

The 5 Questions We Ask Everyone: Singer/Songwriter, Jesse Palter

After watching Heidi Montag totally embarrass herself in front of billions of people at the Miss Universe pageant, I was overwhelmed by my feelings of anger. Hatred? Obvi. Annoyance? Check. Fits of giggles? You know it. But my anger surprised me. Why was I so damn mad?

And then I realized: here was a girl that has zero (zilch, nada, NOTHING) talent getting the opportunity of a lifetime while there are so many real singers out there that the world is truly missing out on.

Singers like Jesse Palter, one of the best new artists I've heard in a long-ass time. Jesse, who is well known and celebrated for her abilities as a Jazz singer, has a rare voice and a distinct sound that you can't help but fall in love with. Her latest music (which I just downloaded from iTunes and is already on my most played list...) makes you feel good. Feel happy. Feel like dancing around in your undies (even with the drapes open!). And on top of all that, this girl is a major sweetheart. I'm not sure what I love more – the girl or the music – but either way you should get to know Ms. Jesse Palter:



The 5 Questions We Ask Everyone:

1. What is the most trouble you've ever gotten into?

Trouble? Who, me? I've never gotten into any trouble! Except for the time I dyed my hair blonde and left my eyebrows dark brown... Does that count? That was TROUBLING!

2. What are the five things you can't live without?

1. My ipod/record player!
2. The internet – Hello. My name is Jesse and I'm an addict.
3. My Crackberry...errrr, Blackberry
4. Piano. I'd go crazy if I had all these compositional ideas in my head and no tool to help get them out.
5. Chocolate. I've tried. And failed. Miserably.

3. What's your motto or the advice you live by?

Every day is a new canvas on which to paint. Also, a setback is nothing but a setup for a comeback!

4. What is your favorite song to belt out at the bar/in the car/for karaoke?

I don't have one particular favorite but I'll name a few (or we'll be here all day):

In the bar: "Man In The Mirror" or "Living On A Prayer" – Afterall, I *am* a child of the 80s

In the car: "You're So Vain" (Carly Simon), "Different Drum" (Linda Ronstadt), "Come Together" The Beatles, "You Oughta Know" (Alanis Morissette)...and a lot of Motown.

Karaoke: ****gasp**** Uhhhh...I hate singing karaoke. I feel more comfortable performing in front of large crowds with a live band than singing karaoke. True story! I get sweaty palms and clamped hands and everything! But, I do get a kick out of watching other people sing Bohemian Rhapsody karaoke style.

5. Ten years from now you will be....

Doing exactly what I'm doing now, only BIGGER! I see myself traveling the world and spreading a positive message with my music. I see myself having collaborated with other artists that I admire and am inspired by. I see myself writing for/producing/mentoring up-and-coming talent. I see myself having opportunities to be philanthropic as a result of my hard work. And...I see myself ten years older.

5 Questions just for Jesse:

1. For our readers who have never heard your music, explain your sound in 5 words:

Shake yo' booty jazzy pop!

2. If I was to turn on your ipod right now, what five artists/songs would I see on your recently played list?

1. Sharon Jones & The Dap Kings
2. Clare & The Reasons (Brooklyn based Indie band)
3. Michael Jackson
4. Count Basie – Breakfast Dance and Barbeque
5. The Beatles – The White Album (but I'm always replaying Abbey Road and Revolver)

3. If you could go open up for any artist on tour right now who would it be?

Well, the Jonas brothers called me and said, "Yoooo Jesse P! Can you come on the road with us? This tour is Burnin' Up!!!" And although the proposal was quite intriguing, I ultimately said, "Sorry Jo Bro's! I'm waiting for Elton John & Billy Joel's call"... or Coldplay. They're incredible musicians and great songwriters. Really, though, we would bring the heat to any opening slot! We're saddled up and ready to rock.

4. So, what's your favorite thing to do when you aren't writing/producing/playing etc? Do you like Jenga? I loooove Jenga.

Anything active or outdoorsy! Running, hiking, biking, yoga-ing, dancing – summers in Chicago are great because the weather is often conducive for walking. I like to go to new parts of the city that I've never been and discover new restaurants, shops and people watch! If I can actively explore, I'm there!

5. You write all of your own music; where do you draw inspiration from when you write songs and what's your favorite part about the process?

Anything and everything. My life. My friends' lives. The person I overhear at a coffee shop's life. Pop culture. Historic culture. Evolution. Colors. Love. Hate. Insecurities. Opportunities. The unknown. Nature. When I'm processing my emotions I ask myself "what melody would this be?" and I'll try and put my feelings to song. Sometimes a catchphrase pops out and then I'll marinate on that and write a melody and harmony to it. Sometimes a series of chord changes play over in my head and won't quit until I write it. Sometimes I wake up or am woken up humming a melody. It's really an organic process. The idea manifests randomly and spontaneously and I know that I have to go with it or I'll lose it.

5a) Do you ever get nervous?

YES! Karaoke, remember?