

= Savanna Samson =

Savanna Samson (born October 14 , 1967) is the stage name of an American former pornographic actress . The winner of several AVN Awards , she has spent most of her career as a contract performer with major producer Vivid Entertainment , and is known for her roles in acclaimed adult films such as The New Devil in Miss Jones . In addition to performing , she has her own adult film studio , Savanna Samson Productions . A native of upstate New York , she entered the adult film industry in 2000 , after working as a dancer at the Manhattan strip club , Scores .

Samson has gained mainstream recognition with appearances on television shows such as Saturday Night Live , The Daily Show and 30 Rock . Her wide range of activities outside pornography include working as a sex @-@ advice columnist , a radio presenter and a political correspondent . She also produces her own line of wines , has a recording contract with E1 Music and is a trained ballerina .

= = Early life = =

One of five daughters , Samson grew up Roman Catholic in Watertown , New York . She began dancing at a young age and , at 17 , moved to New York City to pursue a career in ballet . However , she eventually gave this up , admitting she " wasn 't good enough " , and took a job dancing at the Manhattan strip club Scores , on the recommendation of her sister who worked there . When starting at the club , she chose the stage name Savanna in homage to a character in The Prince of Tides . The surname Samson , taken from the biblical figure , was added later in her career to distinguish her from porn actress Savannah . While at Scores , she met her future husband , wine merchant Daniel Oliveros , with whom she now has a son .

= = Adult film career = =

Samson 's move into the adult film business began in 2000 , after she wrote a letter to Italian porn actor and director Rocco Siffredi , asking to work with him . She initially wanted to make a movie in order to fulfill a fantasy , after her husband had given her the idea , and hoped no one she knew would find out . However , after her first movie , Rocco Meats An American Angel In Paris , which was nominated for " Best Foreign Release " at the AVN Awards , she got what she described as " porn fever " and went on to make further movies . Her family soon discovered her film career when she appeared on The Howard Stern Show and Entertainment Tonight . Samson stated in 2006 : " My parents are devastated by my career choices " .

In April 2002 , she signed an exclusive contract with Vivid Entertainment . She continued to live in New York , and commuted to California to shoot films for the company . Samson was among three Vivid Girls to be profiled in an early @-@ 2003 issue of Vanity Fair , as part of an annual roundup of the entertainment industry . The Girls were featured alongside other entertainers , such as Daniel Day @-@ Lewis and Julianne Moore , in a double @-@ page photograph taken at Elton John 's home on the French Riviera . She was also one of several Vivid Girls to provide content for the book How to Have a XXX Sex Life : The Ultimate Vivid Guide , published by ReganBooks on July 20 , 2004 . Samson helped promote the book with appearances on The O 'Reilly Factor and The Howard Stern Show . In May 2004 , she joined several other porn actresses as a columnist for AVNInsider.com. At the 2004 AVN Awards , Samson won " Best Actress ? Film " and " Best Group Sex Scene ? Film " for her role in Looking In , a 2003 film about four suburban couples who have a view into each other 's houses .

Along with comedian Thea Vidale , Samson hosted the 2005 AVN Awards , at which she won awards herself for " Best All @-@ Girl Sex Scene ? Film " and " Best Group Sex Scene ? Film " . In February 2005 , Samson began co @-@ hosting a daily music @-@ and @-@ talk radio show on the Internet station Electric Eye Radio . Later in the year , she featured alongside Jenna Jameson in Vivid 's high @-@ budget remake of the classic adult film The Devil in Miss Jones . Samson 's role as Miss Jones earned her the 2006 AVN Awards for " Best Actress ? Film " and " Best All @-@ Girl

Sex Scene ? Film " . During her acceptance speech , she revealed the importance of support from her peers and said " most of my family is pretty ashamed of what I do " .

Samson announced in early 2006 that she had started her own production company , Savanna Samson Productions , which would release one film a year , distributed exclusively by Vivid . During 2006 , Samson appeared on The Tyra Banks Show , The Dr. Keith Ablow Show , Secret Lives of Women , and for the second time , Saturday Night Live . Michael Lucas ' 2006 gay @-@ porn remake of La Dolce Vita featured a cameo appearance by Samson , which in 2007 won her the GayVN Award for " Best Non @-@ Sexual Performance " .

