

Short Bio

YolanDa Brown

For some, world-wide touring and critically acclaimed albums would be satisfaction enough. Not for YolanDa Brown, she wears many hats, musician, broadcaster, author, philanthropist and wears them well... with passion and full of vigour.

YolanDa is a double MOBO Award winning artist, her music is a delicious fusion of reggae, jazz and soul. She is currently composing music for the iconic Sesame Street and an animated series called Bea's Block due for release in August 2022. She recently released her debut children's album under Sony Music Magic Star to rave reviews. YolanDa has toured with The Temptations, Jools Holland's Rhythm and Blues Orchestra, Billy Ocean and collaborated with artists such as Dave Stewart from Eurythmics, Snarky Puppy's Bill Laurance, Kelly Jones from Stereophonics and Rick Astley.

In July 2022, YolanDa was appointed Chair of BPI - the representative voice for independent and major record labels in the UK. BPI organises The annual BRIT Awards, The Mercury Prize and co-owns The Official Charts.

A champion for the importance of music education she is chair of Youth Music, sits on the Arts Council National Council, a trustee of the PRS Foundation, an ambassador for the Prince's Trust and London Music Fund and sits on the advisory board of the London Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2021, she was invited by the Department of Education to sit on the advisory panel of the National Plan for Music Education.

During the pandemic with Sony Music and Twinkl, YolanDa rolled out her bespoke online music lesson plans for teachers, parents and pupils in primary schools nationwide, an estimated 30 000 children have used the resources. In 2018 along with James JP Drake, she launched the "Drake YolanDa Award" offering grants to emerging musicians between the ages of 16 – 30.

YolanDa graduated with a first class degree in Operations management from the University of Kent, followed by 2 Masters Degrees and studied a PhD for four years, before taking a hiatus from her thesis to pursue her music career. She awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Arts by the University of East London.

She is a broadcaster working across TV and Radio, including her eponymous series for CBeebies, "YolanDa's Band Jam", which won the RTSNW award as Best Children's Programme. For the BBC Proms she hosted the Ella and Dizzy

Centenary, as well as Last night of the Proms, Gospel Choir of the Year for BBC One and BBC Young Jazz Musician of the year. Host of the London Philharmonic Orchestra podcast *Offstage*, Yolanda presents a series talking to a range of musicians within the LPO about their experiences as orchestral musicians.

Over on the airways, she hosts Yolanda Brown on Saturday on Jazz FM and BBC Radio 4's 'Loose Ends' with Clive Anderson. You may have also spotted her flexing her general knowledge muscles on such shows as 'University Challenge', 'The Hit List', Richard Osman's 'House of Games', 'Mastermind', 'Pointless' and Gareth Malone's 'All Star Music Quiz'. She even got to indulge her other passion of classic cars on 'Celebrity Antiques Road Trip', scouring the country for hidden treasures.

An entrepreneur too, Yolanda launched the "London Saxophone Festival" in 2018, currently in its third edition. Yolanda loves to drive fast cars around race tracks in her spare time and can even rattle off a Rubik's Cube in around five minutes (on a good day).

A real renaissance woman set to reach new heights.

