

= Melina Perez =

Melina Perez (born March 9 , 1979) is an American professional wrestler , valet , model and actress . She is best known for her time with World Wrestling Entertainment under the ring name Melina .

Perez began her career as a beauty pageant contestant , winning several modelling competitions .

In 2000 , Perez began training to be a professional wrestler at Jesse Hernandez 's School of Hard Knocks , and made her debut in 2002 under the ring name " Kyra " . In late 2002 , Perez auditioned for World Wrestling Entertainment 's reality show Tough Enough III , but was eliminated in first round , and was inspired by Al Snow to continue pursuing her wrestling career . Perez became the most successful and decorated female contestant in Tough Enough history , as the only contestant to ever hold the WWE Women 's and Divas titles respectively . In March 2004 , Perez signed a contract with World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) , and was assigned to Ohio Valley Wrestling (OVW) , WWE 's developmental territory , where she began managing Johnny Nitro and Joey Mercury , dubbed MNM , to three reigns as WWE Tag Team Champions , as well as Nitro to two reigns as WWE Intercontinental Champion . Perez is a three @-@ time WWE Women 's Champion , and a two @-@ time WWE Divas Champion . This makes her a five @-@ time champion overall . In 2009 , Perez became the first woman to have won the WWE Women 's Championship and the WWE Divas Championship in a single calendar year . Perez also became the first WWE Women 's Champion to be traded in a WWE draft in 2009 , and thus became the first woman to hold the title as a SmackDown @-@ exclusive championship . After winning her second WWE Divas Championship in 2010 , Perez became the first woman in WWE history to become a multiple @-@ time champion with both the Women 's and Divas titles . Perez is also the first Latina to win the WWE Women 's and Divas titles . Famed for her flexibility utilized during her entrance and in her in @-@ ring maneuvers , Perez was called " one of the best wrestlers in the world " by Bret Hart , and cited by WWE as having " perhaps the most impressive arsenal of offensive maneuvers in WWE history . "

= = Modeling career = =

Perez began her career as a beauty pageant contestant , winning Miss Hawaiian Tropic Anaheim . During her modelling career , she has won many modelling competitions such as Group USA Bridal Show , Group USA Fashion Show , Ms. California Belleza Latina . Melina was body painted by artist Mark Greenawalt for a modeling photo shoot in 2007 where she posed with her WWE Women 's Championship belt .

= = Professional wrestling career = =

= = = Early career (2001 ? 2004) = = =

Perez began training at Jesse Hernandez 's School of Hard Knocks in San Bernardino , California , and made her in @-@ ring debut in April 2002 . Many officials stated that she had the most natural ability of any woman who came through their school . In late 2002 , Perez auditioned for World Wrestling Entertainment 's reality show Tough Enough III , making it through to the final twenty @-@ one , before being eliminated in the final cut of the first episode . After she was eliminated from the contest , trainer Al Snow encouraged her to keep trying to pursue her dream as a wrestler .

= = = World Wrestling Entertainment / WWE = = =

= = = = Ohio Valley Wrestling (2004) = = = =

Perez debuted in WWE 's then @-@ developmental territory Ohio Valley Wrestling (OVW) in March 2004 , being placed in a storyline as John Hennigan 's ex @-@ girlfriend . The storyline had Matt Cappotelli introduce her to the ring as a way to taunt Hennigan . Melina , however , turned on Cappotelli and aligned herself with Hennigan , who later changed his ring name to Johnny Nitro . Soon after , the duo began teaming with Joey Matthews , later known as Joey Mercury . The trio became known as MNM and on November 10 , Melina managed Mercury and Nitro to win the OVW Southern Tag Team Championship , holding it for over two months . During her time in OVW , Melina , Nitro , and Steven Adkins came up with Melina 's trademark split ring entrance .

Melina made her first Raw appearance on November 29 , 2004 , when Randy Orton was the guest General Manager and hosted a Diva lingerie fashion show . She made another Raw appearance in December , participating in a limbo contest when Chris Jericho was General Manager for the night .

