

ALANIS MORISSETTE

Her Birth and Childhood

The daughter of Alan and Georgia Morissette, Alanis, an Ottawa native, was one of three children in the family (she has an older brother named Chad and a twin brother named Wade). Although the name Alanis is Greek itself, Alanis Morissette has no Greek background whatsoever. As it turns out, Alan Morissette wanted his daughter to have a female version of his name, but he wasn't particularly fond of the name Alanna. So one day, by chance, he spotted the name Alanis in a newspaper.

Alanis loved dancing and acting when she was young (probably still does). She started learning ballet and jazz dancing at the age of 7. She has also done a lot of stage and theatre work, including a part on the highly popular kids television show "You Can't Do That on Television" when she was 11. Alanis also appeared in the TV movie "Just One of the Girls" in 1993.

And as the young girl she said "I want to prove to people that just because you're young it doesn't mean you can't do as much as adults can....." And actually she was some kind of rebel all the time.

She might have been an English or Drama teacher if she hadn't been involved in show business. But that, I can say fortunately, never happened.

Her Breakthrough

She has been writing songs for fun since she was 9 years old. Alanis admired the music and character of Olivia Newton John (from "Grease") tremendously when she was young, which is the main reason why she was so interested in music. She also loved the writing style of George Michael. With the help of a friend of the family who was in the music business, Alanis released her first ever single at the young age of eleven. The song was called "Please Stay With Me", and it was independently produced with money coming out of her own pocket. The song was not a hit by any means, but it got some air play on Canadian radio stations.

Her records and fame

Most people think that her album Jagged little pill was her first album, because it has been so successful, but it's not.

At age 13, Alanis met Leslie Howe and they started writing together. Eventually she recorded her first album, "ALANIS", in 1990. Released in 1991, the music on this album is mostly pop and dance, along the lines of Paula Abdul. This recording proved to be a big hit in her homeland, as "ALANIS" went platinum in Canada. She was labelled as a teenager pop/dance sensation. Her success won her a JUNO Award (Canada's version of the America's Grammy's) as the most promising new female vocalist.

Her sophomore album "NOW IS THE TIME" was released by in late 1992. "NOW IS THE TIME" is also a pop album, but this recording as a whole seems to be more mature than her first album. It has more ballads and sounds less like a dance album. Not as successful as "ALANIS", "NOW IS THE TIME" never went platinum in Canada.

Despite being relatively well-known in Canada, Alanis was a virtual stranger in the United States. In 1993, at the age 19 she moved to Los Angeles. This time she wanted songs to be as true to her and her emotions and feeling as possible. After trying to co-

write with hundreds of people and being disappointed each time, Alanis finally met Glen Ballard through MCA publishing, and immediately two enjoyed each other's writing style.

Her third release "JAGGED LITTLE PILL" showed a very different Alanis than in the previous two albums. Instead of using midi machines, sequences and other electronic gag nets, Alanis Morissette, as she is called now, has human band players. Also, the lyrics in this album are much more intelligent, meaningful, and bitter. Alanis believed that the catalyst for her change in attitude and character was her move from Canada to Los Angeles, where she learned to live independently in a big city. Alanis said she is now mature enough to tap into an honesty that she wasn't ready to deal with when she was younger. Most of the songs on "JAGGED LITTLE PILL" are in one way or another autobiographical. This album was sold in 18 million copies. And that is the biggest selling album by female, ever in music history.

Once she said: "I want to walk through life instead of being dragged through it."

"Most of the songs are, in a roundabout way, actually addressed to myself; there's a certain aspect of the songs that's very confessional, very unadulterated," she allows. "I wrote some of the songs and woke up the next day not even remembering I'd done them--almost like a stream-of-consciousness. It was a very unfettered, spiritual experience."

Alanis became one of the most popular singers all over the world. So a lot of people expected her new album and even hardly waited.

She released the album last year. It was called "Supposed Former Infatuation Junkie" with 17 new songs, including the top hit "Thank U". This album also has "honest lyrics" and shows her emotion and gratefulness to be where she is in music. But it wasn't so successful as the jagged little pil.

The last album is mtv unplugged and includes some of her the most popular song such as ironic, uninvited, you oughta know.

Off the stage Alanis seems to keep very private and stays quiet. She is not really interested in celebrity thing and she doesn't like to pop up at parties

Alanis Morissette has won 4 Grammy Awards, 1 Juno Award, and 2 MTV Video Awards.

She also came to Ljubljana but her concert was canceled, because her equipment had been stolen... so i hope that there will be some next time in the future.