



Anna Akana

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Anna Kay Napualani Akana (born August 18, 1989)^[2] is an American actress, comedian, filmmaker, musician, and [YouTuber](#). She has appeared in TV series, web series, films, and music videos that include *10 Second Traumas* (2011), [Ray William Johnson's Breaking NYC](#) (2011), *Awkward* (2011), *Katy Perry's "Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.)"* (2011), *Ant-Man* (2015), *Hello, My Name Is Doris* (2016), *Dirty 30* (2016), *Big City Greens* (2018–present), *Amphibia* (2019–2022), and *Blade of the 47 Ronin* (2022).

In 2015, she launched a clothing line called Ghost & Stars. She is the author of *So Much I Want to Tell You: Letters to My Little Sister* (2017), in which she describes her struggles and experiences from her sister's suicide to her celebrity status.^[3]

Early and personal life [\[edit \]](#)

Akana's father was an officer in the [United States Marine Corps](#), including during her childhood.^[4] Her father moved every few years to a new state or country.^[5] In a 2020 interview, she said that she loved *Sailor Moon*, *Inuyasha*, and *Ranma ½*, expressing her surprise that her dad would make them watch *Tenchi Muyo!* with him despite its "perverted" nature.^[6] Her father stated that she loved shows like *The Powerpuff Girls*, animation in general, and anime, the latter especially because she spent "four years growing up in Japan".

Anna Akana



Akana at [VidCon Amsterdam](#) in 2018

Born	<div>Anna Kay Napualani Akana</div> <div>August 18, 1989 (age 35)</div> <div>Monterey County, California, U.S.</div>
Occupations	Actress · filmmaker · musician · YouTuber · comedian
Years active	2009–present
YouTube information	
Channel	AnnaAkana
Genres	Music · comedy
Subscribers	2.84 million ^[1]
Views	378 million ^[1]

[Creator Awards](#)

[\[show \]](#)

On February 14, 2007, Akana's younger sister, Kristina, died by suicide aged 13.^[7] Several months after, Akana watched [Margaret Cho](#) perform on a [Comedy Central](#) special and laughed for the first time since her sister's death. She began to see laughter as a means of trying to move on with her life and decided to seriously pursue comedy.^[8] Akana has been vocal about her sister's suicide and is a strong advocate for [suicide prevention](#). In 2013, Akana uploaded a YouTube video, "please don't kill yourself", in which she explains how it felt for her to have a family member die by suicide.^[9] In that same year, she released a book *Surviving Suicide* which contains her journal entries from the two years after her sister's death.^[10]

In October 2018, she came out as [bisexual](#).^[11]

In 2019, she stated that she had undergone an abortion when she was twenty and felt it was one of the best decisions she had ever made.^[12] She later presented her story as a movie for YouTube titled "Take Your Birth Control".^[13] Akana is of Japanese, Filipino, Hawaiian, Spanish, French, Irish, German, and English descent.^{[14][15]}

Career [\[edit \]](#)

Akana first started performing comedy at age 19 but switched to YouTube video performances in 2011 after experiencing [panic attacks](#) and anxiety before going on stage.^[8] She later resumed performing stand-up onstage. During this time she went under the stage name "Anna Math" (a wordplay on the stereotype of Asians being smart, specifically good at math) and performed at various venues across California. She first struck online recognition with a semi-popular internet video on [Funny or Die](#) in 2010 of her mother discovering she masturbates as a teenager after finding condoms in the trashcan revealed to have been used to keep her [vibrator](#) clean. Around the same time, she made her acting debut in a [The Sims 3](#) game trailer titled *Confessions* and as an uncredited background extra in *90210*.

