

★ POP CULTURE BIOS



# ARIANA GRANDE

FROM ACTRESS TO CHART-TOPPING SINGER

HEATHER E. SCHWARTZ

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# GRANDE

FROM ACTRESS TO CHART-TOPPING SINGER

HEATHER E. SCHWARTZ

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MINNEAPOLIS

To my loving in-laws, Connie  
and Phil Schwartz



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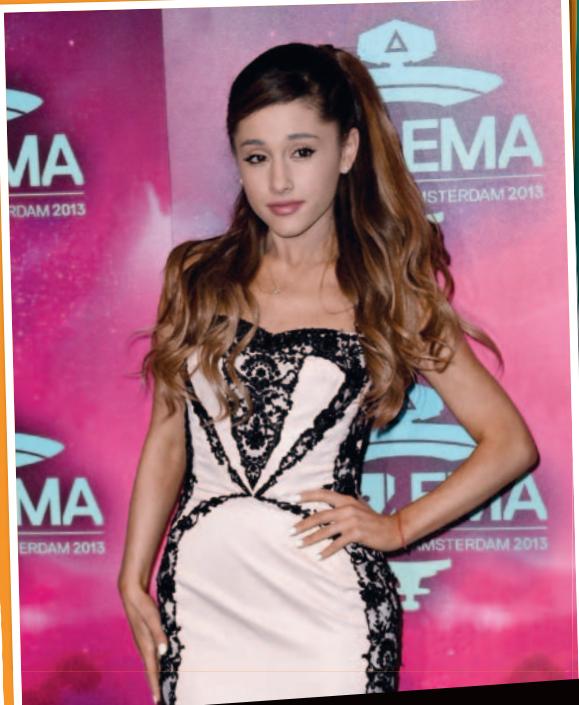


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## INTRODUCTION



Ariana (RIGHT) stands with the cast of Nickelodeon's *Victorious*.

**B**y the time Ariana Grande attended the 2013 American Music Awards, she was no stranger to the spotlight. Still, she was shaking in her Sergio Rossi shoes. For one thing, she was set to perform for an audience that included music's biggest stars: Lady Gaga, One Direction, Justin Timberlake, Rihanna, and Taylor Swift, to name just a few.

Besides that, Ariana would be pitted against big-time talents Macklemore & Ryan Lewis, Florida Georgia Line, Imagine Dragons, and Phillip Phillips for the New Artist of the Year Award Presented by Kohl's. Who wouldn't be nervous?

Still, Ariana was a pro. She wasn't about to let a case of nerves throw her off her game. Taking the stage in a glittering red gown, she belted out her song "Tattooed Heart" with skill and emotion, stunning the crowd before her. When she'd finished, many in the crowd gave her a standing ovation, including pop queen Lady Gaga. It was enough to give a girl an enormous ego!





Yet when Ariana won New Artist of the Year, she was far from smug. In fact, she looked shocked and overwhelmed. She leaned into her friend actress Jennette McCurdy before standing to give her a big hug. Rushing to the stage in her dress and heels, Ariana looked more like an awkward schoolgirl than a rising superstar.

Lady Gaga and R. Kelly applaud Ariana's performance at the 2013 American Music Awards.

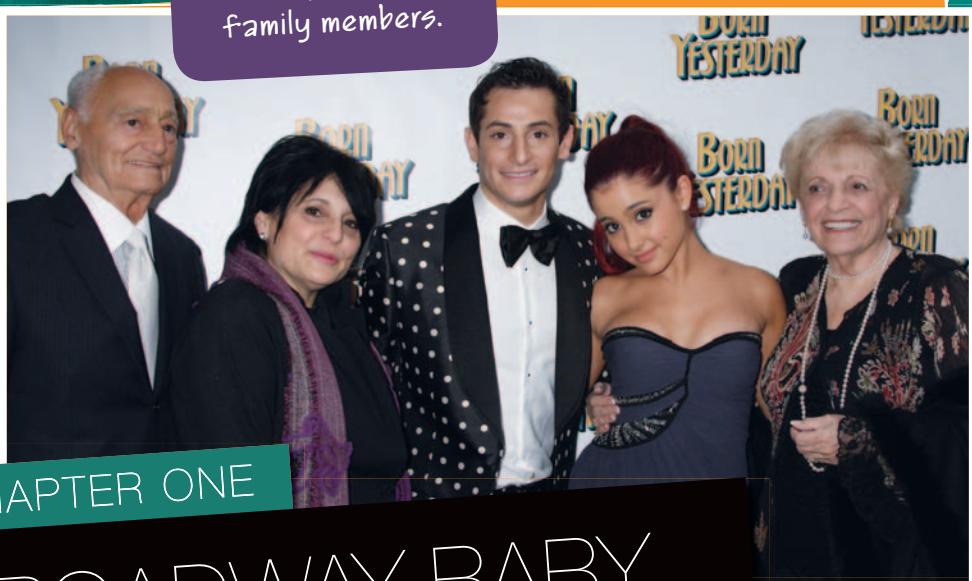


Onstage, she humbly thanked her fans and everyone who'd helped her along the way. With only a few seconds left to speak, she pulled a list from the front of her dress, speed-reading the names on it so she wouldn't miss thanking anyone.

Breathless and gracious, she finished with even more gratitude. The win meant she had tons of support, and all her hard work was paying off. **"I love you guys so much. Thank you. This is crazy. I love you. Thank you,"** Ariana said, before hurrying off center stage.

