

MITSOU

Biographical Notes

1970 : Mitsou Gélinas was born September 1st in **Loretteville, suburb of Québec**. Daughter of actor Alain Gélinas and shiatsu master Yuki Rioux, she is also the big sister of Noémie and Abeille and granddaughter of Gratien Gélinas.

1974 : Mitsou was only five years old when she made her television debut in a **commercial message** filmed for the company **Direct Film**. From 9 years to 11 years old she acted in the popular series *Terre Humaine*.

1986 : The young actress turned to music and at age 16 signed her first record contract.

1987 : At the dawn of her 17 years, Mitsou electrified the Québec musical industry with the release of *Bye Bye mon cow-boy* and its video. In 1990 Mitsou's new video for the hit single was filmed in New York with director Jim Sonzero, creator of the revolutionary commercials for Black Label beer. She soon after launched her first album in Québec, titled *El Mundo*.

1989 : She starred in a televised special presented on the show *Beaux Dimanches*.

1990 : The young singer made the first page of the cutting edge magazine **Manœuvres**. She stunned the public by proudly bearing a new androgynous look, specially conceived for the video of her song *Mademoiselle Anne*.

Her second album *Terre des hommes* was launched a monster event at the Foufounes Électriques, Montréal temple of alternative culture. In the same year Mitsou performed at the Spectrum for the FrancoFolies Festival in Montréal.

Her next video, *Dis-moi, dis-moi*, was judged too provocative to be broadcast by the specialty networks in English Canada (MuchMusic) and in the United States (MTV). The ensuing controversy brought highly respected American television shows *Entertainment Tonight* and *A Current Affair*, among others, to Montréal to report on Mitsou.

Sensitive to the AIDS cause, Mitsou took the AIDS test live on the television show *Studio Libre*. She followed up with multiple media interventions with the goal of raising public awareness of this catastrophic worldwide plague.

1992 : Mitsou starred in the films *Coyote* and *Prince Lazure*, presented simultaneously on the big screen. In addition to this first experience in cinema she signed a record contract with the American label Hollywood Records, a subsidiary of multinational Walt Disney.

The compilation album *Heading West* hit the market. Destined to make the singer known to the American public, the album featured her French hits and *Deep Kiss*, a new single in English.

1993 : Mitsou participated in the marketing campaign for the new model Golf, leading brand of **Volkswagen**. The same year she launched the video *En forme avec Mitsou*.

The **album Tempted**, her first album in English, was released in Canada. Many big names in American pop, Narada Michael Walden, Derek Bramble and RuPaul among others,

contributed to the creation of the album. Unfortunately a changing of the guard in the management of **Hollywood Records** prevented the release of the album in the United States; a reorientation affecting many artists affiliated with the company.

1994 : Mitsou took advantage of the release of her **album Yaya** to reaffirm her support for a cause very close to her heart, that of AIDS. She showed this in her video for the song **Comme j'ai toujours envie d'aimer**, in which all actors were HIV positive.

1995 -1996 : Mitsou made her debut as host and columnist with co-host Jean-Michel Dufaux on the summer show **C'est Chaud**, broadcast by TQS, and with veteran Jean-Pierre Coallier as columnist for the television show **Les Amuse-gueules** on the TVA network.

1996 : Mitsou launched a **Christmas album** and ended her collaboration with manager and producer, Pierre Gendron of Tox Records.

1997 : Mitsou soon discovered the aptitudes of a visionary business woman. With her companion Iohann Martin and business partner Andrew Lapierre, she founded **Dazmo**, a company specializing in soundtrack production for film, television and advertising, plus **Vidéo Assist**, which offered total technical support services for film production. The creation of the company Vidéo Assist allowed them to participate in the great surge of American film productions in Québec.

Two years later, Mitsou produced and cosigned the self-titled album **Mitsou** (creation and production of Dazmo), marking a new direction in her professional and personal life.

2000 : Mitsou became **Miss Heel**, heroine of the Internet videogame BLUM. She also launched the website **cybermitsou.com**, a very personal project of which she assumed editorial control.

In the course of the year, a new entity, **Vidéo MTL**, was added to group Dazmo and quickly became the premier supplier of video cameras and HD in Québec.

2001 : Mitsou joined CKMF's, radio morning show, **C't'encore drôle on Énergie 94.3**, now NRJ, one of the most listened to stations in greater Montréal (which became then NRJ in 2009). Success smiled on her once again, and the ratings of **C't'encore drôle** went through the roof with the 18-34 year old market who made it the number one morning show for 10 years. Without giving up the microphone, in the fall of 2001 Mitsou became **director of women's magazine Clin d'œil**, a most natural nomination for this elegant woman, long considered a reference in terms of fashion, style and good taste. Additional to writing a monthly column the magazine, she became spokesperson and soon took on the title of brand director.

The year 2002 brought Mitsou's return to Québec cinema in Denys Arcand's Oscar winning film **Les invasions barbares**. In 2005 she reconnected with English Canada by taking the helm at **Au courant**, CBC Newsworld's leading televised interview show, nominated for a Gemini Award for Best Talk Series. She also took on the role of spokesperson for the **Breast Cancer Foundation of Québec**, a cause she continues to promote to this day.

Having left the team of magazine Clin D'œil in 2008, the beauty plunged once again into the world of fashion to become the new face of the highly reputed banner of **Lise Watier Cosmetics**.

Mitsou currently works, with all the energy and determination for which she is so well known, on the production of new radio and television projects. Among their number is ***Comment va ta famille?***, three one-hour documentaries addressing the state of the family in Québec, and in the autumn of 2009, ***La liste***, a production of Marie-France Bazzo broadcast by ARTTV. She also hosts Radio-Canada's ***Kampai*** with scientist Richard Béliveau and chef Stefano Faita.

The year has also marked her return to the film set in the role of Vivianne Jobin in ***André Mathieu, le dernier des romantiques***, a movie slated to hit the theatres in December 2009.

In her personal life, Mitsou has been with partner Johann Martin since 1997. She is step-mother of Kia Watkins and mother of Stella-Rose (2003) and Mila (2007).