

= Nicki Minaj =

Onika Tanya Maraj (born December 8 , 1982) , known professionally as Nicki Minaj , is a Trinidadian @-@ born American rapper , singer and songwriter . Born in Saint James , Trinidad and Tobago and raised in South Jamaica , Queens , New York , Minaj earned public attention after releasing three mixtapes between 2007 ? 09 . She has been signed to Young Money Entertainment since 2009 .

Minaj 's first and second studio albums , Pink Friday (2010) and Pink Friday : Roman Reloaded (2012) , both peaked at number one on the U.S. Billboard 200 and produced the successful singles " Super Bass " and " Starships " , respectively . In 2010 , Minaj became the first female solo artist to have seven singles simultaneously charting on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 . Her third studio album , The Pinkprint (2014) , was preceded by its second single , " Anaconda " , which peaked at number two on the Hot 100 and is her highest @-@ charting single in the U.S. to date . Minaj made her film debut in the 2012 animated film Ice Age : Continental Drift , followed by supporting roles in The Other Woman (2014) and Barbershop : The Next Cut (2016) . In 2013 , she was a judge on the twelfth season of American Idol .

Minaj was the first female artist included on MTV 's Annual Hottest MC List , with a The New York Times editor saying that some consider her to be " the most influential female rapper of all time " . In 2016 , Minaj was included on the annual Time 100 list of the most influential people in the world . Her rapping is distinctive for its fast flow and the use of alter egos and accents , primarily British cockney . Early in her career , Minaj was known for her colorful costumes and wigs . According to Billboard , Minaj has the most Hot 100 entries in history amongst female rappers , and also has the third @-@ most entries amongst women of all genres . Minaj has received ten Grammy nominations throughout her career , and has won six American Music Awards , eleven BET Awards , three MTV Video Music Awards , four Billboard Music Awards , and was the recipient of Billboard 's Women in Music 2011 Rising Star award . She has further endorsed Adidas , MAC Cosmetics and Pepsi .

= = Early life = =

Onika Tanya Maraj was born in Saint James , Trinidad and Tobago on December 8 , 1982 . Her parents Robert Maraj , a financial executive and part @-@ time gospel singer , and Carol Maraj , also a gospel singer , are Trinidadians of African heritage , with Robert additionally of Asian Indian heritage . Carol worked in payroll and accounting departments during Minaj 's youth . Minaj 's father was addicted to alcohol and other drugs , and had a violent temper , burning down their house in December 1987 . She has two siblings .

As a small child , Minaj and a sibling lived with her grandmother in Saint James . Her mother , who had moved to The Bronx , New York to attend Monroe College and brought her husband six months later , brought them to Queens , New York , when Minaj was 5 . By then the family had a house on West 147th Street . Minaj recalled , " I don ' t think I had a lot of discipline in my household . My mom motivated me , but it wasn ' t a strict household . I kind of wanted a strict household . " Minaj successfully auditioned for admission to LaGuardia High School in Manhattan , which focuses on visual and performing arts . After graduation , Minaj wanted to become an actress , and she was cast in the Off @-@ Broadway play In Case You Forget in 2001 . When her acting career failed to take off , at age 19 she worked as a waitress at Red Lobster in the Bronx , but was fired for discourtesy to customers . She said she was fired from " at least fifteen jobs " for similar reasons . She also worked as an administrative assistant , in customer service and as an office manager for a Wall Street business .

= = Career = =

= = = 2004 ? 09 : Career beginnings = = =

Minaj briefly signed with Brooklyn group Full Force , in which she rapped in a quartet called " The Hoodstars " composed of Lou \$ tar (son of " Bowlegged Lou ") , Safaree Samuels (Scaff Beezy) and 7even Up . In 2004 the group recorded the entrance song for WWE Diva Victoria , " Don 't Mess With " , which was featured on the compilation album ThemeAddict : WWE The Music , Vol.6. Minaj left Full Force and uploaded songs on her Myspace profile , sending several of her songs to people in the music industry . At the time , she was managed by Debra Antney . Fendi , CEO of Brooklyn label Dirty Money Entertainment , signed Minaj to his label in 2007 under a 180 @-@ day contract . Originally adopting the stage name " Nicki Maraj " , she changed it to Nicki Minaj stating that " My real name is Maraj . Fendi flipped it when he met me because I had such a nasty flow ! I eat bitches ! "

