

NICKY JAM'S INSPIRING STORY TO STARDOM



Nicky Jam is an American singer, songwriter, rapper, and actor with the full name Nick Rivera Caminero. He was born on March 17, 1981, in Lawrence, Massachusetts to a Dominican mother and Puerto Rican father. Nicky Jam has released many hits like "El Perdón", "Travesuras", "El Amante", "Hasta el Amanecer", and En La Cama. The rapper has also collaborated with other Latin artists like Ozuna, Plan B, Anuel AA, and J Balvin.

At the age of ten, the superstar moved with his family to the Río Hondo suburb of San Juan, Puerto Rico, and had to learn Spanish. He started rapping for fun while working at the Pueblo Xtra discount grocery store at age eleven. He used to rap about items he was bagging during his free time when a customer who noticed his talent and was impressed invited him to record with a local indie label. However, after his recordings, he was not paid any advance money as stated in the contract which he signed without reading it.

He officially began singing in 1995 with the release of "Distinto a Los Demás" his first EP at age 14 and soon gained popularity in Puerto Rico as a hip-hop artist. After that period he began singing with Daddy Yankee in late 1990 when the two formed a duo called Los Cangris which was active until 2004 after they had an altercation.

Nicky Jam who had been using cocaine since he was fifteen became more consumed with substance abuse during this period and was battling depression which hugely affected his music career. Eventually, he began performing lounge music for tourists and developed another style of singing by including sung vocals into his music instead of only rap. After a while, the musician moved to Medellín, Colombia, in 2007 during which period he was able to get revive his career. However, in 2010 Nicky Jam had a nearly fatal overdose which was a significant point for him to quit using drugs completely.

With his more melodic style of music, he released singles like "Voy a Beber" and "Travesuras". "Travesuras" made it to the top ten on the Billboard Hot Latin Songs chart. His musical success

skyrocketed in 2015 after a collaboration with Spanish singer Enrique Iglesias in the single "El Perdón" which became Nicky Jam's first Latin Grammy for Best Urban Performance. Due to his popularity, he was able to reunite with his mother who he had not seen for 20 years later in 2015. He was also given a Warrior Spirit award at the 2015 Premios Tu Mundo for his "musical resilience". In 2017 he released the album Fénix.

Nicky Jam's stardom is not only limited to the music industry as he has also acted alongside popular actors in films such as XXX: Return of Xander Cage (2017) and Bad Boys for Life (2020). With his highly inspiring and motivating story, he also stars in his executively produced Netflix biographical series Nicky Jam: El Ganador (2018).