

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Aja Graydon

PERSON

Graydon, Aja, 1978-

Alternative Names: Aja Graydon;

Life Dates: September 25, 1978-

Place of Birth: Los Angeles, California, USA

Occupations: Musician

Biographical Note

Singer and songwriter Aja Graydon was born on September 25, 1978 in Los Angeles, California. At the age of fifteen, Graydon secured a recording contract with Delicious Vinyl. After the dissolution of her deal with the Los Angeles-based independent label, Dantzler migrated to Philadelphia, recording music with the burgeoning hip-hop group "The Roots." In 1997, Graydon met Fatin Dantzler, her future husband and primary musical collaborator and two years later, they married. The couple formed "Kindred the Family Soul," a classic soul and R&B music group. After

being discovered by R&B legend Jill Scott at a Philadelphia music showcase, Kindred signed a recording contract with Hidden Beach Recordings (HBR) in 2001. In March 2003, the group released its first studio album titled, *Surrender to Love*, which peaked to seven and twenty nine on the Billboard Heatseekers and R&B albums' charts, respectively. Two years later, the duo released their second studio album, *In This Life Together*, which climbed to number fifteen on the Billboard R&B chart. In 2006, Kindred's song "My Time" was named the official song of the National Education Association's Read Across America campaign. Kindred then released *The Arrival*, its third album on Hidden Beach, in 2008. The album rose to number seven on the Billboard R&B albums' chart. The duo released its fourth album *Love Has No Recession* in 2011, which rose to number nineteen and fifteen on the R&B and Independent Albums' charts, respectively. The group also launched a web-based reality television show in 2010.

Graydon and her husband have garnered critical acclaim for their work as "Kindred the Family Soul." In 2003, the duo garnered a Soul Train nomination. Three years later, Kindred was nominated for a BET Award. Graydon and Dantzler have worked with Grammy Award-winning recording artists like Jill Scott, India.Arie, The Roots and Snoop Dogg. Fatin and Dantzler reside in Philadelphia and have six children.

Aja Graydon was interviewed by the *The HistoryMakers* on May 22, 2012.

Related Entries

Robert Brent Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Maret School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Francis C. Hammond Middle School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Duke Ellington School Of The Arts [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Kindred the Family Soul [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1999 to ?]

Owner