

= Solange Knowles =

Solange Piaget Knowles (born June 24 , 1986) is an American singer , songwriter , model , and actress . Knowles was born in Houston , Texas to Mathew and Tina Knowles , both of whom left their careers to support her older sister Beyoncé 's recording interests . Expressing an interest in music from an early age , Knowles had several temporary stints in Destiny 's Child , before signing with her father 's Music World Entertainment label . Aged sixteen , Knowles released her first studio album Solo Star (2002) to moderate commercial and critical success . In 2004 , Knowles married Daniel Smith , eventually giving birth to their son Daniel Julez J. Smith Jr . , which prompted a move to Idaho . Between 2005 and 2007 , Knowles had several minor acting roles , including the direct @-@ to @-@ video Bring It On : All or Nothing (2006) and continued writing music for Beyoncé and ex @-@ Destiny 's Child band members Kelly Rowland and Michelle Williams . In 2007 , Knowles divorced Smith and moved to Los Angeles , California , beginning to write and record music again . Her second studio album Sol @-@ Angel and the Hadley St. Dreams (2008) deviated from the pop @-@ oriented music of her debut to the Motown Sound of the 1960s and 1970s . It peaked at number 9 on US Billboard 200 and received positive reviews from critics . She followed this up with the 1980s pop / R & B ? inspired extended play True (2012) and intends to release her third studio album in the future on her own label Saint Records .

Knowles is heavily influenced by Motown girl groups and says that her first passion is songwriting . She has been recognised as a fashion icon and has received frequent comparisons to sister Beyoncé from the media , although insists they have different aspirations and are musically different . Her other ventures include an endorsement deal with Rimmel London and a line of hip @-@ hop @-@ oriented merchandise for young children , which was inspired by her son . On November 16 , 2014 , Knowles married music video director Alan Ferguson in New Orleans , Louisiana .

= = Early life = =

Knowles was born in Houston , Texas , to Mathew Knowles and Tina Knowles . Solange 's older sister is singer Beyoncé . Her father , originally from Alabama , is African American , and her mother , originally from south Louisiana , is Creole (with African , Native American , French , and 1 / 32nd Irish ancestry) . Her maternal grandparents are Lumis Beyincé and Agn  z Der  on , (a seamstress) . She is also a descendant of Acadian leader Joseph Broussard . As a child , Knowles studied dance and theater . At the age of five , she made her singing debut at an amusement park . She began writing songs at the age of nine . At 13 , she decided to pursue recording , but her parents initially advised her to wait . At the age of 15 Knowles replaced a departed dancer and performed with her sister 's group Destiny 's Child on tour . During the group 's opening stint for American pop singer Christina Aguilera 's tour , Knowles temporarily replaced Destiny 's Child member Kelly Rowland after Kelly broke her toes backstage during a costume change . When Knowles was 16 , her father , who was then also her manager , signed her to his recording company , Music World Entertainment along with Columbia .

= = Career = =

= = = 2001 ? 03 : Early career and Solo Star = = =

Managed by her father Mathew , Knowles ' first time into the music business was in 2001 as the lead singer , backed with Destiny 's Child , on the title theme song for the animated television series The Proud Family . She also was a featured performer on " Hey Goldmember " for the soundtrack to the 2002 film Austin Powers in Goldmember , as well as a backup singer on the track " Little Drummer Boy " on her sister 's group 's 2001 holiday album 8 Days of Christmas . In 2002 , she was featured on Lil Romeo 's second studio album Game Time , singing portions of Luther Vandross @-@ penned " So Amazing " on the single " True Love " , and on Rowland 's debut solo album

Simply Deep , for which she also wrote the title track and " Alone " . In 2001 she also appeared as Lil ' Bow Wow 's date in the music video for his single " Puppy Love " . She also made an appearance on The Master of Disguise soundtrack and made cameos in Play 's video for " M.A.S.T.E.R. (Part II) " featuring Lil ' Fizz .

In 2002 , she lent her voice for the character Chanel , the cousin of the protagonist Penny Proud , in the episode " Behind Family Lines " to the animated television series The Proud Family . In June 2003 , Mathew Knowles excitedly announced that he was considering adding Solange to Destiny 's Child when the group reunited in 2004 , thus turning them into a quartet for the first time since short @-@ lived member Farrah Franklin left in 2000 . Mathew Knowles said he was testing the reactions , and , judging by what he had heard , " it seems like a good idea " . Later in August , however , Beyoncé said it was only a rumor and Destiny 's Child would remain a trio . Rowland added , " She 's a solo star , " name @-@ dropping Knowles ' debut album .

