

# Love & Hip Hop



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Love & Hip Hop is a media franchise that consists of several reality television series broadcast on VH1. The shows document the lives and relationships of hip hop and R&B musicians, performers, managers and record producers residing in varying regions throughout the United States. The original franchise version, Love & Hip Hop: New York, premiered on March 6, 2011. Its success resulted in spin-offs located in Atlanta, Hollywood, and Miami. The subsequent installments have proven similarly successful, and have resulted in spin-offs of their own.

As of October 23, 2017, 252 original episodes of Love & Hip Hop: New York, Atlanta, and Hollywood have aired over seventeen seasons. The series is known for its large ensemble cast, with over 150 cast members.

### Franchise history

Love & Hip Hop had its origins as a 2006 pilot called Keeping Up With the Joneses, which centered around rapper Jim Jones and was produced by Stefan Springman and Toby Barraud.[1][2] When VH1 brought producer Mona Scott-Young on board, its focus shifted to include Jim's girlfriend Chrissy Lampkin and her circle of friends. [3] The series was first mentioned in VH1's programming development report in early 2010 as Diary of a Hip Hop Girlfriend. [4] On January 4, 2011, it was announced that Love & Hip Hop would debut on March 6, 2011, as an eight-episode series. The first season was later expanded to nine episodes in order to include the first season reunion, which aired on May 16, 2011. [5]

On May 25, 2011, the series was renewed for a second season, which premiered on November 14, 2011. The season garnered big ratings for the network, averaging 2.8 million total viewers per episode, making it VH1's highest rated series in over three and a half years. [7]

On May 15, 2012, VH1 announced Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta, the Atlanta-based spin-off of Love & Hip Hop, would make its series premiere on June 18, 2012. [8] After its premiere, the show's audience grew substantially over the season, garnering even higher ratings than its predecessor. Its finale garnered 5.5 million people overall. [9]

On September 7, 2012, VH1 announced that Chrissy Lampkin and Jim Jones would leave Love & Hip Hop, to star in their own spin-off show Chrissy & Mr. Jones.[10] The third season of Love

& Hip Hop, now titled Love & Hip Hop: New York in promotional material, premiered on January 7, 2013, with nearly a whole new cast.[11]

On April 1, 2013, VH1 announced that *Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta* would be returning for a second season on April 22, 2013. [12]

On October 10, 2013, VH1 announced Love & Hip Hop: New York would be returning for a fourth season on October 28, 2013. The season premiered back-to-back with the second season of *Chrissy & Mr. Jones*. [13]

On April 14, 2014, VH1 announced that Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta would be returning for a third season on May 5, 2014. [14]

On August 18, 2014, VH1 announced Love & Hip Hop: Hollywood, the Los Angeles-based spin-off of Love & Hip Hop, would make its series premiere on September 15, 2014. [15]



On October 15, 2014, VH1 announced the spin-off  $\underline{K}$ . *Michelle: My Life*, starring cast member  $\underline{K}$ . *Michelle*, would make its series premiere on November 3, 2014. [16]

On December 2, 2014, VH1 announced that Love & Hip Hop: New York would be returning for a fifth season on December 15, 2014. [17]

On April 9, 2015, VH1 announced that *Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta* would be returning for a fourth season on April 20, 2015, and would premiere alongside *Love & Hip Hop Atlanta: The Afterparty Live!*, a half-hour-long interactive after-show hosted by Big Tigger. [18]

On April 14, 2015, VH1 announced that *Love & Hip Hop: The Wedding*, a two-hour special featuring the marriage between cast members Yandy Smith and Mendeecees Harris, would air live on May 25, 2015. [19]

On August 10, 2015, VH1 announced that *Love & Hip Hop: Hollywood* would be returning for a second season on September 7, 2015. [20]

On October 12, 2015, VH1 announced that *Love & Hip Hop: Out in Hip Hop*, a round-table discussion moderated by <u>T. J. Holmes</u> of <u>ABC News</u>, would air on October 19, 2015. The special focused on the reality on being openly <u>LGBT</u> in the <u>hip hop</u> community, and coincided with the airing of the seventh episode "Truth", in which bisexual cast member Miles comes out to his ex-girlfriend Amber. [21]

