

= G @-@ Dragon =

Kwon Ji @-@ yong ( Hangul : ??? ) ; born August 18 , 1988 ) , better known by his stage name G @-@ Dragon , is a South Korean rapper , singer @-@ songwriter , record producer and fashion icon . After 6 years as a trainee under the record label YG Entertainment , G @-@ Dragon officially debuted as a member of the South Korean group Big Bang . G @-@ Dragon has been involved with writing , composing , and producing many of Big Bang 's hit tracks , including " Lies " , " Last Farewell " , and " Day by Day . "

His debut solo album , Heartbreaker ( 2009 ) , yielded the number @-@ one single of the same name and would go on to become one of the most successful albums of the year , garnering sales of over 200 @,@ 000 copies and winning the Mnet Asian Music Awards for Album of the Year . Heartbreaker also sparked major controversies for the artist , including accusations of plagiarism . After almost a year of hiatus , G @-@ Dragon and bandmate , T.O.P collaborated to record and release the album GD & TOP ( 2010 ) . The album saw the release of three singles : " High High " , " Oh Yeah " , and " Knock Out " , all of which have charted within the top three positions of the Gaon chart , with " High High " becoming a chart @-@ topper . 2012 saw the release of his first EP One of a Kind , which yielded hit singles " One of a Kind " , " Crayon " , and " That XX . " The album was critically acclaimed , earning Record of the Year at the 22nd Seoul Music Awards . His second full album in four years , Coup D 'Etat ( 2013 ) matched the success of his previous work , and he won Artist of the Year at the 15th Mnet Asian Music Awards . He also earned the World 's Best Entertainer and World 's Best Album awards at the 2014 World Music Awards .

G @-@ Dragon became the second member of Big Bang to make a solo debut in Japan after his bandmate Daesung 's solo concert tour . He embarked on his second worldwide tour as a solo artist , which included a four @-@ dome tour in Japan .

= = Life and career = =

= = = 1988 ? 2009 : Early life and debut with Big Bang = = =

Born and raised in Busan , South Korea , Kwon Ji @-@ yong began his career at age five as part of the group Little Roo 'Ra . After releasing a Christmas album , the group 's contract was terminated by their record company , which Kwon described as " shock [ ing ] . " Although he vowed to his mother that he " wouldn 't [ become a singer ] again , " he was scouted by SM Entertainment while on a ski trip with his family . He was a trainee under the record label for five years ( from 8 ? 13 years old ) , specializing in dance before he left as he was unclear about what he wanted to do .

In third grade , Kwon was introduced to the American rap group Wu @-@ Tang Clan by a friend . Inspired by their music , he developed an interest in rapping and began taking class . Under People Crew 's tutelage , he participated in the release of the Korean hip @-@ hop Flex album in 2001 , becoming the youngest Korean rapper at just 13 years old . Although he wrote his own lyrics for the song , he admitted that his English was weak and the story behind the lyrics was just another typical " I 'm young , but I 'm the best . " Kwon caught the interest of Sean of the hip @-@ hop duo Jinusean from YG Entertainment , who later recommended him to CEO Yang Hyun Suk . After signing a contract with the record label , Kwon spent the first year cleaning the studio for the other artists in the record label and fetching them water bottles during dance practice . He and another trainee Dong Young @-@ bae , originally planned to debut as the hip @-@ hop duo GDYB , with him choosing the stage name of G @-@ Dragon ( " Ji " is pronounced like " G " , and Yong is Korean for Dragon ) . After six years of training , Kwon made several featured appearances on other artists ' albums and even released several singles with Dong under the name " GDYB . " G @-@ Dragon made his official debut as the leader of the group Big Bang in 2006 , after six years of training under YG Entertainment , with Dong Young @-@ bae ( who chose the stage @-@ name Taeyang ) and three other members ( T.O.P , Daesung , & Seungri ) .

