

HAILEE STEINFELD INTERVIEW

I know we can only speak for a little bit... so how are you?

I'm good, thank you! How are you?

I'm doing okay. So we'll start with *The Edge of Seventeen*. I personally haven't seen the film yet, but it seems like such a great representation of the roller coaster that is high school. So if you had to pick a word, what would it be to describe the movie?

Unapologetic. Yeah, this movie... it has no shy approach to anything. It's real life; it is what it is. It's every single emotion you feel every second of every day and also all at once [laughs].

That's a great word! So Nadine... I love her, she's super awkward and it's wonderful. If you had to pick a song—your own or someone else's—to describe Nadine, which would you choose?

A song to describe Nadine? Oh God... I don't know if any song could describe Nadine [laughs].

How would you describe her then?

Oh my God, how to describe her myself? Again, I don't even know how to find the words! Oh God, she's complicated and confused and angry and upset and just... oh my God! She's everything a person could possibly be. She's just trying to figure out who she is.

Yeah, I feel like that is everyone. Especially in high school, everyone has those awkward phases and those moments where they feel like the world is against them. I feel like that is why the movie is so great because it is relatable to everyone. So—like I said—Nadine is super awkward which is awesome. I especially love when she had the Pedro hair and the other moment when she messages her crush by accident and sends it to him. That's totally something I would do! Was there ever a moment in your life where you were like "Oh, that's such a Nadine move!"

I have definitely had so many of those moments. Like after filming, I'm like "Whoa, I just said something that sounded like her. That was weird!" She really is so awkward and tries to hard to mask it. I do just about as good as a job as she does at that, which is not a very good one [laughs]! Yeah she has moments, she goes through moments and has experiences and handles certain situations that happened in my life before. The whole texting thing—thank God that hasn't happened to me! I'm trying to think... there's a scene in the movie where Nadine goes to a party with her

brother and her best friend and she literally is looking at the family photos on the fireplace on the mantel, right? Everybody is having fun and partying! Everyone is having a great time and here she is just walking along the mantel, looking at the family photos at the house she's in of the person she doesn't even know. That's so something I would do, it's so awkward and weird.

Yeah, I totally agree. I never liked having parties at my house because I didn't want random people to see those personal pictures of myself and my family.

Same with me.

Yeah, so like I said Nadine is really relatable. What advice would you give to the Nadines who are in high school who feel that the world is against them or they feel they are alone?

I would say to try your very hardest to be you and not anybody make you feel like you're supposed to be a certain way, dress a certain way, sound a certain way. You are who you are and all you have to do is be that person. Sometimes that alone can be hard enough and I know that what I'm saying is so much easier said than done having been on the other side of it, but I guess... I don't know. Just know that the next couple of years of your life are a learning experience and they can be messy but you'll be on the other side of it soon enough.

That's awesome advice. What was your favorite part about playing Nadine?

Oh my God, just being able to freak out like all the time. Anything that was happening in my life or with work or with anything, I would be able to have an outlet that I can go to everyday and use it all and put it all into this one person's life and story. Everything she has to say is something important. Just discovering her and developing her was kind of my favorite part.

Right, awesome. Let's take it to music. It's actually ironic cause last year I was interning at The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon.

Oh my God, no way!

I was a blog intern so I was behind the computer most of the time, but I remember it was in October and you were performing "Love Myself" and I believe it was your debut.

Oh my God. Really [laughs]?! Yes, yes it was my first time.

Yes, I remember that! Anyway bringing it back to that so you've been musically "out" I guess you can say for more than a year. What have you learned as a singer since then or have you changed in the past year musically?

Well, I think one thing about—well, the biggest difference in music and the only other thing that I have to compare it to—acting is that over the years I've been given other people's words and I've been telling other people's stories. With the music, I get to tell my own story with my own words and I've found that that process is just a never-ending process, constantly being inspired and talk about certain things and sonically it's constantly evolving. In the last year with my first single being "Love Myself" and with the sound of that's shaping up to be the album is completely different. Even now, what it is right now might not be what it ends up being at the time I release it which is crazy to think but also the best and most exciting part. I have loved every single second of being in the studio and touring and every aspect that there is to being an artist, I've fallen in love with it.

That's awesome. What music inspires you specifically?

