

Biography of Timbaland

For more than a decade, Timbaland has dominated the pop charts by producing an endless stream of hits for the likes of Justin Timberlake, Jay-Z, Missy Elliott, 50 Cent, and Nelly Furtado. So prolific a hitmaker is he that in the span of a single year — 2006 to 2007 — Timbaland produced more than 10 international chart-toppers, including Furtado's "Promiscuous," Timberlake's "Sexy Back," and 50 Cent's "Ayo Technology." "2006 to 2007 marked a rebirth in my career", says Timbaland. "I was so blessed to have had so many of my personal and professional endeavors come to fruition at once. I came back more determined than ever and I my fans accepted me with open arms; the connection my fans felt to my music was a result of the renewed sense of confidence I had in myself."

Timbaland's touch extends to his own solo work — he scored three Top 10 singles alone from his 2007 solo album *Shock Value*. As he racked up the hits, Timbaland re-defined the possibilities of what pop music could sound like, from the bhangra-infused hip-hop of Missy Elliott's smash "Get Ur Freak On," to Furtado's eerie, yet soulful "Say it Right," to the orchestral R&B of Timberlake's "What Goes Around Comes Around." Unsurprisingly, he has been hailed by musicians and music critics alike as a sonic auteur in the tradition of such iconic, history-making producers as Brian Eno, Gamble and Huff, and Phil Spector. In fact the music industry's praise for Timbaland has been so persistent for the past decade that the *Village Voice* remarked that "it gets boring, doesn't it, acclaiming Timbaland's genius for the tenth year in a row."

"Genius" is an overheated adjective when used to describe the talents of most producers, but it is appropriate for Timbaland, who has an impressive career dating back to his teenage years in Virginia Beach. When Timbaland — born Timothy Mosley in 1971 — acquired his first drum machine at age 13, he immediately began crafting beats and DJing at Virginia Beach clubs under the name "DJ Timmy Tim." In high school, he approached a fellow aspiring producer named Pharrell Williams about forming a group, which the pair dubbed "Surrounded by Idiots" (SBI). The experience of making music under the SBI moniker proved critical to the careers of both Timbaland and Williams, who each went on to become the most sought-after producers in the music business. When SBI dissolved, Timbaland began making music for an R&B group from nearby Portsmouth, VA, called Sista, which was led by a young singer and rapper named Melissa "Missy" Elliott, with whom Tim had an instant chemistry. In 1995, his work with Sista attracted the attention of Elektra Records, which hired Timbaland to work with the teenage R&B singer Aaliyah who had just begun recording her second album for the label.