

A K/DA SPECIAL EDITION

SHARP



K/DA IS
BACK WITH
"THE BADDEST"

TRIVIA
ARE YOU A K/DA
EXPERT?

SERAPHINE
CONFESSIONS OF
A RISING STAR



K/DA, AN ARTISTIC EVOLUTION

04

10

SERAPHINE CONFESSIONS OF A RISING STAR

FASHION / INSTANT STYLE WITH YASUO

12

14

TRIVIA ARE YOU A K/DA EXPERT ?

K/DA IS FINALLY BACK – WITH AMBITIONS RENEWED

Two years ago, K/DA set the Munsu Stadium on fire with a performance of POP/STARS at the League of Legends World Championship Finals in Incheon, South Korea. Now, K/DA is finally back—with ambitions renewed. With new sounds, new styles, and the announcement of an EP, K/DA is primed to become a new phenomenon. This special edition of SHARP is entirely dedicated to their sensational comeback, along with their promising new collaborator, Seraphine. We've also included a quiz on Page 14, where you can prove how much you really know this group. Last but not least, we've provided a special K/DA centerspread for you to decorate your walls. Happy reading, and long live music!

K/DA

AN ARTISTIC EVOLUTION

Two years after their international hit sensation, **POP/STARS**, K/DA is finally back. From their evolution as musicians to the development of their new sound and fashion, the girls explain the history of what is now called K/DA and what that means leading up to their new single "THE BADDEST," as well as their long-awaited first full EP.

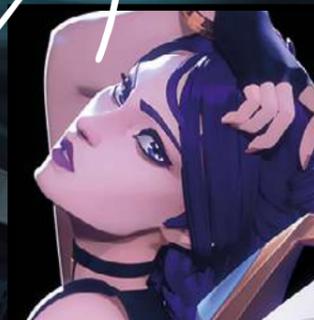
Waiting in the K/DA studio is an intense yet almost meditative experience. The warm glow of the recording equipment and screens light up what would otherwise be a dim, humble space. A small, framed article and a few commemorative photos on the walls understate the group's explosive success and overnight popularity. Just as you're awash in the surrealness of it all, the rhythmic clacking of heels breaks up the hum of the equipment, and before you can even blink, K/DA in all their dazzling beauty stand before you. Led by Ahri, the women leisurely sit down. Their effortless style makes them seem like they'd be more at home sitting front row at a prestigious fashion show than here in an interview, but their laughter and warmth quickly dissipates any perceived barriers.

On the question of how K/DA got to this point, Ahri smiles. She recalls her early career, where she felt smothered by modern pop norms and various labels' demands and wished she could finally express herself freely. She had broken off her contract with her previous label, despite her success as a solo act.



AHRI

As the leader, founder, and main vocalist of K/DA, Ahri graces the stage with confident charm. The calm center of the group, she values authentic self-expression and encourages her team to do the same. Ahri takes pride in discovering new talents and shaping them towards their full potential.



KAI'SA

As the main dancer and team choreographer, Kai'Sa strives for perfection. Her intense, quiet focus pushes the team forward with otherworldly concepts and pristine attention to detail. Kai'Sa embraces a cosmopolitan approach to life, finding inspiration in every corner of the world.

THE BADDEST LYRICS

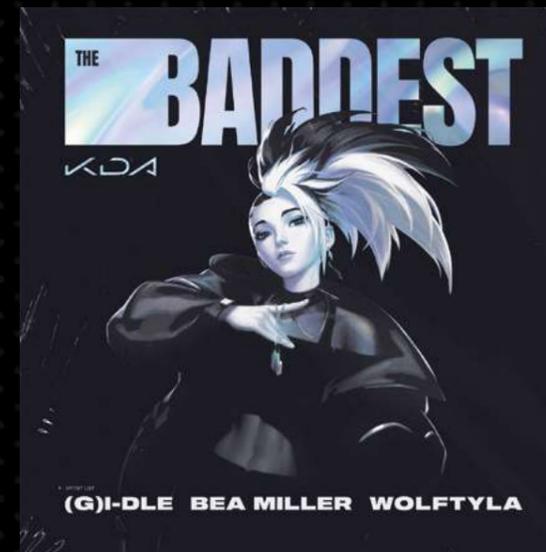
Baddest do what the baddest do
The baddest do we the baddest ooh
Baddest do what the baddest do
The baddest do we the baddest

Coming at you live
Real real wild
Here to light it up
Set the world on fire
Gonna break rules
And hearts in twos
Cause that's what the baddest do

Never going back
Nah not that
Diamonds on drip
Cause I came to make a splash
Gonna break rules
And hearts in twos
Cause that's what the baddest do