On November 2, 2015, VH1 announced that *Love & Hip Hop: New York* would be returning for a sixth season on December 14, 2015. [22]

On December 2, 2015, VH1 announced the spin-off *Stevie J & Joseline: Go Hollywood*, starring Stevie J and Joseline Hernandez, would make its series premiere on January 25, 2016, back-to-back with the second season of *K. Michelle: My Life*. [23]

On March 8, 2016, VH1 announced that *Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta* would be returning for a fifth season on April 4, 2016. [24]

On August 3, 2016, VH1 announced that Love & Hip Hop: Hollywood would be returning for a third season on August 15, 2016. [25]

On August 8, 2016, VH1 and 345 Games announced the release of *Love & Hip Hop: The Game*, a mobile game for <u>iOS</u> and <u>Android</u>. It was released worldwide on September 22, 2016. [26]

On November 14, 2016, VH1 announced that *Love & Hip Hop* would be returning for a seventh season on November 21, 2016. [27]

On December 1, 2016, VH1 announced the spin-off *Leave It To Stevie*, starring <u>Stevie</u> J, would make its series premiere on December 19, 2016, back-to-back with the third season of *K. Michelle: My Life*. [28]

On February 21, 2017, VH1 announced *Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta* would be returning for a sixth season on March 6, 2017. On April 19, 2017, VH1 announced *Joseline's Special Delivery*, a special documenting the birth of <u>Joseline's Child</u>, which aired between the season's eighth and ninth episodes on May 1, 2017. Additionally, *Dirty Little Secrets 2*, a special featuring unseen footage and deleted scenes, aired on May 10, 2017.

On April 13, 2017, VH1 announced that season four of *Love & Hip Hop: Hollywood* would premiere on July 17, 2017. On June 19, 2017, the season premiere date was moved to July 24, 2017. On July 3, 2017, three weeks before the season four premiere, <u>VH1</u> aired *Dirty Little Secrets*, a special featuring unseen footage and deleted scenes from the show's first three seasons, along with interviews with the show's cast and producers. [34]

On August 25, 2017, VH1 announced <u>Love & Hip Hop: Miami</u>, the <u>Miami</u>-based spin-off of *Love & Hip Hop*, would make its series premiere in January 2018. [35]

On October 2, 2017, VH1 announced that *Love & Hip Hop: New York* would return for an eighth season on October 30, 2017. A behind-the-scenes special, *Dirty Little Secrets*, will air on October 17, 2017.

#### **Proposed spin-offs**

Since 2013, Mona Scott-Young has discussed expanding the franchise to other cities, such as New Orleans,  $\frac{[36]}{}$  Detroit  $\frac{[37]}{}$  and Houston.

On February 28, 2016, it was reported that potential spin-offs set in <u>Miami</u> and Houston were in pre-production and the producers were auditioning potential cast members. [38] However, Scott-Young denied reports of a spin-off being filmed in New Orleans, saying "I would love to do a show there but there is no *Love & Hip Hop: New Orleans* being cast or shot right now." [39][40] *Love & Hip Hop: Houston* 

was to feature Jhonni Blaze, Kirko Bangz, Kat St. John, Just Brittany, Nessacary, J. Prince Jr, Propain, the Sauce Twinz, the Charlo Brothers, DJ Eric, Lil' Keith and Mehgan James as cast members. However, the show was put on hold indefinitely midway through filming in June 2016 due to concerns for the crew's safety, after several shoots were shut down by cast violence, as well as locals interrupting filming. On July 7, 2017, Scott-Young said "Houston I love. We wanted to do Houston and we went into Houston to cast and we may go back to Houston."