YouTube [\[edit \]](#)

Akana became a public figure after meeting YouTube celebrity [Ray William Johnson](#) at a CBS Annual Diversity Showcase event in January 2012. Prior, upon moving to Los Angeles, Akana gained a larger online audience and debuted as a YouTube personality by launching a web mini-series in March 2011 titled *10 Second Traumas*, created with her then-friend Deirdre Devlin. The series consisted of 10-second short sketches related to the women's struggles in LA, usually pertaining to their sex lives. *10 Second Traumas* was also done in affiliation with [FMyLife](#) and Funny or Die. It gained mild traction after guest starring [Katy Perry](#)'s brother David Hudson, but did not blow up until Ray William Johnson liked the videos in his public channel feed and in turn featured Akana and Devlin as "Video Hoes" in Ray's own web series *Breaking NYC* in July 2011, then starring in the *10 Second Traumas* sketches himself. During this time Akana also posted the sketches as well as her standup hours on a predecessor channel called 'bicuriousears' (made in 2008).

Last updated: April 23, 2025

Website annaakana.com

With the encouragement of Ray William Johnson to start her own channel after accumulating enough recognition from the *10 Second Traumas* series and her cameo roles in Katy Perry's "Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.)" music video and MTV's *Awkward*, Akana created her current YouTube channel in August 2011 and garnered an algorithm for her collaborations with Johnson. Originally uploading sketches and vlogs from her phone, Akana began making comedic life advice videos featuring [prop guns](#) and use of cloning to convey cutaways related to her storytelling. She was a huge fan of [Batman](#) and adopted the sign-off catchphrase "Stay awesome Gotham". Akana also began a music career by releasing the singles "Screw You", "Stoner Anna Versus Regular Anna", and "Against the Darkness" in 2012.

Akana and Johnson began dating in 2012 but broke up in July 2014 after Akana felt a power dynamic in their relationship due to Johnson being richer and more successful.

In 2014, Akana formed a comedy music duo, Cat Benatar, with fellow comedian and writer Megan Rosati.^[16] (The duo's name is wordplay for the pop singer [Pat Benatar](#).)

Akana creates both comedy and documentary YouTube videos.^[17] In 2014, Akana was listed on [New Media Rockstars](#) Top 100 Channels, ranked at #72.^[18] In that same year, Akana decided to focus more on her skills as a director and attempted to make one short film a month.^[19] While she did not reach her goal of twelve short films, she did make six short films which were received well by her YouTube audience. Akana starred in all of her short films and has starred in various other short films, and she has since continued to create short films.^[20]

One of her short films, *Miss Earth*, was partially financed by [Brian Grazer](#) and [Ron Howard](#)'s production company, New Form Digital. It was part of the 2014 Incubator, a series to showcase and produce original stories by YouTube Creators and filmmakers.^{[21][22][23]} *Miss Earth* was later adapted into a web series, *Miss 2059*, and released on [Verizon's go90 app](#) in June 2016, with a second season released in late 2017.^{[24][25][26][27][28]}

Akana executive produced and starred as the lead role in the original comedy-drama web television series *Youth & Consequences*, created by Jason Ubaldi and released in March 2018 on [YouTube Red](#). She is also the host of the web series [Crash Course Business: Entrepreneurship](#) beginning in August 2019.^[29]

On October 10, 2019, she was featured in a 30-minute YouTube documentary created by SoulPancake in collaboration with Funny or Die wherein a variety of comedians discuss [mental health](#) called *Laughing Matters*.^[30]

Film and television [\[edit \]](#)

Akana began acting in 2010 by starring in uncredited background roles in commercials and the TV series *90210*.

In 2011, Akana appeared in the TV series *Awkward*. In that same year, she also appeared as an extra in Katy Perry's "Last Friday Night" music video.^[31]

In 2015, she appeared in the films *Ant-Man* and *Kids vs Monsters*.

Akana starred in *Snapper Hero*, a scripted video series distributed via [Snapchat](#).^[32] The series was sponsored by [AT&T](#).^[32]

In 2016, Akana appeared alongside [Sally Field](#) in the indie comedy film *Hello, My Name Is Doris*, written by [Michael Showalter](#).^[33] That same year, she also appeared in a short *Star Wars* fan film, *Hoshino*^[34] as well as the comedy film *Dirty 30*.

