



The latest muse to the indie music scene. The one and only takes time out of her busy schedule to sit down and sup starbucks with our own Ava Matthews... oh! and to chat about life on the road as a hectic superstar. Guitar in hand, of course.

We are amazed at how down-to-earth, chatty and bubbly she is. She enters the hotel suite with such a happy aura it is possible to envy her nostalgic persona.

For undertaking such a sultry look, she oozes confidence and she tells us why this new found super stardom hasn't quite gone to her head. There aren't many quite so civilised people in the world who haven't, at one time or another sat down, and discussed their influences. Nikki (as she likes to be called) also tells her story on why she teamed up with one of the most peerlessly innovative producers of our time to make her debut album so intriguing and fascinating she encapsulated the hearts of every 'once' broken hearted teen and every indie boy. Her album provides more inspiration than a lifetime of celebrity biographies than most people will read in their life time. And of course, who can forget her A-Mazing debut in Manchester where she took to the stage and belted out one of her many moving tracks that managed to capture the entire 1,000 spectators. She does not only accomplish well in the world of music, but her fashion choices also inspire regular reinterpretations in the world of art, with designers lining up to print her face on t-shirts and jumpers, this indie kids set for world domination. With her infamous purple hair and jet black ray bans, there's no doubt she'll make an impact across the pond...

WD: Hi Nikki! How's the album doing these days?

N: It's going great thanks! I'm so pysched to be here right now! The albums doing fantastic and selling like ice creams on a summers day so that's gotta be good?

WD: Definitely. Well we love the album and you (Laughs) Is it personal experience you base your stuff on?

Oh yes, it's a big part of it. I don't think i could write a song if i haven't experienced it or done it myself. We've all been heart-broken so those songs were a given to me, i just overall write what i feel, and i try to put my heart into them to reach out to my fans. Cheesy like, but true eh? (laughs)

WD: You teamed up with the one and only music producer Ian Curtis, what was that like?

Amazing! In a word (laughs) He's so hands on with everything and is always bubbly and just brilliant! I don't think i saw him without a starbucks to be honest (laughs) But when we started the album, he was just released out of hospital for a grandmal epileptic seizure so he was brilliant at disguising it and just getting on with it really, it wasn't a problem and he didn't suffer one throughout our recordings so i'm very grateful he came out of his way and did this album for me after, obviously, all his personal health scares. And just to clear this up...I do not have any sort of feelings for Ian Curtis! haha! Everybody asks me that question so just to clarify, I do not fancy Ian. He's awesome though don't get me wrong but no. Definitely not (laughs)

WD: So how long did it take to get the whole album together?

I've got a feeling it took 2 or 3 weeks. I'm a perfectionist so i scribbled alot of my old stuff out and tried new lyrics again which did alot of peoples head ins

(giggles) especially Ian's, but i'm glad i kept polish-ing it off because i didn't want a second rate album, i wanted something i was really

happy with and knew i spent alot of time editing and making better and the whole time i was like 'this had better be one fucking amazing album!' and you know what? It really was.

WD: Well we hear ray ban's are ba--ck in season because of you!

Really?? Oh wow, trendsetter!

WD: You are! Do you feel like people follow you as like, a style icon yet? Your style is pretty remarkable (Smiles) That's lovely! But no i don't seriously. Everything's still all hitting me one song at a time (laughs) I still can't can't believe i've done an album if i'm honest, If people see me as a style icon aswell, that is extremely flattering because i do just literally get out of bed, and throw on what i can find thats comfy. If a designer ever phones me up one day asking for inspiration on a clothing line, then i'll know i'm an icon (laughs)

WD: What made you produce a 'logo'? For people to know your name better?

Na, i just wanted to create an identity for myself. I know people think i'm just a regular ol' joe singer but i think creating a logo for myself will establish i'm very serious about my profession and have so much passion for singing, this will make people go 'oh yeah i know that symbol...It's nicola!' you know?

WD: Okay, have you listened to your new album?

Yeah i have! (laughs) it's a new thing i've got goin, i bought 5 copies of my album, just to get a head start. Yeah weird i know but it was like a reality check that my album was actually out in stores. I was godsmacked at how fucking incredible i sounded! (laughs). But the thing that made it all the more better for me was that it's reaching out to girls and boys who've been through similar things to me. Definitely worth while.

WD: Well, on a topic change, with something fan's have been itching to know, what is your favourite book?

Without a doubt The Twilight saga. It's just fantastic how steph captures all the emotions in it. I read it in literally a number of weeks (laughs) definitely a guilty pleasure of mine, it's ace.

WD: Oooh it is good Twilight. What about your favourite Movie?

Hmmm, that's actually a hard one because i really will watch anything and everything but if i had to pick one. (Pauses) All time fav for me is The Goonies! It's fucking incredible! (quotes from film) 'Chunk! Chunk!' (laughs) Definitely a fantastic movie with such good stuff in it to say it was made in like, the early 1980's, right? haha!

