

INTERVIEW: KTEE

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Hi guys, welcome to VENTS! How have you been?

Hey VENTS ;)! Thanks, a bit busy at the moment since the release of SO WHAT comes nearer and nearer, but I'm fine. Looking forward to the VALENTINE'S DAY, which is the release day!

Can you talk to us more about your song "So What"?

SO WHAT is a very special song for me, since the message behind it is one that is so important for me personally and I also think for many other young people. To do what you love, even if other people make fun of you or say that your dreams are stupid or that you are not gonna be able to fulfill them. Time is so limited here, and that's why it is so important to not waste your life by playing by the rules of others. The song also says that it is of course not always easy to "do what you love" because we live in a world ruled by pressure, by people or a society telling you what is "cool", "good", "preferable" "perfect" and "desirable". Nobody is perfect, and there will be obstacles in your way and you will make mistakes, but those mistakes may help you grow. And as long as you always try to live your life by your own rules and know what is good for you and what's not, you are on the right track.

Did any event inspire you to write this song?

Not a specific event, but rather a lot of "events". As a kid or teenager I was shy and full of self-doubts, I hated myself, I hated my body, the way I talked, my shyness, my inability to show who I was, etc. And I wanted to please people, I don't know why. I thought I was not good enough the way I was. I didn't even know who I was. So I harmed myself by trying to please others and by trying to do the "right things", but I forgot to listen to my own inner voice. I got depressed... Fortunately I was strong enough to climb out of that hole I was in and since then I've grown. I am still growing. Because I do what I love now. That's so important. All those experiences and my personal development from a teen without any self-confidence to a woman who does what she loves and knows what she wants, kind of inspired me to write this song

How was the filming process and experience the music video?

Oh I love filming music videos and filming the video to SO WHAT was also very special. I also wanted the music video to reflect the message of the song. So, in the video I walk towards my dreams and goals. But you also see the "fall on my face"- and "weak moment"-situations in the video – me being sad, desperate, me in my darkest moments. But the video reflects that those moments are/were part of (my) life, but that I won't give up working on fulfilling and living my dreams. We filmed it in December and it was soooooo cold! As you can see in the video, I do not wear winter clothes and I think it had about 2°C. Fortunately we had a car with heated seats, so that literally saved my (cold) ass, haha. Despite the coldness, it was great fun to film it and I really love the result!

How was the recording and writing process?

Writing the song was a longer process. First my co-writer had the guitar riff, which sounded cool to me, but we had troubles finding a great chorus-melody. We soon found the melody for the verse, but finding a good chorus line was reeeeeeally difficult. I was really frustrated for days, because I thought the song had potential. Actually I gave up on it and we started working on another song. But after a few days my co-writer persuaded me to keep working on that particular song again, because he was so much into the riff he created 😊 So we kept working and finally found that chorus-melody of "So what".

Writing lyrics is always the most difficult part for me. I always work with dummie-texts when we write the melody of a song. I spent weeks to find the best hook words for the song. The dummie-version of "so what so what so what" was "Noone, noone, noone", and it was really hard to get away from that

The options were: I like, Noone, unique, I don't, no way....." I tried so many different words, but did not like any of them. Finally I came up with "so what" which I find perfect now! Once the hookwords were found, the rest was easy, because I knew exactly in which direction I wanted the song to go.

What role does Austria play in your writing?

None 😊 I just wrote it there because I live there, haha.

How has your upbringing influenced your music?

That's a very difficult question. Upbringing is such a complex topic, without my parents I wouldn't be who I am, in so many ways. I guess I would be a complete different person, if my parents weren't my parents. I grew up in the countryside and for a long time I didn't even know that it was possible to make a living with singing and also my parents viewed singing and making music only as a hobby. As soon as I realized that singing and making music can me more than just a hobby, I started to work hard on my career.

What did you learn from your time on The Voice?

The TV show I took part in, wasn't called The Voice, but "Helden von morgen" (Heroes of tomorrow) and it was a great experience for me. I learned that TV-shows aren't "the real world", you get fame and attention for a very limited time, you feel like a star for some weeks. But as soon as you are kicked out, you are alone again and the hard work begins and you are back to reality. But I knew all this before I took part, so it was okay for me. But I think that many young people who take part in TV singing competition can be very disappointed and even get depressed when they realize that it is just a bubble that you live in during the time you are part of the show.

Nevertheless, it was a great time for me and I learned a lot and I also grew as a person. I got more self-confidence and it showed me again, in which direction my life should go.

How has Katy Perry and Rita Ora influenced your writing?

Hm, I don't think about them when I write songs :). However, I listened a lot to those "pop-queens" and I guess I have learned how to write a pop song (rhymes, repetitions, structure..) by listening to a lot of pop songs throughout the years, unconsciously. So, in a way they and many other pop-artists have influenced my writing in a way.

Does the new single mean we can expect a new album – how's that coming along?

Of course I am working on an album! I have so much to say and there are already a lot of ideas in my head and also already on my computer

Any tentative release date or title in mind?

Hopefully summer 2019.

Any plans to hit the road?

Writing songs, promote my songs, playing gigs.... living my dream

What else is happening next in KTEE's world?

I am already working on my next single at the moment, trying to find good lyrics. And I am also trying to get some gigs in New York, I'll be there in March and I am looking forward to it. I already have some confirmed dates which I will announce soon. And I am going to London soon to play some sessions.

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