

NE-YO Biography

Beginning with the release of Ne-Yo's platinum debut **In My Own Words** in 2006, life hasn't been the same for the Las Vegas native. With the release of Ne-Yo's sophomore disc, the talented performer is ready to reveal his stellar growth as a songwriter, his maturity as a man and his prowess as a performer.

Last year, Ne-Yo also proved himself a masterful songwriter penning such gems as Rihanna's top-ten hit "*Unfaithful*" and co-writing Beyonce's instant classic "*Irreplaceable*." That track was on the *Billboard* Hot 100 number-one single for ten weeks.

Though last year was merely the launch of his musical journey, Ne-Yo's success was a gleaming achievement in the Def Jam crown. In addition to winning the prestigious Male R&B/Hip-Hop Artist of the Year award at the 2006 Billboard Awards (where he was also nominated in three other categories, including Male Artist of the Year, New Artist of the Year, and R&B/Hip-Hop Single of the Year for "*So Sick*," his premiere single), he was nominated for two Grammy's: Best Male R&B Vocal Performance for his chart-topping hit "*So Sick*" and Best Contemporary R&B Album. In 2007, he won for Best R&B Male Artist at the BET Awards.

While the successful *Stomp the Yard* was Ne-Yo's feature film debut, he is quick to say, "I don't really consider myself an actor yet. Making the movie, I would have been lost if it wasn't for the stars Meagan Good and Columbus Short. They both coached me through scenes and helped me with my lines. They had a lot of patience with me, which really helped."

Currently composing songs for Celine Dion and Jennifer Hudson, the young star is excited, and like the best songwriters, Ne-Yo has his own special formula when he's in the lab. "My motto is, 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it.' I don't want a lot of people contributing too many ideas to the writing process, because I know what I want. I'm not trying to make a song that is hot for the moment; I'm writing songs that I hope fifty years from now, people are still singing. For me, it's all about longevity."

As a testament to how far Ne-Yo has been and where he wants to go, his upcoming album is a masterful excursion through the heart and mind of America's latest soul boy wonder.