

= Jada Pinkett Smith =

Jada Koren Pinkett ? Smith (/ ?d?e?d? ?p??k?t ?sm?? / ; born Jada Koren Pinkett ; September 18 , 1971) is an American actress , dancer , singer @-@ songwriter , and businesswoman . She began her career in 1990 , when she made a guest appearance in the short @-@ lived sitcom True Colors . She starred in A Different World , produced by Bill Cosby , and she featured opposite Eddie Murphy in The Nutty Professor (1996) . She starred in dramatic films such as Menace II Society (1993) and Set It Off (1996) . She has appeared in more than 20 films in a variety of genres , including Scream 2 , Ali , The Matrix Reloaded , The Matrix Revolutions , Madagascar , Madagascar : Escape 2 Africa , and Madagascar 3 : Europe 's Most Wanted .

Pinkett Smith launched her music career in 2002 , when she helped create the metal band Wicked Wisdom , for which she is a singer and songwriter . Smith also created a production company , in addition to authoring a book , published in 2004 .

In 1997 , she married actor Will Smith . They have two children , Jaden and Willow . The couple founded the Will and Jada Smith Family Foundation , a charity organization which focuses on inner @-@ city youth and family support and has worked with non @-@ profit organizations like YouthBuild and the Lupus Foundation of America .

= = Family and early life = =

Born in Baltimore , Maryland , Jada Koren Pinkett was named after her mother 's favorite soap @-@ opera actress , Jada Rowland . Pinkett Smith is of African American , West Indian (from Jamaica and Barbados) , Creole , and Portuguese @-@ Jewish ancestry . Her parents are Adrienne Banfield @-@ Jones , the head nurse of an inner @-@ city clinic in Baltimore , and Robsol Pinkett , Jr . , who ran a construction company . Banfield @-@ Jones became pregnant in high school ; the couple married but divorced after several months . Banfield @-@ Jones raised Pinkett with the help of her own mother , Marion Martin Banfield , a social worker . Banfield noticed her granddaughter 's passion for the performing arts and enrolled her in piano , tap dance , and ballet lessons . She has a younger brother , actor / writer Caleeb Pinkett .

Pinkett Smith has remained close to her mother and said , " A mother and daughter 's relationship is usually the most honest , and we are so close . " She also added : " [My mother] understood what I wanted and never stood in my way . " She participated as the maid of honor in Banfield @-@ Jones ' 1998 wedding to telecommunications executive Paul Jones . Pinkett Smith has shown great admiration for her grandmother , saying , " My grandmother was a doer who wanted to create a better community and add beauty to the world . "

Pinkett Smith attended the Baltimore School for the Arts , where she met and became lifelong friends with classmate Tupac Shakur . She majored in dance and theatre and graduated in 1989 . She continued her education at the North Carolina School of the Arts , and became fully invested in pursuing her acting career . She ultimately moved to Los Angeles , California , where she quickly found success in show business .

= = Acting career = =

She began her acting career in 1990 , when she starred in an episode of True Colors . She then appeared in a television pilot for a supernatural drama titled Moe 's World that was never aired . She received guest roles in television shows such as Doogie Howser , M.D. (1991) and 21 Jump Street (1991) . She earned a role on comedian Bill Cosby 's NBC television sitcom A Different World in 1991 , as college freshman Lena James .

In 1994 , Pinkett Smith acted with Keenen Ivory Wayans in the action and comedy film A Low Down Dirty Shame . She described her character , Peaches , as " raw " with " major attitude " , and her acting garnered positive reviews . The New York Times noted , " Ms. Pinkett , whose performance is as sassy and sizzling as a Salt @-@ n @-@ Pepa recording , walks away with the movie . "

=== 1996 ? 2000 ===

Following a role in *Demon Knight* (1995) , Pinkett Smith co -@-@ starred with actor and comedian Eddie Murphy in the 1996 remake of *The Nutty Professor* . The film opened in 2 @, @ 000 theaters and earned \$ 25 million in its first weekend .

Next , Pinkett Smith had a role in *Set It Off* (1996) , a crime drama about four women who rob banks to escape from poverty . With Queen Latifah , Vivica A. Fox , and Kimberly Elise , her acting in the film was noted in the *San Francisco Chronicle* where they named her as " the one to watch " .