She has a recurring role in the [Comedy Central](#) show *Corporate*.^[35]

She also has supporting roles as Gloria Sato in the [Disney Channel](#) show *Big City Greens* and Sasha Waybright in *Amphibia*.

In 2019, she announced on [Ryan Higa's Off the Pill](#) podcast to be part of the [Netflix](#) original *Jupiter's Legacy*.

Akana also hosts the podcast *Explain Things to Me* with fellow comedian Brad Gage where the two interview experts in various fields about their work.^[36]

In 2021, Akana was announced as starring alongside [Emma Roberts](#) in the romantic comedy *About Fate*.

Other ventures [\[edit \]](#)

In 2015, Akana released a clothing line, Ghost & Stars, which features several cat-themed designs as well as formal dresses, [leggings](#), and a variety of T-shirts.^[37]

In 2017, Akana's book *So Much I Want to Tell You: Letters to My Little Sister* was published. The book describes Akana's struggles and experiences growing up and offers advice to her late sister.^[3]

In 2019, Akana transitioned from comedy into music, and released her debut single, "Intervention". Its music video was directed by Auden Bui.^{[38][39]} She has since released two more music videos, one for "Pretty Girls Don't Cry" in July 2019 and "Not My Proudest Moment" in August. She continued to release music videos for songs named "Alone Together", "Disappointment", and "Let Me Go". Her debut album, *Casualty*, came out in October 2019.^[40] Her follow up project came out early 2021 called *No Longer Yours*.^{[41][42]}

In 2024, Akana rolled out her standup comedy tour *It Gets Darker* with an entire hour dedicated to telling stories about her late sister's suicide and the traumatic aftermath, her history with violent stalkers causing her to quit live appearances, and growing up as a Hawaiian-native Asian [military brat](#).



Akana in [Manila](#) in 2025 for *It Gets Darker*

Critical reception [edit]

In reviewing her video, "Why Guys Like Asian Girls" (which references "Yellow Fever", a term for an [Asian fetish](#)),^[43] Cate Matthews of *The Huffington Post* wrote: "A step-by-step takedown of 'yellow fever' or the desire to date Asian women often accompanied by bizarre, offensive attempts to do so, could start the healing. Luckily for us, YouTuber Anna Akana was more than up to the video-making task."^[44]

In reviewing her video, "How to Deal with a Breakup", [MTV](#) wrote: "In this sketch, comedian Anna Akana envisions the flurry of activity inside the cranial command center of a newly single dumpee."^[45]

Deadline referred to Akana as "a prolific online creator whose channel boasts 60 million views and 900,000 subscribers, and last year wrote and starred in her own narrative feature *Riley Rewind*, scoring a none-too-shabby 20M views online."^[33]

Filmography [edit]

Feature films [edit]

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2013	<i>Inappropriate Comedy</i>	Student driver	
2014	<i>Here She Is</i>	Miss Hawaii	Also writer
2015	<i>Ant-Man</i>	Writer in Luis' story	
	<i>Kids vs Monsters</i>	Daisy	
2016	<i>Hello, My Name Is Doris</i>	Blogger	
	<i>Dirty 30</i>	Ashley Driscoll	
2017	<i>You Get Me</i>	Lydia	
2018	<i>Next Gen</i>	Ani	Voice ^[46]
2019	<i>Go Back to China</i>	Sasha Li	
2019	<i>Let It Snow</i>	Kerry	
2020	<i>Hooking Up</i>	Elizabeth Carthright	
2021	<i>So Much</i>	TBA	Television film; pre-production
2022	<i>Blade of the 47 Ronin</i>	Luna	Netflix original film
2024	<i>Big City Greens the Movie: Spacecation</i>	Gloria Sato, additional voices	Voice ^[47]