I spit heat, I melt your face off
Disappear, I'm your eraser
In the cut just like a razor
Murder business, where my blazer?
I got all the boys on me
I got all the lines on ring
Knock 'em dead, turnin' heads
I got all the eyes on me
Pretty face **걸어들어와**

유행 선두자
원하지만 못하잖아
애가 타잖아
You like "whoa" KALI you the goat
난 알지 I know
준비해 cause I like to ball
멈추지 않아
나는 lit 크게 like a bit



그거 말고 byte
믿어봐 큰 만큼 크게
어깨 펴고 high
백 퍼센트
덤비지 못해
죽여주잖아
나는 boss 간지 with the sauce
원하면 줄게

I'm doing damage
Went just how I planned it
I do what I want when I say
모두 날 따라 해
난 끝내주잖아
(Like) to live on the edge of insane

(It's crazy)
Sorry for the bad news, sorry I'm so bad
Only took a minute for me to get what you had
Sorry for the bad news, know it makes you sad
I'll be here for a minute baby you should pack your bags

Way that I look should be breaking the law
If I don't got it I take what I want
My circle small like a round of applause
You know that I love the sound of applause
You know I mean everything that I say
When you see me coming get out of the way
I came to slay I came to slay
back and I'm better and ready to stay

(It's crazy)
Sorry not sorry for being the best
언제든지 내가 좀 해
Look at the gold all on my chest
Look at the gold call it a flex

THE GROUP'S POPULARITY SKYROCKETED AS POP/STARS HIT #1 ON ITUNES AND BILLBOARD

"I wanted space to write my own music, and explore what my sound could evolve into in a group," Ahri explained.

Evelynn chimed in here, explaining how the concept for K/DA began as a collab between the two. "Ahri and I had been friends for a while, but I was surprised when she approached me about forming a new group. Our tastes in music have always been very... different. But Ahri proposed something new and fresh, beyond the bubblegum sound of her first label. Something with more bite." At that, Evelynn gave a mysterious smile. "With that, I was sold."

FROM A DYNAMIC DUO TO A FULL-BLOOMED BAND

From there, both Evelynn and Ahri agreed they wanted to round out this duo into a cohesive group. Looking for an outstanding dancer, Ahri was captivated by Kai'Sa. Her international style and range impressed Ahri, who came across Kai'Sa's work via her dance studio's viral videos. Kai'Sa's absolute dedication to her craft not only made her a driving force on stage, but also the team's choreographer. And soon after that, the two founders discovered Akali, who seduced them both with her talent and authenticity as an artist. As a lyricist, rapper, and producer, Akali was the missing piece the group needed.

In 2018, the four artists' efforts paid off. They broke through with a memorable single that stunned audiences: POP/STARS. Before the League of Legends World Championship Finals, the band brilliantly performed their debut song on the Incheon Munhak Stadium stage in front of a large audience and millions of online viewers.

The group's popularity skyrocketed as POP/STARS became #1 on iTunes and Billboard, and was streamed over 170 million times on major streaming platforms. The official YouTube video itself has reached over 360 million views as of 2020, featuring several outstanding sequences and imagery; for example, Evelynn's driving of her car at full speed towards Kai'Sa, who dodges it at the last moment. "That scene was thrilling to film," Kai'Sa reflected with nostalgia. "And that custom car was incredible."



AKALI

Akali is the main rapper of the group, boasting street punk style with a brash, dangerous streak. She constantly keeps her team on their toes—and values her creative independence most of all. Akali's always spinning on new projects and refuses to compromise for her art.

"That's why I got one for myself afterwards," Evelynnn casually responded.

THE PRICE OF SUCCESS

Success, however, comes with its own challenges. The fame post-POP/STARS was overwhelming and daunting. While this is what the girls had been working towards for so long, the sudden wave of fans and popularity led all four members to take some time away from it all for a lengthy period of introspection. Ahri enjoyed a break over the holidays at the beach. She then turned her focus to K/DA's future. "I want our work to serve as an inspiration to young artists everywhere, and to anyone who is unhappy in a system too rigid and constraining. Knowing the pain of that situation, I really want to show that you can spread your wings and express your true selves in your creativity," she shared.

Kai'Sa decided to explore the world in search of new inspirations, new mentors in various dance styles, and novel ideas to bring back to the group. She also spent some time teaching and working at her own dance studio as well. "These trips were mostly about refreshing my craft and artistry. Everywhere, people have a different approach to dance and movement. Learning new techniques, new ways of understanding, and ever evolving my style... that was my goal. And bringing it back to share with my studio was important as well."

