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**Nora Lum** is an [American](/wiki/United_States) [rapper](/wiki/Rapper), [comedian](/wiki/Comedian), [television personality](/wiki/Television_personality), [television host](/wiki/Television_host) and actress known by the stage name **Awkwafina**. She originates from the [Forest Hills](/wiki/Forest_Hills,_Queens), [Queens](/wiki/Queens), area of [New York City](/wiki/New_York_City). She is self-noted for her extensive satire and comical appeal in her music.

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

Born to a first-generation [Chinese American](/wiki/Chinese_American) father and [South Korean](/wiki/South_Korea) immigrant mother,[[1]](#cite_note-1)[[2]](#cite_note-2) Nora Lum grew up in [Forest Hills, Queens, New York City](/wiki/Forest_Hills,_Queens). Her mother passed away when she was 4.[[3]](#cite_note-3) As an only child, she described herself as being "often very lonely"[[4]](#cite_note-4) and she was close to her grandmother.[[3]](#cite_note-3) At age 11, she began reading the works of [Charles Bukowski](/wiki/Charles_Bukowski).[[4]](#cite_note-4) She attended [LaGuardia High School](/wiki/LaGuardia_High_School) where she played [trumpet](/wiki/Trumpet) and was trained in classical and [jazz music](/wiki/Jazz_music).[[5]](#cite_note-5) She adopted the name Awkwafina, and began rapping and writing songs in [GarageBand](/wiki/GarageBand) at age 17.[[6]](#cite_note-6) From 2006 to 2008, Lum attended the [Beijing Language and Culture University](/wiki/Beijing_Language_and_Culture_University) in [Beijing](/wiki/Beijing), [China](/wiki/China), where she studied [Mandarin](/wiki/Standard_Chinese). Lum also majored in Journalism when she attended [SUNY Albany](/wiki/SUNY_Albany).[[7]](#cite_note-7)

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

Her solo album, *Yellow Ranger*, was released on February 11, 2014. The EP includes a number of her previous singles released via [YouTube](/wiki/YouTube), including the title track "Yellow Ranger" as well as "Queef", "NYC Bitche$", and "Mayor Bloomberg (Giant Margarita)".[[8]](#cite_note-8) She is featured in the documentary *Bad Rap*, produced by Salima Koroma and Jaeki Cho, which puts the spotlight on her as well as upcoming fellow [Asian American](/wiki/Asian_American) rappers such as [Dumbfoundead](/wiki/Dumbfoundead), Rekstizzy, and Lyricks.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[[10]](#cite_note-10) Awkwafina was part of the lineup at [Festival Supreme](/wiki/Festival_Supreme) on October 25.[[11]](#cite_note-11) She hosts a short-form talk show *Tawk* on streaming service [go90](/wiki/Go90).[[12]](#cite_note-12) Guests have included [kitty](/wiki/Kitty_(rapper)), [Jean Grae](/wiki/Jean_Grae), [Hasan Minhaj](/wiki/Hasan_Minhaj), and [Asa Akira](/wiki/Asa_Akira).

In 2014, Awkwafina was added to the cast of the third season of [*Girl Code*](/wiki/Girl_Code).[[13]](#cite_note-13)