

= Lauryn Hill =

Lauryn Hill ( born May 26 , 1975 ) is an American singer , songwriter , rapper , record producer , and actress . She is best known for being a member of the Fugees and for her critically acclaimed solo album *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill* , which won numerous awards , broke several sales records and was listed by Rolling Stone as one of the greatest albums of all time .

Raised mostly in South Orange , New Jersey , Hill began singing with her music @-@ oriented family during her childhood . She enjoyed success as an actress at an early age , with her older brother Graham Hill , appearing in a recurring role on the television soap opera *As the World Turns* and starring in the 1993 film *Sister Act 2 : Back in the Habit* . In high school , Hill was approached by Pras Michel to start a band , which his cousin , Wyclef Jean , soon joined . They renamed themselves the Fugees and released the albums *Blunted on Reality* ( 1994 ) and the Grammy Award @-@ winning *The Score* ( 1996 ) . In the latter record , which sold six million copies in the United States , Hill rose to prominence with her African @-@ American and Caribbean music influences , her rapping and singing , and her rendition of the hit " Killing Me Softly " . Hill 's tumultuous romantic relationship with Jean led to the split of the band in 1997 , after which she began to focus on solo projects .

*The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill* ( 1998 ) remains Hill 's only solo studio album . It received massive critical acclaim , showcasing a representation of life and relationships and locating a contemporary womanist voice within the neo soul genre . The album debuted at number one on the U.S. Billboard 200 and has sold approximately eight million copies there . It included the singles " Doo Wop ( That Thing ) " ( also a number one ) , " Ex @-@ Factor " , and " Everything Is Everything " . At the 41st Grammy Awards , the record earned her five awards , including Album of the Year and Best New Artist . During this time she won numerous other awards and became a common sight on the cover of magazines .

Soon afterward , Hill dropped out of the public eye , dissatisfied with the music industry and suffering with the pressures of fame . Her last full @-@ length recording , the new @-@ material live album *MTV Unplugged No. 2 @. @ 0* ( 2002 ) , sharply divided critics and sold poorly compared to her first album and work with the Fugees . Hill 's subsequent activity , which includes the release of a few songs and occasional festival appearances , has been sporadic and erratic . Her behavior has sometimes caused audience dissatisfaction ; a reunion with her former group did not last long . Her music , as well as a series of public statements she has issued , have become critical of pop culture and societal institutions . Hill has six children , five of whom are with Rohan Marley , son of reggae legend Bob Marley . In 2012 , she pleaded guilty to tax evasion for failure to pay federal income taxes , and in 2013 , served a three @-@ month prison sentence .

= = Life and career = =

= = = 1975 ? 93 : Early life and career beginnings = = =

Lauryn Hill was born on May 26 , 1975 , in East Orange , New Jersey to English teacher Valerie Hill and computer and management consultant Mal Hill . She has one older brother named Malaney ( born 1972 ) . Her Baptist family moved to New York and Newark for short periods until settling in South Orange , New Jersey . She had a middle @-@ class upbringing , knowing both many white Jewish families and many black ones . Future actor Zach Braff lived in the neighborhood , and she attended his Bar Mitzvah .

Hill has said of her musically oriented family : " there were so many records , so much music constantly being played . My mother played piano , my father sang , and we were always surrounded in music . " Her father sang in local nightclubs and at weddings . While growing up , Hill frequently listened to Curtis Mayfield , Stevie Wonder , Aretha Franklin , and Gladys Knight ; years later she recalled playing Marvin Gaye 's *What 's Going On* repeatedly until she fell asleep to it .

In middle school , Hill performed " The Star @-@ Spangled Banner " before a basketball game .

Due to its popularity , subsequent games featured a recording of her rendition . In 1988 , Hill appeared as an Amateur Night contestant on It 's Showtime at the Apollo . She sang her own version of the Smokey Robinson track " Who 's Lovin ' You ? " , garnering an initially harsh reaction from the crowd . She persevered , though she later cried off @-@ stage .