The formation of the group was documented on television , and though there were initially six

members , Jang Hyun @-@ seung was dropped before the official debut . The group 's debut was fairly successful , with their first single netting in sales of over 40 @,@ 000 copies . It spawned several airplay singles , including " La La La " , " We Belong Together " and " Forever with You " which featured label @-@ mate Park Bom . The album also included G @-@ Dragon 's first solo song , a cover of the American alternative rock group Maroon 5 's single " This Love . " Following the release of the group 's EP Always in 2007 , G @-@ Dragon began to involve himself more with the production of their albums . Always featured several songs composed by him , including the lead @-@ single " Lies " ( Korean : ??? ; Revised Romanization : Geojitmal ) , which became the group 's first number @-@ one hit . Their following EPs followed its predecessor 's footsteps : Hot Issue yielded " Last Farewell " ( Korean : ??? ?? ; Revised Romanization : Majimak Insa ) while Stand Up spawned " Day by Day " ( Korean : ???? ; Revised Romanization : Haru Haru ) ; both singles , which were composed by him were chart @-@ toppers .

= = = 2009 ? 2011 : Solo career development , Heartbreaker , and GD & TOP = = =

Aside from Big Bang , G @-@ Dragon also made several solo appearances . After helping produce Taeyang 's debut album , he recorded his own version of the album 's lead single " Only Look at Me " ( Korean : ????? ; Revised Romanization : Naman Barabwa ) , titled as the " Only Look At Me Part 2 " to the song . The single was released digitally . Along with Taeyang and T.O.P , G @-@ Dragon was featured on singer Lexy 's song " Super Fly " for her album " ' Rush ' . " In May 2009 , he collaborated with the Japanese boy band W @-@ inds. for their single , " Rain Is Fallin ' / Hybrid Dream . "

After Taeyang released his solo effort , G @-@ Dragon released his debut solo album Heartbreaker , featuring collaborations with several artists , including Teddy of 1TYM , Taeyang , Kush , CL of 2NE1 , and Sandara Park of 2NE1 . Initially scheduled to be released in April , the album was pushed back to August to coincide with his 21st ( Korean years : 22nd ) birthday . The album marked a change in G @-@ Dragon 's appearances as he dyed his hair blonde to match its concept . Propelled by its lead @-@ single of the same name , an electronic pop song , the album sold over 200 @,@ 000 copies and went on to win Album of the Year from the 2009 Mnet Asian Music Awards . Shortly after Heartbreaker 's release , G @-@ Dragon was accused of plagiarism by Sony Music when his tracks " Heartbreaker " and " Butterfly " were alleged to be similar to Flo Rida 's " Right Round " and Oasis 's " She 's Electric " , respectively . However , EMI , the record label that distributed " Right Round " said that they saw no similarities between these two songs . On March 6 , 2010 , YG Entertainment announced that they personally contacted Flo Rida 's representatives requesting that he feature in G @-@ Dragon 's live album , Shine a Light , to which Flo Rida accepted . In support of his album , G @-@ Dragon staged his first solo concert at the Olympic Park in December 2009 . Entitled Shine a Light , the name of the concert was derived from the lyrics to his song " A Boy . " The concert subsequently sparked controversy following complaints of obscenity and suggestive content . The Korean Ministry of Health , Welfare and Family Affairs later asked the government prosecutors to investigate if G @-@ Dragon or YG Entertainment violated laws on obscene performances in his concert . He was found innocent and was cleared of all charges on March 15 , 2010 .

In November 2010 , YG Entertainment announced the collaboration album from G @-@ Dragon and bandmate T.O.P. Preceding the release of the album , the duo held a world @-@ wide premiere showcase for their album at Times Square in Yeongdeungpo of Seoul , which was also broadcast live on YouTube . To promote their album , the duo released three singles : " High High , " " Oh Yeah " , and " Knock Out . " All three singles preceded the release of the album . The singles attained commercial successes : " High High " was number one on several music programs while " Oh Yeah " peaked at number two on the Gaon Digital Chart . The album was released on Christmas Eve , and debuted at number one on the Gaon Chart with pre @-@ orders of 200 @,@ 000 copies , eventually topping 130 @,@ 000 copies sold .

With a collaboration with Park Myung Soo , and Mr. Potato they created a duo called GG for the Infinite Challenge Seohae Ahn Highway Song Festival 2011 . They released their song " Fired Up (

???? ) " featuring Park Bom from 2NE1 on June 2 , 2011 .

