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**Nasir bin Olu Dara Jones**[[1]](#cite_note-1) ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en); born September 14, 1973), better known as **Nas** [Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en), is an American rapper, songwriter, entrepreneur, record producer and actor. The son of [jazz](/wiki/Jazz) musician [Olu Dara](/wiki/Olu_Dara), Nas has released eight consecutive [platinum and multi-platinum](/wiki/Music_recording_sales_certification) albums and sold over 25 million records worldwide since 1994. He is also an entrepreneur through his own record label; he serves as [associate publisher](/wiki/Publishing) of [*Mass Appeal* magazine](/wiki/Mass_Appeal_(magazine)) and is the owner of a [Fila](/wiki/Fila_(company)) sneaker store. He is currently signed to [Mass Appeal Records](/wiki/Mass_Appeal_Records).

His musical career began in 1991 when he was featured on [Main Source's](/wiki/Main_Source) track "Live at the Barbeque". His debut album [*Illmatic*](/wiki/Illmatic), released in 1994, received universal acclaim from both critics and the hip hop community; it is frequently ranked as one of the [greatest hip hop albums of all time](/wiki/List_of_hip_hop_albums_considered_to_be_influential).[[2]](#cite_note-2)[[3]](#cite_note-3) Nas' follow-up album, [*It Was Written*](/wiki/It_Was_Written), debuted at number one on the [*Billboard* 200](/wiki/Billboard_200), stayed on top for four consecutive weeks, went Platinum twice in only two months, and made Nas internationally known.[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[5]](#cite_note-5) From 2001 to 2005, Nas was involved in a highly publicized feud with rapper [Jay Z](/wiki/Jay_Z). In 2006, Nas signed to [Def Jam](/wiki/Def_Jam_Recordings). In 2010, he released a [collaboration album](/wiki/Distant_Relatives) with reggae artist [Damian Marley](/wiki/Damian_Marley), donating all royalties to charities active in [Africa](/wiki/Africa). His eleventh studio album, [*Life Is Good*](/wiki/Life_Is_Good_(Nas_album)), was released in 2012, and was nominated for [Best Rap Album](/wiki/Grammy_Award_for_Best_Rap_Album) at the [55th Annual Grammy Awards](/wiki/55th_Annual_Grammy_Awards).

Nas is often named as one of the greatest hip hop artists. MTV ranked him at number 5 on their list of *The Greatest* [*MCs*](/wiki/Master_of_Ceremonies#Hip_hop) *of All Time*.[[6]](#cite_note-6) In 2012, [*The Source*](/wiki/The_Source_(magazine)) ranked him No. 2 on their list of the "Top 50 Lyricists of All Time".[[7]](#cite_note-7) In 2013, Nas was ranked fourth on MTV's "Hottest MCs in the Game" list. In 2014, About.com ranked him No. 1 on their list of the "50 Greatest MCs of All Time".[[8]](#cite_note-8) He has five number one albums on the *Billboard* 200, tying him with [Eminem](/wiki/Eminem) for third place among all-time rappers.

## Contents

* 1 Early life[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]
* 2 Career[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]
  + 2.1 Late 1980s–1994: Underground beginnings and album debut[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]
  + 2.2 1995–97: Mainstream direction and The Firm[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]
  + 2.3 1998–2000: Inconsistent output[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]
  + 2.4 2001–03: Feud with Jay-Z and artistic comeback[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]
  + 2.5 2004–06: Double album and Def Jam[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]
  + 2.6 2006–08: Politicized efforts and controversies[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]
    - 2.6.1 Bill O'Reilly and Virginia Tech controversy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]
  + 2.7 2009–present: Collaboration and ''Life Is Good''[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]
* 3 Artistry[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]
* 4 Business ventures[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]
* 5 Personal life[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]
* 6 Discography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]
* 7 Filmography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]
* 8 Awards and nominations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]
  + 8.1 [[Grammy Award]]s[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]
  + 8.2 [[MTV Video Music Award]]s[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]
  + 8.3 [[BET Hip Hop Awards]][[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]
  + 8.4 [[Sports Emmy Award]][[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]
* 9 References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]
* 10 Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]
* 11 External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

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

Nasir bin Olu Dara Jones was born September 14, 1973, in [Brooklyn](/wiki/Brooklyn), [New York](/wiki/New_York).[[9]](#cite_note-9)[[10]](#cite_note-10) His father, [Olu Dara](/wiki/Olu_Dara) (born Charles Jones III), is a jazz and blues musician, from Mississippi. His mother, Fannie Ann (Little) Jones, was a [Postal Service](/wiki/United_States_Postal_Service) worker from [North Carolina](/wiki/North_Carolina).[[11]](#cite_note-11) He has one sibling, a brother named Jabari Fret who is best known as "Jungle", a member of the hip hop group [Bravehearts](/wiki/Bravehearts). His father took his name "Olu Dara" from the [Yoruba people](/wiki/Yoruba_people).<ref name=findbookref1>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> His African DNA indicates he has roots in [Nigeria](/wiki/Nigeria), [Benin](/wiki/Benin), [Togo](/wiki/Togo) (where the Yoruba people live), [Mali](/wiki/Mali), the [Ivory Coast](/wiki/Ivory_Coast), [Ghana](/wiki/Ghana), [Cameroon](/wiki/Cameroon), [Congo](/wiki/Democratic_Republic_of_the_Congo), and [Senegal](/wiki/Senegal). His matrilineal DNA haplogroup is of African origin, found among the Yoruba<ref name=black>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> and [Fulbe](/wiki/Fula_people) populations in Western Africa.<ref name=findbookref1/> He also found that his Y-DNA traces directly back to Scandinavia, through which he is a descendant of the Vikings.[[12]](#cite_note-12) As a young child, Nas and his family relocated to the [Queensbridge Houses](/wiki/Queensbridge_Houses) in the [Long Island City](/wiki/Long_Island_City) neighborhood of [Queens](/wiki/Queens). His neighbor, Willy "Ill Will" Graham, influenced Nas's interest in [hip hop](/wiki/Hip_hop_music) by playing him records.[[13]](#cite_note-13) His parents divorced in 1985,[[13]](#cite_note-13) and he dropped out of school after the eighth grade.[[10]](#cite_note-10) He educated himself about [African culture](/wiki/Culture_of_Africa) through the [Five Percent Nation](/wiki/Five_Percent_Nation) and the [Nuwaubian Nation](/wiki/Nuwaubian_Nation).[[14]](#cite_note-14) In his early years, he played the trumpet and began writing his own rhymes.[[15]](#cite_note-15)

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

### Late 1980s–1994: Underground beginnings and album debut[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) As a teenager, Nas enlisted his best friend and upstairs neighbor Willy "Ill Will" Graham as his DJ. Nas initially went by the nickname Kid Wave before adopting his more commonly known alias of Nasty Nas. In the late 1980s, he met up with the producer [Large Professor](/wiki/Large_Professor) and went to the studio where [Rakim](/wiki/Rakim) and [Kool G Rap](/wiki/Kool_G_Rap) were recording their albums. When they were not in the studio, Nas would go into the booth and record his own material. However, none of it was ever released.[[16]](#cite_note-16)[[17]](#cite_note-17) In 1991, Nas performed on [Main Source's](/wiki/Main_Source) "Live at the Barbeque". In mid-1992, Nas was approached by [MC Serch](/wiki/MC_Serch) of [3rd Bass](/wiki/3rd_Bass), who became his manager and secured Nas a record deal with [Columbia Records](/wiki/Columbia_Records) the same year. Nas made his solo debut under the name of "Nasty Nas" on the single "[Halftime](/wiki/Halftime_(song))" from Serch's soundtrack for the film [*Zebrahead*](/wiki/Zebrahead_(film)).[[10]](#cite_note-10) Called the new [Rakim](/wiki/Rakim),[[6]](#cite_note-6) his rhyming skills attracted a significant amount of attention within the hip-hop community.

