

= The Real Housewives of Atlanta =

The Real Housewives of Atlanta (abbreviated RHOA) is an American reality television series that premiered on October 7 , 2008 , on Bravo . Developed as the third installment of The Real Housewives franchise , following The Real Housewives of Orange County and New York City , it has aired eight seasons and focuses on the personal and professional lives of several women residing in Atlanta , Georgia .

The series originally focused on Lisa Wu @-@ Hartwell , DeShawn Snow , NeNe Leakes , Kim Zolciak , and Shereé Whitfield ; the eighth season lineup consists of Kandi Burruss , Cynthia Bailey , Phaedra Parks , Kenya Moore , Porsha Williams , and Kim Fields . Of the original housewives , Snow , Wu @-@ Hartwell , and Whitfield respectively left after the first , second , and fourth seasons ; Zolciak stopped filming during production of the fifth season ; and Leakes left after the seventh . The remaining housewives joined in later seasons ; Burruss in the second , Bailey and Parks in the third , Moore and Williams in the fifth (the latter of whom was a friend of the housewives in the seventh) , and Fields in the eight . Past housewives include Claudia Jordan (season 7) .

The Real Housewives of Atlanta has received moderately favorable reviews from critics and has been recognized as a " guilty pleasure " by several media outlets . However , the series has been criticized for appearing to fabricate portions of its storyline . As of February 2014 , it was the highest @-@ rated installment of The Real Housewives franchise and the most @-@ watched series airing on Bravo . Its success has resulted in the conceptions of the spin @-@ offs The Kandi Factory (featuring Burruss) , Don 't Be Tardy (featuring Zolciak) , I Dream of NeNe : The Wedding (featuring Leakes) , Kandi 's Wedding and Kandi 's Ski Trip (again , featuring Burruss) .

= = Overview and casting = =

The Real Housewives of Atlanta was announced as the third installment in The Real Housewives franchise , intending to capitalize on the successes of its predecessors The Real Housewives of Orange County and New York City . Its television network Bravo stated that the series ' planned storyline focused on " [balancing] motherhood , demanding careers and a fast @-@ paced social calendar " .

Throughout its run , The Real Housewives of Atlanta has been led by five (seasons 1 ? 2) , six (seasons 3 ? 8 with the exception of some of season 5) , and seven (some of season 5) housewives , who are credited by their first names , and is distinguished within The Real Housewives franchise in that it was , until the introduction of The Real Housewives of Potomac in 2016 , the only installment with a predominantly black cast . Its original main housewives were Lisa Wu @-@ Hartwell , DeShawn Snow , NeNe Leakes , Kim Zolciak , and Shereé Whitfield . Snow departed from the program after the first season , and alleged that producers considered her to be " too human for a circus show " and was replaced by Kandi Burruss in the second season .

The third season saw the departure of Hartwell and the addition of Cynthia Bailey and Phaedra Parks . The main lineup remained unchanged during the fourth season , although Marlo Hampton joined as a friend of the housewives . Whitfield exited the series upon the conclusion of the fourth season , and was replaced by Porsha Williams and Kenya Moore in the fifth season . Zolciak departed from the program in the middle of the fifth season , and was not replaced in the sixth season . The departure of Zolciak made Leakes the only remaining original cast member as of season six ; however , Zolciak commented that she might be interested in returning to the series . In the seventh season , Williams became a friend of the housewives , alongside new cast member Demetria McKinney , while Claudia Jordan was introduced as a main housewife .

In June 2015 , the network announced that The Real Housewives of Atlanta had been renewed for an eight season , with both NeNe Leakes and Claudia Jordan departing from the show . After Leakes ' departure , the series became the first Real Housewives franchise to not retain any original cast members as full @-@ time participants . In September 2015 , Bravo announced that Porsha Williams had assigned to be a full @-@ time housewife once again , along with newcomer actress Kim Fields . The network also announced that former housewife Shereé Whitfield , together with

new cast member Shamea Morton , would join the series in a supporting capacity , with former cast members , Leakes , Hampton , Jordan and McKinney making guest appearances .

