

= Dorian Holley =

Dorian Holley is an African American musician , backing singer and vocal coach . Holley began his professional career as an on @-@ stage backing vocalist for American entertainer Michael Jackson during his Bad World Tour in 1987 . The series of concerts had him perform to millions of people throughout the world , including British royalty . From there , Holley went on to travel with Jackson for all of his subsequent world tours . He also performed with other artists such as Rod Stewart in 1991 and James Taylor in 1994 . His stage presence and vocal ability were praised by music critics during such performances .

Holley successfully auditioned to become a featured vocalist on the reality television show Dancing with the Stars . He served in this capacity for the first three seasons of the American series . Holley has also worked for several years as an associate music director and vocal coach for the singing competition American Idol , where he works with contestants before and after they appear before the show 's judges and a worldwide television audience .

In 2008 , Holley self @-@ released his debut album , Independent Film . The subsequent year , he worked with Jackson for the final time , in preparation for the entertainer 's ill @-@ fated concert series This Is It . Holley was to serve as a backing vocalist , as well as the vocal director for the shows . Jackson 's death forced the concerts to be canceled .

In 2010 , Holley host a weekend at the LA Music Academy called " The Art of the Audition " . As of 2011 , Holley was the vocalist for the house band on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno , led by Rickey Minor . He is also the Artist Development Director at Los Angeles Music Academy College of Music and teaches in the school 's Vocal Department . Dorian is married to trial attorney Shawn Chapman Holley , who once represented Jackson and has been a Chief Legal Correspondent for the E ! Network

. The couple have three daughters together .

= = Career = =

= = = Bad World Tour and Rod Stewart = = =

Holley first performed with pop superstar Michael Jackson during the entertainer 's first solo concert series , the Bad World Tour . Beginning in Japan in September 1987 , the tour lasted for 16 months , during which time Holley visited 15 countries while serving as a backing singer for Jackson , along with Kevin Dorsey , Darryl Phinnessee and Sheryl Crow . As part of the tour , Holley performed to over 4 million people , including Diana , Princess of Wales and Charles , Prince of Wales . The Bad World Tour concluded several months later in January 1989 .

English musician Rod Stewart enlisted the services of both Holley and Phinnessee in 1991 , when he toured the US . The two singers were part of an 11 @-@ man backing ensemble , when Stewart performed at the Pacific Amphitheatre in Costa Mesa , Orange County , California in September 1991 . During the show 's encore , Stewart performed his signature song " Twistin ' the Night Away " . The Los Angeles Times described in a review of the concert that the song was " embellished with a delicious a cappella doo @-@ wop break featuring the 46 @-@ year @-@ old star and backup singers Darryl Phinnessee and Dorian Holley " . The two vocalists were also praised by the Chicago Tribune after a performance at the Poplar Creek Music Theatre , where their " sublime harmonies " " formed a perfect counterpoint to Stewart 's impassioned pleas on ' This Old Heart of Mine ' " . The San Jose Mercury News concluded that Holley and Phinnessee were " great " .

= = = James Taylor , Dangerous Tour and HIStory Tour = = =

Holley returned to work with Jackson for the Dangerous World Tour (June 1992 ? November 1993) , a 69 date concert series which was attended by almost 3 @.@ 5 million fans . The tour was cut short , however , after child sexual abuse allegations were levelled against Jackson and he

cancelled the remainder of the tour due to the stress caused by the accusations .

In 1994 , Holley joined with Kate Markowitz , Valerie Carter , and David Lasley to form what The Pantagraph and The Boston Globe respectively described as a " wonderful " and " angelic " backing group to James Taylor . While on tour with Taylor , Holley was praised for his vocal ability by several news sources . The Roanoke Times stated that the highlight of the show at the city 's Civic Center was the performance of " Shower the People " , which " showcased the singing " of Holley . The St. Louis Post @-@ Dispatch revealed that during a performance of the same song at Riverport Amphitheater , the backing vocalist " sang a spirited solo that drew an ovation equal to anything Taylor had drawn thus far " .

