



Jennifer Hudson

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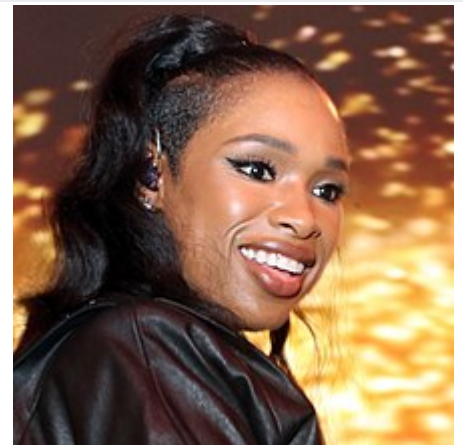
Jennifer Kate Hudson (born September 12, 1981) is an American singer, actress, and spokesperson.^[1] She rose to fame in 2004 as a finalist on the third season of *American Idol*, finishing seventh.

Hudson made her film debut portraying Effie White in *Dreamgirls*, for which she gained worldwide acclaim and won an Academy Award, a Golden Globe Award, a BAFTA Award, and a Screen Actors Guild Award for Best Supporting Actress. She also appeared in *Sex and the City*, *The Secret Life of Bees*, and *Black Nativity*. She has made numerous television appearances, including guest roles on *Smash*, *Empire*, and *Inside Amy Schumer*. In 2015, she made her Broadway debut in the role of Shug Avery in the revival of *The Color Purple*.

Hudson has released three studio albums. Her debut album *Jennifer Hudson*, released in 2008, debuted at number two on the *Billboard* 200 and was certified gold by the RIAA, with sales exceeding a million copies worldwide. The record was nominated for four Grammy Awards, winning the 2009 Grammy Award for Best R&B Album. Her second album *I Remember Me*, released in 2011, also debuted at number two on the *Billboard* 200 and was certified gold by the RIAA. Her third album, *JHUD*, peaked in the top ten and featured the Grammy-nominated track "It's Your World". She also became the principal singer of *The Color Purple* musical album, which earned the 2017 Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album.

In October 2008, Hudson stepped out of the public eye for three months after her mother, brother, and nephew were killed in a shooting. She resumed her public appearances in 2009, with high-profile performances at Super Bowl XLIII, the Grammy Awards, *American Idol*, and *The Oprah Winfrey Show*.^[2] Hudson has been described as a friend of former President Barack Obama, who invited her to appear with him at a fundraiser in Beverly Hills during his first term in May 2009.^[3] She also performed at the White House at the "Celebration of Music from the Civil Rights Movement" event.^[4] In 2013, she received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.^[5] In 2016, Hudson was announced as a coach

Jennifer Hudson



Hudson performing at the 2018 Global Teacher Prize ceremony

Born	Jennifer Kate Hudson September 12, 1981 <u>Chicago, Illinois, U.S.</u>
Education	<u>Dunbar Vocational High School</u> · <u>Kennedy-King College</u>
Alma mater	<u>Langston University</u>
Occupations	Singer · actress · spokeswoman
Years active	2004–present
Partners	James Payton (1999–2007) <u>David Otunga</u> (2008–2017)
Children	1

on the 2017 series of *The Voice UK*, where she became the first female coach to win.^[6] The following year, Hudson was announced as a coach on the thirteenth season of the U.S. version of *The Voice*.^[7]

On January 27, 2018, Clive Davis, who signed Hudson and promoted her as the new Whitney Houston and Aretha Franklin following her departure from American Idol, disclosed that Hudson had been handpicked by Franklin to portray her in an upcoming bio-pic.^[8]

Early life

Hudson was born on September 12, 1981 in Chicago, Illinois.^{[9][10]} She is the third and youngest child of Darnell Donnerson (November 7, 1950 – October 24, 2008)^[11] and Samuel Simpson^[12] (died 1999).^[13] She was raised as a Baptist^[14] in Englewood^[15] and attended Dunbar Vocational High School, from which she graduated in 1999.^[16] She cites Whitney Houston, Aretha Franklin, and Patti LaBelle as her overall biggest influences and inspiration.^[17] At age 7 she got her start in performing by singing with the church choir and doing community theater with the help of her late maternal grandmother, Julia.^[18] She enrolled at Langston University but she left after a semester due to homesickness and unhappiness with the weather, and registered at Kennedy–King College.^[19]

In January 2002, Hudson signed her first recording contract with Righteous Records, a Chicago-based independent record label.^[20] She was released from her five-year contract with Righteous Records so that she could appear on *American Idol* in 2004.

