

# Angie Stone

**Angie Stone** (born **Angela Laverne Brown**; December 18, 1961) is an American singer, songwriter, actress, and record producer. She rose to fame in the late 1970s as member of the hip hop trio *The Sequence*. Soon after, Stone began working with futuristic rap group *Mantronix* and singer *Lenny Kravitz*. In the early 1990s, she became a member of the R&B trio *Vertical Hold*.<sup>[1]</sup> In 1999, Stone released her solo debut *Black Diamond* on *Arista Records*, which was certified gold and spawned the R&B number-one hit "No More Rain (In This Cloud)". After transitioning to *J Records*, she released another gold-seller, *Mahogany Soul* (2001), which included the hit single "Wish I Didn't Miss You", followed by *Stone Love* (2004) and *The Art of Love & War* (2007), her first number-one album on the US *Billboard* Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums chart.<sup>[1]</sup>

Stone ventured into acting in the 2000s, making her film debut in the comedy film *The Hot Chick* (2002) and her stage debut in 2003, in the role of Big Mama Morton in the Broadway musical *Chicago*. She has since appeared in supporting roles in films and television series as well as several musical productions, including VH1's *Celebrity Fit Club* and TV One's *R&B Divas*, and movies such as *The Fighting Temptations* (2003), *Pastor Brown* (2009) and *School Gyrls* (2010).<sup>[1]</sup> A three-time *Grammy Award* nominee, she has two *Soul Train Lady of Soul Awards*.<sup>[1]</sup>

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Stone in 1997

### Background information

<b>Birth name</b>	Angela Laverne Brown
<b>Born</b>	December 18, 1961 <div>Columbia, South Carolina, United States</div>
<b>Genres</b>	R&B <span> </span> <span>·</span> <span> </span> soul <span> </span> <span>·</span> <span> </span> neo soul
<b>Occupation(s)</b>	Singer-songwriter <span> </span> <span>·</span> <span> </span> record producer <span> </span> <span>·</span> <span> </span> actress
<b>Instruments</b>	Singing <span> </span> <span>·</span> <span> </span> keyboards
<b>Years active</b>	1979–present
<b>Associated acts</b>	The Sequence <span> </span> <span>·</span> <span> </span> Devoux <span> </span> <span>·</span> <span> </span> Vertical Hold <span> </span> <span>·</span> <span> </span> Mantronix
<b>Website</b>	http://theangiestone.com/

## References

## External links

# Early life

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Stone was born in [Columbia, South Carolina](#), where she began singing gospel music at First Nazareth Baptist Church, under the leadership of Reverend Blakely N. Scott. Her father, a member of a local gospel quartet, took Stone to see performances by gospel artists such as the [Singing Angels](#) and the Gospel Keynotes.<sup>[1]</sup>

# Career

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## Early career

In the late 1970s, when Stone was 16, she formed the rap trio [The Sequence](#), a female hip-hop act, also consisting of Cheryl "The Pearl" Cook and Gwendolyn "Blondie" Chisolm.<sup>[2]</sup> They were the second rap group signed to the [Sugar Hill Records](#) after auditioning for manager [Sylvia Robinson](#) backstage at a Sugar Hill Gang concert in [South Carolina](#).<sup>[3]</sup> In 1980, The Sequence scored a hit with their single "Funk You Up", which reached number 15 on the US [Top Black Singles](#) chart.<sup>[3]</sup> The trio enjoyed a series of rap hits as the first female rap group during the early years of hip hop. Singles such as "Monster Jam" featuring rapper [Spoonie Gee](#) and "Funky Sound (Tear The Roof Off)" kept the band touring, with Robinson acting as their mentor.<sup>[3]</sup> The group faded into obscurity as hip hop changed from its original party sound to a more gritty street art form and the trio eventually disbanded in 1985.<sup>[3]</sup>