Early in 2007 , Samson signed a record contract with Koch Records , now known as E1 Music , who approached her after hearing her sing during a radio tour . On May 3 , 2007 , she appeared as a guest on the WNYC radio series , The Tristan Mysteries , to discuss Richard Wagner 's opera " Tristan und Isolde " . A long @-@ time Wagner fan , Samson stated " I think I 'm in a unique position to discuss the sensual aspects of the ' Tristan and Isolde ' characters and of opera in general " . In June 2007 , Savanna Samson Productions released its first title , Any Way You Want Me , an interactive movie directed by and starring Samson . She also appeared in the 2007 film Debbie Does Dallas ... Again , a sequel to the 1978 classic Debbie Does Dallas , as well as its " making of " series that was broadcast weekly on Showtime . The film gained her a 2008 AVN Award for " Best Group Sex Scene ? Film " .

In April 2008 , Samson became a political correspondent on Fox News Channel 's late @-@ night talk show Red Eye w / Greg Gutfeld . She had made several previous appearances on the show , and in 2007 had endorsed New York mayor Rudy Giuliani 's Republican presidential candidacy . September 2008 saw the unveiling of her debut album , Possession , and her first single , a title track co @-@ written by Samson during the breakup of her marriage . Commenting on the theme of the song , she said , " People see me nude and having sex and think they know me and that I 'm available , but I 'm no more available than Angelina Jolie " . Later in the month , she had a cameo role on The Daily Show , in which she portrayed CBS Evening News anchor Katie Couric in a commercial for a fictional action @-@ adventure show . In the appearance , Samson asks Daily Show correspondent Jason Jones , " Hey , Jones , you really think you 've got the balls for that story ? " She began writing a sex @-@ advice column for the adult entertainment site XCritic.com in June 2009 , having previously written such columns for Men ? s Fitness magazine and AdultFriendFinder.com. Samson made her mainstream acting debut in the 30 Rock episode , " Into the Crevasse " , which first aired on October 22 , 2009 . In the episode , she plays a porn version of Tina Fey 's character , Liz Lemon . In 2011 , Samson was inducted into the AVN Hall of Fame .

According to the Internet Adult Film Database , as of May 2010 Samson had appeared in 90 adult movies , including compilations containing recycled scenes . A 2006 article in The New York Times reported that she earns from \$ 20 @,@ 000 to over \$ 100 @,@ 000 per film , depending on sales , with each one taking from three days to two weeks to make . An Adult Video News article written in February 2006 stated that Samson had five years left on her contract with Vivid .

= = Winemaking = =

Despite enjoying her career in the adult film industry , Samson felt it left her unfilled . In 2005 , while on vacation in Tuscany , Italy , she decided she could " leave a mark on this world " by making wine . The wife of a wine merchant , she had frequently traveled to Italy and France , and often fantasized about owning her own vineyard . When she was a child , she had helped her family make wine in their basement .

She formed the company , Savanna Samson Wines , and asked Italian winemaker and consultant Roberto Cipresso to help find a blend of grapes local to Tuscany that would produce her ideal flavor . They eventually chose a mixture of 70 percent Cesanese , 20 percent Sangiovese and 10 percent Montepulciano , which produced a red wine that she named Sogno Uno , meaning Dream One . Its label played on Samson 's notoriety as a porn star , featuring a side view of her wearing only a see @-@ through gown and high heels . Wine critic Robert M. Parker , Jr. gave Sogno Uno a rating of 90 to 91 out of 100 , and described it as " awfully good " . A gala launch was held for the wine at a

Manhattan restaurant on February 27 , 2006 . By June 2007 , her company had produced a further two wines .

= = Awards = =

2004 AVN Award - Best Actress , Film (Looking In)

2004 AVN Award - Best Group Sex Scene , Film (Looking In)

2005 AVN Award - Best All @-@ Girl Sex Scene , Film (The Masseuse) with Jenna Jameson

2005 AVN Award - Best Group Sex Scene , Film (Dual Identity)

2005 Eroticline Award - Best Erotic Actress in the World

2005 NightMoves Award - Best Actress / Female Performer (Editor 's Choice)

2006 XRCO Award - Best Single Performance , Actress (The New Devil in Miss Jones)

2006 AVN Award - Best Actress , Film (The New Devil in Miss Jones)

2006 AVN Award - Best All @-@ Girl Sex Scene , Film (The New Devil in Miss Jones)

2007 GayVN Award - Best Non @-@ Sexual Performance (Michael Lucas ' La Dolce Vita)

2008 AVN Award - Best Group Sex Scene , Film (Debbie Does Dallas ... Again)

2011 AVN Hall of Fame inductee