# Joy Crookes returns from hiatus with empowered new sound and candid identity themes



Joy Crookes, the acclaimed musician hailing from south London, is back in the spotlight with renewed energy after a significant hiatus. Known for her rich blend of soul and R&B, her music is deeply infused with personal and political narratives, reflecting her Bangladeshi and Irish heritage. Crookes first garnered widespread attention with her debut album, *Skin*, a raw and intimate collection that explored themes of heartbreak, protest, and pride. The album not only earned her critical acclaim, including a Brit Award nomination and a Mercury Prize nod, but also cemented her status as a distinctive voice within the contemporary music scene with a passionate and loyal fanbase.

Her journey, however, has not been without its challenges. Crookes openly discussed her struggles with mental health, which led to a four-year break from the public eye. This period became one of self-discovery, allowing her to return to music with a newfound focus on independence and self-expression. In recent interviews, she has highlighted how her experiences with depression have shaped her artistic vision, enriching her songwriting with a blend of vulnerability and strength. Her latest work, including the new single *Somebody to You*, reflects this matured perspective, embracing themes of self-empowerment and unapologetic authenticity.

Crookes' music is also notable for its exploration of complex identity issues. Her mixed Bangladeshi and Irish background influences much of her lyrical content, with her art serving as a platform to challenge conventional narratives around race and heritage. She has spoken candidly about the often overlooked presence of Black and brown communities within Irish history, weaving these insights into her songs to broaden the conversation around identity. This commitment to nuanced storytelling resonates deeply with listeners navigating their own cultural intersections.

Throughout her career, Crookes has been compared to icons such as Amy Winehouse for her soulful sound and candid artistry. Beyond her music, she is known for her conscientious approach to mental health and self-care, factors that have supported her creative longevity. Her return is marked by an ambitious European tour set to introduce her evolved sound and message to a wider audience.

With sold-out tours across the UK and high-profile performances at major festivals and television appearances, Joy Crookes stands as a striking example of artistic resilience and integrity. Her music continues to challenge and inspire, balancing the personal with the political in a way that feels both timely and timeless.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/audio/2025/jul/08/s10-ep1-joy-crookes-musician), [[7]](https://insanity.com/collection/insanity-records/talent/joy-crookes), [[5]](https://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/joy-crookes-the-soulful-singer-whos-taken-over-2019-a4268781.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[4]](https://www.glamourmagazine.co.uk/article/joy-crookes-interview-2025), [[6]](https://list.co.uk/news/joy-crookes-everything-i-do-has-always-been-very-me-283), [[5]](https://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/joy-crookes-the-soulful-singer-whos-taken-over-2019-a4268781.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/audio/2025/jul/08/s10-ep1-joy-crookes-musician), [[3]](https://www.hotpress.com/opinion/joy-crookes-when-you-say-irish-interview-22885311), [[6]](https://list.co.uk/news/joy-crookes-everything-i-do-has-always-been-very-me-283)
* Paragraph 4 – [[5]](https://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/joy-crookes-the-soulful-singer-whos-taken-over-2019-a4268781.html), [[7]](https://insanity.com/collection/insanity-records/talent/joy-crookes), [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/audio/2025/jul/08/s10-ep1-joy-crookes-musician)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/audio/2025/jul/08/s10-ep1-joy-crookes-musician> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/audio/2025/jul/08/s10-ep1-joy-crookes-musician> - In this episode of 'Comfort Eating with Grace Dent', musician Joy Crookes discusses her upbringing in south London, her Bangladeshi and Irish heritage, and the themes of politics and identity in her music. She reflects on her debut album, 'Skin', which delves into heartbreak, protest, and pride, earning her accolades and a Brit Award nomination. Crookes also opens up about her mental health struggles that led to a hiatus and shares insights into her new single and upcoming European tour.
3. <https://www.hotpress.com/opinion/joy-crookes-when-you-say-irish-interview-22885311> - In this interview, Joy Crookes discusses her perspective on Irish identity, highlighting the often overlooked presence of Black and brown Irish people. She reflects on her experiences and the importance of acknowledging diverse narratives within Irish history. Crookes also delves into her songwriting process, emphasizing the balance between personal and political themes in her music, and the challenges of representing broader experiences through her art.
4. <https://www.glamourmagazine.co.uk/article/joy-crookes-interview-2025> - Joy Crookes opens up about her four-year hiatus due to mental health challenges and the impact it had on her music. She discusses the themes of self-discovery and independence explored in her latest work, particularly in the song 'Somebody to You'. Crookes also shares insights into her creative process, the influence of her cultural heritage, and her commitment to reclaiming her narrative through unapologetic self-expression.
5. <https://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/joy-crookes-the-soulful-singer-whos-taken-over-2019-a4268781.html> - This article highlights Joy Crookes' rise in the music industry, noting her candidness about mental health struggles and the therapeutic role of songwriting. It discusses her unique blend of soul and R&B influences, drawing comparisons to Amy Winehouse. The piece also touches on her personal self-care routines and how they contribute to her overall well-being and creative output.
6. <https://list.co.uk/news/joy-crookes-everything-i-do-has-always-been-very-me-283> - Joy Crookes reflects on her musical journey, emphasizing her authenticity and the personal nature of her work. She discusses the influence of her diverse cultural background on her music and the importance of staying true to herself. The article also touches on her early life, including her diagnosis with depression and how it has shaped her artistic expression.
7. <https://insanity.com/collection/insanity-records/talent/joy-crookes> - This profile of Joy Crookes details her career achievements, including the commercial and critical success of her debut album 'Skin', which reached number 5 on the UK Official Charts and received BRIT nominations and a Mercury Prize nod. It highlights her loyal fanbase, sold-out UK tours, and collaborations with brands like Lexus and Adidas. The piece also mentions her performances at major festivals and appearances on late-night shows, underscoring her growing prominence in the music industry.