

MARBELLA MAGAZINE
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All You
Need is
Love

**Showbiz
Specials**

Exclusive with up-and-coming pop starlet, Nicky Love plus a chat with British PR man, Max Clifford

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Boating on the Med and night fashion

...plus much more

[on the cover]

LOVE STORY



From stereotypes to superstars, she's the most powerful woman in love
has finally made it big. Currently starring in the hit film *Crash* and
DreamWorks' *Mean Girls*, she's the most powerful woman in love
this month. She's also the most powerful woman in love
out the highs, the lows, the ups and downs of love.
Photographs: [unreadable]



Some compare her to Blondie, others to the lead singer of the Cardigans, Nina Persson, but the truth of the matter is, she's a star in her own right. Nicole Love (yes, it is her real name!), is a strong and determined woman who has emerged from a bleak period in her life to bring her debut and soul-searching album, *Honeyvision* to the fore.

Nicky now resides between L.A. and Marbella and, with her stunning looks and feisty singing, she is set to be hot property on the music scene. But, as she frankly reveals in this interview - and in her songs - life has not always been so rosy.

Born and raised in Australia, mostly in the leafy suburbs of Sydney, Nicky always liked to dance and perform, but most of these performances were behind closed doors - her shyness simply denied her the confidence to act in front of others. She left school at a young age and tried various stunts in hairstyling and modelling whilst appearing in several television commercials and pop videos.

Gradually she overcame her shyness and developed a yen to go on stage. She landed a chance with the Freaked-Out Flower Children, an Australian band that gained some local success before falling apart. In the aftermath of the break-up, she realised that her future lay not just in singing, but in writing and making her own music. Fully aware that Australia offered its limitations, she packed her bags and headed for London, England.

"It was like starting from scratch," she reveals, "and that was when the whole hideous soul-searching thing began..."

The searching lasted for quite some time. After various record executives pigeon-holing her into a pop-star Barbie doll, she knew she didn't want to sing trashy pop songs or "be a bit of fluff in a skirt" and turned down the boil-in-the-bag image for a respite in the music business.

"I took a year and a bit off to travel the world and spent my time partying and living an outrageous kind of lifestyle..."

But the superficial highlife didn't affect her long-term plans. She knew she still had

"My album is about trying to be yourself after years of pretending to be someone else"

unfulfilled ambitions and before long her wild lifestyle seemed pretty empty.

"My father, grandfather and grandmother all died within a year. My boyfriend at the time went 'mad' and one of my best friends committed suicide. At this point, I knew I had to change the way I was living..."

"I went through a period of decompression. First, I felt really awful for a while whilst all the impurities came out of my system, then I started to realise that I wasn't a party animal anymore and finally the real me came out."

As time went on, shunning the lightweight pop business, Nicky found herself making ends meet from other means. "I waitressed and worked at clubs and casinos. Basically, I did anything to sustain my singing lessons and tapes..."

"Over the course of time I finally accepted who I was, I accepted that it wasn't that I wanted to be famous or a popstar, but I just wanted to get my feelings across."

Before long, Nicky was writing songs with her friend, guitarist Emile Lobo and admits that the pain and anguish of hardship and loneliness actually made her a better writer. Eventually, she heard through the grapevine that *DreamWorks'* Robbie Robertson was coming to London to look for new artists for the label and set up a meeting via mutual friends.

"I played my really raw demos and sat there explaining my vision to him and for once, he totally understood what I was trying to achieve. It was quite refreshing and amazing because I wanted to create something that's not like anything else around - you know, to create my own niche..."

Robertson consequently signed Nicky to *DreamWorks* at the end of 1998 and put her together with producers Marius de Vries, (whose previous works includes jobs with major music icons such as Bjork, Annie Lennox, Massive Attack and Madonna), Tim Gordine and former Scritti Politti member, David Gansen. She had finally hit the big time.

Nicky says that all her life people have been underestimating, dismissing and stereotyping her into labels like *chick singer*, *pretty woman* and *party girl*. They have ignored the struggles she has been through, the depression she's fought and madness she's experienced. But she has a message for them outlined in her song, *Box*. "If you put me in a box" she sings, "you might lose your Goldilocks" which is "basically about being misunderstood by the people at large."

You look a certain way and that's how they perceive you to be and peo-

ple don't like it when you don't fit into that box...

"It came from the frustration of trying to be taken seriously and other people always telling me what to do, or categorising and misjudging who I really am. That's why I'm trying to create something new so I don't have to be put in that preconceived box," Nicky states. Knowing her as she is, it is quite clear that she's a focused and smart girl and not the atypical bimbo she was stereotyped to be.

After years of struggle and strife, she now triumphantly proves her statement of purpose: "My album is about trying to be yourself after years of pretending to be someone else," she says. "I was quite lost for some time and it's all about coming out the other side..."

"It's a way of saying to everyone; this is me, this is who I have been all this time! It has taken me a long time to pursue my dream and to record an album that was truly me, and that I was truly proud of..."

"Now I have the chance to realise my dream, people are *really* going to get to know what goes on in my head and it's a frightening thought..."

But for all her fears and aspirations her lyrics, without a doubt, touch feelings and emotions that in some way we all can relate to. In fact, she's finally reached the point where she can truly believe the line in her song, *Daylight Tripping*, "I'm exposed," she sings, "but I'm not afraid..."

Nicky has survived tough times and the result of which is a vividly varied tapestry of songs that range from seductive pop to true grit and subliminal atmosphere. She shows great resilience, endurance and above all, strength of character.

The archetype of profound intelligence and talent, listen out for the real Nicky Love who sings it like it really is... ■



ON THE COVER

Model: Nicky Love

Photography: Romilly White

Hair & Make-up: Angela Forbes for Space NK

Top: By Alexander McQueen at Beautiful People, Hotel Puente Romano, Marbella.