In April 2016 , Bravo announced that the series is renewed for a ninth season . Leakes revealed she would be returning to season 9 in some capacity .

= = = Timeline of housewives = = =

= = Episodes = =

= = Storylines = =

In its series premiere , The Real Housewives of Atlanta introduced Wu @-@ Hartwell , Snow , Leakes , Zolciak , and Whitfield . Leakes and Whitfield were in the midst of a personal conflict , which was escalated after Leakes was excluded from Whitfield 's divorce party . Meanwhile , Zolciak was revealed to be dating a publicly unknown boyfriend nicknamed " Big Papa " , and later decided to pursue her aspirations of becoming a country music singer . Her friendship with Leakes deteriorated after she established a companionship with Whitfield , and was ended after Leakes made sarcastic remarks about Zolciak 's music career . Snow and Wu @-@ Hartwell additionally looked to establish prominence as a socialite and a jewelry designer , respectively . Whitfield attempted to launch her own fashion line and organize a lunch for the women to reconcile , although both ventures proved unsuccessful in the finale of the first season .

The second season saw the introduction of Burruss , who had recently become engaged to her boyfriend A.J. and expressed interest in reviving her music career . An attempted reconciliation between Leakes , Whitfield , and Zolciak failed to come to fruition , while a feud developed between Leakes and Burruss after the latter became friends with Zolciak and helped her record her single " Tardy for the Party " . Meanwhile , Zolciak attempted to launch her own wig line and became engaged to Big Papa , while Wu @-@ Hartwell and Whitfield launched their own clothing collections .

The third season saw the introduction of Bailey and Parks , while Leakes and Zolciak reconciled as the former contemplated divorcing her husband Gregg and the latter began a lesbian relationship . Parks , who was in the middle of her pregnancy , clashed with her husband Apollo Nida over their differing opinions on parenting ; she gave birth later in the season . Meanwhile , Zolciak and Burruss continued recording music together , although they clashed over their creative differences . Bailey later became engaged to her boyfriend Peter Thomas , while Zolciak set her affections on football player Kroy Biermann ; a conflict between Burruss , Leakes , and Zolciak later ensued while the latter two women embark on a promotional concert tour . Against the advice of her mother and sister , Bailey married Thomas in the third season finale .

The fourth season began as Zolciak was in the middle of her first pregnancy by her boyfriend Biermann ; she later gave birth to their son . Leakes continued divorce proceedings with Gregg , while Whitfield found herself in financial difficulties after her ex @-@ husband failed to pay child support . Meanwhile , Bailey opened her own modeling agency , while Parks looked to launch a family @-@ operated funeral home . Leakes 's new friendship with Hampton caused tension between all of the women , which escalated during a group vacation in South Africa ; while Zolciak , who had remained home with her children , became upset by negative comments Bailey (not Burruss) made about her during the group vacation . As the season closed , Leakes began to reconsider her divorce from Gregg .

As the fifth season introduced former Miss USA Moore and football player Kordell Stewart 's wife Williams , Leakes reconciled with Gregg and pondered the possibility of remarrying him . Zolciak was forced to move out of her mansion , which she and Biermann had attempted to purchase less than a year earlier , Leakes began to question Moore 's seemingly unfaithful behavior towards her boyfriend Walter during a group trip to Anguilla , which began a feud between Leakes and Williams

against Moore . Moore wished to marry Walter although their relationship had begun to deteriorate , while Parks and Moore created competing workout DVDs after plans to make the project a joint venture proved unsuccessful . Toward the end of the season , Williams attempted to revive her failing marriage to Stewart with therapist sessions .