Hill attended Columbia High School , where she was a member of the track team , a cheerleader and was a classmate of Zach Braff . She also took violin lessons , went to dance class , and founded the school 's gospel choir . Academically , she took advanced placement classes and received primarily ' A ' grades . School officials recognized her as a leader among the student body . Later recalling her education , Hill commented , " I had a love for ? I don 't know if it was necessarily for academics , more than it just was for achieving , period . If it was academics , if it was sports , if it was music , if it was dance , whatever it was , I was always driven to do a lot in whatever field or whatever area I was focusing on at the moment . "

While a freshman in high school , through mutual friends , Prakazrel " Pras " Michel approached Hill about a music group he was creating . Hill and Pras began under the name Tranzlator Crew , chosen because they wanted to rhyme in different languages . Another female vocalist was soon replaced by Michel 's cousin , multi @-@ instrumentalist Wyclef Jean . The group began performing in local showcases and high school talent shows . Hill was initially only a singer , but then learned to rap too ; instead of modeling herself on female rappers like Salt @-@ n @-@ Pepa and MC Lyte , she preferred male rappers like Ice Cube and developed her flow from listening to them . Hill later said , " I remember doing my homework in the bathroom stalls of hip @-@ hop clubs . "

Hill took acting lessons in Manhattan while growing up . She began her acting career in 1991 , appearing with Jean in Club XII , MC Lyte 's Off @-@ Broadway hip @-@ hop rendering of Shakespeare 's Twelfth Night . While the play was not a success , an agent noticed her . Later that year , Hill began appearing on the soap opera As the World Turns in a recurring role as troubled teenager Kira Johnson . She subsequently co @-@ starred alongside Whoopi Goldberg in the 1993 release Sister Act 2 : Back in the Habit , playing Rita Louise Watson , an inner @-@ city Catholic school teenager with a surly , rebellious attitude . In it , she performed the songs " His Eye Is on the Sparrow " ( a duet with Tanya Blount ) and " Joyful , Joyful " . Director Bill Duke credited Hill with improvising a rap in a scene : " None of that was scripted . That was all Lauryn . She was amazing . " Critic Roger Ebert called her " the girl with the big joyful voice " , although he thought her talent was wasted , while Rolling Stone said she " performed marvelously against type ... in the otherwise perfunctory [ film ] . " Hill also appeared in Steven Soderbergh 's 1993 motion picture King of the Hill , in a minor but pivotal role as a 1930s gum @-@ popping elevator operator . Soderbergh biographer Jason Wood described her as supplying one of the warmest scenes in the film . Hill graduated from Columbia High School in 1993 .

= = = 1994 ? 96 : The Fugees = = =

Pras , Hill and Jean renamed their group the Fugees , a derivative of the word " refugee " , which was a derogatory term for Haitian Americans . Hill began a romantic relationship with Jean . The Fugees , who signed a contract with Columbia / Ruffhouse Records in 1993 , became known for their genre blending , particularly of reggae , rock and soul , which was first experimented on their debut album , Blunted on Reality , released in 1994 . It reached number 62 on the Billboard Top R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Albums chart but overall sold poorly and was met by poor critical notices due to being a ( management @-@ forced ) attempt at gangsta rap attitudes . Although the album made little impact , Hill 's rapping on " Some Seek Stardom " was seen as a highlight . Within the group , she was frequently referred to by the nickname " L. Boogie " . Hill 's image and artistry , as well as her full , rich , raspy alto voice , placed her at the forefront of the band , with some fans urging her to begin a solo career .

The Fugees ' second album , The Score ( 1996 ) , peaked at number one on the U.S. Billboard 200 and stayed in the top ten of that chart for over half a year . It sold about six million copies in the United States and more than 17 million copies worldwide . In the 1996 Pazz & Jop Critics Poll , The Score came second in the list of best albums and three of its tracks placed within the top twenty

best singles . It won the Grammy Award for Best Rap Album , and was later included on Rolling Stone 's list of the 500 greatest albums of all time . Almost all of the writing and producing for it was done by Jean . The Score garnered praise for being a strong alternative to the gangsta idiom , and Hill stated , " We 're trying to do something positive with the music because it seems like only the negative is rising to the top these days . It only takes a drop of purity to clean a cesspool . "