Oh my God, all music to be completely honest. Growing up listening to classic rock, that's what my dad would listen to so that was his go-to. My mom was more into R&B and my brother sort of... I mean rap music, even hip hop and pop. Whenever I'm in the studio, I always find that there are R&B or urban references being made whether it be in the melody or in the tracks. I don't know, I reference different genres and different artists all the time. What I was referring to earlier is just finding sort of inspirations in my every day life constantly that I get to talk about.

So you were exposed to many different genres as a kid, would you be willing to try out another genre for your music?

Yeah, I mean eventually that would be awesome. Right now I'm planning on living where I'm at for a while.

Definitely. How are your fans different from when people just knew you as an actress to now showing people that you can kick ass at singing? How have fans changed if they have?

Well, it's kind of funny because I feel like the demographics have changed. Over the years when I did my first movie at thirteen, I had dads coming up to me and saying that they really liked my work in *True Grit*. I was like "Oh, cool. Thanks!" Rarely I would get a young girl. Her compliment would be that her dad or her uncle or grandpa really liked the movie, which is still sort of weird but really cool. In the last year or so, I feel like I've really connected with the music or through the music with my demographic, more my generation which is super cool. Now having this movie, I'm feeling like that this is just something that they will really relate to. It's going to be really excited to see the music fans kind of hopefully crossover to the movie side with me.

Yeah! You can act and sing, would you ever consider Broadway?

Yeah! That would be the ultimate challenge I feel. I would love to do that.

Broadway is so difficult, I commend everyone who is able to do it so well. Also, you've worked with so many people: DNCE, Zedd, Shawn Mendes. Is there someone or a group of people that you would love to work with next or are working with for future projects?

Maybe [laughs]! There are so many people I would love to work with... oh my God, I don't even know where to begin! Wow, there are so many writers and producers that I would love to collaborate with... I'm trying to think artist-wise. Hmm... I don't know, that's hard! I'm working on the album, I need a list and start reaching out to people.

Hopefully you will be working with an amazing line of people and I can't wait to hear what's in store. ELLE.com is fashion and beauty so I have to ask a couple beauty questions. You've been traveling a lot, I saw you were in London and Tokyo and now back in the U.S. and probably going to move around some more. Is there any beauty or fashion product that has been keeping you sane and glamorous 24/7?

Moisturizer. Rose water is something that I always travel with. I love keeping that in my bag. Yeah, it's great!

Cool! You've been acting, you've been singing and you also worked with Swarovski, which is pretty awesome. How does it feel to represent such an esteemed, long-running company like Swarovski?

It's such an honor to be a part of the family. They are some of the most incredible people and the brand is just classic and timeless. To be involved with them in any way is really a dream. The [CrystalDust Bracelet 11:46] is something I'm currently obsessed with and I'm looking forward to getting it for a lot of friends this holiday season.

They are really lucky! Is there any other brand that you would love to work with in the future, beauty or fashion wise?

Oh man, Chanel.

Ohh that's a good one!

Right?!

You're still young, there's still time. You will definitely work with them one day. I believe it.

Hopefully!

I believe it. I think we are running out of time, but what's next for you? You've done so much, is there another thing that you want to try? Are you actually an amazing makeup artist or are a great writer? What else does Hailee have to show the world?

With this new album, you will get to hear my songs that I've been writing that I'm very, very excited for people to hear. I wish I could say I'm a good makeup artist but that is not the case! Or even hair—that would be wonderful but that's unfortunately not the case.

So would you delve into the film business or stick with music for now?

Yeah! Anytime I make a film with somebody [Kelly Something-Craig 13:05] or [Jim Brooks 13:07], I want to stop everything I'm doing and just direct film or produce film or bring something to life. Even when I work with producers in the studio, I want to know how to work a control board or want to know the programs that they used to create these songs. There's so much I want to do! Right now I just want to focus on the acting and singing.

Right. Is there an ideal role that you would love to play in the future?

Ohh... now I'm going to have to think about that.

There are so many roles you can play that are amazing—some that you can't even think of that I'm sure you would be awesome at. Is there anything else you would like to say to your ELLE.com fans out there?

Thank you so much for everything and all your support! I hope you enjoy this movie and I can't wait to show you everything that I'm working on that's coming out soon!

Okay awesome! Thank you so much, Hailee, for your time. I hope you have a great rest of your day.

Of course, thank you so much!