

D

R

I

V

E

N

“I CAN DO
THIS.”

Arika Kane

Arika Kane is a chic, elegant young woman who is as alluring as she is driven. Her music is warm, tender and soulful with a touch of old school R&B. Her self-titled debut album (which includes the single "Bcuz I Luv U") is currently available online and will be in stores on February 23.

Arika grew up surrounded by music. "My mother and all of her friends were in a church choir and they developed into a group later on. There was always three or four part harmonies and all these beautiful sounds."

"I learned a lot from my mom and her friends," Arika continued, "but as far as another influence from an artist . . . Mariah Carey was definitely the first artist who really intrigued me — I wanted to do what she was doing. I didn't know if it was possible because I was so young, but then I was like, 'Wait a minute, I can do this, too' type of thing. That's when I was first starting to discover my whole singing ability."

Kane took a series of classes with various vocal teachers and she was in the choir throughout school. After

school she had more training, "but nothing that was really stable." Her impressive tone, color and control mostly came from a lot of listening to other music and from her parents.



But her parents' influence did not stop at singing. "My father is a songwriter," Arika declared proudly. "He definitely played a big role as far as influencing me because every night — even till now — he'll be up until 1 or 2 in the morning, sitting in the living room with his guitar writing a song. He's been writing music since he was young. He writes country and rock and roll."

Arika's father did some work in Nashville, but he never had the success she felt he deserved, so one of Kane's career goals is to eventually help her father's songs get heard.

As far as her own songwriting goes, Arika revealed, "I have a very creative side to me that I found out about four years ago." For her debut album, she wrote lyrics and melody to tracks composed by Big Score Entertainment's Louis Humphrey and Jazz-O Joyner.

"They'll put some ideas together and then they'll give them to me and I'll pick through those songs," Arika explained. "The track has to be something that really, really hits me somewhere because, even if I'm not going through a particular situation, the music makes me feel a certain way and puts me in a certain atmosphere, in a certain place, and I can go from there."

"I've always felt that I'm able to put myself in everybody's shoes, in everybody's situation, like I'm able to really feel another person's feelings. Music is a great way to express that ability."

A case in point might be Arika's current single, "Bcuz I Luv U." The track is a silky smooth groove where Kane reassures her guy that he has nothing to worry about because she'll never hurt him, she'll always treat him right because she loves him. Traditionally, this might be a sentiment that a guy expresses to his girl, but it feels perfectly natural coming from Arika's lips.

As if being a gifted writer and a natural vocalist weren't enough, Arika Kane also enjoys the recording aspect of creating a song. "I have my own little studio on-

the-go. It's wonderful!" she exclaimed. "A few years ago I was having a hard time recording my songs because I'd drive across the state to recording studios and I'd make these plans and people would either take my money and run or they wouldn't show up at the studio. I had a friend who learned how to record and produce his own music and he

*"I strive for
so much,
I want
to do it
all."*



“It’s hard . . .
it’s really hard,
but we’re not
quitting, we’re all
very hungry.”

About a year ago, Arika signed with Big Score Entertainment. Lillian Smith (whose credits include The Donahue Show) came onto the label just after that. Arika is very happy with her team, “They are awesome, they are fighters, they are very determined and they are very excited about being an independent label. It’s hard . . . it’s really hard, but we’re not quitting, we’re all very hungry.”

said it was easy to do if you have the money and you have the time. I didn’t have the money, but I had the time, so he taught me how to do everything from a computer. From then on is when I really, really was so excited about my songwriting because I could just put my ideas down right then. I wrote my whole album on it and I take it with me everywhere.” [Ed. note: Arika records on Cubase]

Arika is currently gearing up for her February release and a promotional tour. For more information on this dynamic artist, visit:

[Arika on Facebook](#)

[Arika on Twitter](#)

[BSE Recordings](#)

“I want to learn ProTools,” Kane added, “because that’s the software that everybody uses and I want to be able to have a larger role when I’m in the mixing sessions, as well.” Arika reflected for a moment, then continued, “I strive for so much, I want to do it all.”

Arika is also currently taking piano lessons and has aspirations for learning guitar and possibly drums. “Being heavily involved in your music is really important for the longevity of your career. Also it’ll help my songwriting in major ways, so I definitely want to strive to be more and more involved.”