At the age of 14 , Solange Knowles started working on her debut album Solo Star , which involved American producers such as Jermaine Dupri , The Neptunes , Linda Perry and Timbaland among others . The album is primarily uptempo R & B , although Knowles said there are pop , rock , reggae and hip hop influences . Knowles co @-@ wrote and co @-@ produced some of the 15 tracks in the album , including its lead single , " Feelin ' You (Part II) " . The song failed to enter the Billboard Hot 100 , but reached number three on both the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Singles Sales and Hot Dance Singles Sales chart . Solo Star was released on January 21 , 2003 in the United States , where it debuted at number 49 on the Billboard 200 and reached number 23 on the Top R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Albums chart . Solo Star had a mixed critical reception : William Ruhlmann of AllMusic called it a " state @-@ of @-@ the @-@ art contemporary R & B album " , but deemed Knowles " lost somewhere in the mix " . By mid @-@ 2008 , the album had sold 112 @, @ 000 copies domestically according to Nielsen SoundScan .

== 2004 ? 08 : Films and Sol @-@ Angel and the Hadley St. Dreams ==

In 2004 , she guest starred in the episode " The Catch " of the sitcom One on One . Knowles appeared as a nubile teenager in the 2004 comedy film Johnson Family Vacation , starring alongside American actors Cedric the Entertainer , Vanessa Williams and Bow Wow . She provided a song for its soundtrack ? " Freedom " , a collaboration with the Houston @-@ based funk @-@ jazz band Drop Trio . Although the reviews were generally negative , Knowles earned praise from Variety magazine : " Solange Knowles is nearly as dazzling as big sister Beyoncé and does little more than smile winningly in her first bigscreen outing . " In 2006 , she starred as a cheerleading captain in the film Bring It On : All or Nothing , the third installment of the Bring It On series , alongside American actress and singer Hayden Panettiere . What little critical reaction the low @-@ budget , direct @-@ to @-@ DVD movie got was negative , and Knowles was described as an " affordable young starlet " . Knowles uses her full name for her acting , rather than just the first name she uses when singing ; for Bring It On : All or Nothing , she was billed as Solange Knowles @-@ Smith , reflecting her married state at the time .

After the release of her debut album , Knowles started acting in films followed by a career break . While she was married , her family moved to Idaho , and , while staying there , resumed writing songs including the singles " Get Me Bodied " and " Upgrade U " from her sister 's second solo album , B 'Day . Knowles earned the R & B and Hip @-@ Hop Song accolade for " Get Me Bodied " at the 2008 ASCAP Awards . She had also written songs for Destiny 's Child , and members Rowland and Michelle Williams . In 2004 , while pregnant with son Daniel , she made a cameo appearance in Destiny 's Child 's music video for " Soldier " .

After the divorce , Knowles returned to Houston to begin working on her second album . Knowles renewed her management , signing a record deal with Geffen and a publishing deal with EMI . Knowles finished working on her second studio album in 2008 and titled the project Sol @-@ Angel and the Hadley St. Dreams . It includes production by CeeLo Green , Soulshock & Karlin and Mark Ronson as well as an appearance by Bilal . A collection of 1960s- and 1970s @-@ influenced songs , it is seen as a departure from her pop @-@ oriented debut , with what Billboard magazine called "

more of a modern twist on hip @-@ hop and R & B flecked with tinges of blues and jazz " . The album was released on August 26 , 2008 in the United States . By December 2008 , the album had sold over 114 @,@ 000 copies according to Nielsen SoundScan . The album was positively received by critics , some of whom considered it far better than her debut . The album 's lead single , " I Decided " , was released in April 2008 , and reached the top of the Billboard Hot Dance Club Play chart ; Rolling Stone magazine labelled it her breakthrough single . In support of the album , Knowles began the Solange Presents Sol @-@ Angel and the Hadley St. Dreams Tour in Britain in November 2008 .

Knowles announced , via her blog HadleyStreetJournal.com , that she would be releasing a series of mixtapes to coincide with the album . The first mixtape , I Can 't Get Clearance ... , includes the leaked track " Fuck the Industry (Signed Sincerely) " . On this record , Knowles expressed her views on the current state of the music industry . The lyrics to the song name check some major artists such as Mary J. Blige , Ashanti , Keyshia Cole , and Beyoncé , although she made a point of stating that it does not have " a negative light to any of [them] " . The mixtape was never released , but Solange released " Fuck the Industry (Signed Sincerely) " as a single in 2010 .

= = = 2009 ? 14 : True EP and Saint Records = = =

In an interview with MTV in 2009 , Knowles revealed that she was determining the type of sound for the follow @-@ up to Sol @-@ Angel and the Hadley St. Dreams . Knowles also parted ways with the Interscope @-@ Geffen @-@ A & M record label group . She would now release her third studio album independently . Early in 2010 , Knowles traveled to Australia to work with Australian rock band , Midnight Juggernauts on her third studio album . Knowles had planned to release the album in summer as revealed on her official Twitter account in 2009 . She also revealed on her Twitter account that she rented a house in Santa Barbara , California to get into a certain state of mind while writing and making music . On May 7 , 2010 , Knowles made a guest appearance on the popular children show , Yo Gabba Gabba ! for a " Mothers Day Special " where she performed an original song called " Momma Loves Baby " .