Singles from The Score included " Fu @-@ Gee @-@ La " and " Ready or Not " , which highlighted Hill 's singing and rapping abilities , and " No Woman , No Cry " . Her rendition of " Killing Me Softly " became her breakout hit . Buttressed by what Rolling Stone publications later called Hill 's " evocative " vocal line and her " amazing pipes " , the track became pervasive on pop , R & B , hip hop , and adult contemporary radio formats . It won the Grammy Award for Best R & B Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals . On the album , Hill combined African @-@ American music and Caribbean music influences with socially conscious lyrics . Newsweek mentioned Hill 's " irresistibly cute looks " and proclaimed her " the most powerful new voice in rap . "

At 21 years old , the now @-@ famous Hill was still living at home with her parents . She had been enrolled at Columbia University during this period , and considered majoring in history as she became a sophomore , but left after about a year of total studies once sales of The Score went into the millions . In 1996 , Hill responded to a false rumor on The Howard Stern Show that she had made a racist comment on MTV , saying " How can I possibly be a racist ? My music is universal music . And I believe in God . If I believe in God , then I have to love all of God 's creations . There can be no segregation . "

In 1996 , Hill founded the Refugee Project , a non @-@ profit outreach organization that sought to transform the attitudes and behavior of at @-@ risk urban youth . Part of this was Camp Hill , which offered stays in the Catskill Mountains for such youngsters ; another was production of an annual Halloween haunted house in East Orange . Hill also raised money for Haitian refugees , supported clean water well @-@ building projects in Kenya and Uganda , and staged a rap concert in Harlem to promote voter registration . A 1997 benefit event for the Refugee Project introduced a Board of Trustees for the organization that included Sean Combs , Mariah Carey , Busta Rhymes , Spike Lee , and others as members .

In 1997 , the Fugees split to work on solo projects , which Jean later blamed on his tumultuous relationship with Hill and the fact he married his wife Claudinette while still involved with Hill . Meanwhile , in the summer of 1996 Hill had met Rohan Marley , a son of the late reggae legend Bob Marley and a former University of Miami football player . Hill subsequently began a relationship with him , while still also involved with Jean . Hill became pregnant , and in August 1997 , Marley and Hill 's first child , Zion David , was born . The couple lived in Hill 's childhood house in South Orange after she bought her parents a new house down the street .

Hill had a cameo appearance in the 1997 film Hav Plenty . In 1998 , Hill took up another small but important role in the film Restaurant ; Entertainment Weekly praised her portrayal of the protagonist 's pregnant former girlfriend as bringing vigor to the film .

= = = 1997 ? 99 : The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill = = =

Hill recorded her solo record The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill from late 1997 through June 1998 at Tuff Gong Studios in Jamaica . The title was inspired by The Mis @-@ Education of the Negro book by Carter G. Woodson and The Education of Sonny Carson , a film and autobiographical novel . The album featured contributions from D 'Angelo , Carlos Santana , Mary J. Blige and the then @-@ unknown John Legend . Wyclef Jean initially did not support Hill recording a solo album , but eventually offered his production help ; Hill turned him down . Several songs on the album concerned her frustration with The Fugees ; " I Used to Love Him " dealt with the breakdown of the relationship between Hill and Wyclef Jean . Other songs such as " To Zion " spoke about her decision to have her first baby , even though many at the time encouraged her to have an abortion so to not interfere with her blossoming career . Indeed , Hill 's pregnancy revived her from a period of writer 's block .

In terms of production , Hill collaborated with a group of musicians known as New Ark , consisting of

Vada Nobles , Rasheem Pugh , Tejumold Newton , and Johari Newton . Hill later said that she wanted to " write songs that lyrically move me and have the integrity of reggae and the knock of hip @-@ hop and the instrumentation of classic soul " and that the production on the album was intended to make the music sound raw and not computer @-@ aided . Hill spoke of pressure from her label to emulate Prince , wherein all tracks would be credited as written and produced by the artist with little outside help . She also wanted to be appreciated as an auteur as much as Jean had within the Fugees . ( She also saw a feminist cause : " But step out and try and control things and there are doubts . This is a very sexist industry . They 'll never throw the ' genius ' title to a sister . " ) While recording the album , when Hill was asked about providing contracts or documentation to the musicians , she replied , " We all love each other . This ain 't about documents . This is blessed . "

