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Nicki Minaj, born Onika Tanya Maraj on December 8, 1982, in Saint James, Trinidad and Tobago, is a globally recognized hip-hop artist and cultural icon. At five years old, she moved with her family to Queens, New York, where she faced significant challenges growing up, including witnessing her father's struggles with addiction and violence. These early adversities fueled Minaj's determination to succeed and change the trajectory of her family's life. Embracing her creative spirit, she developed multiple personas, ultimately settling on the name Nicki Minaj, showcasing her theatrical flair and innate talent for music and performance. Launching her professional career in the mid-2000s, Minaj gained early recognition through collaborations and mixtapes, eventually signing with Lil Wayne's Young Money Entertainment in 2009. Her debut album, "Pink Friday," released in 2010, achieved triple platinum status and established her as a leading female force in hip-hop. Minaj's dynamic presence on the music scene has led to chart-topping singles, critical acclaim, and a multitude of awards, solidifying her reputation as one of the most influential artists in the history of the genre. Beyond music, Minaj has successfully ventured into acting, endorsements, and her own business projects, illustrating her multifaceted career and dedication to empowerment. Early Life and Education Nicki Minaj, born Onika Tanya Maraj on December 8, 1982, in Saint James, Trinidad and Tobago, faced a tumultuous childhood after her family relocated to Queens, New York, when she was just five years old. Growing up in a challenging environment, Minaj's early life was marked by hardship, particularly due to her father's struggles with substance abuse and violence. These experiences instilled in her a drive to achieve success and empower others, especially her mother. She developed a desire to elevate her family's circumstance, recognizing the limitations imposed by her upbringing. During her formative years, Minaj emerged as a multifaceted performer. At the age of twelve, she wrote her first rap, showcasing her burgeoning talent in music and creative expression. She attended LaGuardia High School of Music and Art, a prestigious school renowned for its emphasis on the arts, where she further honed her skills in acting. Despite her passion for acting, Minaj's career didn't take off as planned, leading her to juggle various jobs, including a position at Red Lobster, from which she was infamously fired for her attitude towards customers. This determination and resilience are the foundation of her future success in the music industry. Career Start: Early Career and Rise to Fame Nicki Minaj began her music journey determined to break into the competitive hip-hop industry. After taking on various odd jobs, including a stint as a waitress, she transitioned into music by providing backup vocals for local rappers in New York City. Her passion and talent soon caught the attention of Dirty Money's CEO, Fendi, who discovered her on MySpace and signed her to his label. This pivotal moment paved the way for Minaj's collaboration with Lil Wayne and her official entry into the music scene, leading to a series of mixtape releases that showcased her distinct style and lyrical prowess. Minaj's breakthrough came with the release of her mixtapes, including "Playtime Is Over" in 2007 and "Sucka Free" in 2008, which gained her recognition for her confident, bold personas and flashy alter egos. In 2009, she made a significant leap by signing to Lil Wayne's Young Money Entertainment as its first female artist. Her involvement with the label helped solidify her status in the industry, and she soon contributed to the "WeNicki Minaj's Rise to Fame: A Powerhouse in Music Industry" ===== Nicki Minaj was not just an emerging artist when "Pink Friday" was released in November 2010; she was poised to become a defining figure in modern music. Her debut album, featuring hits like "Super Bass" and "Moment 4 Life," achieved triple platinum status and became a significant milestone in hip-hop history. The album's success led to her second studio album, "Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded", which was a chart-topping success, spawning popular singles such as "Starships" and "Pound the Alarm". Throughout her career, Minaj has collaborated with numerous high-profile artists across various genres, further enhancing her musical reach. Notable collaborations include "Save Me" with Lil Wayne, "Side to Side" with Ariana Grande, and "Run Up" with Major Lazer featuring Partynextdoor. Her contributions to music haven't gone unnoticed; Minaj has set multiple records on Billboard, including the most entries for a female artist on the Hot 100. In addition to her music career, Nicki Minaj has successfully branched beyond into film and business. She made her voice-over debut in "Ice Age: Continental Drift" (2012) and her live-action debut in "The Other Woman" (2014). These ventures have allowed Minaj to expand her influence in the entertainment industry. Minaj is also a savvy businesswoman, having entered into lucrative endorsement deals with major brands such as MAC Cosmetics, Adidas Originals, and Pepsi. She has launched her own fragrance line and is a shareholder in the Tidal streaming service. In July 2020, Nicki announced that she was expecting her first child, eagerly sharing her joy with fans. On September 30, 2020, the couple welcomed a son, who has become a central part of their lives. Minaj has expressed her love for motherhood, often highlighting its significance during interviews and on social media. She is married to rapper Kenneth Petty, whom she wed in October 2019. Their relationship began in their teenage years, but it was rekindled years later, leading to their union. ===== Nicki Minaj finds a deep sense of fulfillment and stability in her family life with Petty, but has faced challenges from her past, including being dated by fellow rappers Meek Mill and Safaree Samuels. ===== Nicki Minaj's net worth is estimated to be around \$100 million, earned through her successful music career, acting roles, and endorsement deals. ===== Nicki Minaj's Rise to Fame Minaj's rise to fame started with her debut album "Pink Friday", which she released in November of that year. The album included eight singles and was a commercial success, selling triple platinum. ===== She began her music career by performing as a backup singer for local New York City rappers, including Full Force. Minaj wrote her own material and was eventually discovered by Fendi, who signed her to his label after hearing her on MySpace. ===== Her early collaborations with Lil Wayne led to the release of several successful mixtapes, which showcased Minaj's unique style and