===== MNM (2005 ? 2006) =====

Melina made her official debut in WWE as a villainess , resuming her role as the manager of MNM , on the April 14 , 2005 episode of SmackDown ! . The team interrupted the first ever Carlito 's Cabana interview segment , where one half of the WWE Tag Team Champions , Rey Mysterio , was a guest . Melina insulted Mysterio and had Mercury and Nitro attack him , leading to MNM 's in @-@ ring debut the next week on SmackDown ! in a title match . The team won the match against Mysterio and Eddie Guerrero , starting their first WWE Tag Team Title reign .

While managing the Tag Team Champions , Melina 's character was developed to be more egotistical , as she declared herself " the most @-@ dominant Diva in WWE " . She made her official in @-@ ring debut on June 30 against Michelle McCool , and had her first pay @-@ per @-@ view match against Torrie Wilson at The Great American Bash in a bra and panties match , winning both matches . In the same night , MNM dropped their championships to the Legion of Doom , prompting a new storyline where Melina hired Jillian Hall , a fixer , to assist them . MNM regained the titles on October 28 in a fatal four @-@ Way tag team match . On the Eddie Guerrero Tribute Show , Melina won a Divas battle royal by eliminating the Women 's Champion Trish Stratus . The next week , as a part of a new storyline , MNM kidnapped Stratus , tied her up and gagged her for Melina , who then challenged her to a match for the Women 's Championship . The two fought at Survivor Series , with Melina losing to Stratus with the help of Mickie James .

During this time , MNM defended their titles against Rey Mysterio and the World Heavyweight Champion Batista . Melina was placed in a storyline where she tried to make Batista call off the match by visiting him in his locker room and attempting to seduce him . The storyline had the two engage in sexual intercourse , after which he simply thanked her for the " warm @-@ up " before leaving to take part in the match , where he and Mysterio defeated MNM for the titles . The storyline played over to the next episode of SmackDown ! when , before MNM invoked their rematch clause , Melina held a press conference in the ring where she claimed that Batista had sexually harassed her . During the tag team match , Mark Henry aided MNM in winning back the WWE Tag Team Championship . The storyline with Henry continued into the next year . On the first SmackDown ! of 2006 , Melina announced that Henry was her personal protection against Batista . He accompanied her and aided the other members of MNM in matches against Batista and Mysterio .

At Judgment Day on May 21 , 2006 , MNM lost their titles to Paul London and Brian Kendrick . After the match , Melina and Nitro , as part of the storyline , attacked Mercury , blaming him for the loss . Later that night , Melina lost a singles match against Jillian Hall , and after slapping General Manager Theodore Long in anger , she and Nitro were fired from the SmackDown ! brand . The team then broke up because off @-@ screen , Nitro and Mercury did not get along , and WWE management decided to send Nitro and Melina to the Raw brand . Melina and Nitro debuted onRaw on May 29 , with Nitro losing to WWE Champion John Cena . Melina continued to manage Nitro during his successful hunt for the WWE Intercontinental Championship , and in another storyline with Trish Stratus . The storyline turned into a tag team feud when Carlito teamed with Stratus after he saved her from the attacks of Melina and Nitro . At Saturday Night 's Main Event on July 15 , Melina and Nitro lost to Carlito and Stratus in a mixed tag team match .

===== Singles competition and Women 's Champion (2006 ? 2009) =====

After Melina 's arrival on Raw , Mick Foley began to mention her in promos and on his WWE.com columns , playing on their real @-@ life friendship , and they soon formed an on @-@ screen friendship . At SummerSlam , Melina was involved in Foley 's " I Quit " match against Ric Flair , when Flair threatened to hit her with a barbed wire baseball bat , causing Foley to quit the match to save her . The next night on Raw , the storyline had Vince McMahon order Foley to join the Kiss My Ass club . After begging Foley not to go through with it , Foley " joined the club " to save Melina 's job , only to have her suddenly turn on him by delivering a low blow and firing him at the behest of McMahon . The storyline was concocted by Foley to refresh the idea of the Kiss My Ass club . It was also around this time that Melina added another characteristic to her gimmick : screaming loudly at ringside while managing or in tag team action , which became known as the " primal scream " .