Released on August 25 , 1998 , the album received rave reviews from contemporary music critics , and was the most acclaimed album of 1998 . Critics lauded the album 's blending of the R & B , doo @-@ wop , pop , hip @-@ hop , and reggae genres and its honest representation of a woman 's life and relationships . David Browne , writing in Entertainment Weekly , called it " an album of often @-@ astonishing power , strength , and feeling " , and praised Hill for " easily flowing from singing to rapping , evoking the past while forging a future of her own " . Robert Christgau quipped , " PC record of the year ? songs soft , singing ordinary , rapping skilled , rhymes up and down , skits de trop , production subtle and terrific " . It sold over 423 @,@ 000 copies in its first week ( boosted by advance radio play of two non @-@ label @-@ sanctioned singles , " Lost Ones " and " Can 't Take My Eyes Off You " ) and topped the Billboard 200 for four weeks and the Billboard R & B Albums chart for six weeks . It went on to sell about 8 million copies in the U.S. and 12 million copies worldwide . During 1998 and 1999 , Hill earned \$ 25 million from record sales and touring . Hill , along with Blige , Missy Elliott , Meshell Ndegeocello , Erykah Badu , and others , found a feminist voice with the neo soul genre .

The first single released from the album was " Lost Ones " , which reached number 27 in Spring 1998 . The second was " Doo Wop ( That Thing ) " , which debuted at number one on the Billboard Hot 100 chart . It exemplified Hill 's appeal , combining feelings of self @-@ empowerment with self @-@ defense . Other charted singles from the album were " Ex @-@ Factor " , " Everything Is Everything " and " To Zion " . In the 1998 Pazz & Jop Critics Poll , Miseducation came second in the list of best albums and " Doo Wop ( That Thing ) " second in best singles .

In November 1998 , Marley and Hill 's second child , Selah Louise , was born . Of being a young mother of two , Hill said , " It 's not an easy situation at all . You have to really pray and be honest with yourself . "

In the run @-@ up to the 1999 Grammy Awards , Hill became the first woman to be nominated in ten categories in a single year . In addition to Miseducation works , the nominations included her rendition of " Can 't Take My Eyes Off You " for the 1997 film Conspiracy Theory , which had appeared on Billboard charts , and Hill 's writing and producing of " A Rose Is Still a Rose " , which became a late @-@ in @-@ career hit for Aretha Franklin . She appeared on several magazine covers , including Time , Esquire , Rolling Stone , Teen People and The New York Times Fashion Magazine . During the ceremony , Hill broke another record by becoming the first woman to win five times in one night , taking home the awards for Album of the Year , Best R & B Album , Best R & B Song , Best Female R & B Vocal Performance , and Best New Artist . During an acceptance speech , she said , " This is crazy . This is hip @-@ hop ! " Hill had brought forth a new , mainstream acceptance of the genre and led to Hill becoming known as one of the Queens of Hip Hop .

In February 1999 , Hill received four awards at the 30th Annual NAACP Image Awards . In May 1999 , she became the youngest woman ever named to Ebony magazine 's 100 + Most Influential Black Americans list ; in November of that year , the same publication named her as one of " 10 For Tomorrow " in the " Ebony 2000 : Special Millennium Issue " . In May 1999 , she made People magazine 's 50 Most Beautiful People list . The publication , which has called her " model @-@ gorgeous " , praised the 5 @-@ foot @-@ 4 @-@ inch ( 1 @.@ 63 m ) Hill for her idiosyncratic sense of personal style . In June 1999 , she received an Essence Award , but her acceptance speech , where she said there was no contradiction in religious love and servitude and " [ being ] who you are , as fly and as hot and as whatever , " drew reaction from those in the public who

thought she was not a good role model as a young , unwed mother of two . This was a repetition of criticism she had received after the birth of her first child , and she had said that she and Marley would soon be married . In early 2000 , Hill was one of many artists and producers to share the Grammy Award for Album of the Year for Santana 's 1999 multi @-@ million selling Supernatural , which she had written , produced , and rapped on the track " Do You Like the Way " for ( a rumination on the direction the world was headed , it also featured the singing of CeeLo Green and the signature guitar runs of Carlos Santana ) . She was also nominated for Best R & B Song for " All That I Can Say " , which she had written and produced for Mary J. Blige . Also , her concocted duet with Bob Marley on " Turn Your Lights Down Low " for the 1999 remix tribute album Chant Down Babylon additionally appeared in the 1999 film The Best Man and later received a Grammy nomination for Best Pop Collaboration with Vocals .

