

= Sean Combs =

Sean John Combs (born November 4 , 1969) , also known by his stage names Puff Daddy , Puffy , Diddy , and P. Diddy , is an American hip hop recording artist , record producer , entrepreneur and actor . He was born in Harlem and grew up in Mount Vernon , New York . He worked as a talent director at Uptown Records before founding his label Bad Boy Entertainment in 1993 . His debut album No Way Out (1997) has been certified seven times platinum and was followed by successful albums such as Forever (1999) , The Saga Continues ... (2001) , and Press Play (2006) . In 2009 Combs formed the musical group Diddy ? Dirty Money and released the critically well @-@ reviewed and commercially successful album Last Train to Paris (2010) .

Combs has won three Grammy Awards and two MTV Video Music Awards , and is the producer of MTV 's Making the Band . His non @-@ music business ventures include the clothing lines Sean John and " Sean by Sean Combs " ? for which he earned a Council of Fashion Designers of America award ? a movie production company , and two restaurants . In 2015 Forbes estimated Combs ' net worth at \$ 735 million .

= = Early life = =

Sean John Combs was born in a public housing project in Harlem , New York City , and brought up in Mount Vernon , New York . His mother , Janice (Smalls) , was a model and teacher 's assistant and his father , Melvin Earl Combs , was an associate of convicted New York drug dealer Frank Lucas . At age 33 , he was shot to death while sitting in his car on Central Park West , when Combs was a child .

Combs graduated from the Roman Catholic Mount Saint Michael Academy in 1987 . He played football for the academy , and his team won a division title in 1986 . Combs said that he was given the nickname " Puff " as a child , because he would " huff and puff " when he was angry .

= = Career = =

= = = 1990 ? 96 : Career beginnings = = =

After dropping out of Howard University in 1990 , after two years as a business major , Combs became an intern at New York 's Uptown Records . While talent director at Uptown , he helped develop Jodeci and Mary J. Blige . In his college days Combs had a reputation for throwing parties , some of which attracted up to a thousand participants . In 1991 , Combs promoted an AIDS fundraiser with Heavy D held at the City College of New York (CCNY) gymnasium , following a charity basketball game . The event was oversold , and a stampede occurred in which nine people died .

In 1993 , after being fired from Uptown , Combs established his new label Bad Boy Entertainment as a joint venture with Arista Records , taking then @-@ newcomer The Notorious B.I.G. with him . Both The Notorious B.I.G. and Craig Mack quickly released hit singles , followed by successful LPs , particularly The Notorious B.I.G. ' s Ready to Die . Combs signed more acts to Bad Boy , including Carl Thomas , Faith Evans , 112 , Total , and Father MC . The Hitmen , his in @-@ house production team , worked with Jodeci , Mary J. Blige , Usher , Lil ' Kim , TLC , Mariah Carey , Boyz II Men , SWV , Aretha Franklin , and others . Mase and The Lox joined Bad Boy just as a widely publicized rivalry with the West Coast 's Death Row Records was beginning . Combs and The Notorious B.I.G. were criticized and parodied by Tupac Shakur and Suge Knight in songs and interviews during the mid @-@ 1990s . During 1994 ? 1995 , Combs produced several songs for TLC 's CrazySexyCool , which finished the decade as number 25 on Billboard 's list of top pop albums of the decade .

= = = 1997 ? 98 : " Puff Daddy " and No Way Out = = =

In 1997 , under the name Puff Daddy , Combs recorded his first commercial vocal work as a rapper . His debut single , " Can 't Nobody Hold Me Down " , spent 28 weeks on the Billboard Hot 100 chart , peaking at number one . His debut album , No Way Out , was released on July 1 , 1997 , through Bad Boy Records . Originally titled Hell up in Harlem , the album underwent several changes after The Notorious B.I.G. was killed on March 9 , 1997 . Several of the label 's artists made guest appearances on the album . No Way Out was a significant success , particularly in the United States , where it reached number one on the Billboard 200 in its first week of release , selling 561 @, @ 000 copies . The album produced five singles : " I 'll Be Missing You " , a tribute to The Notorious B.I.G. , was the first rap song to debut at number one on the Billboard Hot 100 ; it remained at the top of the chart for eleven consecutive weeks and topped several other charts worldwide . Four other singles ; " Can 't Nobody Hold Me Down " , " It 's All About the Benjamins " , " Been Around the World " , and " Victory " , were also released . Combs collaborated with Jimmy Page on the song " Come with Me " for the 1998 film Godzilla .