Stone then worked with hip hop and electro funk music group [Mantronix](#), before becoming the lead vocalist of the trio Vertical Hold which released the popular single "Seems You're Much Too Busy" as well as two albums: *A Matter of Time* (1993) and *Head First* (1995).<sup>[4]</sup> In 1996, Stone teamed up with Gerry DeVeaux, singer [Lenny Kravitz](#)'s cousin, and Charlie Mole to form the group Devox. They recorded one album, *Devox featuring Angie B. Stone*, released in Japan by [Toshiba EMI](#). Selected cuts were featured on Gerry DeVeaux's *Front of the Line* via the [Expansion Records](#), which also included Stone-penned material.<sup>[5]</sup> Stone also shared songwriting credits on [D'Angelo](#)'s first two studio albums, *Brown Sugar* (1995) and *Voodoo* (2000), as well as provided backing vocals when on tour with him.<sup>[6]</sup> She also served as a backing vocalist on [Lenny Kravitz](#)'s fifth studio album, *5* (1998).<sup>[6]</sup>

## 1999–2005

In the late 1990s, [Arista Records](#) then A&R manager [Peter Edge](#) brought Stone to label head [Clive Davis](#)'s attention.<sup>[7]</sup> He offered her a solo recording contract with the label and in September 1999, her debut solo album, *Black Diamond*, was released. Named after her then-teenage daughter Diamond Ti'ara,<sup>[8]</sup> it was released to positive reviews from music critics, and reached the top ten on *Billboard*'s [US Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums](#) chart.<sup>[9]</sup> *Black Diamond* was eventually certified gold by both the [Recording Industry Association of America](#) (RIAA) and the [British Phonographic Industry](#) (BPI) and spawned the [Adult R&B Songs](#) number-one hit "No More Rain (In This Cloud)". The single earned Stone two nominations at the [2000 Soul Train Music Awards](#).

In 2000, Stone transitioned from Arista to music manager [Clive Davis](#)'s latest venture [J Records](#).<sup>[10]</sup> Also that year, she recorded the theme song for the [UPN](#) sitcom *Girlfriends*, starring [Tracee Ellis Ross](#). She then released her second album *Mahogany Soul* on October 16, 2001 with the label. Involving a wider range of contemporary R&B musicians, Stone collaborated with [Carvin & Ivan](#), [Raphael Saadiq](#), [Swizz Beatz](#), [Alicia Keys](#) and [Eve](#) on much of the album. Released to favorable reviews,<sup>[11]</sup> <sup>[12]</sup><sup>[13]</sup> it peaked at number four on the US Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums, while reaching the top twenty of the Dutch, Finnish and [Flemish Album Charts](#). Again, Stone was awarded gold by BPI and RIAA for *Mahogany Soul*.<sup>[14]</sup> "Wish I Didn't Miss You", the album's

second single, became her biggest international hit yet, reaching the top ten in Australia and Belgium as well as the top of *Billboard's* Dance Club Songs.<sup>[14]</sup> "More Than Woman", a duet with singer Joe, earned Stone her first Grammy Award nomination in the Best R&B Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals category at the 45th ceremony.

In 2002, Stone had a guest role on *Girlfriends* and played store owner Madame Mambuzza in the American teen comedy *The Hot Chick*, starring Rob Schneider. The film scored generally negative reviews from film critics for its vulgar and lowbrow humor,<sup>[15]</sup> but became a moderate box office success in the US.<sup>[16]</sup> The following year, the singer appeared in the role of Alma in the Jonathan Lynn's musical comedy-drama *The Fighting Temptations* alongside Cuba Gooding, Jr. and Beyoncé. Released to mixed reviews, it was commercially less successful than *The Hot Chick*.<sup>[17]</sup> Stone recorded "Rain Down", a duet with Eddie Levert, for the accompanying soundtrack.

*Stone Love*, her third album, was released in June 2004. Davis consulted Warryn Campbell, Jazze Pha and Missy Elliott to work with Stone, who penned and produced half of the final track listing herself. The album debuted at number 14 on the US *Billboard* 200, selling 53,000 copies in its first week of release, and entered the top twenty in Belgium, Finland, Sweden and the Netherlands.<sup>[18]</sup> Its release was preceded by the single "I Wanna Thank Ya" featuring Snoop Dogg, a top five hit in Belgium and Stone's second chart topper on the US Dance Club Songs. In 2005, Stone began recording what as expected to become her fifth regular album, but to save costs J Records asked her to transfer her new material, including the previously unreleased single "I Wasn't Kidding",<sup>[19]</sup> to her first compilation album *Stone Hits: The Very Best of Angie Stone*, comprising songs from her first three albums.<sup>[19]</sup> After five years with the company, Stone subsequently asked for and received an unconditional release from the label at the end of 2005.<sup>[20]</sup>