Career

2004–05: *American Idol*

Hudson auditioned for the third season of *American Idol* in Atlanta commenting that she had been singing on Disney Cruise Lines (aboard the Disney Wonder) for the past few months (as one of the Muses from *Hercules*); and contestant judge Randy Jackson said, "We're expecting more than a cruise ship performance from you."^[21] Hudson received the highest number of votes in the "Top 9" after her performance of Elton John's "Circle of Life" on April 6, 2004, but two weeks later was eliminated during the "Top 7" show after performing Barry Manilow's, "Weekend in New England." The bottom three consisting of three African-American women led to controversy.^{[22][23]} In May 2009, *MTV* listed Hudson as the sixth greatest *American Idol* and noted her exit was

Awards	See <u>awards and nominations</u>
Musical career	
Genres	<u>R&B</u> • <u>soul</u>
Instrument(s)	Vocals
Years active	2006–present
Labels	<u>Arista</u> • <u>J</u> • <u>RCA</u> • <u>Epic</u>
Website	<u>jenniferhudson.com</u> (<u>http://jenniferhudson.com</u>)

the most shocking of all time.^[24] In May 2010, the *Los Angeles Times* claimed Hudson to be the third greatest *Idol* contestant in the history of the show, placing behind season one winner Kelly Clarkson and season four winner Carrie Underwood.^[25]

Performances

Theme week [show]	Song sung	Artist
Audition	Share Your Love With Me	<u>Aretha Franklin</u>
Semifinals	<u>Imagine</u>	<u>John Lennon</u>
Wild Card	<u>I Believe in You and Me</u>	<u>Four Tops</u> <u>Whitney Houston</u>
Top 12 <u>Soul Music Week</u>	<u>Baby, I Love You</u>	Aretha Franklin
Top 11 <u>Country Week</u>	<u>No One Else on Earth</u>	<u>Wynonna Judd</u>
Top 10 <u>Motown Week</u>	<u>(Love Is Like A) Heat Wave</u>	<u>Martha and the Vandellas</u>
Top 9 Songs of <u>Elton John</u>	<u>Circle of Life</u>	Elton John
Top 8 Songs of the Cinema	<u>I Have Nothing from <i>The Bodyguard</i></u>	Whitney Houston
Top 7 Songs of <u>Barry Manilow</u>	<u>Weekend in New England</u>	Barry Manilow

2006–07: *Dreamgirls* and breakthrough

In one of her first appearances on a record, Hudson is featured in a duet, "The Future Ain't What It Used to Be", on Meat Loaf's *Bat Out of Hell III: The Monster Is Loose*. In September 2006, Hudson performed the song, "Over It," live on Fox Chicago Morning News. In the interview she stated the song would be included on her debut album, to be released in early 2007; however, this was before she was signed to a record label.^[26] In November 2006, Hudson signed a record deal with Arista Records.^[27] On *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, Hudson announced plans to enter the studio in March 2007. Hudson said on *The Tyra Banks Show*, on February 23, 2007, that she just finished the first song for the album. Hudson also recorded a song she co-wrote with Bill Grainer and Earl Powell called "Stand Up", which was available for preview on her fan website. The track was produced by Chicago natives Powell and Herman Little III, who also arranged the song.^[28] The power-ballad would later become available on the deluxe edition of Hudson's self-titled album as a bonus track.