In November 1998 , New Ark filed a fifty @-@ page lawsuit against Hill , her management , also her record label , claiming that Hill " used their songs and production skills , but failed to properly credit them for the work " on Miseducation . The musicians claimed to be the primary songwriters on two tracks , and major contributors on several others , though Gordon Williams , a prominent recorder , engineer , and mixer on Miseducation , described the album as a " powerfully personal effort by Hill " and said " It was definitely her vision . " Hill responded that New Ark had been appropriately credited and now were seeking to take advantage of her success . New Ark requested partial writing credits on most of the tracks on the album as well as monetary reimbursement . After many delays , depositions took place during the latter part of 2000 . In part , the case illustrated the difficult boundaries between songwriting and all other aspects that went into contemporary arranging , sampling , and recording . The suit would eventually be settled out of court in February 2001 , with Hill paying New Ark a reported \$ 5 million . A friend of Hill 's later said of the suit , " That was the beginning of a chain effect that would turn everything a little crazy . "

= = = 2000 ? 03 : Self @-@ imposed exile and MTV Unplugged No. 2 @.@ 0 = = =

Hill began writing a screenplay about the life of Bob Marley , in which she planned to act as his wife Rita . She also began producing a romantic comedy about soul food with a working title of Sauce , and accepted a starring role in the film adaptation of Toni Morrison 's novel Beloved ; she later dropped out of both projects due to pregnancy . She also reportedly turned down roles in Charlie 's Angels ( the part that went to Lucy Liu ) , The Bourne Identity , The Mexican , The Matrix Reloaded and The Matrix Revolutions .

During 2000 , Hill dropped out of the public eye . The pressures of fame began to overwhelm her . She disliked not being able to go out of her house to do simple errands without having to worry about her physical appearance . She fired her management team and began attending Bible study classes five days a week ; she also stopped doing interviews , watching television and listening to music . She started associating with a " spiritual advisor " named Brother Anthony . Some familiar with Hill believe Anthony more resembled a cult leader than a spiritual advisor , and thought his guidance probably inspired much of Hill 's more controversial public behavior .

She later described this period of her life to Essence saying " People need to understand that the Lauryn Hill they were exposed to in the beginning was all that was allowed in that arena at that time ? I had to step away when I realized that for the sake of the machine , I was being way too compromised . I felt uncomfortable about having to smile in someone 's face when I really didn 't like them or even know them well enough to like them . " She also spoke about her emotional crisis , saying , " For two or three years I was away from all social interaction . It was a very introspective time because I had to confront my fears and master every demonic thought about inferiority , about insecurity or the fear of being black , young and gifted in this western culture . " She went on to say that she had to fight to retain her identity , and was forced " to deal with folks who weren 't happy about that . "

In July 2001 , while pregnant with her third child , Hill unveiled her new material to a small crowd , for a taping of an MTV Unplugged special . An album of the concert , titled MTV Unplugged No. 2 @.@ 0 , was released in May 2002 and featured only her singing and playing an acoustic guitar .

Unlike the near @-@ unanimous praise of Miseducation , 2 @.@ 0 sharply divided critics . AllMusic gave the album 4 out of 5 stars , saying that the recording " is the unfinished , unflinching presentation of ideas and of a person . It may not be a proper follow @-@ up to her first album , but it is fascinating . " Rolling Stone called the album " a public breakdown " and Robert Hilburn of the Los Angeles Times said the album 's title opened Hill up for jokes that she had become unhinged . NME wrote that " Unplugged 2 @.@ 0 is a sparse and often gruelling listen , but there is enough genius shading these rough sketches to suggest that all might not yet be lost . " With the mixed reviews and no significant radio airplay , 2 @.@ 0 debuted at number three on the Billboard 200 , but then quickly fell down the charts and ended up selling less than 500 @,@ 000 copies in the U.S. Neither the album nor its songs placed in the 2002 Pazz & Jop Critics Poll . Her song " Mystery of Iniquity " was nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Female Rap Solo Performance and used as an interpolation by hip @-@ hop producer / songwriter Kanye West for his single " All Falls Down " , as sung by Syleena Johnson .

