[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Pp-semi-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-semi-indef) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Infobox person](/wiki/Template:Infobox_person)

**Aaliyah Dana Haughton** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en); January 16, 1979 – August 25, 2001) was an American singer, dancer, actress, and model. She was born in [Brooklyn](/wiki/Brooklyn), [New York](/wiki/New_York), and raised in [Detroit](/wiki/Detroit), [Michigan](/wiki/Michigan). At the age of 10, she appeared on the television show [*Star Search*](/wiki/Star_Search) and performed in concert alongside [Gladys Knight](/wiki/Gladys_Knight). At age 12, Aaliyah signed with [Jive Records](/wiki/Jive_Records) and her uncle [Barry Hankerson's](/wiki/Barry_Hankerson) [Blackground Records](/wiki/Blackground_Records). Hankerson introduced her to [R. Kelly](/wiki/R._Kelly), who became her mentor, as well as lead songwriter and producer of her debut album, [*Age Ain't Nothing but a Number*](/wiki/Age_Ain't_Nothing_but_a_Number). The album sold three million copies in the United States and was certified double platinum by the [Recording Industry Association of America](/wiki/Recording_Industry_Association_of_America) (RIAA). After facing allegations of an illegal marriage with [R. Kelly](/wiki/R._Kelly), Aaliyah ended her contract with Jive and signed with [Atlantic Records](/wiki/Atlantic_Records).

Aaliyah worked with record producers [Timbaland](/wiki/Timbaland) and [Missy Elliott](/wiki/Missy_Elliott) for her second album, [*One in a Million*](/wiki/One_in_a_Million_(Aaliyah_album)); it sold 3 million copies in the United States and over eight million copies worldwide. In 2000, Aaliyah appeared in her first film, [*Romeo Must Die*](/wiki/Romeo_Must_Die). She contributed to the film's soundtrack, which spawned the single "[Try Again](/wiki/Try_Again_(Aaliyah_song))". The song topped the [*Billboard* Hot 100](/wiki/Billboard_Hot_100) solely on [airplay](/wiki/Airplay), making Aaliyah the first artist in [*Billboard*](/wiki/Billboard_(magazine)) history to achieve this goal. "Try Again" earned Aaliyah a [Grammy Award](/wiki/Grammy_Award) nomination for Best Female R&B Vocalist. After completing *Romeo Must Die*, Aaliyah filmed her role in [*Queen of the Damned*](/wiki/Queen_of_the_Damned). She released her third and final album, [*Aaliyah*](/wiki/Aaliyah_(album)), in July 2001.

On August 25, 2001, Aaliyah and eight others were killed in a plane crash in the [Bahamas](/wiki/Bahamas) after filming the music video for the single "[Rock the Boat](/wiki/Rock_the_Boat_(Aaliyah_song))". The [pilot](/wiki/Aviator), Luis Morales III, was unlicensed at the time of the accident and had traces of [cocaine](/wiki/Cocaine) and alcohol in his system. Aaliyah's family later filed a [wrongful death](/wiki/Wrongful_death) lawsuit against [Blackhawk International Airways](/wiki/Blackhawk_International_Airways), which was settled out of court. Aaliyah's music has continued to achieve commercial success with several posthumous releases. Aaliyah has sold an estimate of 24 to 32 million albums worldwide. She has been credited for helping redefine [contemporary R&B](/wiki/Contemporary_R&B), [pop](/wiki/Pop_music) and [hip hop](/wiki/Hip_hop_music),[[1]](#cite_note-1) earning her the [nicknames](/wiki/Honorific_nicknames_in_popular_music) "Princess of R&B" and "Queen of Urban Pop". She is listed by *Billboard* as the tenth most successful female R&B artist of the past 25 years and 27th most successful R&B artist in history.

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## Early life[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

Aaliyah Dana Haughton was born on January 16, 1979, in [Brooklyn](/wiki/Brooklyn), New York,[[2]](#cite_note-2) and was the younger child of Diane and Michael Haughton.[[3]](#cite_note-3) She was [African American](/wiki/African_American), and had Native American ([Oneida](/wiki/Oneida_people)) heritage from a grandmother.[[4]](#cite_note-4) Her name has been described as a female version of the [Arabic](/wiki/Arabic_language) "Ali"; however, the original Arabic and Jewish name "[Aliya](/wiki/Aliya_(disambiguation)) (Hebrew: אליה)" derived from the [Hebrew](/wiki/Hebrew_language) word "[aliyah](/wiki/Aliyah_(disambiguation)) (Hebrew: עלייה)", and meant "highest, most exalted one, the best."[[5]](#cite_note-5)[[6]](#cite_note-6) Regardless of origin, the singer was highly fond of her Semitic name, expressing support by calling it "beautiful" and asserting that she was "very proud of it," and she thus spent her entire life striving to live up to her name every day.[[5]](#cite_note-5) At a young age, Aaliyah was enrolled in voice lessons by her mother.[[2]](#cite_note-2) She started performing at weddings, church [choir](/wiki/Choir) and charity events.[[7]](#cite_note-7) When she was five years old, her family moved to [Detroit](/wiki/Detroit), Michigan, where she was raised along with her older brother, [Rashad](/wiki/Rashad_Haughton).[[8]](#cite_note-8)[[9]](#cite_note-9) She attended a [Catholic](/wiki/Catholic_Church) school, Gesu Elementary, where in [first grade](/wiki/First_grade), she received a part in the stage play [*Annie*](/wiki/Annie_(musical)). From then on, she was determined to become an entertainer.[[10]](#cite_note-10) In Detroit, her father began working in the warehouse business, one of his brother-in-law [Barry Hankerson's](/wiki/Barry_Hankerson) widening interests. Her mother stayed home and raised Aaliyah and her brother.<ref name=JenniferWarner>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>

Throughout her life, she had a good relationship with her brother, which traced back to their childhood as Rashad reflected that growing up with Aaliyah was "amazing". He recalled her running around their home singing and that never being annoying due to her having a "beautiful voice". She and her brother became close with their cousin Jomo Hankerson, since growing up, they lived "about five blocks apart". Jomo walked Aaliyah and Rashad to their home from school when their mother was not able to pick them up and recalled the Haughton household being filled with music.<ref name=Farley22-23>Farley 2002, pp. 22–23.</ref> Aaliyah's family was very close due to the struggles of her grandparents and when the Haughtons moved to Detroit, the Hankersons were ready to take them in if necessary. These same bonds led to ties in the music industry, under the Blackground Records label.[[5]](#cite_note-5) Aaliyah's mother was a vocalist, and her uncle, [Barry Hankerson](/wiki/Barry_Hankerson), was an [entertainment lawyer](/wiki/Entertainment_law) who had been married to [Gladys Knight](/wiki/Gladys_Knight).[[9]](#cite_note-9) As a child, Aaliyah traveled with Knight and worked with an agent in New York to audition for commercials and television programs, including [*Family Matters*](/wiki/Family_Matters); she went on to appear on [*Star Search*](/wiki/Star_Search) at the age of ten.[[2]](#cite_note-2) Aaliyah chose to begin auditioning while her mother made the decision to have her surname dropped.[[11]](#cite_note-11)[[12]](#cite_note-12) She auditioned for several record labels and at age 11 appeared in concerts alongside Knight.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[[13]](#cite_note-13) She had several pet animals in during her childhood, which included ducks, snakes and iguanas. Her cousin Jomo had a pet alligator, which Aaliyah felt was too much, remarking, "that was something I wasn't going to stroke."[[5]](#cite_note-5) Her grandmother died in 1991. Years after her death, Aaliyah said her grandmother supported everyone in the family and always wanted to hear her sing, as well as admitting that she "spoiled" her and her brother Rashad "to death." She also enjoyed Aaliyah's singing and would have Aaliyah to sing for her. Aaliyah stated that she thought of her grandmother whenever she fell into depression.[[14]](#cite_note-14) Aaliyah's hands reminded her of her aunt, who died when she was "very young" and Aaliyah referred to her as an "amazingly beautiful woman".[[15]](#cite_note-15)

## Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

Aaliyah attended Detroit schools growing up and believed she was well-liked, but got teased for her short stature. She recalled coming into her own prior to age 15 and grew to love her height. Her mother would tell her to be happy that she was small and compliment her. Other children disliked Aaliyah, but she did not stay focused on them. "You always have to deal with people who are jealous, but there were so few it didn't even matter. The majority of kids supported me, which was wonderful. When it comes to dealing with negative people, I just let it in one ear and out the other. Those people were invisible to me." Even in her adult life, she considered herself small. She had "learned to accept and love" herself and added: "... the most important thing is to think highly of yourself because if you don't, no one else will".<ref name=Sutherland2>Sutherland 2005, 2–4.</ref>

During her audition for acceptance to the Detroit High School for the Fine and Performing Arts Aaliyah sung the song "[Ave Maria](/wiki/Ave_Maria_(Schubert))" in its entirety in the [Italian language](/wiki/Italian_language).[[16]](#cite_note-16) Aaliyah, who maintained a perfect 4.0 grade point average when graduating from Detroit High School for the Fine and Performing Arts, felt education was important. She saw fit to keep her grades up despite the pressures and time constraints brought on her during the early parts of her career. She labeled herself as a perfectionist and recalled always being a good student. Aaliyah reflected: "I always wanted to maintain that, even in high school when I first started to travel. I wanted to keep that 4.0. Being in the industry, you know, I don't want kids to think, 'I can just sing and forget about school.' I think it's very important to have an education, and even more important to have something to fall back on." She did this in her own life, as she planned to "fall back on" another part of the entertainment industry. She believed that if she could teach music history or open her own school to teach that or drama if she did not make a living as a recording artist because, as she reasoned, "when you pick a career it has to be something you love".[[5]](#cite_note-5)

## Career[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

### 1991–95: ''Age Ain't Nothing but a Number''[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[thumb|left|Aaliyah was introduced to](/wiki/File:Ballasyrkellypic.jpg) [R. Kelly](/wiki/R._Kelly) (pictured), who became her mentor, as well as lead songwriter and producer on her [debut album](/wiki/Age_Ain't_Nothing_but_a_Number). After Hankerson signed a distribution deal with [JIVE Records](/wiki/JIVE_Records), he signed Aaliyah to his [Blackground Records](/wiki/Blackground_Records) label at the age of 12.[[17]](#cite_note-17)[[18]](#cite_note-18) Hankerson later introduced her to recording artist and producer [R. Kelly](/wiki/R._Kelly),[[13]](#cite_note-13) who became Aaliyah's mentor, as well as lead songwriter and producer of the album, which was recorded when she was 14.[[2]](#cite_note-2)[[18]](#cite_note-18)[[19]](#cite_note-19) Aaliyah's debut album, [*Age Ain't Nothing but a Number*](/wiki/Age_Ain't_Nothing_but_a_Number), was released under [JIVE](/wiki/JIVE_Records) and [Blackground Records](/wiki/Blackground_Records); the album debut at number 24 on the [*Billboard* 200](/wiki/Billboard_200) chart, selling 74,000 copies in its first week.[[20]](#cite_note-20)[[21]](#cite_note-21) It ultimately peaked at number 18 on the [*Billboard* 200](/wiki/Billboard_200) and sold over three million copies in the United States, where it was certified two times [Platinum](/wiki/Music_recording_sales_certification) by the [RIAA](/wiki/Recording_Industry_Association_of_America).[[21]](#cite_note-21)[[22]](#cite_note-22)[[23]](#cite_note-23) In Canada, the album sold over 50,000 copies and was certified gold by the [CRIA](/wiki/Canadian_Recording_Industry_Association).[[24]](#cite_note-24) Aaliyah's debut single, "[Back & Forth](/wiki/Back_&_Forth_(Aaliyah_song))", topped the [*Billboard*](/wiki/Billboard_(magazine)) [Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs](/wiki/Hot_R&B/Hip-Hop_Songs) chart for three weeks and was certified [Gold](/wiki/Music_recording_sales_certification) by the [RIAA](/wiki/Recording_Industry_Association_of_America).[[23]](#cite_note-23)[[25]](#cite_note-25) The second single, a [cover](/wiki/Cover_version) of [The Isley Brothers'](/wiki/The_Isley_Brothers) "[At Your Best (You Are Love)](/wiki/At_Your_Best_(You_Are_Love))", peaked at number six on the [*Billboard* Hot 100](/wiki/Billboard_Hot_100) and was also certified Gold by the RIAA.[[23]](#cite_note-23)[[25]](#cite_note-25) The title track, "[Age Ain't Nothing but a Number](/wiki/Age_Ain't_Nothing_but_a_Number_(song))", peaked at number 75 on the Hot 100.[[25]](#cite_note-25) Additionally, she released "[The Thing I Like](/wiki/The_Thing_I_Like)" as part of the soundtrack to the 1994 film [*A Low Down Dirty Shame*](/wiki/A_Low_Down_Dirty_Shame).[[26]](#cite_note-26) *Age Ain't Nothing But a Number* received generally favorable reviews from music critics. Some writers noted that Aaliyah's "silky vocals" and "sultry voice" blended with Kelly's [new jack swing](/wiki/New_jack_swing) helped define [R&B](/wiki/Contemporary_R&B) in the 1990s.[[27]](#cite_note-27)[[28]](#cite_note-28) Her sound was also compared to that of female quartet [En Vogue](/wiki/En_Vogue).[[27]](#cite_note-27)[[29]](#cite_note-29) Christopher John Farley of [*Time*](/wiki/Time_(magazine)) magazine described the album as a "beautifully restrained work", noting that Aaliyah's "girlish, breathy vocals rode calmly on R. Kelly's rough beats".[[30]](#cite_note-30) [Stephen Thomas Erlewine](/wiki/Stephen_Thomas_Erlewine) of [AllMusic](/wiki/AllMusic) felt that the album had its "share of filler", but described the singles as "slyly seductive".[[2]](#cite_note-2) He also claimed that the songs on the album were "frequently better" than that of Kelly's second studio album, [*12 Play*](/wiki/12_Play).[[2]](#cite_note-2) The single "At Your Best (You Are Love)" was criticized by *Billboard* for being out of place on the album and for its length.[[31]](#cite_note-31)