The album earned Combs five nominations at the 40th Grammy Awards in 1998 , winning the Grammy Award for Best Rap Album . On September 7 , 2000 , the album was certified septuple platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America for sales of over 7 million copies . In 1997 , Combs was sued for landlord neglect by Inge Bongo . Combs denied the charges . By the late 1990s , he was being criticized for watering down and overly commercializing hip hop , and for using too many guest appearances , samples , and interpolations of past hits in his new songs .

= = = 1999 ? 2000 : Forever and Club New York = = =

In April 1999 Combs was charged with assault as a result of an incident with Steve Stoute of Interscope Records . Stoute was the manager for Nas , with whom Combs had filmed a video earlier that year for the song " Hate Me Now " . Combs was concerned that the video , which featured a shot of Nas and Combs being crucified , was blasphemous . He asked for the video to be pulled , but after it aired on MTV on April 15 , Combs visited Stoute 's offices and injured Stoute . Combs was charged with second @-@ degree assault and criminal mischief , and was sentenced to attend an anger management class .

Forever , Combs ' debut solo studio album , was released by Bad Boy Records on August 24 , 1999 , in North America , and in the UK on the following day . It reached number two on the Billboard 200 and number one on the Top R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Albums chart , where it remained for one week before being knocked off by Mary J. Blige 's fourth album , Mary . The album received positive to mixed reviews from music critics and spawned three singles that have charted on the Billboard charts . It peaked at number four on the Canadian Albums Chart , Combs ' highest @-@ charting album in that country .

On December 27 , 1999 , Combs and his then @-@ girlfriend Jennifer Lopez were at Club New York in Manhattan when gunfire broke out . After a police investigation , Combs and fellow rapper Shyne were arrested for weapons violations and other charges . Combs was charged with four weapons @-@ related charges and bribing his driver , Wardel Fenderson , to claim ownership of his gun .

With a gag order in place , the highly publicized trial began . Combs ' attorneys were Johnnie L. Cochran Jr. and Benjamin Brafman . Combs was found not guilty on all charges ; Shyne was convicted on five of his eight charges and sentenced to ten years in prison . Combs and Lopez broke up shortly after . A lawsuit filed by Fenderson , who said he suffered emotional damage after the shooting , was settled in February 2004 . Lawyers for both sides , having agreed to keep the settlement terms secret , said that the matter was " resolved to the satisfaction of all parties " .

= = = 2001 ? 04 : " P. Diddy " and The Saga Continues = = =

Combs changed his stage name from " Puff Daddy " to " P. Diddy " in 2001 . The gospel album , Thank You , which had been completed just before the beginning of the weapons trial , was

released that March . He appeared as a drug dealer in the film *Made* and starred with Halle Berry and Billy Bob Thornton in *Monster 's Ball* (both in 2001) . He was arrested for driving on a suspended license in Florida . Combs began working with a series of unusual (for him) artists . For a short period of time , he was the manager of Kelis ; they have a collaboration titled " *Let 's Get III* " . He was an opening act for ' *N Sync* on their Spring 2002 Celebrity Tour , and he signed California @-@ based pop girl group *Dream* to his record label . Combs was a producer of the soundtrack album for the film *Training Day* (2001) .

In June 2001 , Combs ended *Bad Boy Entertainment* 's joint venture with *Arista Records* , gaining full control of *Bad Boy* , its catalogue , and its roster of artists . The *Saga Continues ...* , released on July 10 in North America , was the last studio album released by the joint venture . The album reached number two on the *Billboard 200* and the *Top R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Albums* charts , and was eventually certified as *Platinum* . It is the only studio album under the *P. Diddy* name , and the first album by *Sean Combs* not to feature any guest appearances by *Jay @-@ Z* or *Lil Kim* . Combs was executive producer of the reality TV show *Making the Band* , which appeared on *MTV* from 2002 to 2009 . The show involved interviewing candidates and creating musical acts that would then enter the music business . Acts that got their start this way include *Da Band* , *Danity Kane* , *Day26* , and *Donnie Klang* .