Around 2001 , Marley and Hill 's third child , Joshua Omaru , was born . He was followed a year later by their fourth , John Nesta . While Hill sometimes had spoken of Marley as her husband , they never married , and along the way she was informed that Marley had been previously married at a young age . Furthermore , according to a 2003 Rolling Stone report , he had never secured a divorce ; but Marley later disputed this and made public to a blog a 1996 divorce document from Haiti . The two had been living in a high @-@ end Miami hotel , but around 2003 she moved out into her own place in that city . Hill later said that she and Marley " have had long periods of separation over the years " . Hill slowly worked on a new album and it was reported that by 2003 , Columbia Records had spent more than \$ 2 @.@ 5 million funding it , including installing a recording studio in the singer 's Miami apartment and flying different musicians around the country .

By 2002 , Hill had shut down her non @-@ profit Refugee Project . She said , " I had a nonprofit organization and I had to shut all that down . You know , smiling with big checks , obligatory things , not having things come from a place of passion . That 's slavery . Everything we do should be a result of our gratitude for what God has done for us . It should be passionate . "

In December 2003 , Hill , during a performance in Vatican City , spoke of the " corruption , exploitation , and abuses " in reference to the molestation of boys by Catholic priests in the United States and the cover @-@ up of offenses by Catholic Church officials . High @-@ ranking church officials were in attendance , but Pope John Paul II was not present . The Catholic League called Hill " pathologically miserable " and claimed her career was " in decline " . The following day , several reporters suggested that Hill 's comments at the Vatican may have been influenced by her spiritual advisor , Brother Anthony .

= = = 2004 ? 09 : Sporadic touring and recording = = =

In 2004 , Hill contributed a new song , " The Passion " , to The Passion of the Christ : Songs . A remix version with John Legend of his " So High " ended up receiving a Grammy Award nomination for Best R & B Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals . Around this time , Hill began selling a pay @-@ per @-@ view music video of the song " Social Drugs " through her website . Those who purchase the \$ 15 video would only be able to view it three times before it expired . In addition to the video , Hill began selling autographed posters and Polaroids through her website , with some items listed at upwards of \$ 500 .

For the first time since 1997 , the Fugees performed in September 2004 at Dave Chappelle 's Block Party in the Bedford @-@ Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn . The concert featured Hill 's nearly a cappella rendition of " Killing Me Softly " . The event was recorded by director Michel Gondry and was released on March 3 , 2006 , to universal acclaim . The Fugees also appeared at BET Awards 2005 during June 2005 , where they opened the show with a 12 @-@ minute set . One track , " Take It Easy " , was leaked online and thereafter was released as an Internet single in late September . It peaked at number forty on the Billboard R & B Chart . In 2005 , she told USA Today , " If I make music now , it will only be to provide information to my own children . If other people benefit from it , then so be it . " When asked how she now felt about the songs on 2 @.@ 0 , she

stated " a lot of the songs were transitional . The music was about how I was feeling at the time , even though I was documenting my distress as well as my bursts of joy . "

The Fugees embarked on a European tour in late 2005 . Old tensions between Hill and the other members of the group soon resurfaced , and the reunion ended before an album could be recorded ; Jean and Michel both blamed Hill for the split . Hill reportedly demanded to be addressed by everyone , including her bandmates , as " Ms. Hill " ; she also considered changing her moniker to " Empress " . Hill 's tardiness was also cited as a contributing factor .

Hill began touring on her own , although to mixed reviews ; often arriving late to concerts ( sometimes by over two hours ) , performing unpopular reconfigurations of her songs and sporting an exaggerated appearance . On some occasions , fans have booed her and left early . In June 2007 , Sony Records said Hill had been recording through the past decade , had accumulated considerable unreleased material and had re @-@ entered the studio with the goal of making a new album . Later that same year , an album titled Ms. Hill , which featured cuts from Miseducation , various soundtracks contributions and other " unreleased " songs , was released . It features guest appearances from D 'Angelo , Rah Digga and John Forté . Also in June 2007 , Hill released a new song , " Lose Myself " , on the soundtrack to the film Surf 's Up .