### 1996–99: ''One in a Million''[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Listen](/wiki/Template:Listen) In 1996, Aaliyah left [JIVE Records](/wiki/JIVE_Records) and signed with [Atlantic Records](/wiki/Atlantic_Records).[[13]](#cite_note-13) She worked with record producers [Timbaland](/wiki/Timbaland) and [Missy Elliott](/wiki/Missy_Elliott), who contributed to her second studio album, [*One in a Million*](/wiki/One_in_a_Million_(Aaliyah_album)).[[9]](#cite_note-9) Missy Elliott recalled Timbaland and herself being nervous to work with Aaliyah, since Aaliyah had already released her successful début album while Missy Elliott and Timbaland were just starting out. Missy Elliott also feared she would be a diva, but reflected that Aaliyah "came in and was so warming; she made us immediately feel like family."[[32]](#cite_note-32)The album yielded the single "[If Your Girl Only Knew](/wiki/If_Your_Girl_Only_Knew)", which topped the [*Billboard*](/wiki/Billboard_(magazine)) [Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs](/wiki/Hot_R&B/Hip-Hop_Songs) for two weeks.[[25]](#cite_note-25) It also generated the singles "[Hot Like Fire](/wiki/Hot_Like_Fire)" and "[4 Page Letter](/wiki/4_Page_Letter)". The following year, Aaliyah was featured on [Timbaland & Magoo's](/wiki/Timbaland_&_Magoo) debut single, "[Up Jumps da Boogie](/wiki/Up_Jumps_da_Boogie)".[[33]](#cite_note-33) *One in a Million* peaked at number 18 on the [*Billboard* 200](/wiki/Billboard_200),[[22]](#cite_note-22) selling 3 million copies in the United States and over eight million copies worldwide.[[34]](#cite_note-34)[[35]](#cite_note-35)The album was certified [double platinum](/wiki/Recording_Industry_Association_of_America) by the RIAA on June 16, 1997, denoting shipments of two million copies.[[23]](#cite_note-23) The month prior to *One in a Million*s release, on May 5, 1997, music publisher Windswept Pacific filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court against Aaliyah claiming she had illegally copied [Bobby Caldwell's](/wiki/Bobby_Caldwell) "[What You Won't Do for Love](/wiki/What_You_Won't_Do_for_Love_(song))" for the single "[Age Ain't Nothing but a Number](/wiki/Age_Ain't_Nothing_but_a_Number_(song))".[[36]](#cite_note-36) Aaliyah attended the [Detroit High School for the Fine and Performing Arts](/wiki/Detroit_School_of_Arts), where she majored in drama and graduated in 1997 with a 4.0 GPA.[[13]](#cite_note-13)[[37]](#cite_note-37)[[38]](#cite_note-38) Aaliyah began her acting career that same year; she played herself in the [police drama](/wiki/Police_procedural) television series [*New York Undercover*](/wiki/New_York_Undercover).[[39]](#cite_note-39) During this time, Aaliyah participated in the Children's Benefit Concert, a [charity concert](/wiki/Benefit_concert) that took place at the [Beacon Theatre](/wiki/Beacon_Theatre_(New_York_City)) in New York.[[40]](#cite_note-40) Aaliyah also became the spokesperson for [Tommy Hilfiger Corporation](/wiki/Tommy_Hilfiger_Corporation).[[41]](#cite_note-41) In 1997 Aaliyah performed the Christmas carol [What Child Is This](/wiki/What_Child_Is_This?) at the annual holiday special [Christmas in Washington](/wiki/Christmas_in_Washington).[[42]](#cite_note-42) She contributed on the soundtrack album for the [Fox Animation Studios](/wiki/Fox_Animation_Studios) animated feature [*Anastasia*](/wiki/Anastasia_(1997_film)), performing a [cover version](/wiki/Cover_version) of "[Journey to the Past](/wiki/Journey_to_the_Past)" which earned songwriters [Lynn Ahrens](/wiki/Lynn_Ahrens) and [Stephen Flaherty](/wiki/Stephen_Flaherty) a nomination for the [Academy Award for Best Original Song](/wiki/Academy_Award_for_Best_Original_Song).[[26]](#cite_note-26)[[35]](#cite_note-35)[[43]](#cite_note-43) Aaliyah performed the song at the [1998 Academy Awards ceremony](/wiki/70th_Academy_Awards) and became the youngest singer to perform at the event.[[44]](#cite_note-44)[[45]](#cite_note-45) The song "[Are You That Somebody?](/wiki/Are_You_That_Somebody?)" was featured on the [*Dr. Dolittle*](/wiki/Dr._Dolittle_(film)) [soundtrack](/wiki/Dr._Dolittle_(soundtrack)), which earned Aaliyah her first [Grammy Award](/wiki/Grammy_Award) nomination.[[46]](#cite_note-46) The song peaked at number 21 on the Hot 100.[[47]](#cite_note-47)

### 2000: ''Romeo Must Die''[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

In 1999, Aaliyah landed her first film role in [*Romeo Must Die*](/wiki/Romeo_Must_Die), released March 22, 2000. Aaliyah starred opposite martial artist [Jet Li](/wiki/Jet_Li), playing a couple who fall in love amid their warring families. It grossed US$18.6 million in its first weekend, ranking number two at the box office.[[48]](#cite_note-48) Aaliyah purposely stayed away from reviews of the film to "make it easier on" herself, but she heard "that people were able to get into me, which is what I wanted."[[49]](#cite_note-49) In contrast, some critics felt there was no chemistry between her and Jet Li, as well as viewing the film was too simplistic.[[50]](#cite_note-50) This was echoed by Elvis Mitchell of [*The New York Times*](/wiki/The_New_York_Times), who wrote that while Aaliyah was "a natural" and the film was conceived as a spotlight for both her and Li, "they have so little chemistry together you'd think they're putting out a fire instead of shooting off sparks.[[51]](#cite_note-51) Her role was well received by Glen Oliver by [IGN](/wiki/IGN) who liked that she did not portray her character "as a victimized female" but instead "as a strong female who does not come across as an over-the-top Women's Right Advocate."[[52]](#cite_note-52) In addition to acting, Aaliyah served as an executive producer of the [film's soundtrack](/wiki/Romeo_Must_Die_(soundtrack)), where she contributed four songs.[[53]](#cite_note-53) "[Try Again](/wiki/Try_Again_(Aaliyah_song))" was released as a single from the soundtrack; the song topped the [*Billboard* Hot 100](/wiki/Billboard_Hot_100), making Aaliyah the first artist to top the chart based solely on [airplay](/wiki/Airplay); this led the song to be released in a [12" vinyl](/wiki/12-inch_single) and [7" single](/wiki/Gramophone_record).[[25]](#cite_note-25)[[54]](#cite_note-54) The music video won the [Best Female Video](/wiki/MTV_Video_Music_Award_for_Best_Female_Video) and [Best Video from a Film](/wiki/MTV_Video_Music_Award_for_Best_Video_from_a_Film) awards at the [2000 MTV Video Music Awards](/wiki/2000_MTV_Video_Music_Awards).[[55]](#cite_note-55) It also earned her a [Grammy Award](/wiki/Grammy_Award) nomination for Best Female R&B Vocalist.[[56]](#cite_note-56) The soundtrack went on to sell 1.5 million copies in the United States.<ref name=Billboard2001>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

### 2001: ''Aaliyah''[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

After completing [*Romeo Must Die*](/wiki/Romeo_Must_Die), Aaliyah began to work on her second film, [*Queen of the Damned*](/wiki/Queen_of_the_Damned). She played the role of an ancient [vampire](/wiki/Vampire), Queen Akasha, which she described as a "manipulative, crazy, sexual being".[[18]](#cite_note-18) Prior to her death, she expressed the possibility of recording songs for the film's soundtrack and welcomed the possibility of collaborating with [Jonathan Davis](/wiki/Jonathan_Davis).[[57]](#cite_note-57) She was scheduled to film for the sequels of [*The Matrix*](/wiki/The_Matrix) as the character [Zee](/wiki/Zee_(The_Matrix)).[[13]](#cite_note-13)[[58]](#cite_note-58) In May 2001, [Shaquille O'Neal](/wiki/Shaquille_O'Neal) admitted that his remarks where he claimed to have engaged in sexual intercourse with Aaliyah, [Cindy Crawford](/wiki/Cindy_Crawford) and [Venus Williams](/wiki/Venus_Williams) were false after making the allegations during an appearance on a radio station and apologized to the three. All three denied the claims.[[59]](#cite_note-59) The following month, June 2001, Aaliyah posed for a photo shoot with Eric Johnson. Johnson kept the images in his "private personal archive" for thirteen years before providing digital copies of 13 Aaliyah photographs to an online photography magazine and authorizing the publication to use the photographs for a story they were doing on Aaliyah. Not long after, he filed a lawsuit claiming ABC had infringed his rights since the corporation authorized further reproduction by reproducing them online.<ref name=EURweb>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

