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USPA NEWS -

I asked Raina, who has influenced you to write and create such powerful lyrics?

"When I was younger biggest musical influences were the movies, Sister Act and Blues Brothers. My most powerful lyrical inspiration definitely is Taylor Swift and Delta Goodrem. I love that Taylor cuts to the point and I relate to that being such a straight forward person. Delta, because when I was a kid I would save up my pocket money to buy her singles. Delta I suppose was this 'close to home' loon that I could almost reach out and touch" said Ryan who went on to say, "I felt closer to her music and lyrics and would love to meet her one day".

"I have already been so blessed to work with Australian rock music royalty Harry Vanda & Mark McEntee who are great supporters who first saw potential in my writing and encouraged me to continue I've co-written with Mark and as we have a similar process I really enjoy his company and our creative output. When we work together it is amazing and I continue to value his input. I'm fortunate to be able to meet with Danial Vanda of Hercules Studio regularly for feedback", smiled Ryan.

How supportive has the Australian music industry been to you and have you experienced hurdles because of your age?

"The Australian music industry has been a hard nut to crack because they only want the best of the best and the musicians in this country are of such a high standard.

I feel my age may have played a small role in placing hurdles in my way. Younger musicians are naturally very marketable and kind of create in their minds this 'Fantasy of Success in Youth' logic but it is so illusive and difficult to obtain. You make your mistakes when you are young, so there is definitely an advantage in maintaining anonymity during adolescence". said Ryan.

Who is your biggest fan?

"Another very clichéd answer. By far my parents. They have always been so happy and excited for me even when nothing came of something we were hoping for. They were always so supportive".

Tell me about Aretha and how old you were when you got her?

"Aretha is a black Yamaha acoustic 6 string and she sings when you play her just right. Aretha Franklin was one of the first women of any kind I saw in a male dominated film and I could not get her song 'Think' out of my head. I loved her energy and her cut throat delivery of that song", smiled Ryan.

Her music is vivacious, serine and yet with a modern country twist. Yes we can feel Taylor Swift, Delta Goodrem even Cyrus in her voice but unmistakably it's Raina Ryan.

Aretha Franklin once said, "being the 'Queen' is not all about singing, and being a 'Diva' is not all about singing. It has much to do with your service to people. And your social contributions to your community and your civic contributions as well". Whatever the future holds for Ms Raina Ryan I believe the United States Press will be closely following her career....Namaste.

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