And of course, everyone knew what Akali was doing—starting up a new collective. True Damage burst from the underground scene, featuring a group of breakthrough artists. The project fulfilled her creatively

and also gave her an outlet to experience managing talent and a group, just like Ahri. "I still enjoy the anonymity of the underground scene. Dancing, rapping, singing, doing whatever I want in front of people who don't know me; it's all so exciting! I really loved getting to make use of that space to let myself and the members of True Damage work with no limits. True Damage really gave me the opportunity to dive back into my natural environment," said Akali.

A NEW ERA

But now the ladies are back together again. With their hit new single, THE BADDEST, topping the charts and streaming platforms, one can only wonder what's next in the upcoming months leading up to their EP. "POP/STARS was a celebration of the alchemy of all our talents," Kai'Sa explained. "With this EP, however, each of us took creative lead on a track. We wanted to give more room for each voice to shine."

And it won't stop there.

"Now that we're in the second era of K/DA, we're working with more talented artists and leveling up our own creativity through those collaborations," said Akali. "I want to take the learnings from True Damage, as well as within K/DA, and continue working with new talent and veterans alike."

It isn't just K/DA's sound that continues to grow and evolve. Ahri teased us with the slightest of hints at their new look as well. "We drew inspiration from all over, striving to capture the duality of elegance and vulnerability. I'm very excited with the results." <



EVELYNN

Evelynn is K/DA's lead vocalist, wielding a hypnotic stage presence like no other. Never one to stay in the shadows, she relishes the crowd's reactions to her masterfully crafted image. Co-founder of K/DA alongside her counterpart Ahri, Evelynnn edges the group towards their most thrilling creative risks.

EVELYNN

K/DA'S TIMELINE

SEPTEMBER 2016

Ahri approaches Evelynnn to begin work on forming a new, yet unnamed group, seeking out unique voices and singular talents.

NOVEMBER 2018

POP/STARS releases and is an instant smash hit. The band debuts their live performance at the League of Legends World Championship.

AUGUST 2020

The pre-release single of the EP, THE BADDEST drops, marking the public return of K/DA.

AUGUST 2013

Ahri bursts onto the K-pop scene, winning "most talented new K-pop artist" at the Pop Shine awards.



JUNE 2017

Ahri discovers Kai'Sa's work via her dance studio's viral videos. Kai'Sa joins the group.

OCTOBER 2017

Ahri learns of Akali via social media. She and Evelynnn travel to scout one of Akali's performances, ultimately inviting the young rapper and producer to complete the group.



JANUARY 2020

With renewed energy and inspirations, K/DA begins work in earnest on their new EP.



AUGUST 2020

Fans share viral sensation Seraphine's work online, tagging K/DA and catching the eye of Evelynnn. K/DA invites Seraphine to collaborate on a song in the EP.





SERAPHINE

A STAR ON THE RISE

A surprise guest on K/DA's new EP, Seraphine is a young indie artist who caught her idols' eyes after her cover of POP/STARS went viral. We had the opportunity to meet with the optimistic and endearing young lady, whose future looks bright as ever.

With her playful tone and lovely smile, Seraphine exudes infectious spontaneity and joy. "I just feel so lucky to be here. Getting noticed by one of my favorite groups was a dream come true. I mean—it still feels like a dream! I was literally in my bedroom when it all blew up. Then, I'm suddenly in the studio, collaborating with my favorite stars, and doing interviews? It's still so surreal!" A versatile musician whose skills range from crafting lyrics to production, Seraphine has gained popularity on social networks through her covers, recorded from her very own bedroom studio. Often solely accompanied by her acoustic guitar, her mellow voice has already charmed thousands of fans.

How was this young creator spotted by a world-class group? "We're always on the lookout for new talent, and checking out indie artists whenever we can," Ahri explained, "but our fans were the ones who introduced us to Seraphine. When I first heard her cover of POP/STARS, I was floored and I knew her unique voice, sound, and sensibilities could offer something new to K/DA."

When asked about her motivations and artistic process, Seraphine replied with a genuine honesty. "Music is simply a way to discover myself. The emotions I feel feed my creative power, and by expressing them, I find a little more of me. And as I change, so does my music. That's also the reason why I'm always trying out new approaches!"

When asked how her friends and family have taken the news, Seraphine laughed. "My parents don't quite understand it at all, but they're thrilled that I'm so excited and happy! They've always been supportive, but they can't help but worry about the practical side of being a musician, as all parents do. And my friends are so sweet and great! They really help me stay grounded and stay sane through all of this."