In 1994, Nas's debut album, [*Illmatic*](/wiki/Illmatic), was finally released. It was awarded Five Mics from [*The Source*](/wiki/The_Source_(magazine)).[[18]](#cite_note-18) It also featured production from [Large Professor](/wiki/Large_Professor), [Pete Rock](/wiki/Pete_Rock), [Q-Tip](/wiki/Q-Tip_(musician)), [L.E.S.](/wiki/L.E.S._(producer)) and [DJ Premier](/wiki/DJ_Premier), as well as guest appearances from Nas's friend [AZ](/wiki/AZ_(rapper)) and his father Olu Dara. The album spawned several singles, including "The World Is Yours", "It Ain't Hard to Tell", and "One Love". Shaheem Reid of [MTV News](/wiki/MTV_News) called *Illmatic* "the first classic [LP](/wiki/Gramophone_record)" of 1994.[[19]](#cite_note-19) In 1994, Nas also recorded the song "One on One" for the soundtrack to the film [*Street Fighter*](/wiki/Street_Fighter_(1994_film)).[[20]](#cite_note-20) In his book *To the Break of Dawn: A Freestyle on the Hip Hop Aesthetic*, [William Jelani Cobb](/wiki/William_Jelani_Cobb) writes of Nas's impact at the time:

[Template:Quote](/wiki/Template:Quote)

Steve Huey of [AllMusic](/wiki/AllMusic) described Nas's lyrics on *Illmatic* as "highly literate" and his raps "superbly fluid regardless of the size of his vocabulary", adding that Nas is "able to evoke the bleak reality of ghetto life without losing hope or forgetting the good times".[[21]](#cite_note-21) Reviewing Nas's second album *It Was Written*, Leo Stanley of allmusic believed the rhymes to be not as complex as those in *Illmatic* but still "not only flow, but manage to tell coherent stories as well".[[22]](#cite_note-22) About.com ranked *Illmatic* as the greatest hip hop album of all time,[[23]](#cite_note-23) and *Prefix* magazine praised it as "the best hip-hop record ever made".[[24]](#cite_note-24)

### 1995–97: Mainstream direction and The Firm[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [Columbia Records](/wiki/Columbia_Records) began to press Nas to work towards more commercial topics, such as that of [The Notorious B.I.G.](/wiki/The_Notorious_B.I.G.), who had become successful by releasing street singles that still retained pop-friendly appeal. In 1995, Nas did guest performances on the albums [*Doe or Die*](/wiki/Doe_or_Die) by [AZ](/wiki/AZ_(rapper)), [*The Infamous*](/wiki/The_Infamous) by [Mobb Deep](/wiki/Mobb_Deep), [*Only Built 4 Cuban Linx*](/wiki/Only_Built_4_Cuban_Linx) by [Raekwon](/wiki/Raekwon) and [*4,5,6*](/wiki/4,5,6) by [Kool G Rap](/wiki/Kool_G_Rap). Nas also parted ways with manager [MC Serch](/wiki/MC_Serch), enlisted [Steve Stoute](/wiki/Steve_Stoute), and began preparation for his second LP, [*It Was Written*](/wiki/It_Was_Written), consciously working towards a crossover-oriented sound. [*It Was Written*](/wiki/It_Was_Written)*,* chiefly produced by Tone and Poke of Trackmasters, was released during the summer of 1996. Two singles, "[If I Ruled the World (Imagine That)](/wiki/If_I_Ruled_the_World_(Imagine_That))" (featuring [Lauryn Hill](/wiki/Lauryn_Hill) of [The Fugees](/wiki/The_Fugees)) and "Street Dreams", including a remix with [R. Kelly](/wiki/R._Kelly) were instant hits. These songs were promoted by big-budget music videos directed by [Hype Williams](/wiki/Hype_Williams), making Nas a common name among mainstream [hip-hop](/wiki/Hip_hop_music). *It Was Written* featured the debut of [The Firm](/wiki/The_Firm_(hip_hop_group)), a super group consisting of Nas, [AZ](/wiki/AZ_(rapper)), [Foxy Brown](/wiki/Foxy_Brown_(rapper)), and [Cormega](/wiki/Cormega). The album also expanded on Nas's Escobar persona, who lived more of a [*Scarface*](/wiki/Scarface_(1983_film))/[*Casino*](/wiki/Casino_(film))-esque lifestyle. On the other hand, *Illmatic*, which, while having numerous references to *Scarface* protagonist [Tony Montana](/wiki/Tony_Montana), was more about his life growing up in the projects.[[10]](#cite_note-10) Signed to [Dr. Dre's](/wiki/Dr._Dre) [Aftermath Entertainment](/wiki/Aftermath_Entertainment) label, The Firm began working on their debut album. Halfway through the production of the album, [Cormega](/wiki/Cormega) was fired from the group by [Steve Stoute](/wiki/Steve_Stoute), who had unsuccessfully attempted to force Cormega to sign a deal with his management company. Cormega subsequently became one of Nas's most vocal opponents and released a number of [underground hip hop](/wiki/Underground_hip_hop) singles "[dissing](/wiki/Wikt:diss)" Nas, Stoute, and [Nature](/wiki/Nature_(rapper)), who replaced Cormega as the fourth member of The Firm.[[25]](#cite_note-25) [*Nas, Foxy Brown, AZ, and Nature Present The Firm: The Album*](/wiki/The_Album_(The_Firm_album)) was finally released in 1997 to mixed reviews. The album failed to live up to its expected sales, despite being certified platinum, and the members of the group disbanded to go their separate ways.

During this period, Nas was one of four rappers (the others being [B-Real](/wiki/B-Real), [KRS-One](/wiki/KRS-One) and [RBX](/wiki/RBX)) in the hip hop super-group [Group Therapy](/wiki/Group_Therapy_(group)), who appeared on the song "[East Coast/West Coast Killas](/wiki/East_Coast/West_Coast_Killas)" from [*Dr. Dre Presents the Aftermath*](/wiki/Dr._Dre_Presents_the_Aftermath).[[26]](#cite_note-26)

### 1998–2000: Inconsistent output[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|Nas in 1998.](/wiki/File:Nas-04.jpg)