Television [edit]

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2011	<i>Awkward</i>	Asian girl	Episode: "Knocker Nightmare"
2012	<i>Shake It Up</i>	Tomoka	Episode: "Made in Japan"
	<i>The Beauty Inside</i>	Alex #29	5 episodes
2013–2014	<i>The Fosters</i>	Lily	2 episodes
2016	<i>Adam Ruins Everything</i>	Female Shopper	Episode: "Adam Ruins Shopping Malls"
2017	<i>Stitchers</i>	Amanda Weston	Recurring role; 7 episodes
2018–2020	<i>Corporate</i>	Paige	Recurring role
2018–present	<i>Big City Greens</i>	Gloria Sato	Voice, recurring role ^[46]
2019–2022	<i>Amphibia</i>	Sasha Waybright	Voice, main role ^[46]
2020	<i>Magical Girl Friendship Squad: Origins</i>	Daisy	Voice, main role
	<i>Magical Girl Friendship Squad</i>		
	<i>Into the Dark</i>	Julie	Episode: "My Valentine"
	<i>NCIS: Los Angeles</i>	Rhea Moretti	Episode: "Murder of Crows"
2020–2023	<i>A Million Little Things</i>	Dakota	5 episodes
2021	<i>Jupiter's Legacy</i>	Raikou	2 episodes
	<i>Home Economics</i>	Lindsay	Episode: "Chorizo with Mojo Verde and Chicharrón, \$45"
2023	<i>Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur</i>	Odessa Drake	Voice, episode: "Today, I Am a Woman" ^[46]

Web series [[edit](#)]

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2011	<i>Breaking Los Angeles</i>	Herself	9 episodes; also producer
	<i>10 Second Traumas</i>	Various	8 episodes; also writer, executive producer and director
2012	<i>Pointy Teeth</i>	Anna	Episode: "Pilot"

2013	<i>Riley Rewind</i>	Riley Brown	5 episodes; also writer and producer
	<i>Runaway Thoughts Podcast</i>	85 episodes, also writer and producer ^{[48][49][50]}	
2015	<i>52 Ways to Break Up</i>	Anna	Episode: "#24 and #25- Compare Notes"
	<i>Command Center</i>	Commander	Also writer and director
	<i>Broken People</i>	Pinches	2 episodes
	<i>Last Moments of Relationships</i>	Fay	Episode: "CRAZY DATING STORIES"
	<i>Stunted</i>	Nora	
	<i>Oscar's Hotel for Fantastical Creatures</i>	The White Spirit	Episode: "Art Attack"
	<i>Wrestling Isn't Wrestling</i>	Batista	Short film
	<i>Adult Wednesday Addams</i>	Mackenzie Mae	Executive producer (2 episodes)
	<i>Rough Day</i>	Detective Mah-jong	Also executive producer
	<i>MisSpelled</i>	Stella	Episode: "#HotlineWing"
	<i>#Cybriety</i>	Ellen	Episode: "Neighbor Ellen"
2016	<i>Hipsters</i>	Jane	3 episodes; also director
	<i>Tiny Feminists</i>	Ms. Applebaum	Episode: "Linda"
	<i>This Isn't Working</i>	Nicole	5 episodes
	<i>Transformers: Combiner Wars</i>	Victorion	Voice, 4 episodes ^[46]
	<i>Single by 30</i>	Grace	6 episodes
	<i>12 Deadly Days</i>	Judalina	Episode: "Coffee Cups"
	<i>Go-Go Boy Interrupted</i>	-	Co-producer (10 episodes)
	<i>Miss 2059</i>	Victoria Young	24 episodes; also creator, executive producer and director
2017	<i>Drive Share</i>	Driver	Episode: "Garbage Mommy"
	<i>Search Bar</i>	Various	12 episodes; also creator, executive producer and director
2018	<i>Youth & Consequences</i>	Farrah Cutney	8 episodes; also creator and executive producer

