

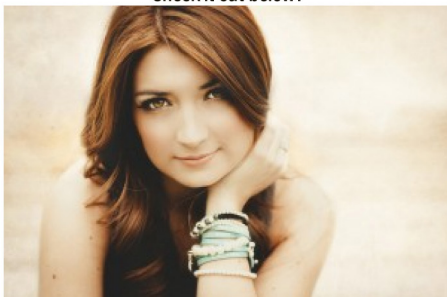


Interview with Tenille

Sat, Sep 1, 2012 18:07 EDT by: Rebecca

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BestFan TV Correspondent **Rebecca Amare** caught up with country star Tenille! She tells us about when she first picked up a guitar, who it would be her dream to open for and what she's a BestFan of. Check it out below!



Rebecca: Nominated for CCMA last year along side some big names, what did that feel like that?

Tenille: That was such an incredible honor! I will never forget receiving that phone call and hearing about the final ballot nominations and totally dropping to the floor. I've watched the *CCMA's* for so long and looked up to all of those ladies. They're incredible Canadian female icons and a huge inspiration in their vocals, performances and songwriting and just to be among the names of those incredible females was such an honor.

Rebecca: When did you first start writing songs?

Tenille: I remember receiving my first guitar at 14 years old from my grandparents, and after I learning 3 chords I automatically started writing. It feels like it's always been a part of who I am. I found that once that musical instrument stepped came into place, it became so much easier to put my thoughts into lyrics. It's completely a huge part of who I am and one of my favorite elements of this entire musical journey. I just really love the songwriting process.

Rebecca: What is it about country music that you really connect to?

Tenille: I know this sounds really typical but a lot of people would say that the storytelling element is such a part of country music that draws people towards it and I totally agree. I think that it has a way of spreading messages and the audiences that listen to it are people that are reachable. I really love that about Country music; the audience and the way it connects to people are what are really great about.

Rebecca: You're only 18...how do you balance your music, going school, family and all the things that can demand so much of your time?

Tenille: Yeah, it's definitely is a balancing act! But honestly, I wouldn't have it any other way! I was able to go to school fulltime and to get that all around experience of being a regular kid in calculus class was totally awesome. My teachers were really supportive of the entire adventure even though I had a horrible attendance record but they were still really supportive about it. High school was such a blast. My family is everything to me, they are my strength... all of they're love and support is what keeps me real and makes this experience happen. I have amazing parents who are always behind me 110%. I have an enormous extended family that is always there for me, rain or shine, at my shows! So I couldn't do it without them. It's definitely a balancing all of these elements of an 18 year old life but I would not have it any other way... I love it!

Rebecca: Tell me a little about the fundraiser you started: *Big Hearts for Big Kids*.

Tenille: That was started 4 years ago for the Youth Emergency Shelter in Grande Prairie. I remember how the statistics truly blew my mind about how many kids my age in my own community were turning to shelters because home wasn't a safe place to turn to. I had to do something about it and music came to be the answer for that. So I turned to artists that I had made connections with to put together a benefit concert for since the shelter was in serious need of help with funding. So many people opened up their huge hearts and that is why this has been such a huge success. We raised close to \$200 000 and it's been such a life-changing experience and I'm so grateful for that opportunity and really excited to watch this even grow throughout the years.

Rebecca: Opened for a quite a few different artists, who would be your dream open for?

Tenille: That's such a cool question! I would have to say Shania Twain. It's a really interesting story...when I was 9 years old I went to her concert and I had a sign that said "Shania, can I please sing with you?" and I ended up getting pulled up on stage by fluke and I got to sing with her and I'll never forget standing beside my biggest idol and thinking, 'this is SO what I want to do some day, I cant wait!' ...and to pull up some little 9 year old girl and do the same thing. So if I had an opportunity to open for someone it would be Shania just to thank her for the dream that she dreamed for me.

Rebecca: What are you a best fan of?

Tenille: I am a bestfan of music that reaches out to people and makes a difference!

Rebecca: What's up and coming for you?

Tenille: Well, I have a brand new single out right now. It's a new tune I had a blast recording in Nashville and I'm really excited about working towards a future album. We've done 6 tracks and a few more to go this fall to record looking forward to that and also looking forward to a school tour in the fall in Alberta!