

Vanessa Williams is one of the most respected and multi-faceted performers in the entertainment industry today. Having sold over 25 million records worldwide, Williams is one of just a few artists to score #1 and Top 10 hits on Billboard's Album and Singles charts in the combined areas of Pop, Dance, R&B, Adult Contemporary, Holiday, Latin, Gospel and Jazz — the last is where her latest release, *The Real Thing*, debuted at #1 in June of 2009. Her critically acclaimed work in film, television, recordings and the Broadway stage has been recognized by every major industry award affiliation, including four Emmy nominations, 17 Grammy nominations (of which 11 were for her individually), a Tony nomination, three SAG Award nominations, seven NAACP Image Awards, three Satellite Awards and ultimately a Golden Globe, Grammy and an Oscar for Best Original Song for her platinum single "Colors of the Wind," from the Disney film *Pocahontas*. A strong advocate for equal rights, especially concerning the gay community and minorities, Williams was honored with the Human Rights Campaign "Ally for Equality" Award for her humanitarian contributions. She also achieved a career pinnacle with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2007. Her autobiography, *You Have No Idea*, co-written with her mother Helen Williams, was a *New York Times* best seller in 2012. Williams returned to Broadway in the spring of 2014 for a special limited engagement in the musical *After Midnight*. She also co-starred with Cicely Tyson and Cuba Gooding, Jr. in *Trip to Bountiful*, which was the #1 play of the 2013 Broadway season. Williams is the mother of four — Melanie, Jillian, Devin and Sasha — and divides her time between homes in Los Angeles and New York. Her charitable endeavors are many and varied, embracing and supporting such organizations as Special Olympics and others.