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Kathryn Dean: "I Am A Happy Camper!"

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Tell me your whole inception into music -- When did you first become interested in it? And, how did it all begin for Kathryn Dean?

I don't think I ever made a conscious decision to be a musician; I think it kind of just chose me. What began as my favorite -- and most successful -- way to annoy my older brother, Andrew, soon became my life-long passion and I have never looked back. Music has always been my escape from everything in my personal reality. Then, about 2 ½ years ago (is) when I began writing songs; I was able (to) create my own world. Then 1 year ago this month, I began to assemble what I call the "Kathryn Dean Dream Team" -- or KDDT -- and my dream of being a recording artist/songwriter/performer started to become increasingly plausible.

Now where exactly do you hail from? And growing up there, who all did/do you consider to be your strongest musical influences?

Well, when two people really love each other...But in all seriousness, I was born and raised in San Diego, California by Papa Dan and Mama Sue. I am actually the first of my family to play or create music. That being said, my parents raised me right so I grew up, and recently found my way back to listening to '80's rock; Carole King, Crosby, Stills & Nash -- plus or minus (Neil) Young -- and Stevie Nicks/ Fleetwood Mac. I am definitely a student of music. There is so much that a new artist, like myself, can learn by studying successful artists. Carole King inspired me to be not just a songwriter, but also a storyteller. Stevie Nicks encouraged me to explore the lower register of my voice, not just the higher one...And, Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young sparked my love of 3 and 4-part harmonies. There is something about '80's rock that just makes you want to blast music and drive with all of the windows down and sing/shout along that is so freeing.

With that being said, how then would you classify the sound and/or style of the music that you create and perform?

I call my genre "indie pop." My style represents the collision of the unique instrumentation of new age alternative/rock music, with the commercial sound of pop music.

Success, define yours? And, of course, what will continue to sustain you in music?

If my music is able to help even one person get through a difficult time in their life, I will consider my music career a success. As long as my life is filled with laughter, love and music, I am content.

Do you have any other outside/additional aspirations, maybe even completely away from music?

My life's goal is to save someone's life. Whether that entails providing someone with the encouragement that they need to keep fighting the good fight or via CPR -- I am Red Cross trained -- I accept the challenge!

On a more serious note, are you happy with the current state of Pop/Rock?

I have found there to be a dichotomy in modern songs. On one side of the spectrum, there are lyrics -- usually from "indie" bands -- that are poetic, yet seemingly nonsensical...While on the other side, there are songs that make it seem as though all that ladies ever want to do is dress like a "harlot," go to a club, get drunk and have some random guy take them home. I try to steer my lyrics in a direction that is somewhere in the middle.

To date, what has been your biggest career moment, at least thus far anyway?

The last few months have been very exciting. I released my first -- self-titled -- EP; I created and released my first music video for my single, "I'll Show You Crazy;" my songs have begun to be placed in TV shows -- thanks to Heavy Hitters Music -- and a few of my songs have hit non-com radio; thanks to MM Music!

What do you feel you offer the music industry that we don't already have in other performers?

I would say that my age puts me in a unique position as a songwriter. I am technically an adult, but I am also a teenager so my songs have the ability to appeal to a larger audience. I also think that the messages behind my music have an authentic quality that is only possible when the performer is also the songwriter.

Have you encountered any problems in getting to this point in your career?

There are definitely pros and cons to being an 18 year-old performer. On the one hand, being young puts me at an advantage because I have plenty of time to grow and evolve as an artist. On the other hand, it makes performing at bars quite difficult! At some venues, I am not allowed to leave the stage / backstage area, including going to the bathroom, unless escorted by one of the bouncers. I am not complaining though, because traveling with a posse can make a girl feel special!

What do you want people to get from your music?

Songwriting is a very cathartic process for me, and I hope that my music will be as therapeutic for people to listen to as it is for me to write.

When can we, the masses, expect some new music from you? Like maybe perhaps that "official" debut solo LP..

I am happy to report that I have returned to the studio to record my newest songs, which will all be on the LP that is set to be released in the beginning of next year.

If you could collaborate with any one artist, living or dead, who would it be and why?

There are so many artists that I would love to collaborate with; all of who are both performers and songwriters. That being said, Adele always has and probably always will be at the top of my list, both because of her incredible talent and because I am convinced that I discovered her before anyone else did.

If you could play any venue in the world, which one would you choose and why?

The typical answer is probably the Hollywood Bowl or Madison Square Garden, which would, of course, be awesome, but I have had amazing experiences at each of the venues I have played at so far. I have a kick-ass; can I say that? band so every performance, regardless of where we are, is super fun.

One track of yours that you think defines you and why?

It really depends on the day. Each of the songs on my EP, as well as the ones that will be on the LP, represents a different part of who I am as an artist and individual; sarcastic, sentimental, romantic, rebellious and perhaps a bit crazy!

What's next for you, Miss Dean?

As always, my near future includes promoting my music, songwriting, performing, and recording. I recently released my first music video for my single, "I'll Show You Crazy," which was directed by the wonderful and talented Paul Boyd, and I eagerly await the creation of the next video. I am incredibly lucky to be able to wake up every day and do what I love most in this world, so no matter which way this journey takes me, I am a happy camper!

Is there anything I left out or just plain forgot to mention?

You can follow me on Instagram and The Facebook: [@kathryndeanofficial](#), and on Twitter: [@RealKathrynDean](#). You can buy my self-titled EP on iTunes and Amazon! Check out the "I'll Show You Crazy" music video on Vevo, and keep up to date on shows and all things Kathryn Dean on my website: www.kathryndeanofficial.com.

Any "parting" message(s) for our readers?

Don't be afraid to embrace the crazy or rebellious side of yourself. As one of my favorite quotes says, "You can't expect to be old and wise if you were never young and stupid!"

By: Todd Davis