Minaj released her first mixtape , Playtime is Over , on Dirty Money Records on July 5 , 2007 and her second , Sucka Free , on April 12 , 2008 . That year , she was named Female Artist of the Year at the 2008 Underground Music Awards . In 2009 Minaj was involved in a conflict with ego trip 's Miss Rap Supreme winner Rece Steele , who was annoyed when Minaj interrupted her interview and put a sign behind Steele 's head ; Minaj hung up on interviewers from Spate magazine when they asked about the incident . She released her third mixtape , Beam Me Up Scotty , on April 18 , 2009 and it received favorable coverage on BET and MTV . One of its tracks , " I Get Crazy " , reached number 20 on the U.S. Billboard Hot Rap Songs chart and number 37 on the magazine 's Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart .

After Minaj was discovered by fellow rapper Lil Wayne , in August 2009 it was reported that she signed a recording contract with his Young Money Entertainment . That November , she appeared with Gucci Mane and Trina on the remix of " 5 Star Bitch " by Yo Gotti . Minaj also appeared on " BedRock " and " Roger That " on the compilation album , We Are Young Money (2009) . The singles peaked at numbers two and 56 , respectively , on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 ; their parent album reached number @-@ nine on the U.S. Billboard 200 , and was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) . Minaj was featured on Mariah Carey 's " Up Out My Face " , which reached number 100 on the Billboard Hot 100 . At Jay @-@ Z 's suggestion , that February Robin Thicke featured Minaj on " Shakin ' It 4 Daddy " .

= = = 2010 ? 11 : Breakthrough with Pink Friday = = =

Minaj released the intended lead single from her upcoming debut album , " Massive Attack " on March 29 , 2010 . Plans for the single were scrapped after an underwhelming commercial performance . As a result , " Your Love " was released as the album 's lead single on June 1 , peaking at number 14 on the Billboard Hot 100 and number @-@ one on the Billboard Rap Songs chart . In August Minaj announced that the album would be entitled Pink Friday , a play on " Black Friday " . The following month she released " Check It Out " and " Right Thru Me " as follow @-@ up singles . In October , Minaj became the first female solo artist to have seven songs on the Billboard Hot 100 simultaneously and the first woman to appear on MTV 's Annual Hottest MC List .

Pink Friday was released on November 19 , debuting at number @-@ two on the Billboard 200 with first @-@ week sales of 375 @,@ 000 copies . " Moment 4 Life " was released as the fourth single shortly after . The album was certified platinum in December , and eventually reached number @-@ one in the United States in February 2011 . Minaj performed " Right Thru Me " and " Moment 4 Life " as the musical guest on the January 29 episode of Saturday Night Live . " Super Bass " , the album 's fifth single , was released in April 2011 . The song peaked at number @-@ three on the Billboard Hot 100 and has been certified octuple @-@ platinum in the U.S. Minaj credited the song 's initial exposure to its mention by Taylor Swift , after videos of Swift and Selena Gomez rapping along to the song went viral , paving the way for Minaj 's first big crossover pop moment . Minaj was one of the opening acts on Britney Spears ' June 16 ? August 13 Femme Fatale Tour . She and Kesha appeared on the remix of Spears ' " Till the World Ends " , which peaked at number @-@ three on the Billboard Hot 100 . On August 7 , 2011 , Nicki experienced a " nip slip " during a live performance on Good Morning America . Minaj was criticized for wearing the low @-@ cut shirt during her performance which led to the brief exposure of her breast on a live telecast . ABC

apologized for incident . Minaj , while interviewed on ABC 's Nightline show , apologized for the incident and denied that she intentionally sought to expose herself on live television as a publicity stunt . The incident soaked protest from the Parents Television Council . President of the PTC president Tim Winter stated , " the Parents Television Council has something to say about Nicki Minaj ? s wardrobe malfunction this morning . For the umpteenth time in recent memory a morning news show has included inappropriate content for children and families . " Winter called out Good Morning America for not using the five @-@ second delay to prevent the broadcast of the exposure . Minaj has been invited to perform at fashion events ; Donatella Versace invited her to perform with Prince for the introduction of a Versace collection for H & M , and she performed " Super Bass " at the 2011 Victoria 's Secret Fashion Show .