In 1997 , Pinkett Smith had a cameo role in *Scream 2* as Maureen Evans , a college student who is brutally murdered in front of hundreds of cinemagoers . The film made over \$ 100 million at the US box office . In 2000 , Pinkett Smith was cast in Spike Lee 's film *Bamboozled* (2000) , as Sloan Hopkins , a personal assistant to the main character portrayed by Damon Wayans . Although the film met with mediocre reviews , it won the Freedom of Expression Award by the National Board of Review .

=== 2001 ? present ===

Perhaps her best @-@ known role to date is the part of human rebel Niobe in the films *The Matrix Reloaded* (2003) and *The Matrix Revolutions* (2003) , and video game *Enter The Matrix* (2003) sequels to 1999 's *The Matrix* . The character was eventually written , specifically , with Pinkett Smith in mind . Directly after she filmed her scenes for *Ali* , Pinkett Smith flew to Australia to work on the *Matrix* sequels . The sequels earned over \$ 91 million and \$ 48 million during opening weekends , respectively .

In 2008 , Pinkett Smith portrayed Alex Fisher , a lesbian author , in *The Women* . Pinkett Smith 's directorial debut was *The Human Contract* ; she also wrote and acted in the movie . Starring Paz Vega and Idris Elba , it debuted at the Cannes Film Festival in May 2008 . In January 2009 , she started working on the TNT medical drama *Hawthorne* , in which she was executive producer and a starring cast member . In September 2011 , the show was cancelled by TNT , after three seasons . In spring 2012 , Pinkett Smith launched a web series entitled *Red Table Talks* , with the first episode featuring her daughter and her mother , in order to encourage dialogue within families . Beginning in 2014 , she starred in the first season of the Fox 's crime drama *Gotham* as the notorious gangster Fish Mooney . In 2016 she reprised her role as Mooney in many episodes of *Gotham* 's second season .

== Musical career ==

Under the stage name Jada Koren , Pinkett Smith formed the metal band *Wicked Wisdom* in 2002 . The band consists of Pinkett Smith performing lead vocals , Pocket Honore (guitar , vocals) , Cameron " Wirm " Graves (guitar , keyboard , vocals) , and Rio (bass , vocals) . The band is managed by James Lassiter and Miguel Melendez of Overbrook Entertainment , a company co @-@ founded by Pinkett Smith 's husband Will Smith .

The band 's self @-@ titled debut album was released on February 21 , 2006 , by Pinkett Smith 's production company 100 % Womon and Suburban Noize Records . Will Smith served as the project 's executive producer . The album made it to *Billboard* 's Top Heatseekers chart , and peaked at number 44 during the week of March 11 , 2006 . AllMusic reviewer Alex Henderson said of the album , " [Pinkett Smith] shows herself to be an expressive , commanding singer " and that " [*Wicked Wisdom*] shows considerable promise " . The band promoted the album in 2006 , touring with heavy metal band Sevendust .

=== Onyx Hotel Tour ===

Wicked Wisdom landed a slot on Britney Spears ' *Onyx Hotel Tour* in 2004 , one of the year 's highest @-@ profile tours . The band opened for Spears for eight dates in April and May 2004 ,

during the European leg of the tour .

= = Ozzfest 2005 = =

In 2005 , Sharon Osbourne went to see Wicked Wisdom perform at a small nightclub in Los Angeles . She said , " I was blown away . When you see and hear Jada with her band it 's apparent that she has nothing but love and respect for this genre of music " . In May 2005 organizers announced Wicked Wisdom would perform on the second stage of 2005 's Ozzfest . Fans of the festival were outraged , claiming the band did not have the credibility to perform at the music festival . Aware of the questions about the band 's addition to Ozzfest , Pinkett Smith said , " I 'm not here asking for any favors . You 've got to show and prove . And not every audience is going to go for it . " Wicked Wisdom 's guitarist Pocket Honore said while early dates of the tour were rocky , " once word got out that we weren 't a joke , people started coming out and by the sixth or seventh gig we were on fire " . Pinkett Smith agreed , saying , " After seven dates within the Ozzfest tour , the whole attitude of it started to turn around once the word of mouth started getting out . "

= = Personal life = =

Jada met Will Smith in 1994 on the set of Smith 's television show The Fresh Prince of Bel @-@ Air , when she auditioned for the role of his character 's girlfriend , Lisa Wilkes . She was considered too short and the role went to actress Nia Long . Jada and Will became friends , and began dating in 1995 . On December 31 , 1997 , about 100 guests attended their wedding at The Cloisters , near her hometown of Baltimore , Maryland . Regarding her marriage , Jada said that they are " private people " and told one interviewer , " I will throw my career away before I let it break up our marriage . I made it clear to Will . I 'd throw it away completely " .