On January 29 , 2007 , Melina became the number one contender for the WWE Women 's Championship after defeating Maria in a number one contender 's match . On the February 5 episode of Raw , Melina received her title match against Mickie James but was unsuccessful . After pinning James in a mixed tag team match , Melina was granted another title match . On the February 19 episode of Raw , as part of her first major singles push , Melina defeated James to win the WWE Women 's Championship for the first time in her career . The feud between the two Divas continued and Melina later retained the title in a rematch during the first ever Women 's Falls Count Anywhere match in WWE history .

In March , Melina was placed in an angle where she became jealous of SmackDown ! Diva Ashley Massaro , who was receiving attention because of her appearance in Playboy . The angle had Melina claim in her blogs that no Playboy cover models were capable of fighting her . This resulted in scheduled matches against former Playboy cover girls Torrie Wilson and Candice Michelle , with both women losing to Melina . The storyline came to an end at WrestleMania 23 , where Melina pinned Ashley in a Lumberjill match to retain her Women 's Championship . After WrestleMania , Melina organized a photo op with the Women 's Championship belt in the ring , but was interrupted by Mickie James , resulting in another storyline feud between the two Divas . On April 24 , at a house show in Paris , France , Melina lost the Women 's Championship in a Triple Threat match to James when James pinned Victoria , but on the orders of Jonathan Coachman she was entitled to a rematch on the same night , where she pinned James by putting her hands on the ropes to regain the title and become a two @-@ time WWE Women 's Champion .

In May 7 , 2007 , Melina began feuding with Playboy cover girl Candice Michelle , after she was defeated in a tag team match alongside Victoria against Candice Michelle and Mickie James . Melina continued to lose to Candice in various tag team matches , as well as in non @-@ title bouts over the next few weeks . At Vengeance , Melina lost the Women 's Championship to Candice , and failed to recapture the title at The Great American Bash .

In April 2008 , Melina , along with then @-@ ally Beth Phoenix , competed at WrestleMania XXIV in a tag team match , defeating Maria and Ashley . On the May 5 episode of Raw ! , Melina unintentionally attacked Phoenix with her boot during a lumberjill match with Mickie James . The following week , Phoenix walked out on Melina during a tag match against James and Maria , when Melina accidentally bumped Phoenix off the apron . Melina was then attacked by Phoenix during a backstage segment following the match , leading to Melina turning into a face for the first time in her WWE career . On the May 19 episode of Raw , Melina commentated during Beth Phoenix 's match against Maria , which Phoenix won , and Melina would afterwards attack Phoenix with her boot before being attacked by Phoenix . At the One Night Stand pay @-@ per @-@ view , Melina competed in the first ever in women 's " I Quit " match against Beth Phoenix , but was unsuccessful in winning the match . The next night on Raw , Melina teamed with former rival Mickie James in a tag team match against Beth Phoenix and Katie Lea in a losing effort . On June 23 , 2008 , Perez suffered a heel injury after falling from the turnbuckles during a tag team match with Mickie James against Natalya and Victoria .

Melina returned from injury on the November 24 episode of Raw , teaming with former rivals Mickie

James and Candice Michelle to defeat Phoenix , Jillian Hall , and Katie Lea Burchill . The following week , she made her singles return by defeating Hall . Following the match , Melina stated her intentions to take the WWE Women 's Championship from Beth Phoenix . On December 29 , Melina won a six @-@ woman battle royal to become the number one contender for the Championship . After the match , Melina and Phoenix engaged in a confrontation over a fan of Phoenix 's named Rosa Mendes , who had attacked Melina . On January 25 , 2009 , Melina won her third WWE Women 's Championship at the Royal Rumble by defeating Phoenix . She retained her championship against Beth Phoenix on February 16 episode of Raw , and again during a dark match at No Way Out .

= = = = Divas Champion and departure (2009 ? 2011) = = = =

On the April 13 , 2009 episode of Raw , Melina was drafted back to SmackDown as part of the 2009 WWE Draft , thus making the WWE Women 's Championship exclusive to the brand . She began a feud with Michelle McCool , who was named as the number one contender to the title . McCool attacked Melina after her victory over Alicia Fox on the June 19 episode of SmackDown . Melina would then lose the Women 's Championship to McCool at The Bash after an interference from Alicia Fox , failed to regain the championship at Night of Champions .

