



Interview: Heidi Duss / Foto: Marco Duss

Interview with Lisa Matassa, Nashville, 06.06.2013

You just had a new single, can you tell me about that?

My new single is coming out on the radio and is called „I won't Ask“, we are shooting for release on the radio at the first week of July. I'm really excited about it. We're also putting it on the new EP that we plan to release in January 2014. The most recently released single „Somebody's Baby“ that is on the radio right now, is doing really well. It has been on the top 40 recently and we're real happy about that too.

Can you tell me about your last album and the songs that are on there?

That was great, „Somebody's Baby“ is the name of that EP and it is also the title song. The video for that song just reached over four million viewers on Youtube, so of course, I'm very happy with that. The songs on that album are really songs that were released back in December. I put a little Christmas song on there as well, a song that I loved listening to as a child and the cover of my all time favorite song, which is „I Will Always Love You“ from Dolly Parton. Just some things that are close and dear to my heart. As an independent artist, it is important to keep your name out there all the time. Whether you have a new single or an EP. Sometimes you have to work twice as hard than a major label artist, to get your music out there and to get people to see you and know who you are.

Do you write your own music as well?

I do, I love writing, I have been writing since I was young, but I don't have a problem with somebody else's music if I have a connection to it, to the lyrics, then I have no problem with singing it.

Who influenced you the most?

Growing up in south Florida, I was listening to artists like Patsy Cline, Loretta Lynn, Johnny Cash, Bands like Lynyrd Skynyrd. I loved artists like Barbara Streisand. There is a whole different collection of musicians that really helped develop me to who I am as an artist.

When did you start to sing?

I started singing at eight, I was trained as an opera singer. I did that for about five years and it really helped me to know how to breathe and where to place the voice in the mask of my face. All of that helped me to be the singer that I am today. I have been singing professionally since I was eight years old, performing live since about eleven years old and I did musical theater as well. I haven't stopped singing since the day I was singing in my bedroom down in Florida and my Dad open the door and my Mom shouted „you can sing“!

Where were you born?

I was born in New York and raised in South Florida, then we moved back to New York when I was a sophomore in high school. My learning years, my development of music came from listening to country when I lived down south. At the time when I was in South Florida, it was totally different than what it is now. We had open fields, farmland, we rode horses on the weekends, fished everyday after school. It was more of a lifestyle, now we live in New York and it is totally different.

Do you live in New York now?

Yes, I live in Long Island, there are about eight million people on Long Island from end to end, so it is quite busy. I don't mind coming to Nashville, I'm here so often. It is even easier sometimes coming here than it is to get into Manhattan from Long Island. I'd rather just jump on a plane for an hour and half flight than to go shopping and be an hour and half in traffic on a Long Island expressway.

Have you been on a lot of tours?

We have done a lot of radio promotion tours, did a lot of concerts. I've had a chance to work with some of the most incredible musicians, people that I have admired for so long. Artists like Dierks Bentley, Erich Church, LeAnn Rymes and Lee Brice. It has been an amazing couple of years and I'm feeling so blessed and fortunate to be a part of it.

What is your best experience so far?

That was yesterday, I have so many things I want to do before I die, and one of them is to play the Ryman Auditorium and yesterday was my first performance at the Ryman. It went over really well. I was there for the Jonny Cash Tribute Special for the US Postal Service. They gave him a Forever stamp and I was asked to perform. I was there with the Oak Ridge Boys, Randy Travis and it was just an amazing time. I was really happy.

What are your hopes for the future?

You know, as a musician you want to make sure that you let people hear who you are and experience you as an artist, for the real you. I've never been interested in fame and fortune, my Dad told me once growing up, God gives everyone a gift. It may be something that you do better than another person, it could be the gift of writing, of smarts, I don't know, but there is something that you have and it is your responsibility to take it and nurture it and share it. That's what I do. You know the fans are amazing in country music, they are so loyal, one of the best parts of being a country music artist is getting so many great fans.

Do you have a family?

Yes I have a really great supportive family. Mom and Dad have been with me since day one, they still come to all of the shows that are in New York. I have two children, seventeen and fifteen. My husband is super supportive, I'm really blessed. I'm taking one day at a time and I'm just very thankful to be able to do what I love and share it.

Are you working on a new project now?

Yes, I'm working on the upcoming EP that will be released in early 2014. The first single off that is called "I Won't Ask" and will be on the radio starting in July.

Anything else would like to say?

I just want to tell the fans in Switzerland, thank you for supporting country music, I hope I get to come over there one day and perform, thank you for the support and God bless you all.

<http://www.lisamatassa.com>