On October 5 , 2011 , it was reported that G @-@ Dragon was tested positive for marijuana . His urine test came back negative but a weak positive for marijuana was detected from testing the content of his hair . The tests were done in early June and the results came back in August . As it was a first offense with a minuscule amount , it resulted in an indictment and he was not charged . He allegedly accepted an offered cigarette from a fan in Japan during a party back in May . He was the only one at the party who was later tipped off to Korean authorities . He confessed that he smoked the cigarette that was offered to him , but after realizing it was not a normal cigarette , he threw it away .

The scandal caused a halt to his promotions , and YG Entertainment issued a statement that he was being given time to reflect on his mistake . Because he was not charged , he did not lose any endorsers and later made his first public appearance after the scandal at the 2011 MTV EMAs with his group Big Bang .

= = = 2012 ? 2013 : One of a Kind , world tour , and Coup D 'Etat = = =

It was announced in March 2012 that G @-@ Dragon 's solo comeback would be scheduled in the later half of the year to coincide with his birthday . He continued to collaborate with other artists while recording materials for his album , including an appearance in Pixie Lott 's upcoming Japanese album , along with fellow member T.O.P.

G @-@ Dragon released the music video for his song " One of a Kind " from the album of the same name on August 24 , 2012 , on YouTube . The song earned him two " Best Hip-hop / Rap Song of the Year " awards from Korean Music Awards and Rhythmer Awards . He followed this up with " That XX " . His EP One of a Kind was released in digital and physical format several days apart in September . The album was received positively , placing first on the Billboard World Album Chart and entering the Billboard 200 Chart at 161 for the week . At the end of 2012 , the album netted in over 200 @,@ 000 copies , making it the highest selling solo album in Korea since the release of his Heartbreaker in 2009 . For his effort , he won the ' Best Male Solo Artist ' award at the 14th Mnet Asian Music Awards and late Record of the Year award for One of a Kind at the 22nd Seoul Music Awards .

In January 2013 , in support of his album , G @-@ Dragon embarked on his G @-@ Dragon 2013 1st World Tour , becoming the first Korean solo artist to embark a 4 @-@ dome tour in Japan and the second Korean solo artist to have a world tour ( the first being Bi Rain ) . After touring extensively , G @-@ Dragon went back into the studio to record for his second full @-@ length studio album . YG Entertainment later announced that Grammy Award @-@ winning musician Missy Elliott will be featured on the album . Elliott previously announced in January 2013 via Twitter that she had contributed two tracks ( " Chugalug " , " Niliria " ) both of which were produced by Teddy P.

His second album , Coup D 'état , was released in 2 parts online , with the full album being released September 13 . The album featured collaborations with a star @-@ studded list of artists and producers , including Missy Elliott , Diplo , Baauer , Boys Noize , Sky Ferreira , Siriusmo , Zion.T , Lydia Paek , and label @-@ mate Jennie Kim . G @-@ Dragon and Missy Elliott performed the song " Niliria " at the KCON 2013 in LA . Six tracks from Coup D 'etat placed within the top 10 of the Gaon Singles Charts with " Who You ? " being number one . The music video for " Coup D 'Etat " was released on YouTube on September 1 while the music video for " Crooked " was released shortly after , on September 4 . The success of Coup D 'état lead to G @-@ Dragon winning a total of four awards at the 15th Mnet Asian Music Awards : Best Male Solo Artist , Best Music Video for " Coup D 'etat " , Best Dance Performance for " Crooked " , and the highest award , Artist of The Year . He later took home the World 's Best Entertainer and World 's Best Album at the World Music Awards .

G @-@ dragon participated in the Infinite Challenge music contest , held on October 17 in Imjingak , by contributing the song " Going to Try " ( Haebolago ) , a duet with comedian Jeong Hyeong @-@ don . He also worked with Skrillex on the song " Dirty Vibe " for the album Recess .

= = = 2014 ? present : Touring , collaborations and contemporary art = = =

G @-@ Dragon held a fan meeting tour through Asia , visiting Japan , Hong Kong , Taiwan , Singapore , Malaysia and China . He also joined YG Entertainment 's tour " YG Power Tour " , which gathered an audience of 400 @,@ 000 + in seven cities around Asia .

