

## Queen of Hip-Hop Soul Hits the Road

Written by Robert ID2713  
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Mary J. Blige is still the Queen of Hip-Hop Soul. She was anointed the title even before her boundary-breaking, genre-making debut smash hip-hop favorite "What's the 411?" dropped in 1992 and now thirteen years later on the heels of the success of her new album, "The Breakthrough," the Queen of Hip-Hop Soul Mary J. Blige has announced a summer headlining tour featuring opening acts Jaheim and Latoya. "Mary J. Blige: The Breakthrough Experience" tour will kick off July 1st in Houston, TX (see below for complete itinerary) and hit over 30 cities nationwide.

Released on December 20th, "The Breakthrough" debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 album Chart. Enormous first week sales of 727,163 earned it the honor of being the best opening week for a solo R&B female artist in SoundScan history. The CD also had the distinction of being the fourth-best debut of all of 2005. "The Breakthrough" has currently sold over 2.3 million copies.

The first single off The Breakthrough., "Be Without You," has been breaking records as well. It remained on the Billboard Hot R&B/Hip Hop Songs chart for 15 weeks which established Mary as having the longest running No. 1 song on this chart since it was reintroduced in 1965. "Be Without You" is the sixth Mary J. Blige recording to reach No. 1 on the R&B/Hip Hop Songs chart. The other five were "You Remind Me," "Real Love," "I'll Be There For You/You're All I Need To Get By," "Not Goin' Cry," and Family Affair." Mary's new single "Enough Cryin'" is poised to reach #4 on the R&B/Hip Hop chart.

The Queen of Hip-Hop Soul's six prior platinum and multi-platinum hit albums include such classics, "No More Drama," "What's the 411," "My Life," "Share My World," "Mary and Love & Life."

Below is a complete itinerary for "Mary J Blige: The Breakthrough Experience" tour:

DAY	DATE	CITY	VENUE
Sat	6/24	Chicago, IL	Bridgeview Stadium

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Thu	6/29	Atlanta, GA	Chastain Park
Sat	7/01	Houston, TX	Reliant Stadium
Mon	7/3	Milwaukee, WI	Summerfest
Fri	7/14	St. Louis, MO	UMB Bank Pavilion
Sat	7/15	Indianapolis, IN	Conseco Fieldhouse
Sun	7/16	Charlotte, NC	Verizon Wireless
Wed	7/19	Hartford, CT	Mohegun Sun Arena
Fri	7/21	New York, NY	Madison Square Garden
Sun	7/23	Philadelphia, PA.	Tweeter
Wed	7/26	Pittsburgh, PA	Post Gazette
Thu	7/27	Holmdel, NJ	PNC Bank Arts Center
Sat	7/29	Cleveland, OH	Plain Dealer Pavilion

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Sun	7/30	Washington, DC	Nissan Pavilion
Fri	8/04	Atlantic City, NJ	Borgata Casino and Hotel
Sat	8/05	Raleigh, NC	Altell Pavilion
Sun	8/06	Virginia Beach, VA	Verizon Wireless
Wed	8/09	San Antonio, TX	Verizon Wireless
Fri	8/11	Dallas, TX	Smirnoff
Sat	8/12	Memphis, TN	Fed Ex Forum
Sun	8/13	Kansas City, MO	Starlight Theater
Fri	8/18	Columbus, OH	Germain Amphitheater
Sat	8/19	Chicago, IL	Charter
Sun	8/20	Detroit, MI	DTE Energy Music
Fri	8/25	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Bank Atlantic Center

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Sat	8/26	Tampa, FL	Ford Amphitheater
Sun	8/27	Atlanta, GA	Lakewood
Fri	9/01	Irvine, CA	Verizon Wireless
Sat	9/02	Las Vegas, NV	Mandalay Bay
Sun	9/03	Los Angeles, CA	Gibson Amphitheater
Wed	9/06	Phoenix, AZ	Cricket Pavilion
Thu	9/07	Sacramento, CA	Sleep Train Amphitheater
Fri	9/08	Oakland, CA	Chronical Pavilion

Please visit these web sites for more information:

<http://www.GeffenRecords.com/>

<http://www.mjblige.com/>