Since her breakout with Pink Friday , Minaj has been involved in a feud with rapper Lil ' Kim , who accused Minaj of copying her style . Although Minaj 's " Roman 's Revenge " was thought to be directed at Kim , she said she was " talking about everyone who has been in interviews talking ... no one is worth being singled out . No one is worth having their name mentioned out of my mouth and they never will get that . " Kim escalated the feud with her mixtape , Black Friday (2011) , whose title and artwork mimic Pink Friday ; a fragment from Minaj 's diss track , " Tragedy " , previewed that April . Their conflict sparked a feud between Minaj and rapper Foxy Brown , who said Minaj misrepresented their conversation about Kim . Brown released the diss tracks " Hold Yuh " and " Massacre " (directed at Kim and Minaj) in November 2010 and January 2011 , respectively , but Brown and Minaj settled their dispute in June 2012 .

= = = 2012 ? 13 : Pink Friday : Roman Reloaded and American Idol = = =

Minaj released her second studio album Pink Friday : Roman Reloaded in April 2012 . The album was preceded by the promotional singles " Roman in Moscow " and " Stupid Hoe " . Critics suggested that the latter song was directed at Lil ' Kim , who said : " If you have to make a song called ' Stupid Hoe , ' you must be a stupid hoe . " Minaj and rapper M.I.A. joined Madonna to perform their single , " Give Me All Your Luvin ' " , on the Super Bowl XLVI halftime show on February 6 , 2012 . She was the first solo female rapper to perform at the Grammy Awards , premiering " Roman Holiday " during the 2012 ceremony on February 12 . Her exorcism @-@ themed performance was controversial , with the American Catholic League criticizing Minaj for bringing a fake " Pope " to escort her on the red carpet . The " exorcism " scene that was performed during her appearance was criticized as well . According to the Catholic League president Bill Donohue " Perhaps the most vulgar part was the sexual statement that showed a scantily clad female dancer stretching backwards while an altar boy knelt between her legs in prayer . Finally , ' Come All Ye Faithful ' was sung while a man posing as a bishop walked on stage ; Minaj was shown levitating . "

" Starships " was released in February 2012 as the lead single from Pink Friday : Roman Reloaded . The song reached number @-@ five on the Billboard Hot 100 , and was the fifth best @-@ selling single of 2012 . For the most part , mainstream critics didn 't receive well the pop crossover move . Minaj was sued by Chicago artist Clive Tanaka in September 2013 for its alleged copyright infringement . Follow @-@ up singles " Beez in the Trap " and " Right by My Side " were released shortly after . Pink Friday : Roman Reloaded was released on April 2 , two months later than planned . The album debuted at number @-@ one on the Billboard 200 , with first @-@ week sales of 253 @,@ 000 copies , and was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America in June 2012 . However , its mix of hip @-@ hop songs and mainstream pop material received mixed reviews from music critics . " Pound the Alarm " and " Va Va Voom " were released as the final singles from the album . Minaj began her headlining Pink Friday Tour on May 16 , 2012 , which was followed by the Pink Friday : Reloaded Tour beginning October 14 . Although she was scheduled to headline the June 3 Hot 97 Summer Jam at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey , at the request of Lil Wayne she canceled her appearance the day of the show after Peter Rosenberg of the station called " Starships " not " real hip @-@ hop " . The following month , Minaj voiced Steffie in the animated film Ice Age : Continental Drift (2012) . She won awards for Best Female Video (

for " Starships ") at the 2012 MTV Video Music Awards and Best Hip @-@ Hop at the 2012 MTV Europe Music Awards . An expanded version of Pink Friday : Roman Reloaded , subtitled The Re @-@ Up , was released on November 19 . That month , Minaj was the subject of a three @-@ part E ! documentary titled Nicki Minaj : My Truth . She announced plans for her own record label after signing Parker Ighile , Brinx , Keisha and Blackout Movement .

In September Minaj joined the judges ' panel for the twelfth season of American Idol with fellow new judges Mariah Carey and Keith Urban and the returning Randy Jackson . That October a leaked video circulated , with Minaj and Carey in a heated argument during auditions in Charlotte , North Carolina . Carey accused Minaj of saying , " If I had a gun , I would shoot that bitch " , but Minaj denied the allegation . Carey said that Minaj created an " unsafe work environment " , increasing her security as a result . Tensions escalated after Carey said that Minaj did not have a number @-@ one song on the Billboard Hot 100 during a live broadcast in May 2013 , to which Minaj responded in a series of " extremely harsh " tweets directed at the singer . Minaj and Carey left the series that month , at the end of the season . That year Minaj was the most @-@ charted female rapper in the history of the Billboard Hot 100 , with 44 entries . Her seven nominations led those for rap musicians at the 2013 Billboard Music Awards , and she was the first rapper to win the BET Best Female Hip @-@ Hop Artist Award four consecutive times .