On November 21 , G @-@ Dragon released a collaboration with Taeyang on the song " Good Boy " . The song reached number one on Billboard 's " World Digital Songs " chart , marking the third time a Korean act had topped the chart after PSY and 2NE1 . The single had 1 @.@ 1 million downloads in South Korea . On December 15 G @-@ Dragon released another collaboration with Skrillex and Diplo , featuring his label mate CL . The single charted at number 19 on Billboard 's Hot Dance / Electronic Songs . In September 2014 , G @-@ Dragon partnered with Chow Tai Fook ( ??? ) jewelry and launched a new collection designed by himself .

G @-@ Dragon started an art exhibition on 2015 under the name PEACEMINUSONE : Beyond the Stage . The exhibition features 200 works of art from 12 domestic and international artists including Michael Scoggins , Sophie Clements and James Clar . G @-@ Dragon said that he worked on the exhibition for over a year , with aim to bring the modern art and pop culture together , he said , " I would like to be the bridge to introduce domestic artists to the public , who are unfamiliar with art or who find art unapproachable . " The show was held on Seoul , South Korea from June 6 and ran through August 23 , and will travel to Shanghai and Singapore . He also became the face of Airbnb in the Asian market in August 2015 .

He participated in the Infinite Challenge music contest for the third time in row , this time with Taeyang . The duet teamed up with ZE : A 's Hwang Kwanghee .

= = Image and artistry = =

= = = Public image = = =

Described as the " most fashionable " one in Big Bang , G @-@ Dragon is noted for his constantly changing image and tight control over his artistry and has strongly opposed the idea of singers as " products " of the entertainment industry .

While promoting Heartbreaker , his change in hairstyle by dyeing it blonde gained popularity among his fans and became one of the top hairstyles of the year . He has consistently altered his hair throughout the years , ranging from various shades of colors to different cuts . Additionally , his constant sporting of triangular scarves became a trend among teenagers and were later nicknamed the " Big Bang scarves . " G @-@ Dragon is noted for his androgynous appearance and have collaborated with Italian footwear designer Giuseppe Zanotti to launch a limited @-@ edition collection of men 's and women 's shoes , stating that " it 's not just girls or women who get excited and worked up over pretty shoes . [ ... ] [ G ] uys can feel that way , too . " G @-@ Dragon 's fashion has been described as " quirky and experimental " by Rushali Pawar of the International Business Times while Taylor Glasby from the British Magazine Dazed and Confused characterized GD 's style as " fluid and far @-@ reaching , " calling him a " natural style chameleon . "

Because of his constant change in image , G @-@ Dragon has won multiple awards , including the Style Icon of 2008 and the award for Most Influential Men of 2008 sponsored by Arena magazine . In 2013 , G @-@ Dragon was listed in the Style Icon Top 10 , later garnering the 2013 Style Icon of the Year Award . He is the first solo singer to win the award undivided . In 2015 , he was chosen by GQ Korea as their Man of the Year . He also won the Fashionista Award in 2015 . G @-@ Dragon has attract the attention of other celebrities for his fashion sense . Fashion icon Kang Dong Won also acknowledged G @-@ Dragon 's influences during an interview , calling the singer a " fashionista . " TV personality Kim Jun Hee , when speaking at the Fashion N 's " Follow Me Season 2 " , spoke of her admiration for the artist , stating how " [ n ] ot only does G @-@ Dragon have a great taste in fashion , but he can write and compose music like a genius . " Canadian singer

Grimes also stated that K @-@ pop has influenced her musical style " more visually than anything else , " in particular G @-@ Dragon .

Initially , G @-@ Dragon admitted to being self @-@ conscious of his role as a musician , noting how he had " changed many things including the tone of my voice because I was conscious about my job when I was in front of others . " Aware that his public image is important when promoting his materials , G @-@ Dragon notes that " what the public perceives of [ my physical appearance ] is my doing so it 's my fault if I give off the wrong intention . " In recent years , he has become more relaxed , stating that now he doesn 't " do music or dress up in order to impress people around me . I don 't try to be conscious [ about music and fashion ] . " Despite his success as a solo artist and leader of Big Bang , G @-@ Dragon has admitted that he didn 't realize how famous he was until he went on Big Bang 's World Tour . He was later highlighted as one of the " 50 Reasons Why Seoul is the Best City " by CNN in 2011 while in 2015 , was picked as one of Business of Fashion 's " 500 Global Fashion Leaders , " making him 1 of 5 Koreans on the list , and the only K @-@ Pop act to have made the cut . In 2016 , G @-@ Dragon was chosen as one of the top 10 most influential celebrities in China by Chinese media outlet Sina , he became the first international artist to be placed within the top 10 of Sina 's Most Influential Stars rankings .