In November 2005, Hudson was cast in the role of Effie White for the film adaptation of the musical *Dreamgirls*, which also starred Jamie Foxx, Beyoncé Knowles and Eddie Murphy. The role, originally created in a Broadway performance by Jennifer Holliday, marked Hudson's debut screen performance. She won the role over hundreds of professional singers and actresses, including Fantasia Barrino.^[29] Filming of *Dreamgirls* began on January 9, 2006, and the film went into limited release on December 25, 2006, and national release on January 12, 2007. Hudson has won particular praise for her show-stopping onscreen rendition of the hit song, "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going", the signature song of the role, which had earlier been recorded, and had already reached the status of musical standard, because of the definitive performance of Jennifer Holliday. *The*

New York Observer described Hudson's performance of the song as "five mellifluous, *molto vibrato* minutes that have suddenly catapulted Ms. Hudson... into the position of front-runner for the best supporting actress Oscar".^[30] Newsweek said that when moviegoers hear Hudson sing the song, she, "is going to raise goose bumps across the land."^[31] Variety magazine wrote that Hudson's performance "calls to mind debuts like Barbra Streisand in *Funny Girl* or Bette Midler in *The Rose*, with a voice like the young Aretha".^[32] Hudson's version of "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going" debuted at number 98 on the Billboard Hot 100 in the January 13, 2007, issue. The *Dreamgirls* track became Hudson's first top 10 hit on the Billboard Hot Adult R&B Airplay chart on February 24, 2007. "Love You I Do" was nominated for the 2007 Academy Award for Best Original Song and won the 2008 Grammy Award for Best Song Written for a Motion Picture, Television or Other Visual Media.

As Effie White, Hudson has garnered 29 awards from film critics as Best Supporting Actress and Breakthrough Performer of 2006. She won the Golden Globe Award as Best Actress in a Supporting Role. In addition, she has been named Best Supporting Actress by the Broadcast Film Critics Association and also by the Screen Actors Guild. After seeing Hudson's performance in *Dreamgirls*, Simon Cowell taped a congratulatory message to her, which aired on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*.^[33] With the March 2007 issue, Jennifer Hudson became the third African-American celebrity and the first African-American singer to grace the cover of Vogue magazine.^[34] On February 11, 2007, the 60th British Academy Film Awards were held in London, but Hudson was not there to accept her BAFTA Award for Best Actress in a Supporting Role. The BAFTA Award went missing and Hudson did not receive her award until April 22, 2011, when it was presented to her on the *Graham Norton Show*. On February 25, 2007, she won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role in the film. During her acceptance speech, Hudson said: "Oh, my God, I have to just take this moment in. I cannot believe this. Look what God can do. I didn't think I was going to win. [...] If my grandmother was here to see me now. She was my biggest inspiration." She also concluded her speech by thanking Jennifer Holliday.^[35] Later in 2007, the mayor of her home town, Chicago, Richard M. Daley, declared March 6 as "Jennifer Hudson Day".^{[36][37]} She was invited to join the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences on June 18, along with 115 other individuals for 2007.^{[38][39]} Entertainment Weekly put her performance on its end-of-the-decade, "best-of" list, saying, "Sure, Beyoncé's performance was great. And Eddie Murphy's was impressive. But there was really only one reason we all rushed to see 2006's *Dreamgirls*: Jennifer Hudson's soul-to-the-rafters rendition of the classic 'And I'm Telling You I'm Not Going'. When she sang 'You're gonna love me,' it wasn't just a lyric — it was a fact."^[40]



Hudson performing in 2007

2008–09: Jennifer Hudson album, films and major appearances

In May 2008, Hudson appeared in the feature film *Sex and the City* as Louise, Carrie Bradshaw's assistant. Filming finished in December 2007 and the movie was released on May 30, 2008.^[41] In October 2008, Hudson made her third film appearance in *The Secret Life of Bees* as Rosaleen, the mother figure of Lily Owens (Dakota Fanning). Also starring in the film are fellow Oscar nominees Queen Latifah and Sophie Okonedo, as well as Alicia Keys. The film opened on October 17, 2008, and grossed over \$37 million at the box office. The film won two People's Choice Awards in January 2009 in the categories, Favorite Drama Movie and Favorite