In early 2008 , Marley and Hill 's fifth child , Sarah , was born . The couple was not living together , although Marley considered them " spiritually together " even while listing himself as single on social media . Hill later said that she and Marley " have [ had ] a long and complex history about which many inaccuracies have been reported since the beginning " and that they both valued their privacy . By August 2008 , Hill was living with her mother and children in her hometown of South Orange , New Jersey .

Reports in mid @-@ 2008 claimed that Columbia Records then believed Hill to be on hiatus . Marley disputed these claims , telling an interviewer that Hill has enough material for several albums : " She writes music in the bathroom , on toilet paper , on the wall . She writes it in the mirror if the mirror smokes up . She writes constantly . This woman does not sleep " . One of the few public appearances Hill made in 2008 was at a Martha Stewart book @-@ signing in New Jersey , perplexing some in the press . In April 2009 , it was reported that Hill would engage in a 10 @-@ day tour of European summer festivals during mid @-@ July of that year . She performed two shows for the tour and passed out on stage during the start of her second performance and left the stage . She refused to give refunds to angry consumers for the show . On June 10 , Hill 's management informed the promoters of the Stockholm Jazz Festival , which she was scheduled to headline , that she would not be performing due to unspecified " health reasons . " Shortly afterward , the rest of the tour was canceled as well .

= = = 2010 ? present : Further activities and imprisonment = = =

In January 2010 , Hill returned to the live stage and performed in stops across New Zealand and Australia on the Raggamuffin Music Festival . Many of the songs that Hill had performed and recorded over the past six years were included on an April 2010 unofficial compilation album titled Khulami Phase . The album also features a range of other material found on the Ms. Hill compilation . Hill appeared at the Harmony Festival in Santa Rosa , California , in June 2010 , her first live American performance in several years . An unreleased song called " Repercussions " was leaked via the Internet in late July 2010 , debuting at number 94 on Billboard 's Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs ( and peaked at number 83 the following week ) , making it her first Billboard chart appearance as a lead artist since 1999 .

Hill joined the Rock the Bells hip @-@ hop festival series in the U.S. during August 2010 , and as part of that year 's theme of rendering classic albums , she performed The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill in its entirety for the first time . She increased the tempo and urgency from the original recording , but at times had difficulty in communicating with her band . Hill continued touring , including a set at the 6th Annual Jazz in the Gardens , in Miami Gardens , Florida in December . In Spring 2011 , Hill performed at the Coachella Valley Music Festival , New Orleans Jazz Fest , and at The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas . In July 2011 , Hill gave birth to her sixth child , Micah , her first not with

Rohan Marley ; the father remains publicly unknown .

In February 2012 , Hill performed a new song titled " Fearless Vampire Killer " , during a sold @-@ out performance at the Warner Theater in Washington , D.C. In late 2012 , Hill toured with rapper Nas ; her portion of the tour , titled Black Rage , is named after her song , released October 30 . Hill has described the song as being " about the derivative effects of racial inequity and abuse " and " a juxtaposition to the statement ' life is good , ' which she believes can only be so when these long standing issues are addressed and resolved . "

In June 2012 , Hill was charged with three counts of tax evasion for not paying federal taxes on \$ 1 @. @ 8 million of income earned between 2005 and 2007 . During this time she had toured as a musical artist , earned royalties from both her records and from films she had appeared in , and had owned and been in charge of multiple corporations . In a long post to her Tumblr , Hill said that she had gone " underground " and had rejected pop culture 's " climate of hostility , false entitlement , manipulation , racial prejudice , sexism and ageism . " She added that , " When I was working consistently without being affected by the interferences mentioned above , I filed and paid my taxes . This only stopped when it was necessary to withdraw from society , in order to guarantee the safety and well @-@ being of myself and my family . " On June 29 , 2012 , Hill appeared in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey in Newark and pleaded guilty to the charges ; her attorney said she would make restitution for the back taxes she owed . By April 22 , 2013 , Hill had paid back only \$ 50 @, @ 000 of the \$ 554 @, @ 000 she owed immediately ; U.S. Magistrate Judge Madeline Cox Arleo criticized Hill , saying " This is not someone who stands before the court penniless . This is a criminal matter . Actions speak louder than words , and there has been no effort here to pay these taxes . " Hill also faced possible eviction from her rented home in South Orange as well as a civil lawsuit from the town for running a business , that being holding recording sessions , out of a home without a zoning permit .