WD: We're not sure either (laughs) Influences for music?

I had so many influences in music growing up a 90's kid, like the spice girls! (laughs) but for my genre, the band that really did inspire me would have to be either kings of leon or Acoustic Ladyland!. They are amazing but it's such a shame they aren't well known because their lead singer has the most relaxing indie voice i think i've ever heard. For all you out there who haven't heard them, get them listened to! There base guitarist came up with the most fantastic beats. I think when i was one day listening to their album i decided to write one of my first songs, in fact (pauses to think) yes i did. They just ignited something in me and i just wanted to keep going, writing and singing like them. My biggest influence is them most definitely.

WD: Style choices? Does anybody influence them?

Not really, but saying that, i am into alot of Vivienne Westwood's things. Alot of people think she's ecentric but she's just passionate about her talent, that's what makes her so pre-found. Her jackets are the shizz! I recently bought a navy military jacket by her and it's lovely! I've definitely grown a fondness for her designs.

WD: What about as a child Nic? What was your style like then?

(Laughs) Believe it or not, incredibly girly. I had the little floral pink dresses and ginger curly hair! That's why i dye it all the time...to get rid of that! But I'm actually grateful because that influences alot of my style choices today. I add girly quirks to my outfits like pink bows or feminine florals. Anything that represents my personality cos' that's what it's all about isn't it? Being individual.

WD: Well, putting style influences aside, how do you think your album compares to your fellow competition?

To be honest, i don't see other artists as competition it's just other people expressing their talents. But if i had to compare my album to other artists i would say that mine has alot more emotion in it, with past experiences reflected in them. Cos' i know alot of artists that just write songs explaining feelings not having lived them themselves. I mean, i went to a sandwich shop the other day, and this young girl came up to me and looked at me in complete wonderment saying my albums helped her. It's little stuff like that that just abolishes the competition for me really.

WD: Definitely. Did your childhood shape you to who you are today?

Oh yeah, doesn't it everybody? My childhood was very normal. No tragic tale to tell, just a simple modern day family with my 2 younger sisters doing my head in near enough everyday! My mum and dad didn't divorce either, so i'd say i had a pretty solid back-

ground. I mean, i've had the same best friend since i was three years old and that shapes me still cos' not alot of people can say they've stood by a friend for years. But Elisha (the best friend) really is my rock!

WD: Okay, so, describe your perfect guy and where you'd want to go on your first date?

Oooh my perfect guy has to like indie! He has to be an indie guy! There the best! (laughs) He has to have a very chilled style about him with messy hair and big beautiful brown eyes, there my weakness. With a guitar casually hung on his back. Yeah that'd do me! (laughs) But as for the date, i'd like him either to take me to a gig or a really really long walk somewhere. Weather permitting of course (laughs) but if he kissed me in the rain that is so textbook romeo and juliet!

WD: Very particular...Do you have any crushes?

(Looks down) Yeah i have. Isn't it obvious? haha! But i think Dan Black is beaut! I love his style! I actually did meet him once backstage at a gig and i was just jelly (laughs) He didn't seem phased but i just wanted to run away and save myself before i looked like a twat.

WD: We heard you like Missy Elliott?

(Laughs!) She is amazing though! But the penny did drop when i heard 'Supa Dupa Fly'. It was obviously inspired by jungle, drum n bass and taken to a hip hop world. Definitely an inspiration but no, i'm not in love



WD: Fair enough. waht about festivals? Any you're going to trash?

No, not this year. I've been so busy with my album that i've now got to promote it and do talks and magazine interviews so believe it or not, that actually takes up my whole year and gig-ing aswell so i am quite busy this time round, especially compared to last year.

WD: Busy busy busy. Okay so, to round off. Where do you see yourself in like, 10 years?

I really just wanna be where i am but better! With alot more accomplished and maybe a number one album notched under my belt! I know thats abit far fetched but i really want to get that. And hopefully not single! (laughs) and also to be overall happy and accomplished really. Oh! and my main aim is to collaborate with someone really famous or well-known to a country, that's my goal! But the thing that really makes it all worth while for me is my talent and being able to express it all over the world. I mean, even if this is as good as it gets for me I'll be happy cos' i'm not trying to break hollywood like, just doing my own thing with people taking notice is well good enough for me.

● Nicola's new album *Kind Words for Broken Lovers* is out in stores now.



Nicola: The Facts...

Full name: Nicola Claire Allen

DOB: 11.5.91

Age: 18

Her Album: *Kind Words For Broken Lovers*

Fav Shop: Topshop or Roxy

Pet Peeve: People not putting drinks on coasters

Siblings: Two Younger Sisters (Keely and Madison)

Family Life: Mum, dad, sisters. Grew up in Sheffield, South Yorkshire

Fav Song: *Bitterseet Symphony* - The Verve

Special Thanks: Ava Matthews