Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Do_Androids_Dream_of_Electric_Sheep%3F)). A screenplay had been in the works for years before Scott took the helm, with Dick being extremely critical of all versions. Dick was still apprehensive about how his story would be adapted for the film when the project was finally put into motion. Among other things, he refused to do a novelization of the film. But contrary to his initial reactions, when he was given an opportunity to see some of the special effects sequences of Los Angeles 2019, Dick was amazed that the environment was "exactly as how I'd imagined it!"[[45]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-44) Following the screening, Dick and Scott had a frank but cordial discussion of *Blade Runner's* themes and characters, and although they had incredibly differing views, Dick fully backed the film from then on. Dick died from a stroke less than four months before the release of the film.

[*Total Recall*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Total_Recall) ([1990](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1990_in_film)), based on the short story "[We Can Remember It for You Wholesale](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/We_Can_Remember_It_for_You_Wholesale)", evokes a feeling similar to that of the original story while streamlining the plot; however, the action-film protagonist is totally unlike Dick's typical nebbishy protagonist, a fearful and insecure anti-hero. The film includes such Dickian elements as the confusion of fantasy and reality, the progression towards more fantastic elements as the story progresses, machines talking back to humans, and the protagonist's doubts about his own identity. [*Total Recall 2070*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Total_Recall_2070) ([1999](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1999_in_television)), a single season Canadian TV show (22 episodes), based on thematic elements from "[We Can Remember It for You Wholesale](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/We_Can_Remember_It_for_You_Wholesale)" and [*Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Do_Androids_Dream_of_Electric_Sheep%3F) and interwoven with snippets of other Dick stories, is much closer in feel to both Dick's works than the better-known films based on them[[*citation needed*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)]. The main character is aptly named [David Hume](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Hume).

[Steven Spielberg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steven_Spielberg)'s [adaptation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minority_Report_%28film%29) of "[The Minority Report](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Minority_Report)" faithfully translates many of Dick's themes, but changes major plot points and adds an action-adventure framework.

Dick's [1953](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1953_in_literature) story "[Impostor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impostor_%28short_story%29)" has been adapted twice: first in [1962](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1962_in_television) for the British [anthology television series](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthology_television_series) [*Out of This World*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Out_of_This_World_%28UK_TV_series%29) and then in [2002](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002_in_film) for the movie [*Impostor*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impostor_%28film%29). *Impostor* utilizes two of Dick's most common themes: mental illness, which diminishes the sufferer's ability to discriminate between reality and hallucination, and a protagonist persecuted by an oppressive government.

The film [*Screamers*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Screamers_%28movie%29) ([1995](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1995_in_film)) was based on a Dick short story "[Second Variety](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Variety)"; the location was altered from a war-devastated Earth to a generic science fiction environment of a distant planet. A sequel, titled [*Screamers 2*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Screamers_%28film%29#Sequel), is currently in production.

[John Woo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Woo)'s [2003](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2003_in_film) film, [*Paycheck*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paycheck_%28film%29), was a very loose adaptation of Dick's [short story](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paycheck_%28short_story%29) of that name, and suffered greatly both at the hands of critics and at the box office.

The French film [*Confessions d'un Barjo*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confessions_d%27un_Barjo) (*Barjo* in English-language release) is based on Dick's non-science-fiction book [*Confessions of a Crap Artist*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confessions_of_a_Crap_Artist). Reflecting Dick's popularity and critical respect in France, *Barjo* faithfully conveys a strong sense of Dick's aesthetic sensibility, unseen in the better-known film adaptations. A brief science fiction homage is slipped into the film in the form of a TV show.

The live action/animated film, [*A Scanner Darkly*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Scanner_Darkly_%28movie%29) ([2006](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2006_in_film)) was directed by [Richard Linklater](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Linklater) and stars Keanu Reeves as Fred/Bob Arctor and Winona Ryder as Donna. Robert Downey Jr. and Woody Harrelson, actors both noted for drug issues, were also cast in the film. The film was produced using the process of [rotoscoping](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rotoscoping): it was first shot in live-action and then the live footage was animated over.

[*Next*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Next_%28film%29), a loose adaptation of the short story "[The Golden Man](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Golden_Man)", was released in [2007](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2007_in_film). It stars [Nicolas Cage](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicolas_Cage), [Julianne Moore](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julianne_Moore) and [Jessica Biel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jessica_Biel).

The [Walt Disney Animation Studios](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walt_Disney_Animation_Studios) is to produce a CGI adaptation of [*King of the Elves*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_of_the_Elves_%28film%29) set to be released in winter [2012](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012_in_film).

#### [] Stage and Radio

At least two of Dick's works have been adapted for the stage. The first was the [opera](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opera) [*VALIS*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/VALIS), composed and with libretto by [Tod Machover](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tod_Machover), which premiered at the [Pompidou Center](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pompidou_Center) in [Paris](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris) on December 1, [1987](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1987_in_music), with a French libretto. It was subsequently revised and readapted into English, and was recorded and released on CD (Bridge Records BCD9007) in [1988](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1988_in_music). The second known stage adaptation was [*Flow My Tears, The Policeman Said*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flow_My_Tears,_The_Policeman_Said), produced by the New York-based avant-garde company [Mabou Mines](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mabou_Mines). It premiered in Boston at the Boston Shakespeare Theatre (June 18-30, 1985) and was subsequently staged in New York and Chicago.

A radio drama adaptation of Dick's short story "Mr. Spaceship" was aired by the Finnish Broadcasting Company (Yleisradio) in [1996](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1996_in_radio) under the name *Menolippu Paratiisiin*. Radio dramatizations of Dick's short stories *Colony* and *The Defenders* were aired by [NBC](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NBC) in [radio](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1956_in_radio) as part of the series [*X Minus One*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X_Minus_One).