persona. She became the first female artist to sign with Young Money Entertainment in 2009. ===== Minaj's debut album was highly anticipated, and she released her first single "Massive Attack" in April 2010. The song was followed by another hit single "Your Love", which won her an award at the BET Awards that year. ===== Minaj's follow-up albums included "Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded", which reached number one on several charts, and "The Pinkprint". The latter is a darker and more experimental album that explores themes of love, relationships, and identity. ===== Despite her success, Minaj has been involved in several high-profile feuds with other celebrities, including Mariah Carey on the TV show American Idol. Nicki Minaj graced the Grammy Awards stage with her "Holiday" performance in the same year. Following this, eight additional singles emerged from her subsequent album, The Pinkprint, launched on December 12, 2014. The album boasted a stellar lineup of collaborators, including Beyoncé, Chris Brown, Ariana Grande, and Drake. It achieved double platinum status, and in 2016, she clinched the Best Female Hip Hop Artist award at the BET Awards for the seventh time in a row. Beyond music, Minaj expanded her ventures. She voiced mammoth Steffie in 2012's Ice Age: Continental Drift and made her film debut in 2014's The Other Woman, alongside Cameron Diaz. She earned a Teen Choice Awards 2016 nod for her role in Barbershop: The Next Cut. Her endorsement portfolio included MAC Cosmetics, Adidas Originals, and Pepsi, along with her own fragrance line. She also held a stake in Tidal. Her relationship with rapper Meek Mill concluded in early 2017. Despite her diverse projects, Minaj remained focused on music. In 2017, she released multiple singles, including "No Frauds," "Regret in Your Tears," and "Changed It," which helped her surpass Aretha Franklin as the female artist with the most Billboard Hot 100 entries. Later that year, she dropped "Chun-Li," "Barbie Tingz," "Rich Sex" with Lil Wayne, "Bed" with Ariana Grande, and joined Tekashi 6ix9ine on "FEFE." On August 8, she launched her Queen Radio show on Apple Music's Beats 1, and her fourth album, Queen, debuted at No. 2. In early 2019, she kicked off The Nicki World Tour in Frankfurt with Juice Wrld, releasing "Megatron" in late June. After voicing in The Angry Birds Movie 2, she tweeted about retiring to focus on family. Though she later promised new music, she married Kenneth Petty in October 2019. In July 2020, she announced her pregnancy, welcoming her son on September 30, 2020. She previously dated Meek Mill and Safaree Samuels. Born on December 8, 1982, in Saint James, Trinidad and Tobago, she is a Sagittarius. She attended La Guardia High School of Music and Art. Nicki cites Jada KISS and Cyndi Lauper as influences. She reflects on her female-empowerment goals, stating her desire to inspire her mother. She embraces being called a "weirdo" and notes her unique path in hip-hop. She believes her authenticity resonates with many. Her quote, "Fantasy was my reality," underscores her journey. Have bigger balls than the boys. I tell my Barbs, 'Stay in school, respect your body, don't go giving it away, don't depend on a man.' I tell them that all the time. Everything I do, I do with business in my head. If you're not savvy, this business will eat you alive. A lot of people see it as a big party. And when that party is up, what are you going to do? I want to show little girls that the possibilities are endless. That's my goal - to not only do it for myself, but to show them I can do whatever I put my mind to. I just tell people: don't even come in the business if you think it's going to be peaches and rainbows and unicorns. It's not for the faint of heart. It's for fighters. I'm fighting for the girls that never thought they could win. I am not your typical rapper. I am not your typical person. I never put a limit on myself. And I don't like when—especially black women—put a limit on what they can do. You should be able to try whatever the hell you want to try as long as you're keeping your integrity. Biography.com Staff Editorial Team and Contributors The Biography.com staff is a team of people-obsessed and news-hungry editors with decades of collective experience. We have worked as daily newspaper reporters, major national magazine editors, and as editors-in-chief of regional media publications. Among our ranks are book authors and award-winning journalists. Our staff also works with freelance writers, researchers, and other contributors to produce the smart, compelling profiles and articles you see on our site. To meet the team, visit our About Us page. SUBSCRIBE TO BE THE FIRST TO HEAR NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE QUEEN! Thank you for signing up! Thank you for registering! We have sent a confirmation email to {USEREMAIL}. Click the link to confirm your email address. Please check your spam folder for the email, if it does not arrive, click this link... The Barbz have a new assignment, and it involves recreating Nicki Minaj's now-iconic "High School" pose, and, of course, the internet did not disappoint. For those unfamiliar with the internet's latest obsession, the trend kicked off after a user unearthed a clip of Minaj posing poolside in high heels with her legs crossed in the "High School" music video, featuring rap sensation Lil Wayne. But the challenge isn't just about the pose; participants have gone all out with the fashion, recreating the look in So Kate Christian Louboutin pumps, dazzling bodysuits, and even pointe shoes. So, to honor the newest trend sparking tons of creativity and over-the-top production, here are five of the best that The Blast has seen so far. Nicki Minaj's 'High School' Pose Trend Has Social Media Users Going Above And Beyond First is social media user Brook Ashley Hall. According to the influencer's TikTok bio, her page covers a wide range of topics, including beauty, lifestyle, and family. She has 14.9 million followers on the platform, and the latest clips of her recreating Minaj's "High School" pose have further skyrocketed her popularity. In the first video, the blonde-haired beauty wore a matching purple suit with bright pink stilettoes and Louis Vuitton shades. She garnered a lot of love in the comment section of her post, with her husband, Marco Hall, writing, "I literally married an ICON." Someone else chimed in, telling Hall that there was to be "no eating" by the pool—a slang term used after a flawless performance of something. And that's not all she wrote. Hall then took it a step further in another video, where she's seen sitting atop two dumbbells stacked on each other. A user commented, "Heavyweight championnn." =====

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