Aaliyah released her self-titled album, [*Aaliyah*](/wiki/Aaliyah_(album)), in July 2001.[[2]](#cite_note-2) It debuted at number two on the [*Billboard* 200](/wiki/Billboard_200), selling 187,000 copies in its first week.[[60]](#cite_note-60) The first single from the album, "[We Need a Resolution](/wiki/We_Need_a_Resolution)", peaked at number 59 on the [*Billboard* Hot 100](/wiki/Billboard_Hot_100).[[25]](#cite_note-25) She finished recording the album in March 2001<ref name=MTVMarch2001>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> after a year of recording tracks that began in March of the previous year. At the time she started recording the album, Aaliyah's publicist disclosed the album's release date as most likely being in October 2000.<ref name=MTVMarch2000>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> Filming for *Queen of the Damned* delayed the release of *Aaliyah*. Aaliyah enjoyed balancing her singing and acting careers. Though she called music a "first" for her, she also had been acting since she was young and had wanted to begin acting "at some point in my career," but "wanted it to be the right time and the right vehicle" and felt *Romeo Must Die* "was it".[[61]](#cite_note-61) *Aaliyah* was released five years after *One in a Million*. Aaliyah had not intended for the albums to have such a gap between them. "I wanted to take a break after *One in a Million* to just relax, think about how I wanted to approach the next album. Then, when I was ready to start back up, "Romeo" happened, and so I had to take another break and do that film and then do the soundtrack, then promote it. The break turned into a longer break than I anticipated."[[62]](#cite_note-62) Connie Johnson of the *Los Angeles Times* argued that Aaliyah having to focus on her film career may have caused her to not give the album "the attention it merited."[[63]](#cite_note-63) Collaborator Timbaland concurred, stating that he was briefly in Australia to work on the album while Aaliyah was filming and did not feel the same production had gone into *Aaliyah* as *One in a Million* had. He also said Virgin Records had rushed the album and Aaliyah had specifically requested Missy Elliott and Timbaland work on *Aaliyah* with her.<ref name=YouTube2011>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

The week after Aaliyah's death, her third studio album, [*Aaliyah*](/wiki/Aaliyah_(album)), rose from number 19 to number one on the [*Billboard* 200](/wiki/Billboard_200).[[64]](#cite_note-64) "[Rock the Boat](/wiki/Rock_the_Boat_(Aaliyah_song))" was released as a posthumous single. The music video premiered on [BET's](/wiki/Black_Entertainment_Television) [*Access Granted*](/wiki/Access_Granted); it became the most viewed and highest rated episode in the history of the show.[[65]](#cite_note-65) The song peaked at number 14 on the [*Billboard* Hot 100](/wiki/Billboard_Hot_100) and number two on the *Billboard* [Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs](/wiki/Hot_R&B/Hip-Hop_Songs) chart.[[66]](#cite_note-66) It was also included on the [*Now That's What I Call Music! 8*](/wiki/Now_That's_What_I_Call_Music!_8_(U.S._series)) compilation series; a portion of the album's profits was donated to the Aaliyah Memorial Fund.[[67]](#cite_note-67) Promotional posters for *Aaliyah* that had been put up in major cities such as New York and Los Angeles became makeshift memorials for grieving fans.[[68]](#cite_note-68) "[More than a Woman](/wiki/More_than_a_Woman_(Aaliyah_song))" and "[I Care 4 U](/wiki/I_Care_4_U_(song))" were released as posthumous singles and peaked within the top 25 of the *Billboard* Hot 100.[[66]](#cite_note-66) The album was certified double [Platinum](/wiki/Music_recording_sales_certification) by the [RIAA](/wiki/Recording_Industry_Association_of_America) and sold 2.95 million copies in the United States.[[23]](#cite_note-23)[[69]](#cite_note-69) "More than a Woman" reached number one on the UK singles chart making Aaliyah the first deceased artist to reach number one on the UK singles chart.[[70]](#cite_note-70) "More than a Woman" was replaced by [George Harrison's](/wiki/George_Harrison) "[My Sweet Lord](/wiki/My_Sweet_Lord)" which is the only time in the UK singles chart's history where a dead artist has replaced another dead artist at number one.[[71]](#cite_note-71) In July 2001, she allowed MTV's show [*Diary*](/wiki/Diary_(TV_series)) behind-the-scenes access to her life and stated "I am truly blessed to wake up every morning to do something that I love; there is nothing better than that." She continued, "Everything is worth it – the hard work, the times when you're tired, the times when you are a bit sad. In the end, it's all worth it because it really makes me happy. I wouldn't trade it for anything else in the world. I've got good friends, a beautiful family and I've got a career. I thank God for his blessings every single chance I get."[[72]](#cite_note-72) Aaliyah was signed to appear in several future films, including [*Honey*](/wiki/Honey_(2003_film)),[[73]](#cite_note-73) a romantic film titled *Some Kind of Blue*,[[74]](#cite_note-74) and a [Whitney Houston](/wiki/Whitney_Houston)-produced remake of the 1976 film [*Sparkle*](/wiki/Sparkle_(1976_film)).[[4]](#cite_note-4) Whitney Houston recalled Aaliyah being "so enthusiastic" about the film and wanting to appear in the film "so badly". Houston also voiced her belief that Aaliyah was more than qualified for the role and the film was shelved after she died, since Aaliyah had "gone to a better place".[[75]](#cite_note-75) Studio officials of Warner Brothers stated that Aaliyah and her mother had both read the script for *Sparkle*. According to them, Aaliyah was passionate about playing the lead role of a young singer in a girl group.[[76]](#cite_note-76)The [film](/wiki/Sparkle_(2012_film)) was released in 2012, eleven years after Aaliyah's death. Before her death, Aaliyah had filmed part of her role in [*The Matrix Reloaded*](/wiki/The_Matrix_Reloaded) and was scheduled to appear in [*The Matrix Revolutions*](/wiki/The_Matrix_Revolutions) as [Zee](/wiki/Zee_(The_Matrix)).[[33]](#cite_note-33) Aaliyah told *Access Hollywood* that she was "beyond happy" to have landed the role.[[77]](#cite_note-77)The role was subsequently recast to [Nona Gaye](/wiki/Nona_Gaye).[[58]](#cite_note-58) Aaliyah's scenes were included in the tribute section of the *Matrix Ultimate Collection* series.[[78]](#cite_note-78) In November 2001, [Ronald Isley](/wiki/Ronald_Isley) stated that Aaliyah and the [Isley Brothers](/wiki/Isley_Brothers) had discussed a collaboration prior to her death. She had previously covered the Isley Brothers' single "[At Your Best (You Are Love)](/wiki/At_Your_Best_(You_Are_Love))".[[79]](#cite_note-79) By 2001, Aaliyah had enjoyed her now seven-year career and felt a sense of accomplishment. "This is what I always wanted," she said of her career in *Vibe* magazine. "I breathe to perform, to entertain, I can't imagine myself doing anything else. I'm just a really happy girl right now. I honestly love every aspect of this business. I really do. I feel very fulfilled and complete."<ref name=Vibe2001CoverStory>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