## 2006–2014

In 2006, Stone appeared on the VH1's reality television series *Celebrity Fit Club* for the fourth season, which began on August 6, 2006. While on the show, she lost eighteen pounds, the second lowest loss in the history of the show.<sup>[21]</sup> The same year, Stone signed to the reworked Stax Records. Her fourth studio album *The Art of Love & War*, a reference to her experiences in her final days at J Records, where it had become expected that she would help develop new talent, was released on October 15, 2007.<sup>[22]</sup> The album debuted at number eleven on the US *Billboard* 200, selling 45,000 copies in its first week, becoming Stone's highest-charting album to date, as well as her first and only album to date to top the Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums chart.<sup>[23]</sup> Lead single "Baby", a duet with Betty Wright, became her second number-one hit on the US Adult R&B Songs and earned Stone her third nomination at the 50th Annual Grammy Awards.



Stone performing live at the North Sea Jazz Festival in Rotterdam, Netherlands, on July 11, 2008

Stone's second effort with Stax Records, her fifth studio album *Unexpected*, was released in November 2009.<sup>[24]</sup> With its title partly referencing Stone's sudden and devastating loss of her father who unexpectedly died in the midst of her recording sessions for the album, it marked a slight move away from Stone's signature sound in favor of more upbeat R&B and funk influences.<sup>[24]</sup> A commercial failure, the album debuted and peaked at number 133 on the US *Billboard* 200 and failed to chart elsewhere. "I Ain't Hearin' U", the album's lead single reached number 14 on *Billboard's* Adult R&B Songs. In 2009, Stone had a minor role as a strip-club owner in Rockmond Dunbar's comedy drama *Pastor Brown*.<sup>[24]</sup> Also that year, she sang "Wade in the Water" in the civil rights documentary *Soundtrack for a Revolution* (2009).<sup>[25]</sup> In 2010, Stone then played the head matron of an all-girls school in the film, *School Gyrls* (2010), directed by Nick Cannon, which featured many Def Jam artists.

Along with NeNe Leakes, Stone co-starred in the play *Loving Him is Killing Me* that was performed in Washington, DC, Miami, and Philadelphia in May 2011. The play was written by Theo London and also starred Tyson Beckford and Christopher Williams.<sup>[26]</sup> In 2012, Stone signed to Saguaro Road Records, an in-house music recording label of Time-Life, and released *Rich Girl* September 25, 2012.<sup>[4]</sup> actor Malcolm-Jamal Warner contributed a poetry-slam-style spoken-word interlude to the

record.<sup>[27]</sup> Stone and Brian McKnight, who starred together in Chicago on Broadway, toured nationally in a production of Hinton Battle's Love Lies, which started with an engagement at the Warner Theatre in Washington, D.C. in April 2013. The cast also included Crystal Aikin and Elise Neal.<sup>[28]</sup> Also in 2013, Stone appeared on season two of TVOne's R&B Divas.<sup>[29][30][31][32]</sup> Stone's role was that of a mentor and life coach.<sup>[6]</sup>

## 2015–present

In November 2015, Stone released her seventh studio album Dream on Shanachie Entertainment in collaboration with TopNotch Music and Conjunction Entertainment.<sup>[33]</sup> Producer Walter Millsap III and Stone co-wrote the majority of the album with a core group that also included former The Clutch members Candice Nelson, Balewa Muhammad and producer Hallway Productionz.<sup>[34][35]</sup> The album received positive reviews from critics who called the record "another solid and empowering effort,"<sup>[36]</sup> and debuted at number three at Top Hip-Hop/R&B Albums chart, with approximately 9,000 copies sold in its opening week.<sup>[37]</sup> The album's first single, "2 Bad Habits" became a minor hit on the Adult R&B Songs chart.<sup>[38]</sup> Following another label change, Stone released the cover album Covered in Soul through Goldenlane Records, compromising rendition of popular Phil Collins, Hot Chocolate, and Neil Diamond songs. Preceded by the single "These Eyes", a cover of the same-titled The Guess Who song, it failed to chart.<sup>[39][40]</sup>

In 2019, Stone announced the release of her ninth studio album Full Force, set for release on the June 7, 2019 via Conjunction Entertainment and Cleopatra Records. The album features the lead single "Dinosaur".<sup>[41]</sup> produced by Walter Millsap III & Hallway Productionz