Independent Movie. The film also received nine Black Reel Awards nominations including three wins. Hudson was nominated for her performance in the film, but lost to Queen Latifah. The film also received eight nominations at the 2009 NAACP Image Awards, including a nomination for Hudson for her performance. In 2009, Hudson starred as Kathy Archenault in *Fragments*, a film based on the novel by Roy Freirich, with Dakota Fanning and Forest Whitaker. The name of the film was changed from "Winged Creatures" to "Fragments". It was released on DVD on August 4, 2009. In 2010, Hudson started filming the biopic film *Winnie Mandela*^[42] based on the South African politician Winnie Mandela^[42] starring alongside Terrence Howard and directed by Darrell J. Roodt.^[43] Andre Pieterse and Roodt and Paul L. Johnson based the film's script on Anne Marie du Preez Bezdrob's biography, *Winnie Mandela: A Life*.^[44] The Creative Workers Union of South Africa have opposed this choice, stating they will push for a moratorium on the film if the casting is not reversed.^[45] Winnie Mandela has threatened legal action over this film, claiming she was not "consulted" about the film.^[46] *Winnie Mandela* was originally scheduled to be released in December 2011; the trailer was released in 2010.^[43] Image Entertainment released the film on September 6, 2013.^{[47][48]}

In January 2008, Hudson returned to the studio to record new songs for her debut studio album. Her label was reportedly unhappy with the direction they were sending Hudson musically and decided it would be best to scrap the older songs and instead focus on new ones. Hudson worked with Ryan Tedder and Timbaland on a number of songs. Her debut single, "Spotlight" was released on June 10, 2008, and became Hudson's first top 40 hit peaking at number 24 on the *Billboard* Hot 100 and became a top 20 hit in the United Kingdom and Turkey. Her debut studio album, *Jennifer Hudson*, was released on September 30, 2008, on Arista and was written by Ne-Yo, who co-produced along with Stargate. Additional contributors on the album include Timbaland, Missy Elliott, Robin Thicke, Harvey Mason, Jr., Diane Warren, Earl Powell, and Christopher "Tricky" Stewart, among others.^[49] The album debuted at number two on the *Billboard* 200 with 217,000 copies in the US and opened to positive reviews. As of August 2009, the album has sold 739,000 copies in the US, receiving a Gold certification for surpassing sales of 500,000. She has performed the song, "All Dressed in Love" for the *Sex and the City* soundtrack, which was released on May 27, 2008.^[50] Hudson performed the national anthem at the 2008 Democratic National Convention. The album's second single was to be released in October 2008, and was originally set to be "My Heart" before "If This Isn't Love" was chosen as the official second single. After three of her family members were brutally murdered, the single was rescheduled for a January 2009 release. However, in January 2009, her label decided to postpone the release of the second single once more until, choosing a February 2009 release date. After the release of "If This Isn't Love", the single eventually peaked at number 63 on the *Billboard* Hot 100 and number 37 on the UK Singles Chart. The third single was announced as "Pocketbook" featuring Ludacris in April 2009, for a June 2009 release, despite speculation that the third single would be "My Heart" after it was canceled as the second single. In May 2009, "Pocketbook" was canceled as the third single due to negative reception from fans and critics alike. The third single was then rescheduled as "Giving Myself" and was released on June 2, 2009, to the US. Her debut album garnered Hudson three nominations at the 2009 Grammy Awards; Best Female R&B Vocal Performance for "Spotlight", Best R&B Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals for "I'm His Only Woman" with Fantasia Barrino, and Best R&B Album for *Jennifer Hudson*. She won the last of these and performed at the awards ceremony.^[51]

In February 2009, Hudson made her first public appearance since the murders when she sang the *Star-Spangled Banner* at Super Bowl XLIII.^{[52][53][54]} She toured the United States with Robin Thicke in 2009.^[55] In early May 2009, Hudson suffered "throat fatigue" and had to reschedule her May 16–19, 2009, tour dates.^[56] She sang "Will You Be There" at the Michael Jackson memorial service in July 2009.^[57] Hudson recorded "Neither One of Us (Wants to Be the First to Say Goodbye)," originally by Gladys Knight & the Pips, for *American Idol Season 3: Greatest Soul Classics* — the official *American Idol* album for the third season. She also performed

the song "Easy to be Hard" on the Actors' Fund benefit recording of the musical *Hair*; and she is featured on Ne-Yo's second album, *Because of You*, on the track, "Leaving Tonight". Hudson sang "Dancing a Catchy Rhythm" with Brooke White. Hudson performed a Christmas special in December 2009 called *Jennifer Hudson: I'll Be Home for Christmas*. During the special, she relived her childhood Christmases with musical performances filmed at her favorite locations in her native Chicago. Hudson also visited family members, friends and other childhood influences during the broadcast.^[58] On January 22, 2010, Hudson appeared on the telethon "Hope for Haiti Now: A Global Benefit for Earthquake Relief", performing the Beatles' "Let it Be". The telecast generated \$61 million in donations as of January 26, 2010.^[59] Also, that year, Hudson recorded the song "One Shining Moment" for the 2010 NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Tournament.