## Artistry[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

### Voice and style[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Listen](/wiki/Template:Listen) Aaliyah had the [vocal range](/wiki/Vocal_range) of a [soprano](/wiki/Soprano).[[13]](#cite_note-13) With the release of her debut single "[Back & Forth](/wiki/Back_&_Forth_(song))", Dimitri Ehrlich of [*Entertainment Weekly*](/wiki/Entertainment_Weekly) expressed that Aaliyah's "silky vocals are more agile than those of self-proclaimed queen of hip-hop soul [Mary J. Blige](/wiki/Mary_J._Blige)."[[80]](#cite_note-80) In her review for Aaliyah's second studio album One in a Million [*Vibe*](/wiki/Vibe_(magazine)) magazine, music critic [Dream Hampton](/wiki/Dream_Hampton) said that Aaliyah's "deliciously feline" voice has the same "pop appeal" as [Janet Jackson's](/wiki/Janet_Jackson).[[81]](#cite_note-81) Aaliyah described her sound as "street but sweet", which featured her "gentle" vocals over a "hard" [beat](/wiki/Beat_(music)).[[82]](#cite_note-82) Though Aaliyah did not write any of her own material,[[13]](#cite_note-13) her lyrics were described as in-depth.[[83]](#cite_note-83)[[84]](#cite_note-84) She incorporated [R&B](/wiki/Contemporary_R&B), [pop](/wiki/Pop_music) and [hip hop](/wiki/Hip_hop_music) into her music.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[[85]](#cite_note-85)[[86]](#cite_note-86)[[87]](#cite_note-87)[[88]](#cite_note-88)[[89]](#cite_note-89) [Gladys Knight](/wiki/Gladys_Knight), who married her uncle [Barry Hankerson](/wiki/Barry_Hankerson), was essential to the start of Aaliyah's career as she gave her many of her earlier performances. One of their last conversations concerned Aaliyah having difficulty with "another young artist" that she was trying to work with. Knight felt the argument was "petty" and insisted that she remain being who she was in spite of the conflict.[[121]](#cite_note-121)

### Illegal marriage[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

With the release of *Age Ain't Nothing but a Number*, rumors circulated of a relationship between Aaliyah and [R. Kelly](/wiki/R._Kelly).[[13]](#cite_note-13)[[122]](#cite_note-122) Shortly after, there was speculation about a secret marriage with the release of "Age Ain't Nothing but a Number" and the adult content that Kelly had written for Aaliyah.[[123]](#cite_note-123) [*Vibe*](/wiki/Vibe_(magazine)) magazine later revealed a marriage certificate that listed the couple married on August 31, 1994, in Sheraton Gateway Suites in [Rosemont, Illinois](/wiki/Rosemont,_Illinois).[[13]](#cite_note-13)[[123]](#cite_note-123) Aaliyah, who was 15 at the time, was listed as 18 on the certificate; the illegal marriage was annulled in February 1995 by her parents.[[19]](#cite_note-19)[[123]](#cite_note-123)[[124]](#cite_note-124) The pair continued to deny marriage allegations, stating that neither was married.[[122]](#cite_note-122) One particular allegation among the rumor was that Aaliyah wedded R. Kelly without her parents' knowledge.[[125]](#cite_note-125) Aaliyah reportedly developed a friendship with R. Kelly during the recording of her debut album. As she recalled to *Vibe* magazine in 1994, she and R. Kelly would "go watch a movie" and "go eat" when she got tired and would then "come back and work". She described the relationship between her and R. Kelly as being "rather close."[[126]](#cite_note-126) In 2016, Kelly said that he was in love with Aaliyah as he was with "anybody else."[[127]](#cite_note-127)In December 1994, Aaliyah told the *Sun-Times* that whenever she was asked about being married to R. Kelly, she urged them not to believe "all that mess" and that she and R. Kelly were "close" and "people took it the wrong way."<ref name=WBEZ>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> In his 2011 book *The Man Behind the Man: Looking From the Inside Out*, Demetrius Smith Sr., a former member of R. Kelly's entourage, wrote that R. Kelly told him "in a voice that sounded as if he wanted to burst into tears" that he thought Aaliyah was pregnant.[[128]](#cite_note-128) [Jamie Foster Brown](/wiki/Jamie_Foster_Brown) in the 1994 issue of [*Sister 2 Sister*](/wiki/Sister_2_Sister) wrote that "R. Kelly told me that he and Aaliyah got together and it was just magic." Brown also reported hearing about a relationship between them. "I've been hearing about Robert and Aaliyah for a while—that she was pregnant. Or that she was coming and going in and out of his house. People would see her walking his dog, 12 Play, with her basketball cap and sunglasses on. Every time I asked the label, they said it was platonic. But I kept hearing complaints from people about her being in the studio with all those men. At 15," Brown said. "you have all those hormones and no brains attached to them."[[129]](#cite_note-129) Aaliyah admitted in court documents that she had lied about her age. In May 1997, she filed suit in Cook County seeking to have all records of the marriage expunged because she was not old enough under state law to get married without her parents' consent. It was reported that she cut off all professional and personal ties with R. Kelly after the marriage was annulled and ceased having contact with him.[[130]](#cite_note-130) In 2014, Jomo Hankerson stated that Aaliyah "got villainized" over her relationship with R. Kelly and the scandal over the marriage made it difficult to find producers for her second album. "We were coming off of a multi-platinum debut album and except for a couple of relationships with Jermaine Dupri and Puffy, it was hard for us to get producers on the album." Hankerson also expressed confusion over why "they were upset" with Aaliyah given her age at the time.[[131]](#cite_note-131) Aaliyah was known to avoid answering questions regarding R. Kelly following the professional split. During an interview with Christopher John Farley, she was asked if she was still in contact with him and if she would ever work with him again. Farley said Aaliyah responded with a "firm, frosty" 'No' to both of the questions.[[132]](#cite_note-132) *Vibe* magazine said Aaliyah changed the subject anytime "you bring up the marriage with her".[[133]](#cite_note-133) A spokeswoman for Aaliyah told the *Chicago Sun-Times* in 2000 that when "R. Kelly comes up, she doesn't even speak his name, and nobody's allowed to ask about it at all".[[134]](#cite_note-134) Kelly later commented that Aaliyah had opportunities to address the pair's relationship after they separated professionally but chose not to.[[135]](#cite_note-135) R. Kelly would have other allegations made about him regarding underage girls in the years following her death and his marriage to Aaliyah was used to evidence his involvement with them. He refused to discuss his relationship with her, citing that she was dead. "Out of respect for her, and her mom and her dad, I will not discuss Aaliyah. That was a whole other situation, a whole other time, it was a whole other thing, and I'm sure that people also know that."[[136]](#cite_note-136) Aaliyah's mother Diane Haughton reflected that everything "that went wrong in her life" began with her relationship with R. Kelly.[[137]](#cite_note-137) The allegations have been said to have done "little to taint Aaliyah's image or prevent her from becoming a reliable '90s hitmaker with viable sidelines in movies and modeling."<ref name=AANBANBillboard>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

