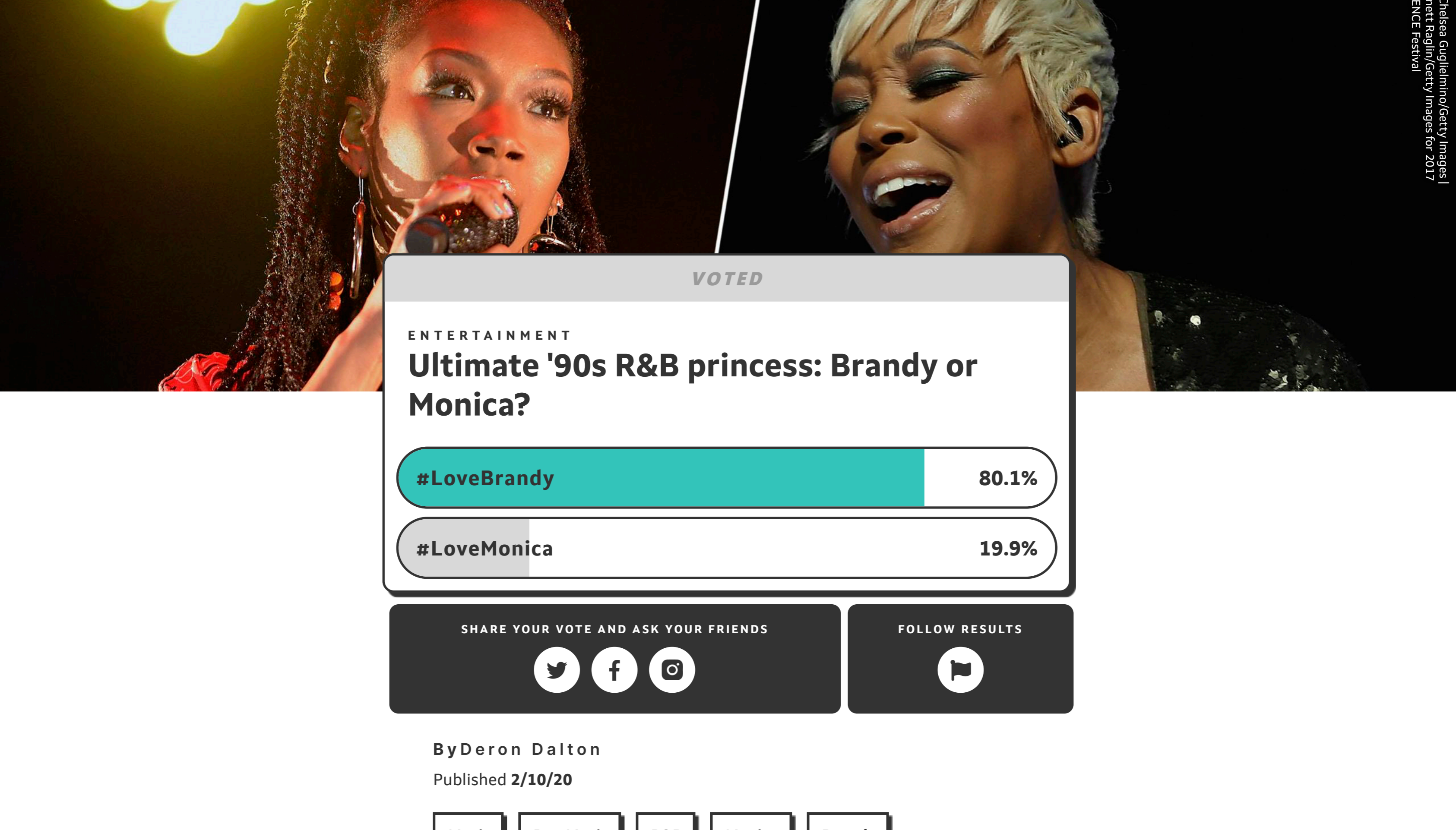


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**Ultimate '90s R&B princess: Brandy or Monica?**

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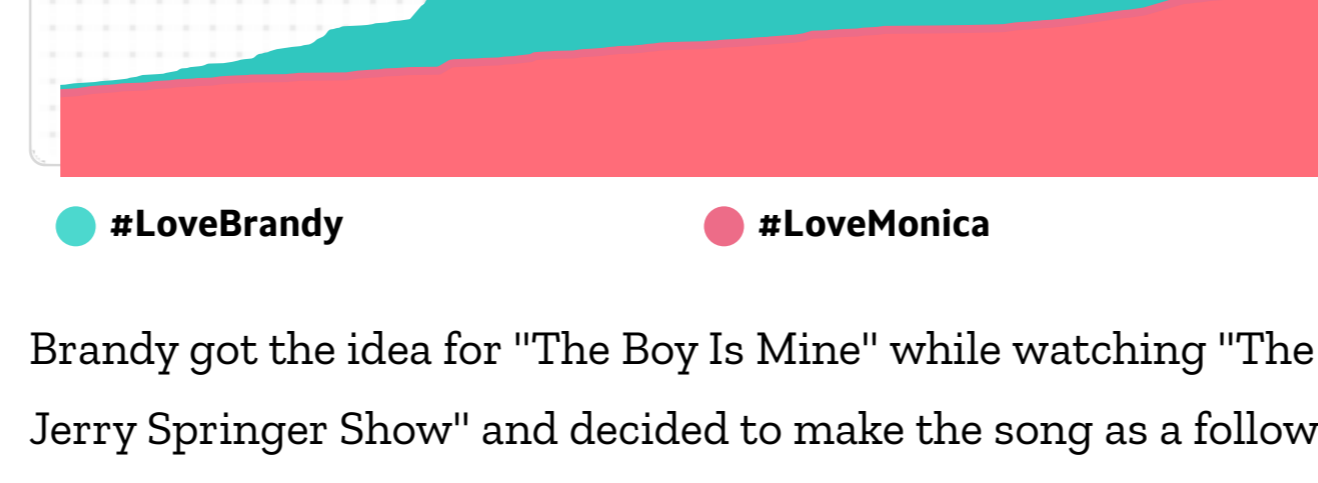
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By Deron Dalton  
Published 2/10/20