2010–12: Weight Watchers and *I Remember Me*

In 2010, Hudson became the spokesperson for Weight Watchers.^{[1][60]} She has lost 56 pounds (25 kg) in the last year and "does not want to lose any more weight."^[61] However, on February 10, 2011, she appeared on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* and revealed she has now lost a total of 80 pounds.^[62] Her 2012 autobiography, *I Got This: How I Changed My Ways and Lost What Weighed Me Down*, detailed her weight loss.^{[63][64][65]}

Early in the album *I Remember Me*'s development, Ne-Yo told *E! Online* that Hudson was ready to get personal on her second studio album and that he might be producing the album. He said "She's gone through a lot over the last year, so she has a lot to talk about," he continues. "She's definitely gotten stronger. The things that she's gone through and for her to still be upbeat and happy, it's amazing."^[66] Hudson released her second studio album *I Remember Me* on March 22, 2011. It debuted at number two on the *Billboard* 200 selling 165,000 copies in its first week of release.^[67] On January 24, 2011 Hudson premiered the album's lead single "Where You At".^[68] It was written by R. Kelly and produced by Harvey Mason, Jr.^[69] The song went for radio adds that same week.^[70] On February 3, 2011 due to radio adds the single made its debut on the US Billboard Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs chart at number 53,^[71] having so far reached a peak of number 10.^[72] The music video premiered on BET's 106 & Park and through Vevo in February 2011.^{[73][74]} "No One Gonna Love You" impacted on Urban adult contemporary radio in the United States in May 2011. A remix bundle titled "No One Gonna Love You-The Remixes" was released as a digital download in the US and the UK in July 2011.^{[75][76][77]} The song has reached number 23 on the Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs.^[78] The third US single will be "I Got This".^[79] The non-single track "Don't Look Down" reached number 70 on the US Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs chart.^[80]



Jennifer Hudson's first public appearance after the murder of three family members, including her mother, sings the "National Anthem" at Super Bowl XLIII



Hudson at the 83rd Academy Awards in 2011

2013–2014: The *JHUD* Era

Hudson played a nun in the Farrelly brothers film *The Three Stooges* (2012).^[81] The day after the death of Whitney Houston, Hudson paid tribute to her by singing Houston's iconic "I Will Always Love You" during the 54th Grammy Awards held on February 12, 2012 at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, California.^[82] Hudson guest-starred for a multi-episode arc on the second season of *Smash*.^[83] She sang "America the Beautiful" with the Sandy Hook Elementary School chorus at Super Bowl XLVII.^[84] Hudson sang at the 85th Academy Awards in a tribute to musical films.^[85] She performed "Same Love" with Macklemore, Ryan Lewis, and Mary Lambert at the 2013 MTV Video Music Awards.^[86]

On September 21, 2013, a new single from Hudson's forthcoming third studio album was released via her website. The 70s stylized uptempo ballad, titled "I Can't Describe (The Way I Feel)", features T.I. with production by Pharrell, she performed this song alongside Chaka Khan, Evelyn Champagne King, and T.I. at the 2013 Soul Train Awards.^[87] In October 2013, Hudson starred in the coming of age drama *The Inevitable Defeat of Mister & Pete* alongside Jordin Sparks as well as the drama/musical *Black Nativity*. Furthermore, she appears alongside Amy Adams in the drama *Lullaby*. On November 13, 2013, Hudson was awarded with the 2,512th star of the Hollywood Walk of Fame.^[5]

Hudson's third studio album, *JHUD*, was released on September 23, 2014. Hudson described the album as more "upbeat" than her previous material. She worked with Timbaland, Pharrell Williams, RedOne, and R. Kelly among others. RedOne said about the material: "It's not dance dance, but it's soulful dance. It's very '70s kinda style".^[88] Hudson stated: "What we're doing feels so right that I never want to go home (from the studio). My sister and my manager will be sleeping on the couch while we work until 4 or 5am".^[89]