In late 1998, Nas began work on a double album, to be entitled *I Am... The Autobiography*; he intended it as the middle ground between [*Illmatic*](/wiki/Illmatic) and [*It Was Written*](/wiki/It_Was_Written), with each track detailing a part of his life.[[10]](#cite_note-10) In 1998, Nas co-wrote and starred in [Hype Williams's](/wiki/Hype_Williams) 1998 feature film [*Belly*](/wiki/Belly_(film)).[[10]](#cite_note-10) *I Am... The Autobiography* was completed in early 1999, and a music video was shot for its lead single, "[Nas Is Like](/wiki/Nas_Is_Like)". It was produced by [DJ Premier](/wiki/DJ_Premier) and contained vocal samples from "[It Ain't Hard to Tell](/wiki/It_Ain't_Hard_to_Tell)". Music critic M.F. DiBella noticed that Nas also covered "politics, the state of hip-hop, [Y2K](/wiki/Y2K), [race](/wiki/Race_(classification_of_human_beings)), and religion with his own unique perspective" in the album besides autobiographical lyrics.[[27]](#cite_note-27) Much of the LP was leaked into MP3 format onto the Internet and Nas and Stoute quickly recorded enough substitute material to constitute a single-disc release.[[28]](#cite_note-28) The second single on [*I Am...*](/wiki/I_Am..._(Nas_album)) was "[Hate Me Now](/wiki/Hate_Me_Now)", featuring [Sean "Puff Daddy" Combs](/wiki/Sean_Combs), which was used as an example by Nas's critics of him moving towards commercial themes. The video featured Nas and Combs being [crucified](/wiki/Crucifixion) in a manner similar to Jesus; after the video was completed, Combs requested his crucifixion scene be edited out of the video. However, the unedited copy of the "Hate Me Now" video made its way to MTV. Within minutes of the broadcast, Combs and his bodyguards allegedly made their way into [Steve Stoute's](/wiki/Steve_Stoute) office and assaulted him, at one point apparently hitting Stoute over the head with a champagne bottle. Stoute pressed charges, but he and Combs [settled out-of-court](/wiki/Legal_settlement) that June.[[28]](#cite_note-28) Columbia had scheduled to release the [infringed](/wiki/Music_piracy) material from *I Am...* under the title [*Nastradamus*](/wiki/Nastradamus) during the later half of 1999, but, at the last minute, Nas decided to record an entire new album for the 1999 release of [*Nastradamus*](/wiki/Nastradamus). *Nastradamus* was therefore rushed to meet a November release date. Though critics were not kind to the album, it did result in a minor hit, "[You Owe Me](/wiki/You_Owe_Me)".[[10]](#cite_note-10) In 2000, [*Nas & Ill Will Records Presents QB's Finest*](/wiki/Nas_&_Ill_Will_Records_Presents_QB's_Finest), which is popularly known as simply *QB's Finest*, was released on Nas's [Ill Will Records](/wiki/Ill_Will_Records).[[10]](#cite_note-10) *QB's Finest* is a compilation album that featured Nas and a number of other rappers from [Queensbridge](/wiki/Queensbridge) projects, including [Mobb Deep](/wiki/Mobb_Deep), [Nature](/wiki/Nature_(rapper)), [Capone](/wiki/Capone-N-Noreaga), the [Bravehearts](/wiki/Bravehearts), [Tragedy Khadafi](/wiki/Tragedy_Khadafi), Millennium Thug and [Cormega](/wiki/Cormega), who had briefly reconciled with Nas. The album also featured guest appearances from Queensbridge hip-hop legends [Roxanne Shanté](/wiki/Roxanne_Shanté), [MC Shan](/wiki/MC_Shan), and [Marley Marl](/wiki/Marley_Marl). Shan and Marley Marl both appeared on the lead single "Da Bridge 2001", which was based on Shan & Marl's 1986 recording "The Bridge".[[29]](#cite_note-29) Fans and critics feared that Nas's career was declining, artistically and commercially, as both *I Am...* and *Nastradamus* were criticized as inconsistent.[[30]](#cite_note-30)

### 2001–03: Feud with Jay-Z and artistic comeback[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[thumb|Nas performing in 2003.](/wiki/File:Nas-01-mika.jpg) [Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

After trading subliminal criticisms on various songs, freestyles and mixtape appearances, the highly publicized feud between Nas and [Jay-Z](/wiki/Jay-Z) became widely known to the public in 2001.[[10]](#cite_note-10) Jay-Z, in his song "[Takeover](/wiki/Takeover_(song))", criticized Nas by calling him "fake" and his career "lame".[[31]](#cite_note-31) Nas responded with "[Ether](/wiki/Ether_(song))", in which he compared Jay-Z to such characters as [J.J. Evans](/wiki/J.J._Evans) from the sitcom [*Good Times*](/wiki/Good_Times) and cigarette company mascot [Joe Camel](/wiki/Joe_Camel). The song was included on Nas's fifth studio album, [*Stillmatic*](/wiki/Stillmatic), released in December 2001. His daughter, Destiny, is listed as an executive producer on Stillmatic so she can always receive royalty checks from the album.[[32]](#cite_note-32)[[33]](#cite_note-33) *Stillmatic* peaked at number five on the U.S. [*Billboard* 200](/wiki/Billboard_200) chart and featured the singles "[Got Ur Self A...](/wiki/Got_Ur_Self_A...)" and "[One Mic](/wiki/One_Mic)".

In response to "Ether", Jay-Z released the song "Supa Ugly", which [Hot 97](/wiki/WQHT) radio host [Angie Martinez](/wiki/Angie_Martinez) premiered on December 11, 2001.[[31]](#cite_note-31) In the song, Jay-Z explicitly boasts about having an affair with Nas's girlfriend, Carmen Bryan.[[34]](#cite_note-34) New York City hip-hop radio station [Hot 97](/wiki/WQHT) issued a poll asking listeners which rapper made the better diss song; Nas won with 58% while Jay-Z got 42% of the votes.[[35]](#cite_note-35) In 2002, in the midst of the feud between the two New York rappers, [Eminem](/wiki/Eminem) cited both Nas and Jay-Z as being two of the best MCs in the industry, in his song ['Till I Collapse](/wiki/'Till_I_Collapse). Both the feud and *Stillmatic* signalled an artistic comeback for Nas after a string of inconsistent albums.[[36]](#cite_note-36) [*The Lost Tapes*](/wiki/The_Lost_Tapes_(Nas_album)), a compilation of previously unreleased or bootlegged songs from 1997 to 2001, was released by Columbia in September 2002. The collection attained respectable sales and received rave reviews from critics.[[37]](#cite_note-37) In December 2002, Nas released the [*God's Son*](/wiki/God's_Son_(album)) album including its lead single, "Made You Look" which utilized a pitched down sample of the [Incredible Bongo Band's](/wiki/Incredible_Bongo_Band) "[Apache](/wiki/Apache_(instrumental))". The album peaked at number 12 on the [*Billboard* Hot 100](/wiki/Billboard_Hot_100) and number one on the [Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums](/wiki/Top_R&B/Hip-Hop_Albums) charts despite widespread internet bootlegging.[[38]](#cite_note-38) Time Magazine named his album best hip-hop album of the year. [Vibe](/wiki/Vibe_(magazine)) gave it four stars and [The Source](/wiki/The_Source_(magazine)) gave it four mics. The second single, "[I Can](/wiki/I_Can_(Nas_song))", which reworked elements from [Beethoven's](/wiki/Ludwig_van_Beethoven) "[Für Elise](/wiki/Für_Elise)", became Nas's biggest hit to date during the spring and summer of 2003, garnering substantial radio airplay on urban, [rhythmic](/wiki/Rhythmic_contemporary), and [top 40](/wiki/Top_40) radio stations, as well as on the MTV and [VH1](/wiki/VH1) music video networks. *God's Son* also includes several songs dedicated to memory of Nas's mother, who died of cancer in April 2002, including "Dance". In 2003, Nas was featured on the [Korn](/wiki/Korn) song "Play Me", from Korn's [*Take a Look in the Mirror*](/wiki/Take_a_Look_in_the_Mirror) LP. Also in 2003, a live performance in New York City, featuring [Ludacris](/wiki/Ludacris), [Jadakiss](/wiki/Jadakiss), and [Darryl McDaniels](/wiki/Darryl_McDaniels) (of [Run-D.M.C.](/wiki/Run-D.M.C.) fame), was released on DVD as *Made You Look: God's Son Live*.