Holley worked with Michael Jackson again for the entertainer 's last concert series , the HIStory World Tour , which began in Prague , Czech Republic in September 1996 . The tour attracted more than 4 @.@ 5 million fans from 58 cities in 35 countries around the world and concluded in Durban , South Africa in October 1997 .

= = = Reality television work = = =

Holley auditioned to become a featured vocalist on the American reality television show Dancing with the Stars . The audition consisted of him performing seven different sounds , ranging from Frank Sinatra to Sly Stone . He was successful and became a featured singer during the first three seasons of the series . Holley later noted that the concept of diversity in vocal performance was not a new experience for him . " I 've been at sessions where a producer has said he wants me to sound like Michael Jackson and Bruce Springsteen at the same time . I 've had people say can you make it a little more green . Huh ? It 's tricky . " He added , " Sometimes they think they want Sheryl Crow , because she has a hit single . But what they really want is magic , and that is whatever you , as an individual , can bring . It 's a tough call between being a blank slate and being yourself . "

Holley has also served for several years as an associate music director and vocal coach for the reality singing competition American Idol . As part of his job , he helps contestants rehearse and arrange the songs that they are to perform . He states that his primary task , however , is to encourage and support the participants as they face scrutiny and criticism . Holley added that it is common for some of the contestants to " crumbl [e] " upon leaving the stage if they have received critical comments from judge Simon Cowell . His job on American Idol has had him work with winners such as Jordin Sparks and Kris Allen .

= = = Debut album , workshops and This Is It = = =

Independent Film , Holley 's debut solo album , was self @-@ released by the singer in 2008 . Joan Anderman of The Boston Globe described the album as being a " soul @-@ satisfying project that won 't pay the bills " . It was reported in October 2008 that Holley had been conducting workshops on the art of audition . He drew inspiration from his time on American Idol , as well as his experience with artists such as Stevie Wonder , Christina Aguilera , Kanye West and Queen Latifah . While at Berklee College of Music , he offered advice to young singers who wanted to become famous . " Everyone starts out dreaming , and then you get married , have a baby , buy a house and a car , and what I want to let people know is that there are so many jobs out there . My thinking is , if you 're a musician and you can make music instead of digging a ditch , make it . "

Holley 's last experiences with Jackson were in 2009 , when he prepared for a scheduled 50 @-@ date concert series called This Is It . Holley rehearsed with Jackson as a backing singer at the Staples Center in Los Angeles and was also hired as the vocal director for the ill @-@ fated shows . He was present on the singer 's last night of rehearsals in June 2009 . Hours later , Jackson died after he entered into cardiac arrest at his nearby home . Holley sang during the group rendition of " We Are the World " at the entertainer 's memorial service the subsequent month . He was joined by fellow This Is It backing vocalists Darryl Phinnessee , Judith Hill and Orianthi .

= = = Personal life = = =

The singer is married to trial attorney Shawn Chapman Holley , who practices law in the areas of both civil and criminal litigation . A partner of Howard Weitzman of Kinsella Weitzman Iser Kump & Aldiser LLP , she has defended and worked for individuals such as O.J. Simpson , Sara Jane Olson , Lindsay Lohan , Nicole Richie , Paris Hilton , Tupac Shakur , Snoop Dogg , Mike Tyson , The Game , Axl Rose , Jesse McCartney and Michael Jackson . She was also an on @-@ air legal analyst during the E ! Network 's nightly international coverage of Jackson 's 2005 child sexual abuse trial . Together , Dorian and Shawn have three daughters ; Nayanna , Sasha , and Olivia . Nayanna Holley is a singer , actor , and songwriter , she starts to traveling with her father since 3 years old . The Los Angeles Times reported in 2005 that the family live in a 2 @,@ 800 @-@ square @-@ foot (260 m2) home , which was built in 1920 and bought by Holley and his wife in 2003 . The Standard noted in 2007 that the pair had purchased a 3 @,@ 500 @-@ square @-@ foot (330 m2) Italian Renaissance Revival home in Lafayette Square , Los Angeles . Writers for the publication further commented that the Holleys planned to keep a home in nearby Wellington Square .

= = Discography = =

Independent Film (2008)

= = Filmography = =