= = = 2014 ? 15 : The Other Woman and The Pinkprint = = =

Minaj 's first live @-@ action theatrical film The Other Woman was filmed in spring 2013 and premiered on April 25 , 2014 . She played Lydia , assistant to Carly (played by Cameron Diaz) . In 2013 , Minaj described her then @-@ forthcoming third album , The Pinkprint as " a continuation of The Re @-@ Up with a lot more " and said it would focus on her " hip @-@ hop roots " . During an MTV interview , she said that her third album would be " next level " and have " much to talk about " : " I 'm really excited and the people that have been working with me now , have been people that I haven 't worked with before so it 's like they 're bringing a new sound to the album that I 've never experimented with . " " Pills n Potions " was released as the lead single from The Pinkprint in May 2014 . " Anaconda " was released in August as the second single , peaking at number @-@ two on the Billboard Hot 100 , becoming her highest @-@ charting single in the U.S. to date . The video set a 24 @-@ hour Vevo record , accumulating 19 @-@ 6 million views on its first day of release , breaking the record previously held by Miley Cyrus for " Wrecking Ball " . The album was officially released on December 15 , 2014 , peaking at number @-@ two on the Billboard 200 chart . In support of the album , Minaj embarked on her third international concert tour entitled The Pinkprint Tour .

On June 29 , Minaj became the only artist to win the BET Award for Best Female Hip @-@ Hop Artist for five consecutive years , while also tying Missy Elliott for the most wins with five . In November 2014 , Minaj released a video containing Nazi @-@ style imagery for her third single " Only " . There was immediate backlash from the Anti Defamation League , who stated that it was " troubling that no one among Minaj 's group of producers , publicists and managers raised a red flag about the use of such imagery before ushering the video into public release . " They called the video " insensitive to Holocaust survivors and a trivialization of the history of that era . "

On November 9 , 2014 , Minaj hosted the 2014 MTV Europe Music Awards at The SSE Hydro , Glasgow , Scotland . She also won an award for Best Hip @-@ Hop . In December , Minaj received two Grammy nominations : for Best Rap Song for " Anaconda " and Best Pop Duo / Group Performance for " Bang Bang " with Jessie J and Ariana Grande . In March 2015 , Minaj embarked on her third world tour entitled The Pinkprint Tour . The tour kicked off in Europe . It is scheduled to travel to the United States , Canada , Brazil , Mexico , Dubai , Philippines , Australia and New Zealand . In March 2015 , she became the first female artist to chart four songs simultaneously in the top 10 of Billboard 's Mainstream R & B / Hip @-@ Hop airplay chart . At the 2015 BET Awards , Minaj won her sixth consecutive award for Best Female Hip @-@ Hop Artist , becoming the female rapper with most wins in that category .

== 2016 : Barbershop : The Next Cut and Nicki ==

In May 2015 , it was announced that Minaj would feature in the third installment of the Barbershop film series , alongside Ice Cube , Cedric the Entertainer , Eve , and other original cast members . Titled Barbershop : The Next Cut , the film was released on April 15 , 2016 and received critical acclaim , earning an average score of 93 % on Rotten Tomatoes . Minaj 's character in the film is a " sassy " hairdresser named Draya .

It was announced that Minaj will executive produce and appear in a scripted single @-@ camera comedy series for ABC Family (now Freeform) based on her life growing up in Queens , New York . The show has been titled Nicki and is scheduled to be broadcast in 2016 . The project , from Aaron Kaplan 's Kapital Entertainment , filmed the pilot episode in Minaj 's hometown in January 2016 , and production has since continued . Ariana Neal will play a young Minaj in the series , alongside Selita Ebanks (her mother) , Wesley Jonathan (her father) , and McCarrie McCausland (her older brother) .