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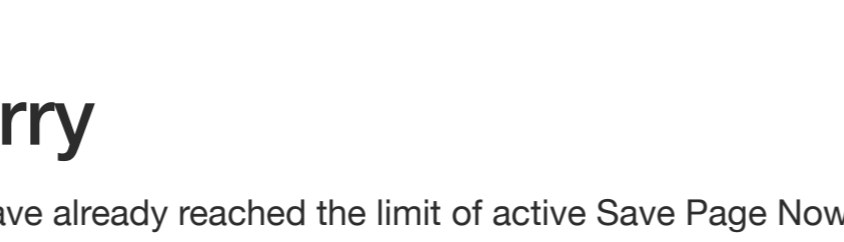
Brandy and Monica are R&B frenemies who've been reportedly feuding on-and-off for the past two decades. The young divas put to bed rumors of a rivalry—well, sort of—with the epic collaboration "The Boy Is Mine," easily 1998's *Song of the Summer*. Brandy was on top of the world in the late '90s with a sophomore album, TV show, and various film projects. But Monica's beautiful vocals scored her two more #1 pop hits, "The First Night" and "Angel of Mine." **Who's the ultimate '90s R&B princess?**



Brandy got the idea for "The Boy Is Mine" while watching "The Jerry Springer Show" and decided to make the song as a followup to Michael Jackson and Paul McCartney's "The Girl Is Mine." Brandy co-wrote the smash with Rodney Jerkins and others. She wanted to get Monica to duet the song with her to dispute any rumored rivalry between them. The collaboration happened, but media outlets only further exploited an alleged rivalry.

Although both artists claimed there was no rivalry (at the time), Brandy, who was one of the songwriters, was reportedly upset when Monica named her sophomore LP after the single. "The Boy Is Mine" topped the Billboard Hot 100 for 13 weeks, becoming one of the longest-running hits atop the chart in history.

The duo would collaborate again with "It All Belongs to Me" in 2012, and while they created another undeniable R&B bop, they were unable to recreate the magic from "The Boy Is Mine." Still, Brandy and Monica garnered impressive catalogs as solo superstars, especially in the '90s and early aughts.



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**Ultimate pop princess of the late '90s: Britney Spears or Christina Aguilera?**

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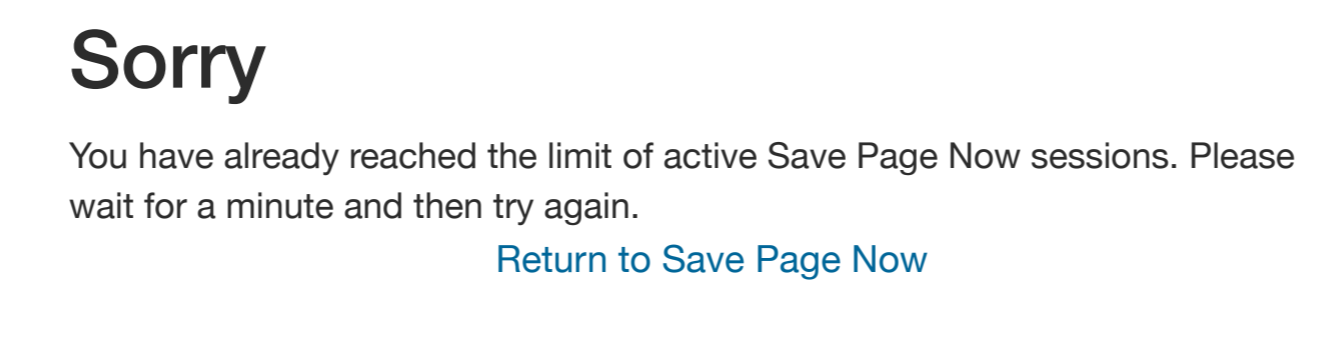
### #LoveBrandy

Brandy scored big smashes with "I Wanna Be Down," "Baby," "Best Friend" and "Brokenhearted" with her self-titled debut album. She gained two soundtracks hits "Sittin' Up In My Room" and the collaborative "Missing You" before scoring the mega-smash "The Boy Is Mine" with Monica in 1998.

Brandy dropped her sophomore effort "Never Say Never" in 1998, featuring the #1 hit "Have You Ever." While being an R&B princess in the '90s, Brandy was also an actress. She starred on her own sitcom "Moesha," TV movies "Cinderella" and "Double Platinum," the horror film "I Still Know What You Did Last Summer" and had a line of Barbie dolls. She was the ultimate crossover teen R&B-pop diva in the mid-to-late '90s.

Brandy dropped her third studio album "Full Moon" in 2002, featuring the hit of the same name and "What About Us?" Her success carried over into the early aughts, scoring the smash "Talk About Our Love" with Kanye West. Brandy has continued to drop music into this decade, while starring on scripted TV shows, reality TV and even a turn on Broadway.

Check out the music video for "Have You Ever" below.



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