"MUSIC IS SIMPLY A WAY TO DISCOVER MYSELF"

Even with all the excitement, Seraphine also exuded a maturity and groundedness that surprised us. "This collaboration is incredible, and such an opportunity. I'm trying not to get too far ahead of myself, and think too much about what's next, but really just enjoy the moment." However, hopes for the future can't help but seep into Seraphine's dreams. "I know that I'll have a bigger platform now, even after all this, to share my voice and my music. The future is uncertain, but..." Here, the young musician paused, looking for the words. "I dream of a world united by song," she said. "I know, it sounds so sappy when I say it out loud. And I know some people may see me as too optimistic or naive, but I'm convinced music can bring people together and break any boundary. I hope the art I put out into the world can connect people all across the world."

While the future is unknown, Seraphine has seized the moment today, building on her past of hard work and dedication to what she called "the grind." And, rightly so, the potential of this young artist feels limitless. <

INSTANT STYLE

Acclaimed producer Yasuo and AAPE BY *A BATHING APE® announced a collaboration on an apparel collection called AAPE BY *A BATHING APE® X LEAGUE OF LEGENDS, which features the streetwear brand's signature style and logo in mind.

AAPE BY *A BATHING APE® X LEAGUE OF LEGENDS contains unisex apparel sure to appeal to the producer's most fashion-forward and aesthetic-minded fans, featuring an outerwear jacket, t-shirt, a pullover hoodie, a cargo pant, a pair of sneakers, and a hat. AAPE BY *A BATHING APE® X LEAGUE OF LEGENDS is available on AAPE.jp and in select stores globally.

SLING BAG

Never forget your phone, wallet, keys, or sunglasses ever again. Convenient and practical, this golden bum bag is ideal when on-the-go and keeping valuables close to the chest.



WINDBREAKER

Featuring a prestigious gold color, this wind breaking jacket is stylish and warm, exuding radiance and confidence. AAPE BY *A BATHING APE®'s signature logo adorns the breast pocket.



CARGO PANTS

A comfortable and light jogger pant, suited for any weather condition or climate. The golden accent is sure to help you stand out whether you're traipsing around the city or working in the long hours of the night in your studio.



SHOES

Thick sneakers, whose mellower ochre color offsets the collection's golden explosivity. Through the city streets or on a sports field, their versatility makes them a stylish go-to pair.



Aape

BY *A BATHING APE®



TRIVIA

ARE YOU A "K/DA" EXPERT?

It's time to shine! Read, answer, and prove to the world that you're K/DA's #1 fan!

1. Let's start with the easy questions first. Who are the members of K/DA?

- A. Kai'Sa, Evelynn, Akali, Ahri
- B. Kai'Sa, Evelynn, Akali, Ivern
- C. Kai'Sa, Evelynn, Akali, Lux

2. What is the name of the first song released by K/DA?

- A. LEGENDS NEVER DIE
- B. POP/STARS
- C. AWAKEN

3. Who is the most impressive dancer in the band?

- A. Kai'Sa, of course!
- B. Nah, it's Ahri!
- C. Have you seen Akali on stage?

4. In 2018, where was K/DA's debut performance on stage?

- A. China
- B. South Korea
- C. Japan

5. What was the order in which each member of the band joined?

- A. Ahri, Evelynn, Kai'Sa, Akali
- B. Ahri, Evelynn, Akali, Kai'Sa
- C. Evelynn, Akali, Kai'Sa, Lux

6. Which member had a surprise solo performance and interview at the LPL finals in 2019?

- A. Evelynn
- B. Akali
- C. Kai'Sa

7. What is the name of Kai'Sa's dance studio in New York?

- A. Evolution Studios
- B. The Cocoon
- C. Firefly Collective

8. Which member discovered Seraphine?

- A. Ahri
- B. Evelynn
- C. Akali

ANSWERS 1A, 2B, 3A, 4B, 5A, 6B, 7C, 8B

IF YOU GOT BETWEEN 0 AND 3 CORRECT ANSWERS

Oh no! You may not be as big of a fan as you think. But don't panic. If you read this entire magazine, it should help bring you up to speed.

IF YOU GOT BETWEEN 4 AND 6 CORRECT ANSWERS

Okay, we see you. You might know a thing or two about K/DA but take some time to reconsider some of your answers, and come back out even stronger!

IF YOU GOT BETWEEN 7 AND 8 CORRECT ANSWERS

Standing ovation Impressive! You're clearly an outstanding representation of a K/DA fan. Welcome to being a BLADE!





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WITH BECKY G
KEKE PALMER
SOYEON
DUCK
THU

WANT

ADIS (B) I-DLE

LE BEA MILLER

KDA