Hudson confirmed that a song on the album will be "It's Your World" and features R. Kelly, in an interview with Jonathan Ross on *The Jonathan Ross Show*. The track went on to be nominated for Best R&B Vocal Performance at the 2015 Grammy Awards. On June 20, she released the music video for "Walk it Out" featuring Timbaland, which is the first single off her upcoming album. On July 3, Hudson announced that the name of her third album is *JHUD* and would include "different expressions of [Hudson] as an artist, a girl, [and] a music lover".^[90]

2015-Present: *The Color Purple*, *Hairspray Live*, and *The Voice*

At the 87th Academy Awards, Hudson performed her song (originally from NBC's *SMASH*) "I Can't Let Go" by Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman as a tribute to the individuals Hollywood lost in the previous year.^[91]

Later in 2015, Hudson guest-starred as Michelle White, a minor semi-recurring character in the first season of *Empire*.^[92] She sang three songs on the show, "Remember the Music," "Whatever Makes You Happy," and "For My God."

Jennifer Hudson helped welcome Pope Francis on his first visit to the United States by singing her rendition of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah".^[93]

In fall 2015, Jennifer Hudson made her Broadway debut as Shug Avery in the Broadway revival of *The Color Purple*, alongside Cynthia Erivo and Danielle Brooks. *New York Times* critic Ben Brantley hailed her performance saying, "Ms. Hudson radiates a lush, supple stage presence that is echoed by her velvet voice."^[94]

Although Hudson herself was snubbed by the Tonys,^[95] the show received the Tony for Best Revival of a Musical in 2016. Hudson later picked up her second career Grammy for Best Musical Theater Album (2017) for her work on *The Color Purple*.^[96]

In June 2016, Jennifer Hudson performed Prince's "Purple Rain," on the BET Awards, which she had previously sung onstage with the cast of *The Color Purple*,^[97] the day Prince died. She wore an outfit similar to one Prince had worn, and audiences were mesmerized by her soul-stirring performance.^[98]

On June 28, 2016, it was announced that Hudson had signed with Epic Records. L.A. Reid and Clive Davis are joining forces for the first time since Whitney Houston's "The Bodyguard" soundtrack 25 years ago. "Jennifer Hudson is the defining voice of this generation," said Reid. "Her award-winning presence on records, in film and on stage establishes her as one of the premiere artists to emerge in this century." Davis says: "I signed Jennifer in 2007 believing her to be the strongest candidate as the next generation's Aretha Franklin and Whitney. She has become that, as LA and I excitingly reunite to capture Jennifer at her all-time best."^[99]

Meanwhile, Hudson picked up a few minor film roles, including one in Spike Lee's musical film *Chi-Raq* and the HBO film *Confirmation*, alongside Kerry Washington.

In December 2016, Hudson played scene-stealer Motormouth Maybelle in NBC's *Hairspray Live!*. Her version of the Civil Rights-themed ballad "I Know Where I've Been," blew audiences away, garnering Emmy buzz from fans and critics alike.^[100] During the credit sequence, Hudson duets with costar Ariana Grande on Shaiman and Wittman's "Come So Far."

Hudson lent her voice to the character of Nana Noodleman in the Illumination Entertainment film, *Sing*, which was released December 21, 2016. In the film, she sang The Beatles' classic, "Golden Slumbers/Carry That Weight," which was the recurring musical theme of the film. On the deluxe soundtrack, Hudson sings with Tori Kelly on a duet version of Leonard Cohen's, "Hallelujah."^[101]

In February 2017, she starred as singer Courtney Clarke alongside Adam Sandler in the Netflix film *Sandy Wexler*.^[102] In May 2017, it was then announced that Hudson would become a coach for the American version of *The Voice*, starting with its thirteenth season.^[103]

Hudson released "Remember Me" on March 3, 2017 as the lead single from her upcoming fourth album.