#### [] Comics

[Marvel Comics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marvel_Comics) plans to adapt Dick's short story "[The Electric Ant](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Electric_Ant)" as a [limited series](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Limited_series) to be released in 2009. The comic will be produced by writer [David Mack](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Mack) ([*Daredevil*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daredevil_%28Marvel_Comics%29)) and artist [Pascal Alixe](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Pascal_Alixe&action=edit&redlink=1) ([*Ultimate X-Men*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ultimate_X-Men)), with covers provided by artist [Paul Pope](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Pope).[[46]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-45)

### [] Fictional appearances

Since his death, Dick has appeared as a character in a number of novels and stories, most notably [Michael Bishop](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Bishop_%28author%29)'s *The Secret Ascension* (1987; currently published as *Philip K. Dick Is Dead, Alas*), which is set in a [Gnostic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gnostic) alternative universe where his non-genre work is published but his science fiction is banned by a totalitarian USA in thrall to a demonically possessed [Richard Nixon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Nixon).

Other fictional post-mortem appearances by Dick include:

* the short story "The Transmigration of Philip K" (1984) by [Michael Swanwick](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Swanwick) (to be found in the 1991 collection [*Gravity's Angels*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gravity%27s_Angels)),
* the short play *Kindred Blood in Kensington Gore* (1992) by [Brian W. Aldiss](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brian_W._Aldiss),
* the [Faction Paradox](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faction_Paradox) novel *Of the City of the Saved...* (2004) by [Philip Purser-Hallard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_Purser-Hallard).
* the [Spanish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cinema_of_Spain) feature film [PROXIMA](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PROXIMA) (2007) by [Carlos Atanes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carlos_Atanes), where the character *Felix Cadecq* is based on Dick.

A 2005 play entitled *800 Words: the Transmigration of Philip K. Dick* by Victoria Stewart re-imagines Dick's final days.[[47]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-46)

### [] Contemporary philosophy

Few other writers of fiction have had such an impact on contemporary philosophy as Dick. His foreshadowing of postmodernity has been noted by philosophers as diverse as [Jean Baudrillard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_Baudrillard), [Fredric Jameson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fredric_Jameson) and [Slavoj Žižek](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slavoj_%C5%BDi%C5%BEek)[[*citation needed*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)]. Žižek is especially fond of using Dick's short stories to articulate the ideas of [Jacques Lacan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacques_Lacan). [[48]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-47) Jean Baudrillard offers this interpretation:

"It is hyperreal. It is a universe of simulation, which is something altogether different. And this is so not because Dick speaks specifically of simulacra. SF has always done so, but it has always played upon the double, on artificial replication or imaginary duplication, whereas here the double has disappeared. There is no more double; one is always already in the other world, an other world which is not another, without mirrors or projection or utopias as means for reflection. The simulation is impassable, unsurpassable, checkmated, without exteriority. We can no longer move "through the mirror" to the other side, as we could during the golden age of transcendence."[[49]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick#cite_note-48)

## [] Bibliography

*Main article:* [*Bibliography of Philip K. Dick*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bibliography_of_Philip_K._Dick)

## [] See also

* [Philip K. Dick Award](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_K._Dick_Award)

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## [] External links

* [Philip K. Dick official site](http://www.philipkdick.com/)
* [A complete pictorial bibliography of Philip K. Dick](http://www.pkdickbooks.com/)
* [Blows Against the Empire](http://www.newyorker.com/arts/critics/books/2007/08/20/070820crbo_books_gopnik?printable=true) *The New Yorker*'s [Adam Gopnik](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam_Gopnik) on Philip K. Dick
* [Philip K Dick, A Critical Appreciation](http://theopencritic.com/?p=62), Reviews from The Open Critic
* [VALBS - An online secondary bibliography on Dick and his works](http://utenti.lycos.it/artemiobegatti/bibliografia_pkd.html)
* ["The Religious Experience of Philip K. Dick"](http://www.philipkdickfans.com/weirdo.htm) by [R. Crumb](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R._Crumb), *Weirdo* #17, Summer 1986.
* [*The Second Coming of Philip K. Dick*](http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/11.12/philip_pr.html) by Frank Rose, an article from [*Wired*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wired_Magazine) about movies based on the Dick's novels
* [How To Build A Universe That Doesn't Fall Apart Two Days Later](http://deoxy.org/pkd_how2build.htm) (Essay by PKD on his "discovery" that we are living in the Roman Empire)
* [Philip K. Dick: A Visionary Among the Charlatans](http://www.depauw.edu/sfs/backissues/5/lem5art.htm), [Stanislaw Lem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanislaw_Lem)'s essay about the state of American science fiction circa 1975 with an extended appreciation of Dick
* [Philip K. Dick](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001140/) at the [Internet Movie Database](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_Movie_Database)
* [Philip K. Dick](http://www.isfdb.org/cgi-bin/ea.cgi?Philip_K._Dick) at the [Internet Speculative Fiction Database](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_Speculative_Fiction_Database)
* [Philip K. Dick](http://www.iblist.com/author95.htm) at the [Internet Book List](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_Book_List)
* [Philip K. Dick](http://www.dmoz.org/Arts/Literature/Authors/D/Dick,_Philip_K./) at the [Open Directory Project](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_Directory_Project)
* [Dark Roasted Blend: Science Fiction and Fantasy Reading Experience: Philip K. Dick](http://www.scifi.darkroastedblend.com/2005/10/philip-k-dick_04.html)
* [Philip K. Dick Book Cover Art Gallery](http://www.philipkdick.com/works_covers.html)
* [The Last Days of Philip K. Dick](http://raynelson.com/phil.html)