Williams came to the realization that her marriage was not salvageable as the sixth season commenced , while Leakes became upset with Moore after the later went against " girl code " by inappropriately communicating with Nida . Moore moved out of her rental property after being evicted , while Leakes returned to Atlanta full @-@ time after her television series *The New Normal* was canceled . Burruss struggled to manage the conflict between her estranged mother Joyce and her longtime boyfriend Todd Tucker , although they attempted to reconcile as the couple became engaged and began planning their nuptials . In a later attempt to salvage the relationships between the women , Leakes hosted a couples pajama party for their group , although the women continued to clash with one another ; a later spa gathering failed to resolve residual tension between Leakes and Moore . Meanwhile , Williams attempted to launch her career as an actress after being cast in Burruss 's musical .

= = Critical reception = =

The *Real Housewives of Atlanta* has been moderately well received by critics . Writing for Common Sense Media , Melissa Camacho spoke favorably of the series ' emphasis on " a successful and powerful segment of the African @-@ American community " that appears to be frequently neglected by the popular television . Tim Hall from the *Seattle Post @-@ Intelligencer* commented of his general distaste for reality television , particularly describing *The Real Housewives of Orange County* as " utterly ridiculous " . However , he admitted that the dynamic and conflict between the women , in addition to the wealthy lifestyles they led , to be " somewhat entertaining " . In a more mixed review , Alessandra Stanley from *The New York Times* joked that its portrayal of wealth served as " the best choice for a time capsule of the Bling Decade " when noting the economic downturn the United States experienced around the time that the series premiered , although more seriously stated that the housewives ' luxuries " was never all that enviable , and now it looks as if it might not be viable . " Hanh Nguyen from *Zap2It* shared a similar sentiment , criticizing that the " showy elite and rampant consumerism " that the women regularly display " seems rather out of touch " given the United States ' economic hardship , although she elaborated that the program " [is] not by any means boring , but you do have to be in the mood to watch . "

The *Real Housewives of Atlanta* has been recognized as a " guilty pleasure " by several media outlets . Writing for *About.com* , Latoya West commented that the " self @-@ absorbed " nature of the housewives may become irritating to viewers , but noted that the series ' " divalicious drama might be addictive . " The staff from *Entertainment Weekly* joked that they " are never tardy for this party " ; they felt that " [Leakes] alone could keep [*The Real Housewives of Atlanta*] on the map " , and additionally credited Zolciak 's " slow train to cuckoo town , making all local stops " for helping to establish " the franchise for the ages . " In 2009 , a writer from *Essence* mentioned that they " couldn 't get enough of the ladies " from the program , and recognized it as the best reality show of the year . Writing for *Today* , Leslie Bruce commented that *The Real Housewives* franchise in general rose to prominence for its depiction of " foul @-@ mouthed , often catfighting and always self @-@ promoting " women , and stated that they " dominate water @-@ cooler discussions [...] by showcasing at times the worst of female behavior . "

The *Real Housewives of Atlanta* has been criticized for appearing to fabricate portions of its storyline . One source of speculation arose during the fifth season , when Kenya Moore allegedly requested that Walter Jackson pretend to be her boyfriend ; series producers were reportedly unaware of said arrangement . Moore commented that such claims were " completely false " , and further " [urged] viewers to stay tuned because the truth will come to light . " Moore was also criticized for alleging that she was financially stable , although she reportedly joined the series as a source of income to offset the difficulties with her lawsuits from several creditors . In May 2013 , Porsha Williams allegedly staged her divorce from Kordell Stewart to secure her position on the

series , which she reportedly feared was in jeopardy . In December 2013 , Williams received additional criticism for comments made in an episode aired during the sixth season , where she indicated that she believed the Underground Railroad was an actual railroad line .