## Personal life

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Stone has two children. Stone's daughter, Diamond, was born in 1984 and is from her marriage to Rodney Stone (also known as Lil' Rodney C!, from the hip-hop group Funky Four Plus One). Diamond contributed background vocals to Stone's 2007 song "Baby".<sup>[42]</sup> Diamond gave birth to Stone's grandson in 2008 and another grandchild in July 2012.<sup>[4]</sup>

During the 1990s, Stone dated neo soul singer D'Angelo for four years. Their son, Michael D'Angelo Archer II,<sup>[43]</sup> was born in 1998.

Stone lives in Atlanta, Georgia with her son, Michael and her daughter, Diamond.<sup>[22][44][45]</sup>

On March 9, 2015, Stone was arrested in her Atlanta-area home for knocking out the teeth of her daughter, Diamond, with a metal pole.<sup>[46]</sup>

Stone was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes in 1999<sup>[47]</sup> and, along with comedian-actor Anthony Anderson,<sup>[48]</sup> was part of the F.A.C.E Diabetes (Fearless African-Americans Connected and Empowered) program sponsored by Eli Lilly,<sup>[2]</sup> which helps African Americans understand their risk for the disease and how to control it.<sup>[49]</sup> Stone said that both her mother and her mother's sister were diabetic.<sup>[50][51]</sup>

## Discography

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### Studio albums

- Black Diamond (1999)
- Mahogany Soul (2001)
- Stone Love (2004)
- The Art of Love & War (2007)
- Unexpected (2009)
- Rich Girl (2012)
- Dream (2015)

# Filmography

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## Films

Year	Title	Role
2002	<i>The Hot Chick</i>	Madame Mambuza
2003	<i>The Fighting Temptations</i>	Alma
2008	<i>Caught on Tape</i>	Diane
2009	<i>Pastor Brown</i>	Rick Fredericks
2010	<i>School Gyrls</i>	Headmaster Jones
2011	<i>Dreams</i>	
2012	<i>The Wonder Girls</i>	Betty

## Television

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2000	<i>Moesha</i>	Herself	"D-Money Loses His Patience" (season 5, episode 22)
2002	<i>Girlfriends</i>	Darla Mason	"Blinded by the Lights" (season 3, episode 51)
2004	<i>One on One</i>	Herself	"It's a Mad, Mad Hip Hop World" (season 3, episode 92)
2008	<i>Lincoln Heights</i>	Octavia	"Prom Night" (season 3, episode 9) "The Ground Beneath Our Feet" (season 3, episode 10)
2013–2014	<i>R&amp;B Divas: Atlanta</i>	Herself	(season 2 - 3, main)
2014	<i>Celebrity Wife Swap</i>	Herself	1 episode

## Theatre

Year	Title	Role
2003	<i>Chicago</i>	Big Mama Morton
2011	<i>Loving Him is Killing Me</i>	Mutha
2013	<i>Love Lies</i>	Victoria Davis

## Awards and nominations

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### Wins

- 2000 Soul Train Lady of Soul Awards: Best R&B/Soul Single, Solo for "No More Rain (In This Cloud)"
- 2000 Soul Train Lady of Soul Awards: Best R&B/Soul or Rap New Artist, Solo
- 2004 Edison Award for *Stone Love*

## Nominations

- 2003 Grammy Awards: Best R&B Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals for "More Than a Woman" (with Joe)
- 2004 Grammy Awards: Best Female R&B Vocal Performance for "U-Haul"
- 2008 Grammy Awards: Best R&B Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals for "Baby" (with Betty Wright)
- 2008 BET Awards: BET J Award
- 2008 BET J Virtual Awards: Album of the Year for *The Art of Love & War*

## See also

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- Honorific nicknames in popular music

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## External links

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- [Angie Stone \(https://www.allmusic.com/artist/p128959\)](https://www.allmusic.com/artist/p128959) at *AllMusic*
- [Angie Stone \(https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1102921/\)](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1102921/) on *IMDb*
- [Angie Stone 2016 Interview at Soulinterviews.com \(http://www.soulinterviews.com/angie-stone-2016/\)](http://www.soulinterviews.com/angie-stone-2016/)



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