On October 12 , Melina was traded back to the Raw brand , and won the WWE Divas Championship from Divas Champion Jillian Hall , who had won the belt from Mickie James only a few minutes earlier . On the November 23 episode of Raw , Melina teamed up with Mickie James and Kelly Kelly to defeat Jillian Hall and LayCool (Michelle McCool and Layla) . After the match , guest timekeeper The Gobbledy Gooker was revealed as Maryse by attacking Melina . The following week , Melina was pinned by Maryse in a tag team match . On the December 7 episode of Raw , Maryse defeated Gail Kim , and following the match , Maryse proceed to attack Kelly Kelly but was stopped by Melina . On December 29 , at a WWE live event in Manchester , New Hampshire , Melina tore her ACL during a six @-@ woman tag team match , and as a result she relinquished the Divas Championship on January 4 .

Melina made her return on the August 2 , 2010 episode of Raw , attacking WWE Divas Champion Alicia Fox after a six @-@ woman tag team match in which she , Jillian Hall , and Tamina defeated Eve Torres , Gail Kim , and Natalya . At SummerSlam , Melina defeated Fox to capture the Divas Championship for the second time in her career . After the match , she was attacked by Michelle McCool and WWE Women 's Champion Layla . On the 900th episode of Raw , after winning a match , she was challenged by either Layla or McCool to a match at Night of Champions , to unify the WWE Women 's and WWE Divas Championships , which McCool would win , after Layla attacked Melina during the match , to unify the championships .

On the December 20 episode of Raw , Melina became the number one contender to the Divas Championship and turned villainous when she slapped Natalya , who had attempted to congratulate her following her victory . When the two fought for the Divas Championship on January 24 , 2011 on Raw , Melina was defeated . On the August 1 episode of Raw , Perez participated in a # 1 contender 's battle royal , which was won by Beth Phoenix . This would be her final match with WWE , as she was released later that week .

= = = Independent circuit (2011 ? present) = = =

In November 2011 , Perez wrestled her first match outside of WWE by defeating Lexxus at the Women Superstars Uncensored November 19 pay @-@ per @-@ view . Perez appeared on the World Wrestling Fan Xperience (WWFX) Champions Showcase Tour in Manila , Philippines on February 4 , 2012 , where she wrestled under her real name . On February 5 , 2012 episode of WWFX , Melina defeated Jillian Hall .

Melina appeared at the Family Wrestling Entertainment (FWE) event , signing autographs and serving as Eric Young 's valet as he became the new FWE Heavyweight Champion . At the Empire City Showdown , on August 20 , Melina made a further appearance for FWE in a segment with

Charlie and Jackie Haas . On April 28 edition of FWE Television , Melina was defeated by Winter with Lita as the special guest referee in a FWE Women 's Championship match .

Melina debuted for North East Wrestling on March 23 , 2012 , competing in a victorious effort against Velvet Sky , but lost to Sky the following day in a rematch .

From June 30 to July 2 , 2012 , Melina participated in World Wrestling Council 's (WWC) Anniversario weekend in Puerto Rico . On the first two nights , Melina defeated Velvet Sky in singles matches , but on the final night , she and Davey Richards were defeated in a mixed tag team match by Sky and Xix Savant . At the time , this was Perez 's last wrestling match , and she began referring to herself as a former professional wrestler .

On June 19 , 2015 , Melina returned to the independent circuit for the first time in three years at Maryland Championship Wrestling 's Ladies Night event ; appearing as the villainous enforcer in the MCW Women 's Championship main event match between champion Amber Rodriguez and challenger Mickie James , which was officiated by Lisa Marie Varon . During the match , Melina attacked James but was then attacked by Varon .

On August 5 , 2015 , Melina made an appearance with Lucha Underground at Ultima Lucha . She helped Johnny Mundo in his match against Alberto El Patron by hitting El Patron with his title belt while the referee was knocked down .