*God's Son* was critical in the power struggle between Nas and Jay-Z in hip hop at the time.[[39]](#cite_note-39) In an article at the time, Joseph Jones of [PopMatters](/wiki/PopMatters) stated, "Whether you like it or not, 'Ether' did this. With *God's Son*, Nas has the opportunity to cement his status as the King of N.Y., at least for another 3–4-year term, or he could prove that he is not the savior that hip-hop fans should be pinning their hopes on."[[39]](#cite_note-39) After the album's release, he began helping [The Bravehearts](/wiki/The_Bravehearts), made up of his younger brother Jungle and friend Wiz (Wizard), put together their debut album, *Bravehearted*. The album features guest appearances from Nas, Nashawn (Millennium Thug), [Lil Jon](/wiki/Lil_Jon), and [Jully Black](/wiki/Jully_Black).

### 2004–06: Double album and Def Jam[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) Nas released his seventh studio album [*Street's Disciple*](/wiki/Street's_Disciple), a sprawling double album,[[10]](#cite_note-10) on November 30, 2004. It addressed subject matter both political and personal, including his impending marriage to recording artist [Kelis](/wiki/Kelis).[[10]](#cite_note-10) The double-sided single "[Thief's Theme](/wiki/Thief's_Theme)"/"You Know My Style" was released months before the album's release, followed by the single "[Bridging the Gap](/wiki/Bridging_the_Gap_(song))" upon the album's release.[[10]](#cite_note-10) Although *Street's Disciple* went [platinum](/wiki/Platinum_record), it served as a dropoff from Nas's previous commercial successes.[[10]](#cite_note-10) In 2005, New York-based rapper [50 Cent](/wiki/50_Cent) dissed Nas on the song "[Piggy Bank](/wiki/Piggy_Bank_(song))", which brought his reputation into question in hip hop circles.[[10]](#cite_note-10) In October, Nas made a surprise appearance at Jay-Z's highly publicized I Declare War concert, where they reconciled their beef.[[10]](#cite_note-10) At the show, Jay-Z announced to the crowd, "It's bigger than 'I Declare War'. Let's go, Esco!". Nas then joined him onstage,[[40]](#cite_note-40) and the two performed Jay-Z's "[Dead Presidents](/wiki/Dead_Presidents_(song))" (1996) together, a song that featured a prominent sample of Nas's "[The World Is Yours](/wiki/The_World_Is_Yours_(Nas_song))" (1994).[[10]](#cite_note-10) The reconciliation created the opportunity for Nas to sign a deal with [Def Jam Recordings](/wiki/Def_Jam_Recordings), of which Jay-Z was president at the time.[[10]](#cite_note-10) He signed Nas in January 2006.[[41]](#cite_note-41) The signing included an agreement that Nas was to be paid about 3 million dollars, including a recording budget, for each of his first two albums with Def Jam.

### 2006–08: Politicized efforts and controversies[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) Tentatively called *Hip Hop Is Dead...The N*,[[41]](#cite_note-41) [*Hip Hop Is Dead*](/wiki/Hip_Hop_Is_Dead) was a commentary on the state of hip hop and featured "Black Republican", a hyped collaboration with Jay-Z.[[10]](#cite_note-10) The album debuted on Def Jam and Nas new imprint at that label, The Jones Experience, at number one on the [*Billboard* 200](/wiki/Billboard_200) charts, selling 355,000 copies—Nas's third number one album, along with *It Was Written* and *I Am...*.[[42]](#cite_note-42) It also inspired reactions about the state of hip hop,[[10]](#cite_note-10) particularly controversy with [Southern hip hop](/wiki/Southern_hip_hop) artists who felt the album's title was a criticism at them.[[43]](#cite_note-43) Nas's 2004 song "Thief's Theme" was featured in the 2006 film [*The Departed*](/wiki/The_Departed).[[44]](#cite_note-44) Nas's former label, [Columbia Records](/wiki/Columbia_Records), released the compilation [*Greatest Hits*](/wiki/Greatest_Hits_(Nas_album)) in November.[[45]](#cite_note-45) On October 12, 2007, Nas announced that his next album would be called *Nigger*. Both [progressive](/wiki/Progressivism) commentators, such as [Jesse Jackson](/wiki/Jesse_Jackson) and [Al Sharpton](/wiki/Al_Sharpton), and the conservative news station [Fox News](/wiki/Fox_News) were outraged; Jackson called on entertainers to stop using the epithet after comedian [Michael Richards](/wiki/Michael_Richards) used it onstage in late 2006.[[46]](#cite_note-46) Controversy escalated as the album's impending release date drew nearer, going as far as to spark rumors that [Def Jam](/wiki/Def_Jam) was planning to drop Nas unless he changed the title.[[47]](#cite_note-47) Additionally, [Fort Greene, Brooklyn](/wiki/Fort_Greene,_Brooklyn) assemblyman Hakeem Jeffries requested New York's Comptroller [Thomas DiNapoli](/wiki/Thomas_DiNapoli) to withdraw $84 million from the state [pension fund](/wiki/Pension_fund) that has been invested into [Universal](/wiki/Universal_Music_Group) and its parent company, [Vivendi](/wiki/Vivendi), if the album's title was not changed. On the opposite side of the spectrum, many of the most famous names in the entertainment industry expressed a sense of trust in Nas for using the racial epithet as the title of his full-length LP.[[48]](#cite_note-48)[[49]](#cite_note-49) Nas's management worried that the album would not be sold by chain stores such as [Wal-Mart](/wiki/Wal-Mart), thus limiting its distribution.[[50]](#cite_note-50) On May 19, 2008, Nas decided to forgo an album title.[[51]](#cite_note-51) Responding to [Jesse Jackson's](/wiki/Jesse_Jackson) remarks and use of the word "nigger", Nas called him "the biggest player hater", stating "His time is up. All you old niggas' time is up. We heard your voice, we saw your marching, we heard your sermons. We don't want to hear that shit no more. It's a new day. It's a new voice. I'm here now. We don't need Jesse; I'm here. I got this. We the voice now. It's no more Jesse. Sorry. Good bye. You ain't helping nobody in the 'hood and that's the bottom line."[[52]](#cite_note-52) He also said of the album's title:

[Template:Quote](/wiki/Template:Quote)

The album was ultimately released on July 15, 2008, untitled. It featured production from [Polow da Don](/wiki/Polow_da_Don), [stic.man](/wiki/Stic.man) of [Dead Prez](/wiki/Dead_Prez), Sons of Light and J. Myers,[[53]](#cite_note-53)"[Hero](/wiki/Hero_(Nas_song))", the album's lead single, reached number 97 on the *Billboard* Hot 100 and number 87 on the Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Singles & Tracks.[[54]](#cite_note-54) In July, Nas attained a shoe deal with [Fila](/wiki/Fila_(company)).[[55]](#cite_note-55) In an interview with [MTV News](/wiki/MTV_News) in July, Nas speculated that he might release two albums—one produced by [DJ Premier](/wiki/DJ_Premier) and another by [Dr. Dre](/wiki/Dr._Dre)—simultaneously the same day.[[56]](#cite_note-56) Nas worked on Dr. Dre's studio album [*Detox*](/wiki/Detox_(Dr._Dre_album)).[[57]](#cite_note-57) Nas was also awarded 'Emcee of the Year' in the HipHopDX 2008 Awards for his latest solo effort, the quality of his appearances on other albums and was described as having "become an artist who thrives off of reinvention and going against the system."[[58]](#cite_note-58)

#### Bill O'Reilly and Virginia Tech controversy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[thumb|left|Nas performing in](/wiki/File:Nas_in_Ottawa,_2007.JPG) [Ottawa](/wiki/Ottawa), 2007.