### Relationships[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image) [Quincy Jones](/wiki/Quincy_Jones) said she was "like one of my daughters" and Aaliyah vacationed with him and his family in Fiji.[[138]](#cite_note-138) She was close friends with his daughter [Kidada Jones](/wiki/Kidada_Jones). By 2001, they had been best friends for five years and Jones described her as having a great sense of humor. Aaliyah and Jones would make prank phone calls to what Aaliyah referred to as "public establishments".[[133]](#cite_note-133) At the time of her death, she and Jones were planning on starting a clothing line, benefited by Aaliyah's popularity as a "style-setter" and she sought to capitalize on her good taste.[[139]](#cite_note-139) Her brother Rashad called her his best friend and stated that she "was my everything".[[10]](#cite_note-10) [Beyoncé](/wiki/Beyoncé) stated after Aaliyah's death that she was "the very first person to embrace Destiny's Child."[[140]](#cite_note-140) Aaliyah met Beyoncé as well as the other members of Destiny's Child in 1998 in Los Angeles. They were intimidated about meeting her, since she had already established herself and they were just making their names at the time. Beyoncé observed Aaliyah as having "handled herself like a lady" and commented on the "aura" she had, which she believed was an indication of Aaliyah having "a great family."[[141]](#cite_note-141) In addition to working with them, Aaliyah had friendships with [Missy Elliott](/wiki/Missy_Elliott) and [Timbaland](/wiki/Timbaland). Aaliyah recalled her first time meeting Missy Elliott. "When we met, there was a bond that was established real quickly. A friendship formed and we built our studio relationship from that."[[142]](#cite_note-142) Missy Elliott said in 2010 that "there's not a day that goes by that I don't think" of Aaliyah and that she misses her every day.[[143]](#cite_note-143)Missy Elliott said of Aaliyah during an appearance on RapFix Live in November 2012, "Aaliyah, she was like a comedian. She always wanted to laugh."<ref name=MissyElliott2012>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

Timbaland admitted in 2011 that he was in love with her, but did not act out on his feelings due to their age difference and determined he would just "be her brother". Despite this declaration, he still struggled with keeping his feelings to himself.[[144]](#cite_note-144) Timbaland said the pair had an argument, and he learned of her death when attempting to reconcile.[[145]](#cite_note-145) Immediately following her death, Timbaland told MTV he considered her as his "little sister" and that he and Aaliyah had a "chemistry" and that he had lost half of his creativity with her death. He also said that fans needed to know that beyond music "she was a brilliant person."[[146]](#cite_note-146) Aaliyah's death had a large impact on both of them as they had been her closest collaborators in the last five years of her career and they owed their initial success to her.[[147]](#cite_note-147) In 2015, Damon Dash claimed that [Jay Z](/wiki/Jay_Z) tried to date Aaliyah, but she placed him in the "friend zone".[[148]](#cite_note-148) In a [New York City](/wiki/New_York_City) interview, Jay Z said her death was a precursor to the [September 11 attacks](/wiki/September_11_attacks), which took place the month after Aaliyah's death.[[149]](#cite_note-149)

### Engagement[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

Aaliyah was dating co-founder of [Roc-A-Fella Records](/wiki/Roc-A-Fella_Records) [Damon Dash](/wiki/Damon_Dash) at the time of her death and, though they were not formally engaged, in interviews given after Aaliyah's death Dash claimed the couple had planned to marry.[[150]](#cite_note-150) Aaliyah and Dash met through his accountant and formed a friendship.<ref name=Billboard2011>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> Dash has said he is unsure of how he and Aaliyah started dating and that the two just understood each other. "I don't know [how we got involved], just spending time, you know, we just saw things the same and it was new, you know what I mean? Meeting someone that is trying to do the same thing you are doing in the urban market, in the same urban market place but not really being so urban. It was just; her mind was where my mind was. She understood me and she got my jokes. She thought my jokes were funny."[[151]](#cite_note-151) Dash expressed his belief that Aaliyah was the "one" and claimed the pair were not officially engaged, but had spoken about getting married prior to her death.[[152]](#cite_note-152)Aaliyah publicly never addressed the relationship between her and Dash as being anything but platonic. In May 2001, she hosted a party for Dash's 30th birthday at a New York City club, where they were spotted together and Dash was seen escorting her to a bathroom. Addressing this, Aaliyah stated that she and Dash were just "very good friends" and chose to "keep it at that" for the time being.<ref name=VibeAugust2001>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> Just two weeks before her death, Aaliyah traveled from New Jersey to East Hampton, New York to visit Dash at the summer house he shared with [Jay-Z](/wiki/Jay-Z).[[153]](#cite_note-153) The couple were separated for long periods at a time, as Dash recalled that Aaliyah continuously shot films and would be gone for months often to come back shortly and continue her schedule. Dash was also committed to "his own thing", which did not make matters any better. Despite this, they were understanding that the time they had together was special. Dash remembered they would "be in a room full of people talking to each other and it felt like everyone was listening but it would be just us. It would be like we were the only ones in the room". Dash always felt their time together was essential and Aaliyah was the person he was interested in being with, which is why, as he claimed, they had begun speaking about engagement.[[154]](#cite_note-154) The relationship was mentioned in the lyrics of Jay-Z's remix to her song "[Miss You](/wiki/Miss_You_(Aaliyah_song))", released after her death.