In an interview with Vibe on July 7 , 2010 , Knowles said she suffered " a little bit of a breakdown " while recording her new album : " I literally gave up my sanity for a while to do this record . [...] We literally were waking up in the morning and just making music all day and all night . [...] It just started to wear on me in so many different ways . I started having these crazy panic attacks . " Knowles explained how she made sacrifices " mentally , emotionally and financially " , and continued , " It 's more than an album to me . It 's a transitional time in my life . " Regarding the musical direction of the album , she said the inspiration came from new wave and stated , " This is a dance record , but the lyrics can get pretty dark at times . " The singer has also worked on songs with Chromeo and long @-@ time collaborator Pharrell Williams .

In September 2012 , Solange released a teaser video for " Losing You " , which was announced as the lead single from her third studio album . This release marked Solange 's first release as a signee of the independent label Terrible Records . The video was shot in Cape Town , South Africa in early September 2012 . Knowles revealed in an interview that her mother Tina Knowles had paid for Solange and her friends to fly out and record the video as her birthday gift . On October 24 , 2012 , Knowles held a listening party in New York City for her EP True , released for digital download on iTunes November 27 , 2012 . The CD and vinyl was made available January 8 , 2013 . Following the EP 's release , Solange appeared on the cover of The FADER magazine 's 84th issue .

On May 14 , 2013 , Knowles announced that she had launched her own record label named Saint Records , which she will be using to release her third full @-@ length album and future music projects distributed through Sony . Solange also collaborated with The Lonely Island on the song " Semicolon " which was featured as part of YouTube 's Comedy Week and is featured on The Lonely Island 's album , The Wack Album . On November 11 , 2013 , Knowles ' record label released its first compilation album , Saint Heron .

= = = 2015 : Upcoming third studio album = = =

On May 15 , 2015 Knowles performed a new song at an HBO @-@ sponsored event . The song , entitled " Rise " , is inspired by police killings in Ferguson and Baltimore and the subsequent protests . The song is expected to feature on her upcoming album and is a funk song that utilizes synth . The following day Knowles revealed she has written twenty @-@ four songs for her third studio album ; the songs were written to piano , with Knowles structuring them on her own before finding the producers to finish them . In July 2015 , Knowles announced that her third studio album was nearly complete , and that she was laying low on the performance side until her new music was complete , however she made an exception performing at the FYF festival . On her thirtieth birthday , she stated that she completed her third studio album (fourth overall) three days before her birthday , on 21 June 2016 .

= = Artistry = =

= = = Music and influences = = =

Knowles cites as her influences Motown girl groups such as The Supremes and The Marvelettes , and Martha Reeves , lead singer of Martha and the Vandellas . She also listened to the music of English pop singer Dusty Springfield , and according to Knowles , her " greatest music influence " is her mother , Tina Knowles , who was a one @-@ time member of the 1960s harmony group The Veltones . Knowles says her first passion is writing songs . Her early writings were vastly inspired by the writing style of French poet Paul Verlaine . She has been doing this since she was nine years old , and has collaborated with a number of songwriters and producers .

On her debut album , Knowles had no control over which kinds of music to produce , because " when you 're 14 , everyone else is older and more seasoned and you trust their decisions " . Knowles was more concerned with pleasing her record label by submitting to their desires . Her musical influences were better expressed on Sol @-@ Angel and the Hadley St. Dreams , when she considered herself mature and was able to write and produce songs as she wished , without worrying about the expectations of others . Knowles ' lyrics tackle relationships , world issues , and deceased friends , with her second album focusing on events in her life , such as marriage , divorce , and parenthood . The album touched upon a variety of genres including pop @-@ soul , psychedelic soul , electronica , and R & B. Knowles ' debut extended play True is a new wave album with Knowles stating , " This is a dance record , but the lyrics can get pretty dark at times . " Knowles described the EP as " eclectic with ' 80s references and African percussion influences . " Sonically the extended play is influenced by the keyboard sounds and beats of early 1980s pop and R & B music . The extended play was recorded in five cities including Santa Barbara , Los Angeles , Houston , New York , and on the German autobahn .