On May 4 , 2013 , Hill released her first official single in over a decade , " Neurotic Society ( Compulsory Mix ) " . She later published a message on her Tumblr describing how she was " required to release [ it ] immediately , by virtue of the impending legal deadline . " The release received some criticism for lyrics that appeared to tie societal decay to certain LGBT social movements . Hill responded that the song was not targeted at any particular group but was instead focused on anyone hiding behind neurotic behavior . Following a deal with Sony Music , which involves Hill creating a new record label within the company , Hill was said to be scheduled to release her first album in fifteen years during 2013 ( that did not happen ) .

On May 6 , 2013 , Hill was sentenced by Judge Arleo to serve three months in prison for tax evasion and three months house arrest afterwards as part of a year of supervised probation . She had faced a possible sentence of as long as 36 months , and the sentence given took into account her lack of a prior criminal record and her six minor @-@ aged children . By this point Hill had fully paid back \$ 970 @, @ 000 in back taxes and penalties she owed , which also took into account an additional \$ 500 @, @ 000 that Hill had in unreported income for 2008 and 2009 . In the courtroom , Hill said that she had lived " very modestly " considering how much money she had made for others , and that " I am a child of former slaves who had a system imposed on them . I had an economic system imposed on me . " Hill reported to the minimum @-@ security Federal Correctional Institution , Danbury on July 8 , 2013 , to begin serving her sentence .

Hill was released from prison on October 4 , 2013 , a few days early for good behavior , and began her home confinement and probationary periods . She put out a single called " Consumerism " that she had finished , via verbal and e @-@ mailed instructions , while incarcerated . Judge Arleo allowed her to postpone part of her confinement in order to tour in late 2013 under strict conditions .

During 2014 , Hill was heard as the narrator of Concerning Violence , an award @-@ winning Swedish documentary on the African liberation struggles of the 1960s and 1970s . She also continued to draw media attention for her erratic behavior , appearing late twice in the same day for sets at Voodoo Fest in November 2014 .

In May 2015 , Hill canceled her scheduled concert outside Tel Aviv in Israel following a social media campaign from activists promoting the Boycott , Divestment and Sanctions campaign . She said she had wanted to also perform a show in Ramallah in the West Bank but logistical problems had proved



too great . Hill stated : " It is very important to me that my presence or message not be misconstrued , or a source of alienation to either my Israeli or my Palestinian fans . "

Hill contributed her voice to the soundtrack for What Happened , Miss Simone ? , a 2015 documentary about the life of Nina Simone , an American singer , pianist , and civil rights activist . Hill was originally supposed to record only two songs for the record , but ended up recording six . She also served as a producer on the comp alongside Robert Glasper . Hill said of her connection to Simone : " Because I fed on this music ... I believed I always had a right to have a voice . Her example is clearly a form of sustenance to a generation needing to find theirs . What a gift . " NPR critically praised Hill 's performance on the soundtrack , stating : " This album mainly showcases Lauryn Hill 's breadth and dexterity . Not formally marketed as Hill 's comeback album , her six tracks here make this her most comprehensive set of studio recordings since The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill in 1998 . "

In April 2016 , Hill hosted and headlined what was billed as the inaugural Diaspora Calling ! festival at the Kings Theatre in Brooklyn . The festival 's purpose was to showcase the efforts of musicians and artists from around the African diaspora . But the following month , Hill was 2 hours and 20 minutes late for her show at Chastain Amphitheater | Chastain Park Amphitheatre in Atlanta . Moments after the less than 40 minute show ended , she said her driver had gotten lost and she could not help that . Less than 48 hours later , after a large backlash from her fans on Twitter , she took to her Facebook page and claimed she was two hours late for concert because of need to ' align her energies.'

= = Discography = =

The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill ( 1998 )

= = Filmography = =