## Death[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) On August 25, 2001, at 6:50 p.m. ([EDT](/wiki/Eastern_Time_Zone)), Aaliyah and the members of the record company boarded a twin-engine [Cessna 402B](/wiki/Cessna_402) ([registration](/wiki/Aircraft_registration) N8097W) at the [Marsh Harbour Airport](/wiki/Marsh_Harbour_Airport) in [Abaco Islands](/wiki/Abaco_Islands), The Bahamas, to travel to the [Opa-locka Airport](/wiki/Opa-locka_Airport) in Florida, after they completed filming the music video for "[Rock the Boat](/wiki/Rock_the_Boat_(Aaliyah_song))".[[155]](#cite_note-155) They had a flight scheduled the following day, but with filming finishing early, Aaliyah and her entourage were eager to return to the United States and made the decision to leave immediately. The designated airplane was smaller than the [Cessna 404](/wiki/Cessna_404_Titan) on which they had originally arrived, but the whole party and all of the equipment were accommodated on board.[[156]](#cite_note-156) The plane crashed shortly after takeoff, about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) from the end of the runway and exploded.[[155]](#cite_note-155) Aaliyah and the eight others on board—pilot Luis Morales III, hair stylist Eric Forman, Anthony Dodd, security guard Scott Gallin, family friend Keith Wallace, make-up stylist Christopher Maldonado, and [Blackground Records](/wiki/Blackground_Records) employees Douglas Kratz and Gina Smith—were all killed.[[157]](#cite_note-157) Gallin survived the initial impact and spent his last moments worrying about Aaliyah's condition, according to ambulance drivers.<ref name=Farley169-170>Farley, pp. 169–170.</ref> The plane was identified as being owned by Florida-based company Skystream by Kathleen Bergen, spokeswoman for the US [Federal Aviation Administration](/wiki/Federal_Aviation_Administration) (FAA) in Atlanta. Initial reports of the crash identified Luis Morales as "L Marael".[[158]](#cite_note-158) According to findings from an inquest conducted by the coroner's office in The Bahamas, Aaliyah suffered from "severe burns and a blow to the head", in addition to severe shock and a weak heart.[[159]](#cite_note-159) The coroner theorized that she went into such a state of shock that even if she had survived the crash, her recovery would have been nearly impossible given the severity of her injuries.[[160]](#cite_note-160) The bodies were taken to the morgue at Princess Margaret Hospital in Nassau, where they were kept for relatives to help identify them. Some of the bodies were badly burned in the crash.[[161]](#cite_note-161) As the subsequent investigation determined, when the aircraft attempted to depart, it was over its maximum take-off weight by [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and was carrying one excess passenger, according to its certification.[[162]](#cite_note-162)The [National Transportation Safety Board](/wiki/National_Transportation_Safety_Board) report stated that "the airplane was seen lifting off the runway, and then nose down, impacting in a marsh on the south side of the departure end of runway 27 and then exploding in flames."[[163]](#cite_note-163) It indicated that the pilot was not approved to fly the plane. Morales falsely obtained his FAA license by showing hundreds of hours never flown, and he may also have falsified how many hours he had flown in order to get a job with his employer, [Blackhawk International Airways](/wiki/Blackhawk_International_Airways).[[164]](#cite_note-164) Additionally, an [autopsy](/wiki/Autopsy) performed on Morales revealed traces of [cocaine](/wiki/Cocaine) and [alcohol](/wiki/Alcohol) in his system.[[165]](#cite_note-165) Aaliyah's funeral was held on August 31, 2001, at the [St. Ignatius Loyola Church](/wiki/Church_of_St._Ignatius_Loyola_(New_York_City)) in [Manhattan](/wiki/Manhattan). Her body was set in a silver-plated copper-deposit [casket](/wiki/Coffin), which was carried in a glass horse-drawn [hearse](/wiki/Hearse).[[166]](#cite_note-166) An estimated 800 mourners were in attendance at the procession.[[19]](#cite_note-19)[[167]](#cite_note-167) Among those in attendance at the private ceremony were [Missy Elliott](/wiki/Missy_Elliott), [Timbaland](/wiki/Timbaland), [Gladys Knight](/wiki/Gladys_Knight), [Lil' Kim](/wiki/Lil'_Kim) and [Sean Combs](/wiki/Sean_Combs).[[166]](#cite_note-166)[[168]](#cite_note-168)[[169]](#cite_note-169) After the service, 22 white doves were released to symbolize each year of Aaliyah's life.[[170]](#cite_note-170) Aaliyah was interred in a private room at the left end of a corridor in the Rosewood Mausoleum at the [Ferncliff Cemetery](/wiki/Ferncliff_Cemetery) in [Hartsdale, New York](/wiki/Hartsdale,_New_York).[[171]](#cite_note-171) The inscription at the bottom of Aaliyah's portrait at the funeral read: "We Were Given a Queen, We Were Given an Angel."[[172]](#cite_note-172) After Aaliyah's death, the German newspaper [*Die Zeit*](/wiki/Die_Zeit) published excerpts from an interview done shortly before her death, in which she described a recurring dream: "It is dark in my favorite dream. Someone is following me. I don't know why. I'm scared. Then suddenly I lift off. Far away. How do I feel? As if I am swimming in the air. Free. Weightless. Nobody can reach me. Nobody can touch me. It's a wonderful feeling."[[173]](#cite_note-173)

## Posthumous career[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

Immediately after Aaliyah's death, there was uncertainty over whether the music video for "Rock the Boat" would ever air.[[174]](#cite_note-174) It made its world premiere on [BET's](/wiki/Black_Entertainment_Television) [*Access Granted*](/wiki/Access_Granted) on October 9, 2001. She won two posthumous awards at the [American Music Awards of 2002](/wiki/American_Music_Awards_of_2002); Favorite Female R&B Artist and Favorite R&B/Soul Album for *Aaliyah*.[[175]](#cite_note-175) Her second and final film, [*Queen of the Damned*](/wiki/Queen_of_the_Damned_(film)), was released in February 2002. Before its release, Aaliyah's brother, Rashad, [re-dubbed](/wiki/Dubbing_(filmmaking)) some of her lines during post-production.[[176]](#cite_note-176)[[177]](#cite_note-177) It grossed US$15.2 million in its first weekend, ranking number one at the box office.[[178]](#cite_note-178) On the first anniversary of Aaliyah's death, a candlelight vigil was held in [Times Square](/wiki/Times_Square); millions of fans observed a [moment of silence](/wiki/Moment_of_silence); and throughout the United States, radio stations played her music in remembrance.[[179]](#cite_note-179) In December 2002, a collection of previously unreleased material was released as Aaliyah's first posthumous album, [*I Care 4 U*](/wiki/I_Care_4_U). A portion of the proceeds was donated to the Aaliyah Memorial Fund, a program that benefits the Revlon UCLA Women's Cancer Research Program and Harlem's Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.[[180]](#cite_note-180) It debuted at number three on the [*Billboard* 200](/wiki/Billboard_200), selling 280,000 copies in its first week.[[181]](#cite_note-181) The album's lead single, "[Miss You](/wiki/Miss_You_(Aaliyah_song))", peaked at number three on the [*Billboard* Hot 100](/wiki/Billboard_Hot_100) and topped the [Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs](/wiki/Hot_R&B/Hip-Hop_Songs) chart.[[66]](#cite_note-66) In August of the following year, clothing retailer [Christian Dior](/wiki/Christian_Dior_SA) donated profits from sales in honor of Aaliyah.[[182]](#cite_note-182) In 2005, Aaliyah's second compilation album, [*Ultimate Aaliyah*](/wiki/Ultimate_Aaliyah) was released in the UK by Blackground Records.[[183]](#cite_note-183) *Ultimate Aaliyah* is a three disc set, which included a greatest hits audio CD and a DVD.[[183]](#cite_note-183) Andy Kellman of [AllMusic](/wiki/AllMusic) remarked "*Ultimate Aaliyah* adequately represents the shortened career of a tremendous talent who benefited from some of the best songwriting and production work by Timbaland, Missy Elliott, and R. Kelly."[[183]](#cite_note-183) A documentary movie *Aaliyah Live in Amsterdam* was released in 2011, shortly before the tenth anniversary of Aaliyah's death. The documentary, by [Pogus Caesar](/wiki/Pogus_Caesar), contained previously unseen footage shot of her career beginnings in 1995 when she was appearing in the Netherlands.[[184]](#cite_note-184) In March 2012, music producer Jeffrey "J-Dub" Walker announced on his Twitter account that a song "Steady Ground", which he produced for Aaliyah's third album, would be included in the forthcoming posthumous Aaliyah album. This second proposed posthumous album would feature this song using demo vocals, as Walker claims the originals were somehow lost by his sound engineer. Aaliyah's brother Rashad later refuted Walker's claim, claiming that "no official album [is] being released and supported by the Haughton family."[[185]](#cite_note-185)On August 5, 2012, a song entitled "[Enough Said](/wiki/Enough_Said_(song))" was released online. The song was produced by Noah "40" Shebib and features Canadian rapper [Drake](/wiki/Drake_(entertainer)).[[186]](#cite_note-186) Four days later, Jomo Hankerson confirmed a posthumous album is being produced and that it is scheduled to be released by the end of 2012 by [Blackground Records](/wiki/Blackground_Records).[[187]](#cite_note-187) The album was reported to include 16 unreleased songs and have contributions from Aaliyah's longtime collaborators [Timbaland](/wiki/Timbaland) and [Missy Elliott](/wiki/Missy_Elliott), among others.[[187]](#cite_note-187) On August 13, Timbaland and Missy Elliott dismissed rumors about being contacted or participating for the project.[[188]](#cite_note-188) Elliott's manager Mona Scott-Young said in a statement to [*XXL*](/wiki/XXL_(magazine)), "Although Missy and Timbaland always strive to keep the memory of their close friend alive, we have not been contacted about the project nor are there any plans at this time to participate. We've seen the reports surfacing that they have been confirmed to participate but that is not the case. Both Missy and Timbaland are very sensitive to the loss still being felt by the family so we wanted to clear up any misinformation being circulated."[[188]](#cite_note-188) Elliott herself said, "Tim and I carry Aaliyah with us everyday, like so many of the people who love her. She will always live in our hearts. We have nothing but love and respect for her memory and for her loved ones left behind still grieving her loss. They are always in our prayers."[[188]](#cite_note-188) In June 2013, Aaliyah was featured on a new track by [Chris Brown](/wiki/Chris_Brown_(American_entertainer)), titled "[Don't Think They Know](/wiki/Don't_Think_They_Know)"; with Aaliyah singing the song's hook. The video features dancing holographic versions of Aaliyah. The song appears on Brown's sixth studio album, [*X*](/wiki/X_(Chris_Brown_album)).[[189]](#cite_note-189) Timbaland voiced his disapproval for "Enough Said" and "Don't Think They Know" in July 2013. He exclaimed, "Aaliyah music only work with its soulmate, which is me".[[190]](#cite_note-190) Soon after, Timbaland apologized to Chris Brown over his remarks, which he explained were made due to Aaliyah and her death being a "very sensitive subject".[[191]](#cite_note-191)In January 2014, producer Noah "40" Shebib confirmed that the posthumous album was shelved due to the negative reception surrounding Drake's involvement. Shebib added, "Aaliyah's mother saying, 'I don't want this out' was enough for me ... I walked away very quickly."[[192]](#cite_note-192)[[193]](#cite_note-193) Aaliyah's vocals were reported to be featured on the [T-Pain](/wiki/T-Pain) mixtape, *The Iron Way*, on the track "Girlfriend", but were pulled after being met with criticism by fans and many in attendance at a New York listening session that he hosted for the project. In response to the criticism, T-Pain questioned if Aaliyah's legacy was driven by her death and claimed that were she still alive, she would be seen as trying to emulate [Beyoncé](/wiki/Beyoncé).[[194]](#cite_note-194) According to T-Pain, he was given her vocals from a session she had done prior to her death after being approached to work on a track for a posthumous Aaliyah album and completing the song, calling the exchange "just like a swap."[[195]](#cite_note-195) She was featured on the [Tink](/wiki/Tink_(musician)) track "Million", which was released in May 2015 and contained samples from her song "One in a Million".[[196]](#cite_note-196) Collaborator Timbaland was involved in the song's creation, having previously claimed that Aaliyah appeared to him in a dream and stressed that Tink was "the one".[[197]](#cite_note-197) In August 2015, Timbaland confirmed that he had unreleased vocals from Aaliyah and stated a "sneak peek" would be coming soon.[[198]](#cite_note-198)[[199]](#cite_note-199) In September 2015, *Aaliyah by* [*Xyrena*](/wiki/Xyrena), an official tribute fragrance was announced.[[200]](#cite_note-200) On December 19, [Timbaland](/wiki/Timbaland) uploaded a snippet of a new Aaliyah song title "He Keeps Me Shakin" on his [Instagram](/wiki/Instagram) account and it will be released December 25, 2015 on Timbaland mixtape *King Stays King*.[[201]](#cite_note-201)