On September 6, 2007, Nas performed at a free concert for the [Virginia Tech](/wiki/Virginia_Polytechnic_Institute_and_State_University) student body and faculty, following the [school shooting there](/wiki/Virginia_Tech_massacre). He was joined by [John Mayer](/wiki/John_Mayer), [Alan Jackson](/wiki/Alan_Jackson), [Phil Vassar](/wiki/Phil_Vassar), and [Dave Matthews Band](/wiki/Dave_Matthews_Band).[[59]](#cite_note-59) When announced that Nas was to perform, political commentator [Bill O'Reilly](/wiki/Bill_O'Reilly_(commentator)) and [Fox News Channel](/wiki/Fox_News_Channel) denounced the concert and called for Nas's removal, citing "violent" lyrics on songs such as "Shoot 'Em Up", "Got Urself a Gun", and "Made You Look". During his *Talking Points Memo* segment for August 15, 2007, an argument erupted in which O'Reilly claimed that it was not only Nas's lyrical content that made him inappropriate for the event, citing the gun conviction on Nas's [criminal record](/wiki/Criminal_record). In the midst of his debate with author Bakari Kitwana (*The Hip Hop Generation*), who defended Nas, claiming that Fox News had "[cherry picked](/wiki/Cherry_picking_(fallacy))" select fragments of the songs to make their case, O'Reilly shouted, "Even in his personal life, man, he's got a conviction for weapons, all right? He's got a weapons conviction, sir! On his sheet! This is a school that had a mass murderer with a shotgun gunning down people—this guy has got a conviction for weapons, and you say he's appropriate? Come on!" O'Reilly repeated the claim another five times before cutting the segment short.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

On September 6, 2007, during his set at "A Concert for Virginia Tech", Nas twice referred to Bill O'Reilly as "a chump", prompting loud cheers by members of the crowd. About two weeks later, Nas was interviewed by Shaheem Reid of MTV News, where he criticized O'Reilly, calling him uncivilized and willing to go to extremes for publicity.[[60]](#cite_note-60) Responding to O'Reilly, Nas, in an interview with [MTV News](/wiki/MTV_News), said: [Template:Quote](/wiki/Template:Quote)

On July 23, 2008, Nas appeared on [*The Colbert Report*](/wiki/The_Colbert_Report) to discuss his opinion of O'Reilly and Fox News, which he accused of [bias](/wiki/Media_bias) against the African-American community and re-challenged O'Reilly to a debate.[[61]](#cite_note-61) During the appearance, Nas sat on boxes of more than 625,000 signatures gathered by online advocacy organization [Color of Change](/wiki/Color_of_Change) in support of a petition accusing Fox of [race-baiting](/wiki/Race_baiting) and fear-mongering.[[61]](#cite_note-61)

### 2009–present: Collaboration and ''Life Is Good''[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

At the [2009 Grammy Awards](/wiki/51st_Grammy_Awards), Nas confirmed he was collaborating on an album with [reggae](/wiki/Reggae) musician [Damian Marley](/wiki/Damian_Marley) which was expected to be released in Fall 2009. Nas said of the collaboration in an interview "I was a big fan of his father and of course all the children, all the offspring, and Damian, I kind of looked at Damian as a rap guy. His stuff is not really singing, or if he does, it comes off more hard, like on some street shit. I always liked how reggae and hip-hop have always been intertwined and always kind of pushed each other, I always liked the connection. I'd worked with people before from the reggae world but when I worked with Damian, the whole workout was perfect".[[62]](#cite_note-62) A portion of the profit is planned to go towards building a school in Africa.[[63]](#cite_note-63) He went on to say that it was "too early to tell the title or anything like that".[[64]](#cite_note-64) [*The Los Angeles Times*](/wiki/The_Los_Angeles_Times) reported that the album would be titled [*Distant Relatives*](/wiki/Distant_Relatives).[[65]](#cite_note-65)Nas also revealed that he will begin working on his tenth studio album following the release of *Distant Relatives*.[[66]](#cite_note-66) During Fall 2009 Nas used his live band [Mulatto](https://www.myspace.com/mulattomuzik) with music director [Dustin Moore](/wiki/Dustin_Moore) for concerts in Europe and Australia.[[67]](#cite_note-67) [thumb|Nas performing at the 2015 Sugar Mountain festival, Melbourne, Australia](/wiki/File:NAS_performing_at_the_2015_Sugar_Mountain_festival,_Melbourne,_Australia.jpg)

[thumb|Nas and](/wiki/File:Nas_and_Damian_Marley_performing_in_Wellington_Photo_By_Brady_Dyer.jpg) [Marley](/wiki/Damian_Marley) performing in [New Zealand](/wiki/New_Zealand), 2011|left

After announcing a possible release in 2010,[[68]](#cite_note-68) a follow-up compilation to [*The Lost Tapes*](/wiki/The_Lost_Tapes_(Nas_album)) (2002) was delayed indefinitely due to issues between him and Def Jam.[[69]](#cite_note-69) His eleventh studio album, [*Life Is Good*](/wiki/Life_Is_Good_(Nas_album)) (2012) was produced primarily by Salaam Remi and No I.D, and released on July 13, 2012. Nas called the album a "magic moment" in his rap career.[[70]](#cite_note-70) In 2011, Nas announced that he would release collaboration albums with [Mobb Deep](/wiki/Mobb_Deep), [Common](/wiki/Common_(rapper)), and a third with [DJ Premier](/wiki/DJ_Premier).[[71]](#cite_note-71)[[72]](#cite_note-72)[[73]](#cite_note-73) Common said of the project in a 2011 interview, "At some point, we will do that. We'd talked about it and we had a good idea to call it *Nas.Com*. That was actually going to be a mixtape at one point. But we decided that we should make it an album."[[74]](#cite_note-74) *Life is Good* would be nominated for [Best Rap Album](/wiki/Best_Rap_Album) at the [2013 Grammy Awards](/wiki/2013_Grammy_Awards).