2019	<i>Crash Course: Entrepreneurship</i>	Self (Host)	18 episodes
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Discography [[edit](#)]

Studio albums [[edit](#)]

Title	Details
<i>Casualty</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Released: October 4, 2019^[51] Format: Digital download, Streaming Label: JENGA Productions

Extended plays [[edit](#)]

Title	Details
<i>No Longer Yours</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Released: February 19, 2021^[52] Format: Digital download, streaming Label: Hello Hello Love

Singles [[edit](#)]

Title	Year	Album
"Intervention" ^[53]	2019	<i>Casualty</i>
"Alone Together" ^[54]		
"Pretty Girls Don't Cry" ^[55]		
"Not My Proudest Moment" ^[56]		
"Disappointment" ^[57]		
"Let Me Go" ^[58]		
"Casualty"		
"Bad News"		
"Spoken For"		
"Selfish"	2020	<i>No Longer Yours</i>
"Quicksand"		
"Pick a Fight"		
"Swim" ^[59]		

"Pink" ^[60]		
"Run" ^[61]	2021	
"I Feel Nothing"		
"Wanted Woman" (featuring Macedo)	2021	TBA
"Sunshine"	2022	
"Good Girl" (featuring Macedo)		
"Until Further Notice"		
"Your Girlfriend Is Not My Problem"	2023	
"Like Beyoncé"	2024	

As featuring artist [edit]

Song	Year	Album
"Sunroof" <div>(Macedo featuring Anna Akana)</div>	2022	TBA

Promotional singles [edit]

Title	Year	Album
"Screw You"	2012	Non-album promotional singles
"Mad Love"		
"Against the Darkness"		
"Lost Dreams" (featuring Jesse Cale)	2013	
"Need You Now" ^[62] (from "A Million Little Things: Season 2")	2020	
"Everything's Gotta Change" ^[63] (from "A Million Little Things: Season 2")		
"You Can't Always Get What You Want" ^[64] (from "A Million Little Things: Season 3")	2021	

Other appearances [edit]

Title	Year	Other artist(s)	Album
"Heartstomper"	2021	—	<i>Amphibia: Battle of the Bands</i>
"No Big Deal"		Brenda Song, Haley Tju	
"Euthanasia"	2022	Daemon	<i>Blade of the 47 Robin</i>

Music videos [[edit](#)]

Title	Year	Director
"Screw You"	2012	Will Akana ^[65]
"Intervention"	2019	Auden Bui ^[66]
"Alone Together"		Maggie Levin ^[67]
"Pretty Girls Don't Cry"		Maggie Levin ^[68]
"Not My Proudest Moment"		Jackson Adams ^[69]
"Disappointment"		Hazel Hayes ^[70]
"Let Me Go"		Auden Bui ^[71]
"Casualty"		^[72]
"Bad News"		^[73]
"Spoken For"		Auden Bui ^[74]
"Selfish"		^[75]
"Quicksand"	2020	Kantu Lentz ^[76]
"Pick a Fight"		^[77]
"Swim"		Anna Akana & Auden Bui ^[78]
"Pink"		^[79]
"Run"	2021	Auden Bui ^[80]
"I Feel Nothing"		Auden Bui ^[81]
"Wanted Woman"		Maggie Levin ^[82]
"Sunshine"	2022	

Guest appearances [[edit](#)]

Year	Artist(s)	Title	Role
2011	Katy Perry	"Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.)"	Extra

Year	Association	Category	Nominated work	Result	Ref.
2014	San Diego Asian Film Festival	Digital Pioneer		Won	[83]
2015	Streamy Awards	Best Actress	<i>SnapperHero</i>	Nominated	[84]
2018	Streamy Awards	Acting in a Drama	<i>Youth & Consequences</i>	Won	[85]
2019	46th Daytime Emmy Awards	Outstanding Digital Drama Series	<i>Youth & Consequences</i>	Nominated	[86]

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