

Ayanis always knew she was destined to sing. Raised in Texas-Atlanta, 26-year-old singer and dancer Samantha Ayanis Miller (pronounced Aye-yaun-is) is a dreamer. She sang in church choir and did youth beauty pageants but decided at a young age that she was going to be a professional entertainer. “Gospel music and the choir was my first real introduction to music,” she says. “When I turned nine, I told my family that I wanted to be a singer.” Despite their skepticism, she performed at school talent shows, had a brief stint in a girl group at 14 and put out YouTube covers, including Bruno Mars’ “Billionaire” and Justin Bieber’s “Mistletoe.” She laughs, looking back at those early videos. “Growth is real.”

She enrolled at Georgia State University and majored in PR and journalism. “I knew I wanted to be an artist but I chose that because I could learn how the media would be.” In 2013, a cover posted to Instagram piqued the interest of songwriter/producer Mello The Producer. “He was the person who taught me how to record and taught me how to really be an artist.” She found a kindred spirit in Mello and the two cut several demos. “We have a bond musically.” Mello was working with August Alsina and others at the time. “Let’s make this a thing where we’re a team and help each other.”

Two years later, she linked with Atlantic Records’ VP of A&R Chris Jones and in 2017, she met artist and future collaborator Prince Charlez. “They gave me a chance and believed in me!” she says. Ayanis dropped out of college in 2017 to focus on music. “Nothing was gonna be in my way, not even school. I’m a big dreamer. There’s nothing more than I love than singing, dancing, performing.” Through her relationship with Jones and Charlez, she landed on the radar of Atlantic Records’ CEO/Co-Chairman Craig Kallman, who flew to Atlanta to meet with her personally. She had no clue that this meeting would prove her foot in the door. “I had been given a lot of nos, maybes and ‘we’ll get back to you’,” she remembers.

The dream is now reality. Ayanis signed with island Prolific/Atlantic Records in December 2017 and soon after released the girl power single, “F.I.Y.T.” (Fuck Is You Thinking).” “It’s a feminist record with a lot of dynamics. It’s fresh, fun R&B. Every woman out there can relate,” she says. “I want to make music that’s fun. Music that makes you wanna tell somebody you love them. I’m gonna be an exciting, fun, sexy, cool girl on the block--- who’s just being herself.”

In 2018, Ayanis wrapped the Access Granted: HBCU Tour presented by Atlantic Records and Live Nation Urban where she was visiting select HBCUs with three other labelmates throughout the homecoming season. That same year, she released her debut EP, *DIRECTION,* which included acclaimed tracks “Awh Yeh” and “F.I.Y.T. (Fuck Is You Thinking).” In 2019, she tapped rap superstar Wiz Khalifa to deliver “One Night,” a sensual record that was met by widespread critical acclaim. “'One Night' represents a mature side of me as well as a sultry, intimate, personal side."

2020 marked the start of a new chapter in the artist’s career, she unveiled the *YANI*EP*,*showcasing her extraordinary evolution on tracks such as the majestic single, “Ecstasy.” Last year, Ayanis came through with the release of her breakthrough hit, “Lil Boi (Big Talk).” “Lil Boi (Big Talk)” was soon followed by a fiery [remix](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fayanis.lnk.to%2FLBBTRemix&data=04%7C01%7CAlyssa.Reddish%40atlanticrecords.com%7C9fc9b707df7c45213b6108d8e7ea71d5%7C8367939002ec4ba1ad3d69da3fdd637e%7C0%7C0%7C637514341455785899%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=rbtTqV3tpTPAsFcQP2rS7HpUujNg6M1JfYSnWJXxmgA%3D&reserved=0), this time featuring rap phenomenon – and member of the 2020 *XXL* Freshman Class – Jack Harlow. 2020 was a noteworthy year but Ayanis is not letting up. She kicked off the new year as one of Billboard’s *‘15 Hip-Hop and R&B Artists to Watch in 2021’* and has followed that up with the release of the sensual track “Blues” and the impressive collaboration, “Drip (Feat. Mulatto).”

**BOILER**

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The dream soon became a reality. Ayanis signed with island Prolific/Atlantic Records in December 2017 and soon after released the girl power single, “F.I.Y.T.” (Fuck Is You Thinking).” In 2018, Ayanis wrapped the Access Granted: HBCU Tour presented by Atlantic Records and Live Nation Urban where she was visiting select HBCUs throughout the homecoming season. That same year, she released her debut EP, *DIRECTION,* which included acclaimed tracks “Awh Yeh” and “F.I.Y.T. (Fuck Is You Thinking).” In 2019, she tapped rap superstar Wiz Khalifa to deliver a sensual record, “One Night.” 2020 marked the start of a new chapter in the artist’s career, unveiling a new collaboration with fellow R&B sensation Queen Naija for “Lil Boi (Big Talk),” later to be remixed in 2021 by Jack Harlow. The year also welcomed her single, “Ecstasy,” ahead of the release of her second EP, *YANI*. 2020 was a noteworthy year but Ayanis is not letting up. She kicked off the new year as one of Billboard’s *‘15 Hip-Hop and R&B Artists to Watch in 2021’* and has followed that up with the release of the sensual track “Blues” and the impressive collaboration, “Drip (Feat. Mulatto).”