In January 2013 Nas announced he had begun working on his twelfth studio album, which will be his final album for Def Jam.[[75]](#cite_note-75) The album will be released during 2015.[[76]](#cite_note-76) In October 2013, DJ Premier said that his collaboration album with Nas, would be released following his twelfth studio album.[[77]](#cite_note-77) In October 2013, Nas confirmed that a rumored song "Sinatra in the Sands" featuring [JAY-Z](/wiki/Jay-Z), [Justin Timberlake](/wiki/Justin_Timberlake), and [Timbaland](/wiki/Timbaland) would be featured on the album.[[76]](#cite_note-76) On April 16, 2014, on the 20th anniversary of *Illmatic*,[[78]](#cite_note-78) the documentary [*Nas: Time Is Illmatic*](/wiki/Nas:_Time_Is_Illmatic) was premiered which recounted circumstances leading up to Nas's debut album.[[79]](#cite_note-79) It was reported on September 10 that Nas has finished his last album with Def Jam.[[80]](#cite_note-80) On October 30, Nas released a song which may be the first single, titled 'The Season', produced by [J Dilla](/wiki/J_Dilla).[[81]](#cite_note-81) Nas has also collaborated with the Australian hip-hop group, [Bliss N Eso](/wiki/Bliss_n_Eso), in 2014. They released the track "I Am Somebody" in May, 2014. Nas was featured on the song "We Are" from [Justin Bieber's](/wiki/Justin_Bieber) fourth studio album, [*Purpose*](/wiki/Purpose_(Justin_Bieber_album)), released in November 2015.

## Artistry[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

Nas has been praised for his ability to create a "devastating match between lyrics and production" by journalist [Peter Shapiro](/wiki/Peter_Shapiro_(journalist)), as well as creating a "potent evocation of life on the street", and he has even been compared to [Rakim](/wiki/Rakim) for his lyrical technique. In his book [*Book of Rhymes: The Poetics of Hip Hop*](/wiki/Book_of_Rhymes) (2009), writer Adam Bradley states, "Nas is perhaps contemporary rap's greatest innovator in storytelling. His catalog includes songs narrated before birth ('Fetus') and after death ('Amongst Kings'), biographies ('UBR [Unauthorized Biography of Rakim]') and autobiographies ('Doo Rags'), allegorical tales ('Money Is My Bitch') and epistolary ones ('One Love'), he's rapped in the voice of a woman ('Sekou Story') and even of a gun ('I Gave You Power')."[[82]](#cite_note-82) [Robert Christgau](/wiki/Robert_Christgau) writes that "Nas has been transfiguring [[gangsta rap](/wiki/Gangsta_rap)] since *Illmatic*".[[83]](#cite_note-83) [Kool Moe Dee](/wiki/Kool_Moe_Dee) notes that Nas has an "off-beat conversational flow" in his book [*There's a God on the Mic*](/wiki/There's_a_God_on_the_Mic) – he says: "before Nas, every [MC](/wiki/MC) focused on rhyming with a cadence that ultimately put the words that rhymed on beat with the [snare drum](/wiki/Snare_drum). Nas created a style of [rapping](/wiki/Rapping) that was more conversational than ever before".[[84]](#cite_note-84) [O.C.](/wiki/O.C._(rapper)) of [D.I.T.C.](/wiki/D.I.T.C.) comments in the book [*How to Rap*](/wiki/How_to_Rap): "Nas did the song backwards ['Rewind']... that was a brilliant idea".[[85]](#cite_note-85) Also in [*How to Rap*](/wiki/How_to_Rap), [2Mex](/wiki/2Mex) of [The Visionaries](/wiki/The_Visionaries) describes Nas's flow as "effervescent",[[86]](#cite_note-86) [Rah Digga](/wiki/Rah_Digga) says Nas's lyrics have "intricacy",[[87]](#cite_note-87) [Bootie Brown](/wiki/Bootie_Brown) of [The Pharcyde](/wiki/The_Pharcyde) explains that Nas does not always have to make words rhyme as he is "charismatic",[[88]](#cite_note-88) and Nas is also described as having a "densely packed"[[89]](#cite_note-89) flow, with [compound rhymes](/wiki/Compound_rhymes) that "run over from one beat into the next or even into another bar".[[90]](#cite_note-90) In 2006, Nas was ranked fifth on MTV's "10 Greatest MCs of All Time" list.[[6]](#cite_note-6) In 2012, [*The Source*](/wiki/The_Source_(magazine)) ranked him No. 2 on their list of the *Top 50 Lyricists of All Time*.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) In 2013, Nas was ranked fourth on MTV's "Hottest MCs in the Game" list.[[91]](#cite_note-91)

## Business ventures[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

On April 10, 2013, Nas ventured into the business of magazine publishing. As a businessman and investor, he invested an undisclosed six figure sum into [Mass Appeal Magazine](/wiki/Mass_Appeal_Magazine), where he will serve as the publication's associate publisher. On the Mass Appeal deal, he will be joined by creative firm Decon and White Owl Capital Partners, an early stage investment firm with business interests in technology, media and energy located in North America, Europe and China.[[92]](#cite_note-92)[[93]](#cite_note-93) In June 2013, he also announced on Twitter that he was opening his own sneaker store, signalling his entrance into the retail industry. He inked a deal with the company [Fila](/wiki/Fila_(company)) back in 2008, serving as one of its main spokespersons.[[94]](#cite_note-94)[[95]](#cite_note-95) Nas has also struck a business partner with the annual [Rock The Bells](/wiki/Rock_The_Bells) music festival and a deal with the online retail company 12Society.com.[[91]](#cite_note-91) In September 2013, he invested in a technology startup company, a job search appmaker called Proven.[[96]](#cite_note-96) In 2014, Nas invested as part of a $2.8M round in viral video startup ViralGains another addition to Queens-bridge venture partners portfolio.[[97]](#cite_note-97)[[98]](#cite_note-98)Nas also has a partnership with Hennessy and has been working with their "Wild Rabbit" campaign.[[99]](#cite_note-99) In May 2014 Nas partnered with job placement startup Koru to fund a scholarship for 10 college graduates to go through Koru's training program. Nas also will be joining the startup as a guest coach.[[100]](#cite_note-100) Nas is a co-owner of a Cloud-based service known as LANDR. Warner Music Group, Nas and the Plus Eight Equity Fund (which is backed by Pete Tong, Richie Hawtin, Tiga and John Acquaviva) are among the participants in a $6.2 million funding round. LANDR is an automated, drag-and-drop digital audio postproduction tool. Landr automates "mastering", the final stage in audio production before music gets sent out to the world.[[101]](#cite_note-101) In June 2015, Nas expanded his business portfolio when he joined forces with New York City soul food restaurant Sweet Chick.[[102]](#cite_note-102) He plans to expand the restaurant brand nationally.[[103]](#cite_note-103)[[104]](#cite_note-104)[[105]](#cite_note-105)[[106]](#cite_note-106) He owns his own clothing line called HSTRY.[[107]](#cite_note-107)

## Personal life[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

Nas is a spokesperson and mentor for P'Tones Records, a non-profit after school music program with the mission "to create constructive opportunities for urban youth through no-cost music programs."[[108]](#cite_note-108) On June 15, 1994, Nas's ex-fiancée Carmen Bryan gave birth to their daughter, Destiny[[109]](#cite_note-109)[[110]](#cite_note-110)[[111]](#cite_note-111) Bryan later confessed to Nas that she had a relationship with his then-rival rapper and nemesis Jay-Z, also accusing Jay-Z of putting subliminal messages in his lyrics about their relationship together, causing an even bigger rift in the feud between the two hit rap music giants.

