

QUVENZHANE WALLIS

Youngest Ever
Oscar Nominee
Woos
Hollywood



Los Angeles Times

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HOLLYWOOD FILM AWARDS

Hollywood's Sweetheart

Our little history making baby doll, Quvenzhané Wallis, at 9 years old, represents the youngest Oscar nominee in history! Since capturing the heart of Hollywood with her role in *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, she has now been chosen to play the role of "Annie". This little girl has a fantastic career headed her way.

Her name is pronounced "Qua-ven-zhah-nay."

She attends Honduras Elementary School, located in Houma, Louisiana. She has three siblings are Quynquekya, Venjie Jr., and Vejon. She is the daughter of Venjie Sr. and Qulyndreia Wallis.

At age 5, Nazie (her nickname), had to fib about her age to audition for her very first acting job--the starring role in *Beasts of the Southern Wild* (2012) because the minimum age to be considered was six. She eventually beat out some 4,000 other local kids to play Hushpuppy--the indomitable child prodigy and survivalist who lives with her dying father in the backwoods bayou squalor of Louisiana. Director [Benh Zeitlin](#) told 'The Daily Beast' that when he auditioned Nazie, he immediately realized he'd discovered what he was looking for, and changed the 'Beasts' script to accommodate her strong-willed personality.

She appeared on "[The Tonight Show with Jay Leno: Episode #20.171](#)" (2012), on June 29, 2012, and told him that the Zhané part of her name means "fairy" in Swahili. Her nickname is "Naysie". According to a USA Today interview, her name is pronounced "Qui-ven-ZHEN-ay".

In a ceremony on the night of November 14, 2012, Quvenzhané

was acknowledged and honored with the key to her hometown, Houma in Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana, for her work in [Beasts of the Southern Wild](#) (2012).

In 2013, became the youngest person ever to receive a Best Actress Oscar nomination for her performance in [Beasts of the Southern Wild](#) (2012). She is also the first Academy Award nominee who was born in the 21st century.

She is the 10th black actress to be nominated for the Best Actress Oscar. She joins the ranks of [Dorothy Dandridge](#), [Diana Ross](#), [Cicely Tyson](#), [Diahann Carroll](#), [Whoopi Goldberg](#), [Angela Bassett](#), [Halle Berry](#), [Gabourey Sidibe](#) and [Viola Davis](#).

"My audition turned out to be at the library and my Mom got a call from one of her friends and it was for a six-to-nine-year-old. So my Mom said I couldn't go 'cause I was only five. But we just went and we act like we're having nothin' to do; we had done nothin' wrong. And we just sneaked in because I was like one year younger so we just sneaked in and we walked out like we ain't done nothin'. So they called back and they said they were looking for Nazie. My Mom says, 'Oh, you must be looking for Quvenzhané.' They were like, no, we must have called the wrong person and they almost hung up, but my Mom caught them. And she goes, 'She must have told you Nazie,' and they were like, 'Yes, that's who we're looking for.' And that's Quvenzhané. And they only have found me because the character who is Hushpuppy, she does what is right and she is fearless and that's what I did at the audition," the young actress said.



(Above) Steven Spielberg and Quvenzhané Wallis

