



# Rio Ferdinand



## **Birth:**

Born in 1978 in **Camberwell**, to an Irish mother and Saint-Lucian father.

## **Early Years:**

Rio Ferdinand grew up in **Peckham**, Southwark. He enrolled in the Central School of Ballet, where he trained four days a week, before he joined the West Ham youth team in 1992.

**“If you come out with racist comments, then I believe you shouldn’t be able to come to a football match. Don’t be so narrow minded, you’re bigger than that.”**

**– Rio Ferdinand**

## **Achievements:**

Rio Ferdinand has played professional football for West Ham, Bournemouth, Leeds United, Manchester City and for the England National Team. He is regarded as one of the best defenders of his generation. He is England’s second most capped black player, after Ashley Cole. He has written several books and has filmed a documentary in Peckham, aiming to persuade young people to stay away from a life of crime.

## **Current Status:**

Rio Ferdinand retired from professional football in 2015. He is now a television pundit for BT Sport.