In 2003 Combs ran in the *New York City Marathon* , raising \$ 2 million for the educational system of the city of New York . On March 10 , 2004 he appeared on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* to discuss the marathon , which he finished in four hours and eighteen minutes . In 2004 Combs headed the campaign " *Vote or Die* " for the 2004 presidential election . On February 1 , 2004 , Combs (as *P. Diddy*) performed at the *Super Bowl XXXVIII* halftime show .

= = = 2005 ? 09 : " *Diddy* " and *Press Play* = = =

On August 16 , 2005 , Combs announced on *Today* that he was altering his stage name yet again ; he would be calling himself " *Diddy* " . Combs said that fans didn 't know how to address him , which led to confusion . In November 2005 , London @-@ based musical artist and DJ *Richard Dearlove* , who had been performing under the name " *Diddy* " since 1992 ? nine years before Combs started using even " *P. Diddy* " ? sought an injunction in the High Court of Justice in London . He accepted an out @-@ of @-@ court settlement of £ 10 @,@ 000 in damages and more than £ 100 @,@ 000 in costs . Combs can no longer use the name *Diddy* in the UK , where he is still known as *P. Diddy* . An assault charge against Combs filed by Michigan television host *Rogelio Mills* was resolved in Combs ' favor in 2005 .

Combs starred in the 2005 film *Carlito 's Way : Rise to Power* . He played *Walter Lee Younger* in the 2004 Broadway revival of *A Raisin in the Sun* and the television adaptation that aired in February 2008 . In 2005 Combs sold half of his record company to the *Warner Music Group* . He hosted the 2005 *MTV Video Music Awards* and was named one of the 100 Most Influential People of 2005 by *Time* magazine . He was mentioned in the country song " *Play Something Country* " by *Brooks & Dunn* : the lyricist says he " didn 't come to hear *P. Diddy* " , which is rhymed with " something thumpin ' from the city . "

In 2006 , when Combs refused to release musician *Mase* from his contractual obligations to allow him to join the group *G @-@ Unit* , *50 Cent* recorded a dis song , " *Hip @-@ Hop* " . The lyrics imply that Combs knew the identity of *The Notorious B.I.G.* ' s murderer . The two later resolved the feud .

Combs released his first album in four years , *Press Play* , on October 17 , 2006 , on the *Bad Boy Records* label . The album , featuring guest appearances by many popular artists , debuted at number one on the U.S. *Billboard 200* chart with sales of over 173 @,@ 009 . Its singles " *Come to Me* " and " *Last Night* " both reached the top ten of the *Billboard Hot 100* . The album became available to preview on *MTV* 's *The Leak* on October 10 , 2006 , a week before being sold in stores . *Press Play* received mixed to positive reviews from critics , and was certified *Gold* on the *RIAA* ratings . On September 18 , 2007 , Combs teamed up with *50 Cent* and *Jay @-@ Z* for the " *Forbes I Get Money Billion Dollar Remix* " .

In March 2008 the *Los Angeles Times* claimed that *The Notorious B.I.G.* and Combs orchestrated

the 1994 robbery and shooting of Tupac , substantiating the claim with supposed FBI documents ; the newspaper later retracted the story , acknowledging that the documents had been fabricated . Dexter Isaac , an associate of record management executive Jimmy Henchman , confessed in 2012 that he shot Tupac on Henchman 's orders .

In June 2008 Combs ' representative denied rumors of another name change . Combs ventured into reality television in August 2008 with the premiere of his VH1 series I Want to Work for Diddy . After the season finale of Making The Band 4 , Combs said he would be heading back into the studio to record his next album . In an interview with The Daily Mail , he said , " I had Christina Aguilera on my last album , but it 's all about Leona Lewis on my next . " He appeared ? credited under his real name ? in two episodes of Season 7 of CSI : Miami : " Presumed Guilty " and " Sink or Swim " , in the role of lawyer Derek Powell .

