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WRITING

MUSIC

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JULIE CURLY



What is your name?

My artist name is Julie Curly. Of course, this is not my “real” last name, but still I was born with the curly gene (have a look at the pictures). This is also the name of my band because...none of my musicians has bigger or curlier hair than me;)

If a group, who is in the group and what are their roles?

Gilbert Cantin, bass and guitar player, is also the composer of the songs. I write the lyrics, sing, and play mandolin and harmonica. On the keyboards we have Jean-Yves Cardin, which is an amazing arranger, Sylvain Beaudoin, our newest addition, on the guitar, and the forever young Robert Massé on drums, and beautiful Jenny Kuca on percussions. Also, Didier Renaud is playing bass with us, when he’s not leaving the cold Québec climate, for his sunny home in Martinique.

Where are you located?

Montreal, Québec!

What kind of work do you create?

If we have to label it, I would say I make pop songs with meaningful lyrics...but I like to think that I create music that is a remedy to everyday life, that I make the listener think and dance through music.

What do you define yourself as?

I could label myself as a storyteller, a music performer.

How long have you been practicing?

Does the teen years counts? You know when I was singing along with Celine Dion and Nirvana, alone in my bedroom? If so, almost 20 years...But to be serious, the Curly adventure started in 2013.

What interests you about your medium or why do you use this medium?

Music makes you feel, think, cry, laugh, dance...And all of this can happen in one show, or even in one song...Music is to my ears, one of the most powerful remedy to life’s tragedy...I use this medium for all those reasons, and at the same time because I feel amazing when I sing, for me it’s a powerful way to express my feelings and thoughts,

that resonate through my body.

What kind of work do you want to create, or what work are you inspired by that you would like to strive for/emulate?

I think that touching other people's heart is the greatest reward for an artist... So I want to create that kind of work! I admire artists such as Jewel for the storytelling way she performs her pop/folk creations, Bob Dylan for his lyrics, Katie Melua for her unique voice and sensibility. Joss Stone, with her soul vibe and the incomparable Aretha Franklin. Not to mention the uniqueness of Janis Joplin and the poetic John Lennon! And of course, The Beatles, with their music revolution! I particularly love the 60's and 70's, both musically and sociologically: the music, Warhol's pop art, hippies ideals, the French New Wave cinema, the New Hollywood, sexual liberation, gays and lesbians movement, feminism, the Quiet Revolution in Quebec... even fashion!

Every artist loses inspiration, or has "writer's block." What do you do to push through it?

I immerse myself in other artwork; watching a movie or a great tv series makes me think of something else, I get entertained, and then, I free my mind... ready to attack the blank page.

What is special about your work? What do you have to say that others don't?

For me every art is unique, because every artist is unique, and every human being has a different approach to life, love, hate, etc. and the way of expressing them. That's why art is so great. So I don't know if my work is special, but it is definitely unique, in that sense. To hear what I have to say, you have to listen to my music: it tells the whole story!

What limitations do you find with your medium and what obstacles do you find as an artist?

If exposing your creation to the world is in itself a challenge, I would say that the most challenging thing is to get heard out there! There is so many talented bands -and so much noise- out there, that's it's difficult to get heard by the right people to make it in the business. So if you read these lines, and feel concerned by the music business side, "Call me", as Blondie once said! Seriously, for me, being an independent artist, is like being a Shredded Wheat... you know the breakfast cereal? Made from whole wheat, one

side is frosted sugar, and the other remain whole wheat. So the frosted side is in the creation process, cause art doesn't emerge from constraints, but from freedom, the freedom of speech and thought. Of course, we still live in a male dominated (heterosexual, white) society, and the music business makes no exception...I do not feel that being a gay women is an obstacle, but sure, it can sometimes be a bigger challenge... But..The times they are changing....once sang Dylan;)

What do you want to tell artists who are just beginning their journeys?

Be true to yourself and to your art. The public, who goes to your shows, buy your albums, do know when it's fake. When it's fake, the honest feeling of rendering a song won't be there. Even if you have the greatest producer on earth, it's still gonna sound fake. Music is about honesty, sharing honest thoughts and feeling, that's why we still remember and listen to theses days, to the greats Janis, Dylan, Lennon, etc...(and I could go on...)

You are not allowed to use your medium anymore, what medium do you choose to begin and why?

Not painting, cause I'm not gifted for it! Beside music, or in my other life, I did a master in films studies...So, of course, cinema is one of the other mediums...The art of moving images have similarities with music: telling a story being one of them! And writing, of course. In my other life, I'm also a writer, a journalist...So, again, sharing stories, relating events, writing words to catch the reader's interest, also relate to music in a way!

I understand you just released a new single. Tell us about it, what made you write it?

My new English release Silk Stocking District tells the story of feminine power, and the strength of a woman who won't sleep her way to the top to succeed. The vibrancy of New York comes through in the catchy song and the video was shot on location in the Big Apple. It is no surprise that New York plays a central role in Silk Stocking District, nor that I chose to write about a powerful woman with strong convictions. I entered the world in Montreal on the same day that John Lennon was murdered in NYC . Born prematurely, I struggled in my early days. There is no doubt the connection to this fateful day, and the determination needed to survive has influenced my music. And for the feminist side of things...As an example... You know just today, there was this funny anecdote I must share...A male percussionist made a compliment to my female

percussionist “that she was a great percussionist...for a woman!” Of course, the guy who made the comment only wanted to make a compliment – I assume – but still women in music are not equal to men, as well as in a lot of social/work spheres...feminism seems outdated to the new generation, but equality is still a work in progress that we have to fight for...meaning that both men and women being considered equal when they have equal talent to make the work.

So what's next?

In December, we will be playing a great venue in Montreal, the Crowley Arts Center. Also, with my manager Rosner Management Services, we will be launching in December! Beside some shows that are already booked, this winter, we will be going in hibernation the studio to work on finishing our first EP in English.

Where can we find your work?

You can find our first album in French (Confessions) [on my website](#)

Our new single in English (Silk Stocking District) is available on [iTunes](#) and the music video on [YouTube](#)

You Can Also Find Julie On:

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