

# 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

**Residence:** Philadelphia, PA

**Occupations:** Singer

## Biographical Note

Singer 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**