



Exclusive interview with Kristine Elezaj!



Kristine Elezaj: If you haven't heard of her yet, she is about to take over your radio stations with her latest single, *Souvenirs*. The sassy single, about finding the little clues that your man is cheating on you, is sure to be the breakup anthem of the summer. *Marvelous Girl* had the opportunity to chat with Elezaj (pronounced el-lay-zi) about her rising music career.

MG: So, where do you get the ideas for your songs, like *Souvenirs*? Do they come from personal experiences?

KE: "Souvenirs" didn't. This album has been a mix of both personal experiences and wanting to have fun with the songwriting process and experimenting a little. So, the entire album, except for one song, I wrote with Frankie Storm, who writes a lot of Britney's singles and she did a couple for Rihanna like "Don't Stop the Music." She has been mentoring me through the whole songwriting process and getting me to think outside the box. We'll just sit there and sing melodies and random lines will come out of our mouths. Maybe one word will pop out like "souvenirs," that's how that happened. She (Storm) was like, "You

know that would be a really cool idea for a song because you have all these souvenirs from breakups."



Publication/Outlet: MarvelousGirl.com

Impressions: 27,100 unique visitors per month

Date: June 28, 2010

Link: <http://www.marvelous-girl.com/?p=11890>



MG: So, do you have a favorite song that everyone can look forward to from the album?

KE: It's funny because every time I record a new song I'm like, "Oh my gosh, I love this one! It's my favorite at the moment!" So, I want to say they are all my favorites. I wouldn't have put them on the album if I wasn't in love with them. They all have their own different vibe and different topic. I think "Warpath" is the next single after "Souvenirs," and it is a very cleverly written song, so I am looking forward to how everyone receives that one.

MG: Your CD is set to come out later this year. Do you have a specific date set?

KE: I'm nearing the end of the recording process. I have one more track left on the album and then I'm finished. So, we're expecting early fall. There is no official release date as of now, but the album is in mastering while I'm finishing the last song. Within the next month we'll probably have an official date to announce!

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MG: I heard you got to work with Fergie on one of your songs, how was that?

KE: Well, I didn't work with her officially, like we weren't in the room together. I had gotten a song she had started writing and I thought it was amazing. I asked the producer if I could take it and finish the writing on it. So I indirectly worked with her. The song is called "Peepshow."

MG: Well, we'll look forward to hearing that one! Now, you've been compared to some big-name musicians like Shakira, P!nk and an early Britney Spears, how do you feel about that?

KE: Amazing! I'm excited that I'm being compared to such huge artists. They're all A-list, top of their game. So, to have a little piece of each of the women they're comparing me to, that's great!

MG: So, how did you actually get started in the music industry?

KE: My parents actually wouldn't let me officially get into the business until I graduated high school, which, rightfully so. I'm glad everything has happened the way it has because the business is hectic. But, my dad is friends with (Nick) Ashford & (Valerie) Simpson, and they are Motown legends and huge songwriters. They had me come down to their bar in Manhattan, Sugar Bar, and they had open mic night. My dad said, "You know, this is all she talks about and we just want to know if there is any potential there and if we should pursue this." So, I went down and sang Aretha Franklin's "Respect." I didn't know Nick and his wife were actually going to be there and halfway through the song they started singing backup! When I got off he started mentoring me and he was like, "Listen, in this business, it's a business. I know you love to sing, but you need to be songwriting and getting that side of your craft down." So that's how we started. From there it was talking with different producers and finding the right people that got what I wanted to do performance wise.

MG: And, on top of your music career, you are also a rally race car driver, correct?

KE: Well, what I do is kind of a glorified hobby. Actual rallying is extremely dangerous. I don't race professionally; I do it for fun. I do a cross-country road rally every summer with my dad. It's kind of like our little vacation time together. We get away from work for a week and go cross-country with like 160 cars. We stop in about a minimum of 14 cities over the course of the week, at different drag strips and race tracks around the country. It's for charity and there are other celebrities and people from different industries who get together and do it. It's kind of like my guilty pleasure on my down time.

With Elezaj's career taking off about as fast as the rally race cars she drives, be sure to check out "Souvenirs" and check back for the official release date of her debut album!

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