= = = 2010 ? 13 : Dirty Money and acting = = =

Combs created a rap supergroup in 2010 known as The Dream Team . The group consists of Combs , Rick Ross , DJ Khaled , Fat Joe , Busta Rhymes , Red Café , and Fabolous . Combs made an appearance at comedian Chris Gethard 's live show in January 2010 at the Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre in New York City . In June 2010 Combs played a role (credited as Sean Combs) in the comedy film Get Him to the Greek , as Sergio Roma , a record company executive . An Entourage series representative announced that Combs would guest star on an episode during the 2010 season .

Last Train to Paris was released by Combs ' group Diddy ? Dirty Money on December 13 , 2010 . The release was preceded by four singles " Angels " , " Hello Good Morning " , " Loving You No More " , and " Coming Home " , which experienced mixed success on the Billboard Hot 100 . " Coming Home " was the most successful of the songs , peaking at number twelve on the U.S. Hot 100 , number four in the UK , and number seven in Canada . On March 10 , 2011 Diddy ? Dirty Money performed " Coming Home " live on American Idol .

On April 18 , 2011 , Combs appeared in season one of Hawaii Five @-@ 0 , guest starring as an undercover NYPD detective . In November 2012 Combs appeared in an episode of the eighth season of the American sitcom It 's Always Sunny in Philadelphia .

= = = 2014 ? present : MMM (Money Making Mitch) and No Way Out 2 = = =

On February 26 , 2014 , Combs premiered " Big Homie " , featuring Rick Ross and French Montana , as the first single from his mixtape MMM (Money Making Mitch) , which was originally scheduled to be released that year . The song was released for digital download on March 24 , and two days later the trailer for the music video was released . The full version of the music video was released on March 31 . Combs is using his former stage name Puff Daddy for the album . MMM was released as a free mixtape album of 12 tracks on November 4 , 2015 . In 2014 Puff and Guy Gerber announced that their joint album 11 11 will be available for free download . A new single called " Finna Get Loose " featuring Combs and Pharrell Williams was released on June 29 , 2015 .

In July 2015 , Bad Boy Entertainment artist Gizzle told the press that she is collaborating with Combs on what she describes as his last album , titled No Way Out 2 , a sequel to his 1997 debut . She describes the music as unique : " The mindset is to just be classic and to be epic . And to really live up to that ... we know it 's a tall order , but we welcome the challenge . " In April 2016 , Combs announced that after this last album and tour , he plans to retire from the music industry to focus on acting .

= = Business career = =

Fortune magazine listed Combs at number twelve on their top 40 of entrepreneurs under 40 in 2002 . Forbes Magazine estimates that for the year ending May 2012 , Combs earned \$ 45 million , ranking him fifteenth among musicians . In 2015 his estimated net worth was \$ 735 million .

== Sean John ==

In 1998 , Combs started a clothing line , Sean John . It was nominated for the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) award for Menswear Designer of the Year in 2000 , and won in 2004 . The clothing line became the subject of controversy in 2003 , when the National Labor Committee revealed that factories producing the clothing in Honduras were violating Honduran labor laws . Among the accusations were that workers were subjected to body searches and involuntary pregnancy tests . Bathrooms were locked and access tightly controlled . Employees were forced to work overtime and were paid sweatshop wages . Charles Kernaghan of the National Labor Committee told The New York Times that " Sean Puff Daddy obviously has a lot of clout , he can literally do a lot overnight to help these workers . "

Combs responded with an extensive investigation , telling reporters " I 'm as pro @-@ worker as they get " . On February 14 , 2004 , Kernaghan announced that improvements had been implemented at the factory , including adding air conditioning and water purification systems , firing the most abusive supervisors , and allowing the formation of a labor union . In late 2006 , the department store Macy 's removed Sean John jackets from their shelves when they discovered that the clothing was made using dog fur (from a species called raccoon dog) . Combs had not known the jackets were made with dog fur , but as soon as he was alerted , he had production stopped .

In November 2008 , Combs added a men 's perfume called " I Am King " to the Sean John brand . The fragrance , dedicated to Barack Obama , Muhammad Ali , and Martin Luther King , featured model Bar Refaeli in its advertisements .