Nas also briefly dated [Mary J. Blige](/wiki/Mary_J._Blige).[[110]](#cite_note-110) In 2005, Nas married [R&B](/wiki/Contemporary_R&B) singer [Kelis](/wiki/Kelis) in [Atlanta](/wiki/Atlanta) after a two-year relationship.[[112]](#cite_note-112)[[113]](#cite_note-113) On April 30, 2009, a spokesperson confirmed that Kelis filed for divorce, citing [irreconcilable differences](/wiki/Irreconcilable_differences).[[114]](#cite_note-114)[[115]](#cite_note-115)Kelis gave birth to Nas's first son on July 21, 2009, although the event was soured by a disagreement which ended in Nas announcing the birth of his son, Knight, at a gig in Queens, NY, against Kelis's wishes.[[116]](#cite_note-116) The birth was also announced by Nas via an online video.[[117]](#cite_note-117) The couple's divorce was finalized on May 21, 2010.[[118]](#cite_note-118) In January 2012 Nas was involved in a dispute with a concert promoter in [Angola](/wiki/Angola), having accepted $300,000 for a concert in [Luanda](/wiki/Luanda), Angola's capital for New Year's Eve and then not showing up. The promoter and his son were detained by the angry Angolan promoter at gunpoint and taken to an Angolan jail[Template:Clarify](/wiki/Template:Clarify). Only after the US Embassy intervened were the promoter and his son allowed to leave jail—but were placed under house arrest at their hotel.[[119]](#cite_note-119) As of the end of the month Nas returned all $300,000 and after 49 days of travel ban the promoter Patrick Allocco and his son have both been released.[[120]](#cite_note-120) On March 15, 2012, Nas became the first rapper to have a personal verified account on [Rap Genius](/wiki/Rap_Genius) where he explains all his own lyrics and commenting on the lyrics of other rappers he admires.[[121]](#cite_note-121)[[122]](#cite_note-122) In September 2009 the U.S. [Internal Revenue Service](/wiki/Internal_Revenue_Service) filed a federal [tax lien](/wiki/Tax_lien) against Nas for over $2.5 million, seeking unpaid taxes dating back to 2006.[[123]](#cite_note-123) By early 2011 this figure had ballooned to over $6.4 million.[[124]](#cite_note-124) Early in 2012 reports emerged that the [IRS](/wiki/Internal_Revenue_Service) had filed papers in Georgia to [garnish](/wiki/Garnishment) a portion of Nas's earnings from material published under [BMI](/wiki/Broadcast_Music,_Inc.) and [ASCAP](/wiki/ASCAP), until his delinquent tax bill is settled.[[125]](#cite_note-125) In May 2013, it was announced that Nas will open a sneaker store in Las Vegas called 12AM RUN (pronounced Midnight Run) as part of [The LINQ](/wiki/The_LINQ) retail development.[[126]](#cite_note-126) In July 2013, he was honored by [Harvard University](/wiki/Harvard_University), as the institution established the Nasir Jones Hip-Hop Fellowship, which will serve to fund scholars and artists who show potential and creativity in the arts in connection to hip hop.[[127]](#cite_note-127) In an October 2014 episode of [PBS's](/wiki/PBS) [*Finding Your Roots*](/wiki/Finding_Your_Roots) programme, Nas learned about five generations of his ancestry. His great-great-great-grandmother, Pocahontas Little, was a slave who was sold for $830. When host [Henry Louis Gates](/wiki/Henry_Louis_Gates) showed Nas her bill of sale and told him more about the man who bought her, Nas remarked that he is considering buying the land where he lived. Nas is also shown the marriage certificate of his great-great-great-grandmother, Pocahontas and great-great-great-grandfather, Calvin.[[128]](#cite_note-128)[[129]](#cite_note-129)

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

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Studio albums

* [*Illmatic*](/wiki/Illmatic) (1994)
* [*It Was Written*](/wiki/It_Was_Written) (1996)
* [*I Am...*](/wiki/I_Am..._(Nas_album)) (1999)
* [*Nastradamus*](/wiki/Nastradamus) (1999)
* [*Stillmatic*](/wiki/Stillmatic) (2001)
* [*God's Son*](/wiki/God's_Son_(Nas_album)) (2002)
* [*Street's Disciple*](/wiki/Street's_Disciple) (2004)
* [*Hip Hop Is Dead*](/wiki/Hip_Hop_Is_Dead) (2006)
* [Untitled](/wiki/Untitled_Nas_album) (2008)
* [*Life Is Good*](/wiki/Life_Is_Good_(Nas_album)) (2012)

Collaboration albums

* [*The Firm: The Album*](/wiki/The_Album_(The_Firm_album)) (with [The Firm](/wiki/The_Firm_(hip_hop_group))) (1997)
* [*Distant Relatives*](/wiki/Distant_Relatives) (with [Damian "JR Gong" Marley](/wiki/Damian_Marley)) (2010)

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Film and Television** | | | |
| **Year** | **Title** | **Role** |  |
| 1998 | [*Belly*](/wiki/Belly_(film)) | Sincere |  |
| 1999 | [*In Too Deep*](/wiki/In_Too_Deep_(1999_film)) | Drug Dealer (uncredited) |  |
| 2001 | [*Ticker*](/wiki/Ticker_(2001_film)) | Det. Art "Fuzzy" Rice |  |
| 2001 | *Sacred is the Flesh* | Isa Paige |  |
| 2010 | [*Hawaii Five-0*](/wiki/Hawaii_Five-0) | Gordon Smith |  |
| 2013 | [*Black Nativity*](/wiki/Black_Nativity_(film)) | Prophet Isaiah |  |
| 2014 | [*''Hidden Colors 3: The Rules Of Racism*](/wiki/Hidden_Colors_3:_The_Rules_Of_Racism_(film)) | Himself |  |
| 2014 | [Nas: Time Is Illmatic](/wiki/Nas:_Time_Is_Illmatic) | Himself |  |
| 2016 | [*Popstar: Never Stop Never Stopping*](/wiki/Popstar:_Never_Stop_Never_Stopping) | Himself |  |

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

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

The Grammy Awards are held annually by the [National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences](/wiki/National_Academy_of_Recording_Arts_and_Sciences). Nas has eleven nominations.

[Template:Award table](/wiki/Template:Award_table) |- | rowspan="1" | [1997](/wiki/39th_Annual_Grammy_Awards) | "[If I Ruled the World (Imagine That)](/wiki/If_I_Ruled_the_World_(Imagine_That))" (featuring [Lauryn Hill](/wiki/Lauryn_Hill)) | [Best Rap Solo Performance](/wiki/Grammy_Award_for_Best_Rap_Solo_Performance) | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |- | rowspan="1" | [2000](/wiki/42nd_Annual_Grammy_Awards) | *I Am...* | [Best Rap Album](/wiki/Grammy_Award_for_Best_Rap_Album) | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |- | rowspan="2" |[2003](/wiki/45th_Grammy_Awards) | "[The Essence](/wiki/Aziatic)" (with [AZ](/wiki/AZ_(rapper))) | [Best Rap Performance by a Duo or a Group](/wiki/Grammy_Award_for_Best_Rap_Performance_by_a_Duo_or_Group) | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |- | "[One Mic](/wiki/One_Mic)" | [Best Music Video](/wiki/Grammy_Award_for_Best_Music_Video) | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |- | rowspan="2" | [2009](/wiki/51st_Grammy_Awards) | "[N.I.G.G.E.R. (The Slave and the Master)](/wiki/N.I.G.G.E.R._(The_Slave_and_the_Master))" | Best Rap Solo Performance | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |- | rowspan="1" | [*Untitled Nas album*](/wiki/Untitled_Nas_album) | Best Rap Album | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |- | rowspan="1" | [2010](/wiki/52nd_Grammy_Awards) | "[Too Many Rappers](/wiki/Too_Many_Rappers)" (with [Beastie Boys](/wiki/Beastie_Boys)) | Best Rap Performance by a Duo or a Group | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |- |rowspan="4"|[2013](/wiki/55th_Grammy_Awards) |rowspan="2"|"[Daughters](/wiki/Daughters_(Nas_song))" |[Best Rap Performance](/wiki/Grammy_Award_for_Best_Rap_Performance) |[Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |- |[Best Rap Song](/wiki/Grammy_Award_for_Best_Rap_Song) |[Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |- |"[Cherry Wine](/wiki/Cherry_Wine)" (featuring [Amy Winehouse](/wiki/Amy_Winehouse)) |[Best Rap/Sung Collaboration](/wiki/Grammy_Award_for_Best_Rap/Sung_Collaboration) |[Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |- |[*Life Is Good*](/wiki/Life_Is_Good_(Nas_album)) | Best Rap Album |[Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |- [Template:End](/wiki/Template:End)