== Public image ==

Minaj 's physique has attracted positive attention from the media . In 2010 , she said that although she originally felt obligated to mimic the provocative behavior of the " female rappers of [her] day " , she intended to subdue her sexuality because she " [wants] people ? especially young girls ? to know that in life , nothing is going to be based on sex appeal . You 've got to have something else to go with that . " The rapper has made autographing breasts part of her movement to empower women . In a Guardian interview , Minaj said she competes with male and female rappers . In " Moment 4 Life " , she refers to herself as a " king " rather than a queen . Early in her career Minaj claimed to be bisexual , but eventually she said she just did that to get attention . " I think girls are sexy , but I 'm not going to lie and say that I date girls . "

Minaj has been called the " black Lady Gaga " because of her costumes and wigs . In one interview , Minaj rejected the comparison , but in another interview , she said that she is inspired by Gaga 's creativity . Minaj has cited Alexander McQueen , Gianni Versace and Christian Louboutin as her favorite designers . The Huffington Post described her style as " risk @-@ taking " and " far @-@ out " , with " bold sartorial choices " ; Yahoo ! called her dress " colorful " and " crazy " , and " the fashion and music world would certainly be very quiet without Ms Minaj " .

Billboard listed Minaj the fourth @-@ most @-@ active musician on social media on its March 2011 Social 50 chart . On Twitter , she is the world 's most @-@ followed rapper . There , in public appearances and interviews Minaj calls her fans " Barbs " collectively and her male heterosexual and LGBT followers " boys " and " Ken Barbs " respectively (alluding to her Barbie persona) . She deleted her Twitter account for eight days in April 2012 after a dispute with fans who leaked snippets from her then @-@ unreleased album . Minaj lost about nine million of her 11 million followers at the time . In 2013 Minaj introduced a more " natural " look , including less @-@ colorful makeup and wigs , during later episodes of American Idol to be taken more seriously .

== Artistry ==

== Musical style ==

Minaj is known for her animated rapping style , her flow in particular . She often combines metaphors , punch lines and word play into her work , which has been compared to her mentor Lil Wayne . The New York Times called Minaj " a sparkling rapper with a gift for comic accents and unexpected turns of phrase . She 's a walking exaggeration , outsize in sound , personality and look . And she 's a rapid evolver , discarding old modes as easily as adopting new ones . " Although many critics describe her technique as bubblegum rap , Minaj said : " What people don 't know is that before I was doing that craziness I was doing me , I was just doing regular sounding rap that

anyone could hear and identify with . But once I started doing all that weird shit ? I 'm not mad at it because it got everyone 's attention . " Noted as a rap artist , she lends herself to electronic music genres (especially electropop) . Pink Friday marked her exploration of the genres , spawning electro songs including the pop @-@ laden " Super Bass " . Also combining rap with synthesizer music , Minaj 's second album had a number of electropop songs : " HOV Lane " , " Whip It " , " Automatic " , " Come On A Cone " , " Young Forever " , " Fire Burns " , " Roman Holiday " and " Beez in the Trap " ; while " Starships " is an europop and dance song . She collaborated with other artists , producing more electronic songs : " The Boys " with " Me & U " singer Cassie and " Beauty and a Beat " with Justin Bieber .

Her verse in Kanye West 's " Monster " was appreciated by critics , who said she had the best verse in the song . Her alter egos are incorporated with her lyrics in British accents (Roman Zolanski) or soft @-@ spokenness (Harajuku Barbie) . Ice @-@ T said about Minaj 's rapping style , " [Minaj] does her thing . She has her own way of doing it . She has an ill [sic] vocal delivery . She kind of reminds me of a female Busta Rhymes , like how she throws her voice in different directions . "

= = = Alter egos = = =

With her parents frequently fighting during her childhood , Minaj lived through characters she created as a means of escape . She recalled that " fantasy was my reality " and her first identity was Cookie , who became Harajuku Barbie and (later) Nicki Minaj . In November 2010 , Minaj assumed the alter ego Nicki Teresa , wearing a colorful headdress and calling herself " healer to her fans " during a visit to the Garden of Dreams Foundation at Fuse Studios in New York . She introduced another alter ego , Rosa (pronounced with an exaggerated R) , to commemorate her December 2010 appearance on Lopez Tonight .

For Pink Friday , Minaj created another alter ego : Roman Zolanski , " a demon inside her " , Minaj 's " twin brother " whose character she assumes when she is angry . Roman has been compared to Eminem 's alter ego Slim Shady , and on " Roman 's Revenge " Minaj and Eminem collaborate as their alter egos . On her next album , she said that there would be a lot of Roman : " And if you 're not familiar with Roman , then you will be familiar with him very soon . He 's the boy that lives inside of me . He 's a lunatic and he 's gay and he 'll be on there a lot . " Roman has a mother , Martha Zolanski , who appeared on " Roman 's Revenge " with a British accent and singing on " Roman Holiday " for the first time . Martha appeared in the " Moment 4 Life " video as Minaj 's apparent fairy godmother . Although Minaj was rapping in songs such as " All I Do Is Win (Remix) " , she promised to introduce Nicki , Roman and Onika on her first album .