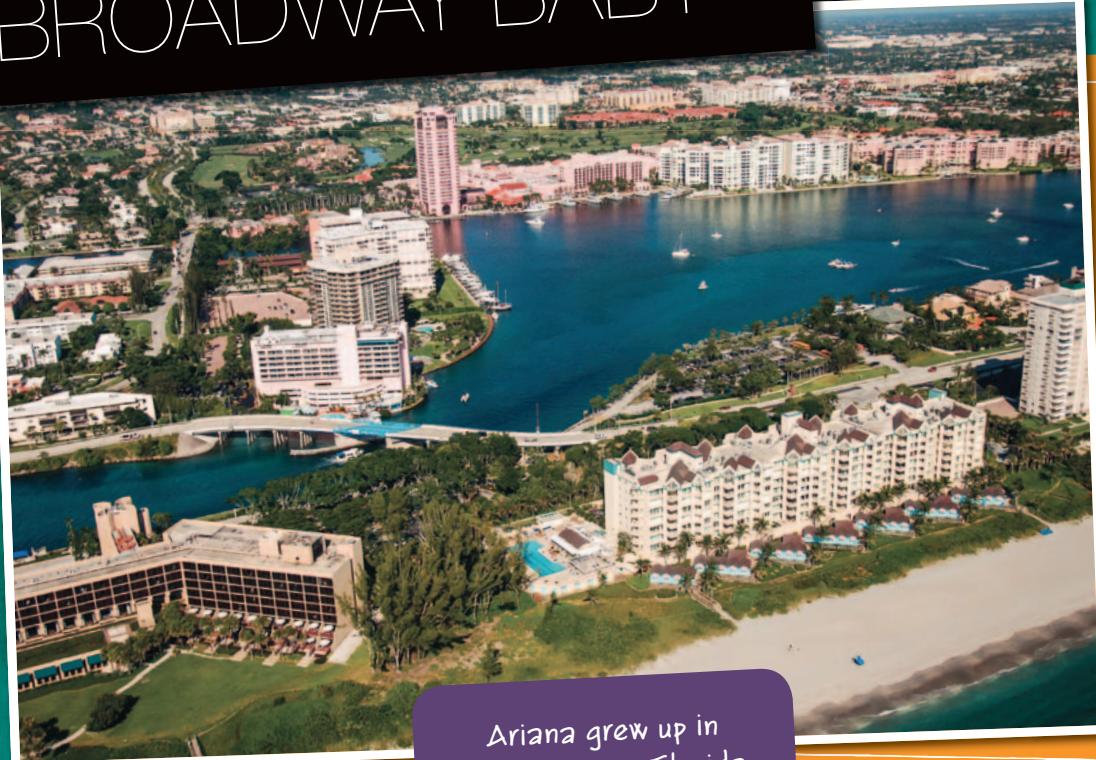


Ariana poses with family members.



CHAPTER ONE

# BROADWAY BABY



Ariana grew up in Boca Raton, Florida.

## ALL IN THE FAMILY

Ariana was born on June 26, 1993. Her full name is Ariana Grande-Butera.

Growing up in Boca Raton, Florida, Ariana loved singing, dancing, acting, and entertaining. She took up community and children's theater when she was eight and landed her first lead role in *Annie*. She also sang with symphonies and even performed "The Star-Spangled Banner" on national television. But she didn't always have a huge audience for her performances. When she experimented with stand-up comedy routines, her most frequent fans were her grandparents.

Ariana hugs her mom, Joan Grande.



Ariana and Mika perform together on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno.



# ARIANA PICS!





# SOURCE NOTES

- 7 *American Music Awards 2013 Ariana Grand's Epic Acceptance Speech*, YouTube video, 1:27, posted by "NowWorldNews," November 25, 2013, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aQLY8GsXDqs>.
- 25 Ariana Grande, *Twitter*, September 11, 2013, <https://twitter.com/ArianaGrande/status/377920611605282816>.
- 27 *Ariana Grande Red Carpet Interview—AMAs 2013*, YouTube video, 1:23, posted by "American Music Awards," November 24, 2013, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jSwv2gZGbC0>.

## MORE ARIANA INFO

Ariana's Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/arianagrande>

If you're a Facebook user, "Like" Ariana's page to join more than 13 million fans.

Ariana's Instagram Page

<http://instagram.com/arianagrande#>

Check out Ariana's stylish pics on this site.

Ariana's Twitter Page

<https://twitter.com/ArianaGrande>

Get up-to-the-minute updates, straight from Ariana.

Ariana's YouTube Page

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ArianaGrandeVevo>

Watch Ariana's videos and dance to your favorite Ariana songs.

Shaffer, Jody Jensen. *Victoria Justice: Television's It Girl*. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications, 2014.

Read this bio to learn all about Ariana's fellow cast member on *Victorious* and more details of the hit show.

Smith, Emily. *The Ariana Grande Handbook*. Queensland, Australia: Emereo, 2013.

Read this book and get the details on the superstar's life.

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You may know Ariana Grande became a household name after acting and singing in the hit TV show *Victorious*. But did you know that she:

- ★ called Nickelodeon studios when she was four years old to try to get a role on the show *All That*?
- ★ performed in a Broadway musical as a young teen?
- ★ is often compared to superstar Mariah Carey?

Want to know more about this talented star? Read on to learn all about Ariana's life before stardom as well as her rise to fame, breakthrough performances, passions, and more!



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