On January 27, 2018, Clive Davis, who signed Hudson and promoted her as the new Whitney Houston and Aretha Franklin following her departure from *American Idol*, disclosed that Hudson had been handpicked by Franklin to portray her in an upcoming bio-pic.^[8]

Personal life

Hudson began dating James Payton in 1999, when she was 18.^[104] They separated in late 2007. Hudson met David Otunga, a professional wrestler in the WWE and a Harvard Law graduate,^{[105][106][107]} and the couple became engaged in September 2008.^[108] In August 2009, Hudson gave birth to her first child, her son David Daniel Otunga, Jr.^[109] In November 2017, a representative for Hudson announced she and Otunga had split and Hudson requested a protective order against Otunga.^{[110][111]}

On October 24, 2008, Hudson's 57-year-old mother Darnell Donnerson and 29-year-old brother Jason were found shot to death inside the Chicago home Donnerson shared with Hudson's older sister, Julia.^[112] An AMBER Alert was issued for her 7-year-old nephew, Julian King, when Julia reported him missing.^{[113][114]} Three days later the Federal Bureau of Investigation confirmed a body found on Chicago's West Side was the nephew; an autopsy indicated he had died from "multiple gunshot wounds."^{[115][116][117][118]} Police charged William Balfour, Julia's estranged 27-year-old husband, with three counts of first-degree murder and one count of home invasion, and denied bail.^[119] In May 2012, a court convicted him on all seven counts against him, including possession of a stolen vehicle.^[120] In July 2012, he was sentenced to three life sentences without the possibility of parole; served consecutively, followed by an additional 120 years for his other convictions.^{[121][122]} He is incarcerated in Stateville Correctional Center in Crest Hill, Illinois.

Hudson's family announced the creation of The Hudson-King Foundation for Families of Slain Victims, in honor of the three victims.^[123] Hudson and her sister created the Julian D. King Gift Foundation in honor of her nephew. It provides Christmas presents and school supplies to needy families in the Chicago area.^[124]

Discography

- Jennifer Hudson* (2008)
- I Remember Me* (2011)
- JHUD* (2014)

Filmography

Film

Year	Title	Role
2006	<i><u>Dreamgirls</u></i>	Effie White
2008	<i><u>Sex and the City</u></i>	Louise
	<i><u>The Secret Life of Bees</u></i>	Rosaleen Daise
2009	<i><u>Fragments – Winged Creatures</u></i>	Kathy Archenault
2011	<i><u>Winnie Mandela</u></i>	<u>Winnie Mandela</u>
2012	<i><u>The Three Stooges</u></i>	Sister Rosemary
2013	<i><u>The Inevitable Defeat of Mister & Pete</u></i>	Gloria
	<i><u>Black Nativity</u></i>	Naima Cobbs ^[125]
2014	<i><u>Lullaby</u></i>	Nurse Carrie
2015	<i><u>Chi-Raq</u></i>	Irene
2016	<i><u>Sing</u></i>	Young Nana Noodleman (voice) ^[126]
2017	<i><u>Sandy Wexler</u></i> ^[127]	Courtney Clarke
2018	<i><u>Monster</u></i>	Mrs. Harmon

Television

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2004	<i>American Idol</i>	Contestant	Season 3; 7th place
2011	<i>The X Factor</i>	Herself	UK series 8; Guest Judge (Judges Houses Assistant)
2012	<i>Smash</i>	Veronica Moore	3 episodes
2013	<i>Call Me Crazy: A Five Film</i>	Maggie	Television film, segment: "Maggie"
2015	<i>Empire</i>	Michelle White	3 episodes
2016	<i>Confirmation</i>	Angela Wright	Television film
	<i>Inside Amy Schumer</i>	Herself	Episode: "Brave"
	<i>Hairspray Live!</i>	Motormouth Maybelle	Television special
2017-present	<i>The Voice UK</i>	Herself/Coach	Seasons: 6-present
2017	<i>Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway</i>	Herself	Series 14 Show 1 "End of the Show Show" guest performer
	<i>The Voice (U.S.)</i>	Herself/Coach	Seasons: 13

Awards and nominations

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External links

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- Official website (<http://www.jenniferhudson.com>)
- Jennifer Hudson (<https://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/1341266>) at the *Encyclopædia Britannica*
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- Jennifer Hudson (<https://www.ibdb.com/broadway-cast-staff/390928>) at the Internet Broadway Database
- Jennifer Hudson (<https://www.allmusic.com/artist/p863211>) at AllMusic