= = = Influences = = =

Minaj has said that artists who have influenced her musical style include Lisa " Left Eye " Lopes , Lil Wayne , Smokey Robinson , Lauryn Hill , Jadakiss , Natasha Bedingfield , Remy Ma , Lil ' Kim , Missy Elliott , Janet Jackson , Madonna , Beyoncé , Britney Spears , Marilyn Monroe , Grace Jones , M.I.A. , Cyndi Lauper and TLC . She cites Foxy Brown and Jay @-@ Z as major influences : " I really loved [Foxy] as a female rapper . I was really interested in her mind and her aura [and] I was really , really into Jay @-@ Z. Me and my friends in high school , we were reciting all of the Jay lyrics . His words were our words in our conversations all the time . " She said : " I never really told Foxy how much she has influenced me and how much she changed my life , and you 've gotta tell people that when they 're alive to even be able to take the compliment , instead of paying tribute to them when they 're no longer here " , adding that Foxy Brown was " the most influential female rapper " for her , though she initially was compared to Lil Kim when she first debuted . Nicki and Lil Kim , often cited as Foxy 's main rap rival , have reportedly exchanged words with each other , on social media and in their music .

Jada Pinkett Smith is one of Minaj 's role models in her acting career . Minaj was inspired by R & B singer Monica , singing " Why I Love You So Much " at every talent show she entered . Performing in Atlanta on her Pink Friday Tour , she called Monica one of her all @-@ time greatest musical

influences . Minaj has also cited Kanye West , Trina and Drake as influences .

She called Betsey Johnson a fashion inspiration : " [Betsey] is a free spirit . When I met her the other day , I felt like I knew her for my whole life . She 's so warm and considerate and caring . She 's amazingly talented and I 've been wearing her clothes forever , so to meet her was like , ' Yay ! ' [I was] bowing down to her ; she 's dope ! " Minaj has also expressed appreciation for Cyndi Lauper 's style and how her videos inspired her as a teenager : " When I first went to get my hair colored , I was about 14 and I wanted blonde highlights . The beautician said , ' No , you have to get your mother on the phone , ' and I was just crying and begging . I 've always been experimenting . Cyndi Lauper 's videos - that 's what intrigued me . "

= = Products and endorsements = =

Minaj has been affiliated with several manufacturing companies and has endorsed a number of products during her career . Her first collaboration was a November 2010 endorsement deal with MAC Cosmetics which sold a lipstick , " Pink 4 Friday " , for four consecutive Fridays to promote her album Pink Friday . In 2011 , Minaj helped introduce the Casio TRYX in Times Square , and created a six @-@ piece nail polish collection for OPI Products with colors named after her songs . That December , Mattel produced a custom @-@ made , Minaj @-@ themed Barbie doll valued at about \$ 15 @,@ 000 for auction on charitybuzz .

In April 2012 , Minaj helped launch the Nokia Lumia 900 in Times Square . The following month , Minaj appeared in television and internet advertisements for Pepsi 's " LiveForNow " campaign , which featured a remix of her single " Moment 4 Life " . She endorsed the 2012 Viva Glam campaign with Ricky Martin , which raised \$ 270 million for the Mac AIDS Fund . With designer Jeremy Scott , Minaj signed an endorsement deal with Adidas ' fall and winter 2012 campaign to appear in internet advertisements and commercials for Adidas Originals . Set to her song , " Masquerade " , her segment of the advertisement was filmed in Brooklyn and also featured Big Sean , Derrick Rose , Sky Ferreira and 2NE1 in other locations worldwide .

Early 2013 , Minaj fronted the Viva Glam campaign by herself , which included the introduction of " Nicki 2 lipstick and lip gloss " . She also introduced the " Nicki Minaj Collection " clothing line for Kmart , composed of clothing , accessories and housewares . In February 2013 , Bluewater Comics announced that Minaj would star in the Fame biographical @-@ comic series , debuting in Fame : Nicki Minaj . She partnered with Beats Electronics to introduce her " Pink Pill " speakers in April 2013 , appearing with DeRay Davis in a commercial for the speakers that same month . In June 2013 , Minaj lead an ad campaign for Myx Fusions , a fruit @-@ infused , single serve moscato wine beverage of which she is a part owner .