### **Domestic installments**

Series	Abbrev.	Series premiere	Series finale	No. of seasons	Ref.
Love & Hip Hop: New York	LHHNY	March 6, 2011	_	8	[43]
Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta	LHHATL	June 18, 2012	_	6	[44]
Love & Hip Hop: Hollywood	LHHH	September 15, 2014	_	4	[45]
Love & Hip Hop: Miami	LHHMIA	January 2018	_	1	[46]

### **Spin-offs**

Series (Parent installment)	Cast member	Series premiere	Series finale	No. of seasons	Ref.
Chrissy & Mr. Jones (Love & Hip Hop: New York)	Chrissy Lampkin & <u>Jim</u> <u>Jones</u>	September 24, 2012	December 16, 2013	2	[47]
K. Michelle: My Life (Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta)	K. Michelle	November 3, 2014	February 6, 2017	3	[48]
Stevie J & Joseline: Go Hollywood (Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta)	Stevie J & Joseline Hernandez	January 25, 2016	March 21, 2016	1	[49]
Leave It To Stevie (Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta)	Stevie J	December 19, 2016	_	1	[50]

## **Specials**

Series (Parent installment)	Cast member	Premiere	Ref.
Love & Hip Hop Live: The Wedding (Love & Hip Hop: New York)	Yandy Smith & Mendeecees Harris	May 25, 2015	[51]
Love & Hip Hop: Out in Hip Hop (Love & Hip Hop: Hollywood)	Milan Christopher & Miles Brock	October 19, 2015	[52]
Love & Hip Hop: Joseline's Special Delivery (Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta)	Joseline Hernandez	May 1, 2017	[31]

#### Cast crossovers

		Series								
		Love & Hip Hop					Spin-Offs			
Cast member	First appearance	New York	Atlanta	Hollywood	Miami	Chrissy & Mr. Jones	K. Michelle: My Life	Stevie J & Joseline: Go Hollywood	Leave It To Stevie	
Chrissy Lampkin	Love & Hip Hop: New	Main	Guest <sup>[note 1]</sup>			Main				
Emily	<u>York</u>	Main				Supporting				

		Series								
	First appearance		Love & F	Нір Нор						
Cast member		New York	Atlanta	Hollywood	<u>Miami</u>	Chrissy & Mr. Jones	K. Michelle: My Life	Stevie J & Joseline: Go Hollywood	Leave It To Stevie	
Bustamante										
Somaya Reece		<u>Main</u>		Guest[note 2]		Guest <sup>[note 2]</sup>				
Jim Jones		Supporting	Guest <sup>[note 1]</sup>			<u>Main</u>				
Nancy "Mama" Jones		Supporting	Guest <sup>[note 1]</sup>			Supporting				
Rich Dollaz		Supporting		Supporting						
Teairra Marí		Supporting		Main						
Cisco Rosado		Supporting		Supporting						
Mariahlynn		Main	Guest <sup>[note 3]</sup>							
DJ Self		Supporting				Guest <sup>[note 2]</sup>				
Felicia "Snoop" Pearson		<u>Main</u>		Guest <sup>[note 4]</sup>						
Jade Wifey		Supporting		Supporting						
Joseline Hernandez		Guest <sup>[note 5]</sup>	<u>Main</u>				Guest	<u>Main</u>		
Rasheeda		Guest <sup>[note 5]</sup>	<u>Main</u>							
K. Michelle			ain				Main	Guest		
Karlie Redd		Guest <sup>[note 5]</sup>	Main				Guest			
Mimi Faust			Main					Suppo	orting	
Stevie J		Guest [note 5]	Main					Ma	<u>uin</u>	
Lil Scrappy		Guest <sup>[note 5]</sup>	Supporting						Supporting	
Ariane Davis		Guest <sup>[note 5]</sup>	Supporting							
Momma Dee	Love & Hip	Guest <sup>[note 5]</sup>	Supporting							
Kirk Frost	Hop: Atlanta	Guest <sup>[note 5]</sup>	Supporting							
Shay Johnson			Supporting		Main					
Adiz "Bambi" Benson		Guest <sup>[note 5]</sup>	Supporting							
Yung Joc		Guest <sup>[note 5]</sup>	Supporting						Supporting	
Jessica Dime			Supporting				Guest			
Tommie Lee			<u>Main</u>						Supporting	
D. Smith			Supporting	Guest <sup>[note 4]</sup>						
Gunplay			Supporting		Main					
Moniece Slaughter	Love & Hip Hop: Hollywood	Supporting		<u>Main</u>						
Ray J	FIOIIYWOOU	Guest <sup>[note 5]</sup>		Main					Supporting	