= = U.S. television ratings = =

The first season of The Real Housewives of Atlanta maintained an average of 1 @. @ 495 million weekly viewers ; Bravo announced that the series had become the first program from the network to " crack the two million viewer mark among adults 18 ? 49 . " The premiere episode of the second season was watched by 2 @. @ 66 million people , setting the record for the highest @- @ rated The Real Housewives premiere episode in the franchise 's history at the time . The third season averaged a weekly viewership of 3 @. @ 6 million people , while the fourth and fifth seasons premiered with 2 @. @ 8 million and 3 @. @ 2 million viewers , respectively . The sixth season premiere was watched by 3 @. @ 1 million people ; with 1 @. @ 9 million viewers being classified in the adults 25 ? 54 demographic , it became the highest @- @ rated episode in this target demographic . As of February 2014 , The Real Housewives of Atlanta is the highest @- @ rated installment of The Real Housewives franchise , and is additionally the most @- @ watched series airing on Bravo . The premiere episode of the seventh season attracted over 3 @. @ 8 million viewers during its initial broadcast on November 9 , 2014 , including 2 @. @ 2 million viewers in the 18 ? 49 demographic via Nielsen ratings . It marked as the most watched season premiere ever to air on Bravo .

= = Broadcast history = =

The Real Housewives of Atlanta airs regularly on Bravo in the United States ; most episodes are approximately one hour in length , and are broadcast in standard definition and high definition . Since its premiere , the series has alternated airing on Monday , Tuesday , Thursday , and Sunday evenings and has been frequently shifted between the 8 : 00 , 9 : 00 , and 10 : 00 PM timeslots . The first season of The Real Housewives of Atlanta included seven episodes and one reunion special , and aired from October 7 , 2008 , until November 25 , 2008 . The second season consisted of fourteen episodes , a two @- @ part reunion special , and a deleted scenes special ; it premiered on July 30 , 2009 , and concluded on November 5 , 2009 . The third season commenced airing on October 4 , 2010 , after airing sixteen episodes and a two @- @ part reunion special , it ended on January 30 , 2011 . The fourth season aired from November 6 , 2011 until April 22 , 2012 ; it included twenty episodes and a three @- @ part reunion special . The fifth season premiered on November 4 , 2012 , and concluded on April 21 , 2013 after broadcasting twenty episodes and a three @- @ part reunion special . The sixth season commenced airing on November 3 , 2013 , and ended on May 18 , 2014 . It included a three @- @ part reunion special , a secrets revealed special , and (for the first time in Real Housewives history) , a husbands revealed special .

The Real Housewives of Atlanta was renewed for a seventh season in April 2014 . The season premiered on November 9 , 2014 , and concluded with a three @- @ part reunion . The eighth season premiered on November 8 , 2015 .

= = = Spin @- @ offs = = =

Zolciak received the first spin @- @ off from The Real Housewives of Atlanta , titled Don 't Be Tardy for the Wedding , which documented the preparations for her nuptials to Kroy Biermann . It premiered on April 9 , 2012 and was renewed for a second season on April 16 , 2013 , at which time its title was shortened to Don 't Be Tardy . The show returned for a third season on July 17 , 2014 . Subsequent seasons follow the daily lives of Kim and her now @- @ husband Kroy as he tries to juggle between his professional career and personal life while Kim deals with her growing family . Originally planned as a one @- @ time television special , The Kandi Factory was launched as the second spin @- @ off from The Real Housewives of Atlanta in 2012 . It followed Burruss and her

record producers as they attempted to launch the music careers of undiscovered artists , although it was confirmed in 2013 that the series was canceled after airing one season . After reconciling with her ex @-@ husband Gregg , Leakes received her own spin @-@ off series I Dream of NeNe : The Wedding , which documented the preparations for their second wedding ; it premiered on September 17 , 2013 . Bravo announced Burruss and Tucker 's wedding spin @-@ off , Kandi 's Wedding , on April 8 , 2014 . The series premiered on June 1 , 2014 , and concluded on July 6 , 2014 . Kandi 's Wedding brought in very high ratings for Bravo , and topped NeNe Leakes and Kim Zolciak 's previous spin @-@ offs . In March 2015 , Bravo renewed Don 't Be Tardy ... for a fourth season as well as announced another spin @-@ off show , NeNe and Kim : The Road to Riches , starring both Leakes and Zolciak . However , the network later decided not to move forward with the show . The network later announced another series titled Kandi 's Ski Trip , the third offshoot starring Burruss . The three @-@ part special premiered after the conclusion of the seventh season of The Real Housewives of Atlanta .