On October 16 , 2015 , Melina made her debut for Japanese promotion World Wonder Ring Stardom , during their first American tour in Covina , California . She teamed with Santana Garrett in a tag team match to defeat Hudson Envy and Thunder Rosa .

= = Other media = =

On April 13 , 2008 , she appeared in an episode of Celebrity Fit Club Boot Camp along with Mickie James , Layla , and Kelly Kelly .

= = = Filmography = = =

= = Personal life = =

Perez was born in Los Angeles , California but was raised in High Desert , California . Perez is Mexican American . She has a brother named P.J. & she speaks both English and Spanish fluently .

In early and mid @-@ 2007 , Perez had a real @-@ life feud with fellow WWE Diva Candice Michelle in their WWE.com blogs . The feud began when Candice accused Perez of stealing one of her signature moves in the ring . Perez responded to Candice 's accusation in her blog by posting a picture of herself performing that move during an independent wrestling show in 2003 , proving that she has been using the same move long before she joined WWE and before Candice had began her professional wrestling career . She then wrote a blog in April of that year that WWE.com would not publish due to the feelings she expressed towards Perez . Candice took exception to Perez claiming that she had a " spare tire " during an episode of Raw , and in retaliation , Candice claimed Perez was " just jealous " .

= = In wrestling = =

Finishing moves

California Dream / Kyrapractor (Muta lock)

Extreme Makeover (Multiple facebuster variants) ? 2005 ? 2006 ; used as a signature move from 2006 ? present

Springboard kneeling facebuster

Charging spinning facebuster

Diving facebuster off the top rope , or off the apron to the floor

Last Call (Leg trap sunset flip powerbomb) ? 2008 ? present
 Primal Scream / Sunset Split (Inverted leg drop bulldog into a split ? legged pin , preceded by a scream) ? 2007 ? present
 Signature moves
 Bodyscissors , sometimes transitioned into a pin
 Bow and arrow stretch
 Camel clutch
 Divastator (Multiple kicking combinations)
 Diving double knee drop , to an opponent trapped across the turnbuckles
 Diving seated senton pin
 Dragon sleeper , sometimes with bodyscissors
 Flapjack
 Gedo clutch , sometimes transitioned into a pin
 Giant swing
 Hair @-@ pull curb stomp
 Headscissors in the corner transitioned into axe kick
 Kyranium Buster (Flying neckbreaker)
 Japanese stranglehold
 Lariat
 Matrix evasion , sometimes into a bridging Pelé kick to the head
 Mule kick
 Multiple pinning variations
 Jackknife pin
 Japanese rolling clutch pin
 Roll @-@ up , sometimes while bridging
 Sunset flip
 Victory roll
 Wheelbarrow victory roll
 Rope hung Boston crab
 Running double knee strike to an opponent against the ropes or in the corner
 Running split @-@ leg big boot
 Shoulder jawbreaker
 Sliding double leg takedown
 Snapmare driver
 Spear , sometimes in the ropes
 Split @-@ legged arm drag
 Split @-@ legged hangman 's neckbreaker
 Splitting evasion
 Tilt @-@ a @-@ whirl , transitioned into a back kick , a Fujiwara armbar , or a facebuster
 Managers
 Jillian Hall
 Wrestlers managed
 Johnny Nitro / Mundo
 Joey Mercury
 Mark Henry
 Mick Foley
 Victoria
 Eric Young
 Nicknames
 " The most @-@ dominant Diva in WWE "
 " The Gorgeous Grappler "
 " The A ? List Diva "
 " The Barracuda "

" The Paparazzi Princess "

" The Red Carpet Diva "

" The Hell Cat "

" The Lovely Latina "

" Raw 's Screamer Queen "

Entrance themes

" Paparazzi " by Jim Johnston (WWE ; April 14 , 2005 ? August 5 , 2011)

= = Championships and accomplishments = =

Empire Wrestling Federation

First female inductee into the EWF Hall of Fame (2016)

Pro Wrestling Illustrated

PWI ranked her # 3 of the best 50 female singles wrestlers in the PWI Female 50 in 2009

World Wrestling Entertainment

WWE Divas Championship (2 times)

WWE Women 's Championship (3 times)