		Series									
Cast	First appearance		Love & F	Нір Нор			Spir	n-Offs			
member		New York	Atlanta	Hollywood	Miami	Chrissy & Mr. Jones	K. Michelle: My Life	Stevie J & Joseline: Go Hollywood	Leave It To Stevie		
Lil Fizz			Guest	Main			·				
Nikki Mudarris		Guest <sup>[note 5]</sup>	Guest	Main							
Princess Love		Guest <sup>[note 5]</sup>		<u>Main</u>							
Safaree Samuels		Supporting		<u>Main</u>			Guest				
Keyshia Cole		Guest		<u>Main</u>							
Alexis Skyy			Guest	Supporting							
<u>Trina</u>	Love & Hip Hop: Miami				Main		Guest				
Freddie Robinson Jr.	Chrissy & Mr.	Guest				Supporting					
Talia Coles	Jones	Guest				Supporting					
Deb Antney			Supporting			Supporting					
Paris Phillips		Guest					Supporting				
Jonathan Fernandez	K. Michelle: My Life	Supporting	Guest				Supporting				
Tracie Renee		Guest					Supporting				
Stevie Jordan Jr.			Guest					Suppo	orting		
Sade Jordan	Stevie J & Joseline: Go Hollywood		Guest					Suppo	orting		
Savannah Jordan			Supporting					Suppo	orting		
Faith Evans	Leave It To		Guest					Guest	Supporting		
Eva Jordan	Stevie		Guest					Guest	Supporting		

#### Note:

- 1. Appears in archival footage in the *Dirty Little Secrets* special only.
- 2. Appears in an uncredited cameo only.
- 3. Appears in the Joseline's Special Delivery special only.
- 4. Appears in the Love & Hip Hop: Out in Hip Hop special only.
- 5. Appears in the Love & Hip Hop Live: The Wedding special only.

### **Cultural impact**

During a speech at a campaign rally in <u>North Carolina</u> on November 4, 2016, President <u>Barack Obama</u> referenced the show, comparing the 2016 presidential race to reality television, saying "I mean, its like some *Love & Hip Hop* stuff." [53]

On a 2013 episode of the <u>BET</u> television series <u>The Game</u>, <u>Wendy Raquel Robinson</u>'s character Tasha makes reference to the franchise, saying "Back in the day we weren't carrying ourselves like them damn crazies you see on *Love & Hip Hop*, we conducted ourselves as upstanding women who were looked up to in the community".

In the 2016 film *Barbershop: The Next Cut*, when Eve and Common's characters get into an argument over their relationship, Cedric the Entertainer's character makes a reference to the franchise, saying "This ain't no *Love & Hip Hop* reunion."

<u>Lee Daniels</u> is a fan of <u>Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta</u> [54] and his 2016 <u>Fox</u> television series <u>Star</u> (set in <u>Atlanta</u>) makes several references to the show. <u>Joseline Hernandez</u> appears in a recurring role as Michelle, a stripper. In the second episode, <u>Lenny Kravitz</u>'s character is seen watching a scene of the show featuring <u>Mimi Faust</u> and <u>Stevie J</u>. In a later scene in the same episode, <u>Jessica Dime makes a cameo appearance</u> as a stripper. The references to the franchise continue into the second season, with the premiere featuring Star (<u>Jude Demorest</u>) singing a line from <u>Love & Hip Hop: New York</u> cast member Mariahlynn's single "Once Upon A Time (I Was a Hoe)". Additionally, *Star* cast member Jasmine Burke guest starred in *Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta*'s sixth season as herself.

In the 2017 pilot of the <u>Netflix</u> television adaptation <u>Dear White People</u>, a character attempts to break up an argument between two female characters by saying "Yo, fam, can we cut the *Love & Hip Hop* auditions and get to it?"

In an overview of the television cultural divide, <u>The New York Times</u> reported that *Love & Hip Hop* was most popular show in the <u>Black</u> Belt. [55]

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#### **External links**

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- Love & Hip Hop: Out in Hip Hop (http://www.vh1.com/shows/out-in-hip-hop/)

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