Aside from recording , Knowles occasionally paints as her hobby : " I think that painting , for me , is such an affirmative expression in that sometimes you don 't know what the outcome is gonna be and each stroke and each brush for me is an emotion and , in the end , it comes out as a piece which is the most amazing thing It definitely provides a different outlet . "

= = = Public image = = =

Knowles has always been compared by the media to her sister , Beyoncé , whom she considers one of her role models . She has expressed her opinion of the comparison in the lyrics to " God Given Name " : " I 'm not her and never will be " ? which was purposely set as the album 's opening track to show their differences . In his review for the album , Jody Rosen of Rolling Stone magazine referred to the lyrics as a declaration of independence . In an interview with the Daily Mail , Knowles commented : " People think there should be this great rivalry between us , but there 's never been any competition . There 's a big age gap and we are two very different characters . " In another interview , Knowles said that she would not live by her sister 's level of stardom , stressing that she

and Beyoncé are artistically different , even stating that blogger Teddy Birmingham was " disrespectful " for saying she was living in her sister 's shadow on his website " Teddysays " in June 2009 . Beyoncé was unwilling to bring her sister into the recording industry , reasoning that it " involves a lot of pressure " . Knowles countered by saying , " It 's good to have her advice , but we really have different goals " .

In recent years , Solange has also garnered considerable attention as a fashion icon . Her knack for bold colors , mixed prints and retro styles as well as her knack for glamorous , fashion forward looks in her music videography and public appearances has become integral to her current image . She has been photographed wearing Alexander Wang , Alexander McQueen and Chanel . The music video for her 2012 single " Losing You " featured a heavy demonstration of the contemporary sartorial movement throughout Africa , La Sape . Similarly , her decision to grow her natural hair initially generated strong reactions from the public . Since trimming off her straightened hair , her nostalgic and modern afro hairstyles have captured the attention of the media and the public alike .

= = Other ventures = =

Knowles has been promoting Baby Jamz , a hip hop @-@ styled toy line for pre @-@ schoolers . It was inspired by her son , Julez , who is fond of hip hop music . She is the executive producer of the CD , composed of updated hip hop inspired nursery rhymes , which is featured in all of the toys .

Also , Knowles has been known for her work in the award @-@ winning children 's television show , Yo Gabba Gabba ! . She performed " Momma Loves Baby " during the live performance when it toured the Dallas ? Fort Worth area . She also performed " Mama Loves Baby " during a 2010 episode called " Baby " .

In 2011 , Knowles along with Alejandra Ramos Munoz and Zooey Deschanel , was announced as the new face of Rimmel London . In February 2012 , Solange became VOGUE.COM 's Today I 'm Wearing guest blogger sharing a photograph of her outfits daily for one month .

= = = House of Deréon = = =

Knowles and sister Beyoncé model for their family 's clothing line , House of Deréon , named after their grandmother , Agn  z Der  on . She also helped launch Der  on , a junior apparel collection and a sister line to House of Der  on . Both sisters model for Der  on , and are featured in most of Der  on 's marketing campaigns . Together they were featured in a " Got Milk ? " campaign ad , while still wearing House of Der  on . In 2008 , Knowles was named as ambassador for Giorgio Armani 's younger diffusion line , Armani Jeans . Armani said Knowles epitomizes the style , which is a " vision of a young , independent , casual lifestyle with a strong and cool , fashion sensibility " .

= = Personal life = =

Knowles married Daniel Smith in February 2004 when she was 17 and he was 19 . On October 18 , 2004 , Knowles gave birth to their son , Daniel Julez Judo Smith , Jr . Knowles has partly expressed regret that she bore a child at an early age , but calls her son the greatest unplanned blessing . A song she wrote for her baby , " 6 O 'Clock Blues " , was included on Sol @-@ Angel and the Hadley St. Dreams . After Daniel Julez 's birth , the family moved to Moscow , Idaho , where Knowles ' husband continued studying in college . In October 2007 , Solange confirmed in an interview with Essence magazine that she and Smith had divorced . They co @-@ parent the child . After the divorce , Knowles and her child moved to Los Angeles , California , where they established their new home . In August 2013 , Knowles announced that she and her son were moving to New Orleans , Louisiana .

On May 12 , 2014 , TMZ released security video footage of Solange physically assaulting brother @-@ in @-@ law Jay @-@ Z and being restrained by a security guard in an elevator at The Standard , High Line in Manhattan , following the 2014 Met Gala . Jay @-@ Z remained passive and did not retaliate while Solange 's sister Beyonc   , who was also present , did not react to either party

throughout the altercation . The footage and story went viral , however the reason for the altercation remains unknown .

On November 16 , 2014 , Knowles married music video director Alan Ferguson in New Orleans , Louisiana .

= = Discography = =

Solo Star (2003)

Sol @-@ Angel and the Hadley St. Dreams (2008)

True (2012)

TBA (2016)

= = Tours = =

Headlining

Solo Star Tour (2003)

The Art of Love Tour (2008)

Solange Presents Sol @-@ Angel and the Hadley St. Dreams Tour (2008)

True Promo Tour (2012)

Supporting

Simply Deeper Tour (2003)

= = Filmography = =

= = = Film = = =

= = = Television = = =

= = Awards and nominations = =