== Other ventures ==

In addition to his clothing line , Combs owned two restaurants called Justin 's , named after his son . The original New York location closed in September 2007 ; the Atlanta location closed in June 2012 . He is the designer of the Dallas Mavericks alternate jersey . In October 2007 Combs agreed to help develop the Cîroc vodka brand for a 50 percent share of the profits . Combs acquired the Enyce clothing line from Liz Claiborne for \$ 20 million on October 21 , 2008 . Combs has a major equity stake in Revolt TV , a television network that also has a film production branch . It began broadcasting in 2014 . In February 2015 , Combs teamed up with actor Mark Wahlberg and businessman Ronald Burkle of Yucaipa Companies to purchase a majority holding in Aquahydrate , a calorie @-@ free beverage for athletes . John Cochran , former president of Fiji Water , is CEO of the company .

== Personal life ==

== Family ==

Combs is the father of six children . His first child , Justin , was born in 1993 to his high @-@ school sweetheart , designer Misa Hylton @-@ Brim . Justin attends UCLA on a football scholarship . Combs had an on @-@ again , off @-@ again relationship with Kimberly Porter , which lasted from 1994 to July 2007 . He adopted and raised Quincy (born 1991) , Porter 's son from a previous relationship with singer / producer Al B. Sure . Together they had son Christian (born 1998) and twin daughters D 'Lila Star and Jessie James (born December 21 , 2006) . Five months before the birth of his twins , his daughter Chance was born to Sarah Chapman . He took legal responsibility for Chance in October 2007 .

Combs ' sons Quincy and Justin both appeared on MTV 's My Super Sweet 16 . Combs threw Quincy a celebrity @-@ studded party and gave him two cars as his sixteenth birthday present . For Justin 's sixteenth birthday , Combs presented him with a \$ 360 @, @ 000 Maybach car , complete with chauffeur .

Combs owns a home in Alpine , New Jersey , which he purchased for a reported \$ 7 million .

== = Charity work and honors == =

Combs founded Daddy 's House Social Programs , an organization to help inner city youth , in 1995 . Programs include tutoring , life skills classes , and an annual summer camp . Along with Jay @-@ Z , he pledged \$ 1 million to help support victims of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 , and donated clothing from his Sean John line to victims . He has donated computers and books to New York schools .

Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley named October 13 , 2006 , as " Diddy Day " in honor of Combs ' charity work . In 2008 Combs was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame .

In 2014 , Combs received an honorary doctorate from Howard University , where he served as the keynote speaker for its 146th commencement ceremony . In his speech , Combs acknowledged that his experiences as a Howard student positively influenced his life .

== = Wardrobe style == =

Combs describes his wardrobe style as " swagger , timeless , diverse " . On September 2 , 2007 , Combs held his ninth annual " White Party " , at which guests are limited to an all @-@ white dress code . The White Party , which has also been held in St. Tropez , was held in his home in East Hampton , Long Island . Combs stated , " This party is up there with the top three that I 've thrown . It 's a party that has legendary status . It 's hard to throw a party that lives up to its legend . "

== = Legal troubles == =

On June 22 , 2015 , Combs was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon by the University of California , Los Angeles Police Department . He was accused of assaulting one of his son 's football coaches after witnessing the coach yell at his son . His son , Justin Combs , plays football for the UCLA Bruins .

== = Discography == =

Studio albums

No Way Out (1997)

Forever (1999)

The Saga Continues ... (2001)

Press Play (2006)

Last Train to Paris (2010)

MMM (2015)

No Way Out 2 (2016)

== = Filmography == =

Made (2001)

Monster 's Ball (2001)

2005 MTV Video Music Awards (2006)

Seamless (2005)

Carlito 's Way : Rise to Power (2005)

A Raisin in the Sun (2008)

Get Him to the Greek (2010)

Draft Day (2014)

Muppets Most Wanted (2014)

== = Accolades == =

=== NAACP Image Awards ===

2009 , Outstanding Actor in a Television Movie , Mini @-@ Series or Dramatic Special , A Raisin in the Sun (Winner)

=== BET Awards ===

2007 , Best Male Hip Hop Artist (Nominated)

=== MTV Video Music Awards ===

=== Grammy Awards ===

=== Rolling Stone 's 500 Greatest Albums of All Time (albums executive produced by Sean Combs) ===