Minaj has a prominent fragrance line , which was launched in September 2012 . She partnered with ' Give Back Brands ' to introduce her first fragrance , Pink Friday . A " Pink Friday : Special Edition " was released in April 2013 . A deluxe edition version of the fragrance , titled " Pink Friday : Deluxe Edition " , was also launched in December 2013 . Her second fragrance line , Minajesty , was launched in September 2013 . A flanker fragrance , " Minajesty : Exotic Edition " , was released exclusively to the Home Shopping Network in June 2014 . This was followed by the launch of her third fragrance line , " Onika " , in September 2014 .

In December 2014 , Minaj was announced as the new face of the Roberto Cavalli spring / summer 2015 campaign . The campaign images , shot in Los Angeles by Italian photographer Francesco Carrozzini , see Minaj posing in flowy bohemian dresses , defined by embroideries and animal prints typical of the Cavalli brand . On March 30 , 2015 , it was announced that Minaj is a co @-@ owner of the music streaming service Tidal . The service specializes in lossless audio and high definition music videos . In addition to Minaj and company owner Jay Z , sixteen stakeholders including Beyoncé , Madonna , Rihanna and Kanye West own a 3 % equity stake in the service .

= = Personal life = =

Minaj is the only woman to be featured on the Forbes Hip Hop Cash Kings list . She made her first

appearance on the list in 2011 , earning U.S. \$ 6 @. @ 5 million from May 2010 to May 2011 . In 2012 , she placed eighth on the list , earning U.S. \$ 15 @. @ 5 million from May 2011 to May 2012 . Minaj rose to the fourth position on the list in 2013 , earning U.S. \$ 29 million from June 2012 to June 2013 . She made her fourth consecutive appearance on the list in 2014 , earning U.S. \$ 14 million from June 2013 to June 2014 . In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy , Minaj donated \$ 15 @, @ 000 to the Food Bank For New York City and held a turkey drive at her alma mater , PS 45 .

Minaj has stated that after her father went to rehab and began attending church , " he got saved and started changing his life " . In July 2011 , Minaj 's cousin , Nicholas Telemaque , was murdered near his home in Brooklyn , which she references in her songs " Champion " : " Cause they killed my little cousin , Nicholas / But my memory 's only happy images " , and " All Things Go " : " I lost my little cousin to a senseless act of violence " . In late 2014 , Minaj separated from her longtime boyfriend Safaree Samuels . Several tracks on The Pinkprint are believed to have been inspired by the end of their relationship . She also revealed she had an abortion as a teenager in her song " All Things Go " . Minaj began dating rapper Meek Mill in early 2015 .

= = Awards and nominations = =

Throughout her career , Minaj has won numerous awards including : six American Music Awards , ten BET Awards , seven BET Hip Hop Awards , four Billboard Music Awards , three MTV Video Music Awards , three MTV Europe Music Awards , two People 's Choice Awards , one Soul Train Music Award , and four Teen Choice Awards .

Throughout 2011 ? 16 , Minaj has received a total of 10 Grammy Award nominations . She received her first Grammy nomination in 2011 for Best Rap Performance by a Duo or Group for the single " My Chick Bad " with fellow rapper Ludacris . For the 54th Grammy Awards in 2012 , Minaj received three nominations , including Best New Artist and Best Rap Album for her debut album Pink Friday . Minaj received her second nomination for Best Rap Album at the 58th Grammy Awards for The Pinkprint .

Minaj won the American Music Awards for Favorite Rap / Hip @-@ Hop Artist and Favorite Rap / Hip @-@ Hop Album in three different years for her first three albums . She has won twice MTV Video Music Award for Best Hip @-@ Hop Video for " Super Bass " and " Anaconda " , and one Best Female Video for " Starships "

= = Discography = =

Pink Friday (2010)
Pink Friday : Roman Reloaded (2012)
The Pinkprint (2014)

= = Filmography = =

Ice Age : Continental Drift (2012)
The Other Woman (2014)
Barbershop : The Next Cut (2016)

= = Tours = =

Headlining tours
Pink Friday Tour (2012)
Pink Friday : Reloaded Tour (2012)
The Pinkprint Tour (2015)
Opening act
America 's Most Wanted Tour (2008)
I Am Still Music Tour (2011)

Femme Fatale Tour (2011)