## Legacy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

Aaliyah has been credited for helping redefine [R&B](/wiki/Contemporary_R&B), [pop](/wiki/Pop_music) and [hip hop](/wiki/Hip_hop_music) in the 1990s, "leaving an indelible imprint on the music industry as a whole."[[1]](#cite_note-1)[[83]](#cite_note-83)[[202]](#cite_note-202) According to [Billboard](/wiki/Billboard_(magazine)) Aaliyah revolutionized [R&B](/wiki/Contemporary_R&B) with her sultry mix of [pop](/wiki/Pop_music), [soul](/wiki/Soul_music) and [hip hop](/wiki/Hip_hop_music).[[203]](#cite_note-203) In a 2001 review of her eponymous album [Rolling Stone](/wiki/Rolling_Stone) magazine professed that Aaliyah's impact on [R&B](/wiki/Contemporary_R&B) and [pop](/wiki/Pop_music) has been enormous.[[204]](#cite_note-204) Steve Huey of AllMusic wrote Aaliyah ranks among the "elite" artists of the R&B genre, as she "played a major role in popularizing the stuttering, futuristic production style that consumed hip-hop and urban soul in the late 1990s."[[205]](#cite_note-205) Bruce Britt of "music world" on Broadcast Music, Inc's. website stated that by combining "schoolgirl charm with urban grit", Aaliyah helped define the teen-oriented sound that has resulted in contemporary [pop](/wiki/Pop_music) phenom's like Brandy, Christina Aguilera and Destiny's Child.[[206]](#cite_note-206) Described as one of "R&B's most important artists" during the 1990s,[[207]](#cite_note-207) her second studio album, [*One in a Million*](/wiki/One_in_a_Million_(Aaliyah_album)), became one of the most influential R&B albums of the decade.[[208]](#cite_note-208) Music critic [Simon Reynolds](/wiki/Simon_Reynolds) cited "Are You That Somebody?" as "the most radical pop single" of 1998. Kelefah Sanneh of [*The New York Times*](/wiki/The_New_York_Times) wrote that rather than being the song's focal point, Aaliyah "knew how to disappear into the music, how to match her voice to the bass line", and consequently "helped change the way popular music sounds; the twitchy, beat-driven songs of [Destiny's Child](/wiki/Destiny's_Child) owe a clear debt to 'Are You That Somebody'." Sanneh asserted that by the time of her death in 2001, Aaliyah "had recorded some of the most innovative and influential pop songs of the last five years."[[94]](#cite_note-94) Music publication pop dust called Aaliyah an unlikely queen of the underground mainly due to her influence on the underground alternative music scene which consist of heavy sampling of her music and many references that are made to her discography by underground artist, pop dust also mentioned that Aaliyah's forward thinking music that she did with [timbaland](/wiki/Timbaland) and the experimental music being made by many underground alternative artist are some what cut from the same cloth.[[209]](#cite_note-209) While compiling a list of artist that take cues from Aaliyah [MTV Hive](/wiki/MTV_Hive) mentioned that it’s easy to spot her influence on underground movements like dubstep, strains of indie pop, and in the lo-fi R&B movements.[[210]](#cite_note-210) With sales of 8.1 million albums in the United States and an estimated 24 to 32 million albums worldwide,[[211]](#cite_note-211)[[212]](#cite_note-212)[[213]](#cite_note-213)[[214]](#cite_note-214)[[215]](#cite_note-215) Aaliyah earned the [nicknames](/wiki/Honorific_nicknames_in_popular_music) "Princess of R&B" and "Queen of Urban Pop",[[216]](#cite_note-216)[[217]](#cite_note-217) as she "proved she was a muse in her own right".[[218]](#cite_note-218) Ernest Hardy of [*Rolling Stone*](/wiki/Rolling_Stone) dubbed her as the "undisputed queen of the midtempo come-on".[[18]](#cite_note-18) Aaliyah has been referred to as a [pop icon](/wiki/Pop_icon) and a [R&B](/wiki/Contemporary_R&B) icon for her impact and contributions to those respective genres.[[219]](#cite_note-219)[[220]](#cite_note-220) Japanese pop singer [Hikaru Utada](/wiki/Hikaru_Utada) has said several times that "It was when I heard Aaliyah's [*Age Ain't Nothing but a Number*](/wiki/Age_Ain't_Nothing_but_a_Number) that I got hooked on R&B.", after which Utada released her debut album [*First Love*](/wiki/First_Love_(Hikaru_Utada_album)) with heavy R&B influences.[[221]](#cite_note-221)[[222]](#cite_note-222)