### [[MTV Video Music Award]]s[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:Award table](/wiki/Template:Award_table) |- | [1999](/wiki/1999_MTV_Video_Music_Awards) | "[Hate Me Now](/wiki/Hate_Me_Now)" (featuring [Puff Daddy](/wiki/Puff_Daddy)) | [Best Rap Video](/wiki/MTV_Video_Music_Award_for_Best_Rap_Video) |[Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |- |rowspan="2"| [2002](/wiki/2002_MTV_Video_Music_Awards) |rowspan="2"| "One Mic" | [Video of the Year](/wiki/MTV_Video_Music_Award_for_Video_of_the_Year) |[Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |- |rowspan="3"| Best Rap Video |[Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |- |rowspan="2"| [2003](/wiki/2003_MTV_Video_Music_Awards) | "[I Can](/wiki/I_Can_(Nas_song))" |[Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |- | "[Thugz Mansion](/wiki/Thugz_Mansion)" (with [Tupac Shakur](/wiki/Tupac_Shakur) and J. Phoenix) |[Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |- | [2005](/wiki/2005_MTV_Video_Music_Awards) | "[Bridging the Gap](/wiki/Bridging_the_Gap_(song))" (featuring [Olu Dara](/wiki/Olu_Dara)) | [Best Hip-Hop Video](/wiki/MTV_Video_Music_Award_for_Best_Hip-Hop_Video) |[Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |}

### [[BET Hip Hop Awards]][[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[Template:Award table](/wiki/Template:Award_table) |- | 2006 | rowspan="2" | Nas | I Am Hip-Hop Icon Award | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |- | rowspan="2" | 2012 | Lyricist Of The Year Award | [Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |- | "Daughters" | Impact Track | [Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |}

### [[Sports Emmy Award]][[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[Template:Award table](/wiki/Template:Award_table) |- | 2011 | "Survival 1" |Outstanding Sports Documentary |[Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) |}

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Template:Refbegin](/wiki/Template:Refbegin)

* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)

[Template:Refend](/wiki/Template:Refend)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:Commons category](/wiki/Template:Commons_category)

* [Template:Allmusic](/wiki/Template:Allmusic)
* [Template:MTV artist](/wiki/Template:MTV_artist)

[Template:Nas](/wiki/Template:Nas) [Template:Nas singles](/wiki/Template:Nas_singles) [Template:Def Jam](/wiki/Template:Def_Jam)

[Template:Use mdy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_mdy_dates)

[Template:Authority control](/wiki/Template:Authority_control)

[Template:DEFAULTSORT:Nas](/wiki/Template:DEFAULTSORT:Nas) [Category:Nas](/wiki/Category:Nas) [Category:1973 births](/wiki/Category:1973_births) [Category:Living people](/wiki/Category:Living_people) [Category:20th-century American male actors](/wiki/Category:20th-century_American_male_actors) [Category:20th-century American musicians](/wiki/Category:20th-century_American_musicians) [Category:21st-century African-American activists](/wiki/Category:21st-century_African-American_activists) [Category:21st-century American male actors](/wiki/Category:21st-century_American_male_actors) [Category:21st-century American businesspeople](/wiki/Category:21st-century_American_businesspeople) [Category:21st-century American musicians](/wiki/Category:21st-century_American_musicians) [Category:African-American fashion designers](/wiki/Category:African-American_fashion_designers) [Category:African-American investors](/wiki/Category:African-American_investors) [Category:African-American male actors](/wiki/Category:African-American_male_actors) [Category:African-American male rappers](/wiki/Category:African-American_male_rappers) [Category:American retail chief executives](/wiki/Category:American_retail_chief_executives) [Category:American magazine publishers (people)](/wiki/Category:American_magazine_publishers_(people)) [Category:American male television actors](/wiki/Category:American_male_television_actors) [Category:American music industry executives](/wiki/Category:American_music_industry_executives) [Category:American people of Scandinavian descent](/wiki/Category:American_people_of_Scandinavian_descent) [Category:American people of Yoruba descent](/wiki/Category:American_people_of_Yoruba_descent) [Category:American restaurateurs](/wiki/Category:American_restaurateurs) [Category:Businesspeople from New York City](/wiki/Category:Businesspeople_from_New_York_City) [Category:Columbia Records artists](/wiki/Category:Columbia_Records_artists) [Category:Def Jam Recordings artists](/wiki/Category:Def_Jam_Recordings_artists) [Category:East Coast hip hop musicians](/wiki/Category:East_Coast_hip_hop_musicians) [Category:Hip hop activists](/wiki/Category:Hip_hop_activists) [Category:Ill Will Records artists](/wiki/Category:Ill_Will_Records_artists) [Category:Male actors from New York City](/wiki/Category:Male_actors_from_New_York_City) [Category:People from Crown Heights, Brooklyn](/wiki/Category:People_from_Crown_Heights,_Brooklyn) [Category:People from Queens, New York](/wiki/Category:People_from_Queens,_New_York) [Category:Rappers from New York City](/wiki/Category:Rappers_from_New_York_City) [Category:Songwriters from New York](/wiki/Category:Songwriters_from_New_York) [Category:Yoruba male actors](/wiki/Category:Yoruba_male_actors) [Category:Yoruba businesspeople](/wiki/Category:Yoruba_businesspeople) [Category:Yoruba musicians](/wiki/Category:Yoruba_musicians) [Category:American people of Beninese descent](/wiki/Category:American_people_of_Beninese_descent) [Category:American people of Togolese descent](/wiki/Category:American_people_of_Togolese_descent) [Category:American people of Ghanaian descent](/wiki/Category:American_people_of_Ghanaian_descent) [Category:American people of Ivorian descent](/wiki/Category:American_people_of_Ivorian_descent) [Category:American people of Malian descent](/wiki/Category:American_people_of_Malian_descent) [Category:American people of Democratic Republic of the Congo descent](/wiki/Category:American_people_of_Democratic_Republic_of_the_Congo_descent) [Category:American people of Cameroonian descent](/wiki/Category:American_people_of_Cameroonian_descent) [Category:American people of Nigerian descent](/wiki/Category:American_people_of_Nigerian_descent) [Category:American people of Fulbe descent](/wiki/Category:American_people_of_Fulbe_descent) [Category:American people of Senegalese descent](/wiki/Category:American_people_of_Senegalese_descent)