= = = Musical style , lyrics and composition = = =

Inspired by music by the Wu @-@ Tang Clan and citing American singer Pharrell Williams as his " musical hero , " G @-@ Dragon participated in the annual hip hop Flex album in 2001 at the age of 12 , establishing his career as an artist . During the early days of Big Bang 's career , the band was marketed predominately as a hip @-@ hop group , though they went on to experiment with electronic music and setting it as the new music trend in Korea . From previous exposure to a range of genres with Big Bang , G @-@ Dragon incorporated a mix of dance , hip @-@ hop , and R & B songs into Heartbreaker . During the production for the collaboration album GD & TOP , G @-@ dragon opted for a more hip @-@ hop sound , though he does acknowledge that R & B , acoustic , and electronic music heavily influenced it .

Since becoming a solo artist , G @-@ Dragon has maintained tight control over his music , stating that " each feeling [ in creating the music ] is different " , using his emotions to direct the lyrical content and the composition of his songs . The lyrics in his song " A Boy " was in response the negative criticisms surrounding his 2009 plagiarism controversy , with the artist refusing to give up on his career despite the setbacks . Big Bang 's song " If You " was inspired during a time when the artist was in love while " Loser " was written in an attempt to humanize the group . To distinguish himself from other artists and composers , G @-@ Dragon admits to " giving twist and turn at every corner and evoking [ a ] different story " with each part of his music , acknowledging that although the chorus is the catchiest part of the song , he wants all the parts to his song to be remembered . Prior to his establishment as a solo artist , he was also involved with the production of Big Bang 's albums , writing and composing majority of their songs . Aside from producing songs for his own band , G @-@ Dragon has also produces for other artists , including bandmates Taeyang and Seungri , and iKon

G @-@ Dragon 's contributions to his own music have garnered him praises and criticism alike . Preferring to pen lyrics that " sound like an actual story , " he has been referred to as a " genius singer @-@ songwriter , " though the rapper has expressed being uncomfortable with the label . His effort to create melodies won him praises as one of the best composers of 2008 , with many pop culture critics and industry representatives choosing him as the " musician whose future they anticipate the most . " His rap lyrics have also placed him fourth during a vote for " Most God @-@ like " rapper in Japan . The rapper also topped Forbes listing of " Most Hardworking Idol " , and made into its list " Korea 2030 Power Leaders . " Singer Lee Seung @-@ Cheol also points to G @-@ Dragon as one of the young artists he currently looks forward to . Producer and rapper Cho PD expressed his appreciation for Big Bang , stating how " [ i ] dol singers like Big Bang possess the ability of being musicians , " crediting how " in many ways Big Bang has evolved out of being an idol with the abilities they possess as musicians " and how " G @-@ Dragon can be counted as the main

representative for this . " The Korea Music Copyright Association lists at least 147 songs under G  
@-@ Dragon 's name and in 2015 , G @-@ Dragon 's annual earnings from song royalties was  
estimated to be over \$ 700 @,@ 000 a year . He is the highest paid touring singer @-@ songwriter  
in Korea , as while as the only performer to be mentioned on a list of South Korean composers  
earning the most from songwriting royalties in 2012 and the youngest on the list .

= = Personal life = =

In 2012 , G @-@ Dragon built a pension motel as a gift to his family ; fans can also stay at this  
hotel which is now run as a business by his parents . In October 20 , 2015 , G @-@ Dragon opened  
officially his first Cafe , under the name of " Monsant Cafe " . The café is located on Jeju Island . The  
South Korean indie band Hyukoh was the first artist to play at the café in September 2015 .

= = Filmography = =

= = = TV Shows = = =

= = Discography = =

= = = Korean studio albums = = =

Heartbreaker ( 2009 )

Coup D 'Etat ( 2013 )

= = = Japanese studio albums = = =

Coup D 'Etat ' + One of a Kind & Heartbreaker ( 2013 )

= = Tours = =

World Tours

One of a Kind World Tour ( 2013 )

Concerts

Shine a Light ( 2009 )

= = Awards = =