Jada and Will have two children , Jaden (b . 1998) , and Willow (b . 2000) . She is also the stepmother of Trey Smith , Will 's son from a previous marriage .

Will commented in 2008 on their parenting styles : " We 're not strict but we definitely believe it 's a very important component for rearing children . It creates safety for them . They understand that they need guidance . " Jaden and Willow are attending public school once again . The family resides in a 27 @,@ 000 square foot (2 @,@ 500 m2) home , on 100 acres (40 ha) , in Malibu .

= = Business ventures = =

After opening her music company 100 % Womon Productions , Pinkett Smith created her own fashion label , Maja , in 1994 . The clothing line features women 's T @-@ shirts and dresses embellished with the slogan " Sister Power " , sold primarily through small catalogs .

In 2003 , Pinkett Smith and Smith helped to create the television series All of Us , which originally aired on UPN . Pinkett Smith published her first children 's book , Girls Hold Up This World , in 2004 . " I wrote the book for Willow and for her friends and for all the little girls in the world who need affirmation about being female in this pretty much masculine world . I really tried to capture different sides of femininity . I want girls in the world to feel powerful , to know they have the power to change the world in any way they wish . "

In 2005 , Pinkett Smith became one of many celebrities to invest a combined total of \$ 10 million in Carol 's Daughter , a line of beauty products created by Lisa Price . She became a spokesperson for the beauty line , and said , " To be a part of another African American woman 's dream was just priceless to me . "

She also is a shareholder the Philadelphia 76ers with her husband Will Smith and other partners .

= = Charity work and politics = =

Together with Smith , Pinkett Smith has created the Will and Jada Smith Family Foundation in Baltimore , Maryland , a charity which focuses on youth in urban inner cities and family support . Her

aunt , Karen Banfield Evans , is the foundation 's executive director . The charity was awarded the David Angell Humanitarian Award by The American Screenwriters Association (ASA) in 2006 . The Will and Jada Smith Family Foundation has provided grants to non @-@ profit organizations such as YouthBuild , and Pinkett Smith has made personal donations to organizations such as Capital K @-@ 9s .

In December 2006 , she donated \$ 1 million to the Baltimore School for the Arts in memory of her friend Tupac .

When Pinkett Smith 's aunt , Karen Banfield Evans , was diagnosed with lupus , the Will and Jada Smith Family Foundation , in association with the Lupus Foundation of America and Maybelline , held the first annual " Butterflies Over Hollywood " event on September 29 , 2007 , at the El Rey Theatre in Los Angeles . The event raised funds for LFA public and professional educational programs . The Will and Jada Smith Family Foundation was presented with an award in 2007 at the 4th Annual Lupus Foundation of America Awards .

In 2012 , on behalf of PETA , Pinkett Smith wrote a letter to Baltimore 's mayor , asking that the visiting Ringling Brothers Circus " comply with Baltimore 's absolute prohibition of the use of devices such as bullhooks " and not harm the elephants . In 2013 , she appeared in a video clip for Gucci 's " Chime for Change " campaign that aims to raise funds and awareness of women 's issues globally .

In 1997 , Pinkett Smith was the emcee of the Million Woman March in Philadelphia .

= = = Scientology = = =

After meeting Tom Cruise during the filming of Collateral in 2004 , Pinkett Smith and Smith donated \$ 20 @,@ 000 to the Hollywood Education and Literacy Program (HELP) , Scientology 's basis for homeschooling . The couple came under fire in 2008 when they decided to fund New Village Leadership Academy , a private elementary school located in Calabasas , California (now defunct) . The school employed teachers dedicated to Scientology and featured controversial methodologies like Study Technology , created by Church of Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard . The couple have denied claims that they are themselves Scientologists .

= = Filmography = =

= = Awards and nominations = =