

# SPINDLE MAGAZINE

## INTERVIEW: MIESA

Words: Emma DeBono  
Monday 18 April 2016



Recently, TIDAL Rising released their Top Five artists and among them was R&B/Pop powerhouse Miesa. We sat down with her to talk about her musical family and influences, what her reaction was being represented on TIDAL and what she thinks the future has in store next.

**Emma DeBono:** *So when did you have your first experience with music? Is there any first memories that come to mind?*

**Miesa:** Well I was born into music. My family is a very musical family. I just remember growing up in the studio. We were always in the studio with my dad because he is a musician, singer and producer. He would have people over for studio time and sometimes the songs needed background harmonies and melodies. So the artists would come in, they would sing their part and he would say, "oh girls come in here, I have an idea. Sing this harmony." And we naturally would go in there and sing harmonies and little ad-libs for him. And then also singing in church, always taking piano lessons, clarinet lessons; music was a very strong element in our household.

**Emma:** *Throughout your childhood, do you remember what kind of music playing in your house?*

**Miesa:** Whitney Houston, The Beatles, Stevie Wonder. I call my dad the jutebox because most of the time we didn't know who the artist was until after he played them. He would go from one song to the next. He would go from "oh listen to this" to "oh sing a harmony to this." So we were always on the piano singing different genres.

**Emma:** *Your music I'd say is a nice blend of pop and R&B with some soul mixed in, where would you say you pull inspiration from now as an adult?*

**Miesa:** Most of the time, it's from my experiences. I try to stay true to myself. A lot of times, because the process of making music is always a group effort, if I have something that I want to talk about or something on my mind, the producers and I will sit around and say "oh I have this idea" or it's about this situation in your life or maybe I'd say "you know I'm going through something right now and I need to sing about it." 'Blame my Ex' was actually a reference for Kelly Rowland that I was doing. So when I was singing it, I really related to it. It was really about what was going on in my life at that moment and so I asked if I could have the song. A lot of the time it's from my real-life experiences.

**Emma:** *From sitting with you, I can tell you have such a bubbly, outgoing personality, and I know growing up you performed in several pageants and talent shows. How do you think those experiences shaped you as a performer?*

**Miesa:** Every pageant and talent show that I've done, my parents and family were always there supporting me and I was winning them, I was winning first place all the time. My dad would say "one day you aren't going to win." But my mom would just say "that's okay and just smile." She speaks Creole French, so she would just say "souri, souri," you know, smile. Smile and have fun. That's your stage and this is what you love to do, so show them.

**Emma:** *So a month ago you were featured on TIDAL Rising's website as one of their top 5 artists to watch. How did it feel to be represented and appreciated on that platform?*

**Miesa:** It was kind of surreal. It's weird because I'm in the process, and of course I'm so appreciative and humbled and honored and so blessed to be in that situation. But it feels like I still have so much work to do. I mean it's major, but I look at it as I'm still in the process, I'm still growing. I can't let that stop me and think, "I made it, I'm good." It's humbling and it feels like it's a blessing.

**Emma:** *I know that you've been in the studio and working on your debut album, what can fans expect when it comes out?*

**Miesa:** I want to say who I really am, the experiences that I'm going through, my relationships. A lot of the time with the music that I'm singing, a lot of people – friends, family, fans – say they get it and it helped them get through that similar situation. When I listen to the songs, of course I don't like reliving it, but I'm still here, I'm strong and I'm sharing my story. So I think they can expect the realness and how anybody can relate to it – that heartache or that give and take or that 'I love this person but this person doesn't love me back' or showing them that I'm serious and I'm leaving. And to just build your self-esteem back up again. When you feel like you need a person and you really don't, but I think everyone can relate to it.

<http://spindlemagazine.com/2016/04/interview-miesa/>