

Marianthe Panas



By [Martin Myers](#)

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There's a fresh new face on the local pop front as 18-year-old Marianne bursts onto the music scene with her powerful debut single "Me & Myself".

Inspired by acts like Ariana Grande, Dua Lipa, Taylor Swift and Clean Bandit, Marianne has blended her love for pop music with powerful messaging to release her debut single.

Marianne hopes to inspire listeners with her message of self-love. "The song is about getting over someone who caused you pain and heartache and finding strength in yourself to move on from toxic relationships," Marianne says.

The singer worked with co-writer and producer Daniel Baron on the track and together, they came up with a song that's both powerful lyrically and that draws influence from some of her favourite pop musicians in the music space today.

I caught up with the pop sensation, last week.

 ***When are you happiest?***

My passion is performing arts. I train in acting, singing and dancing so being able to do that every day is when I'm happiest.

■ ***What does music mean to you?***

Music is a way to express myself. I especially love musical theatre because I can become someone completely different and tell a story through song and dance.

■ ***What drives you: ego or humility?***

Definitely humility. If there's one thing I've learnt is that to always be humble and grateful for any opportunities that come my way no matter how big or small.

■ ***Your heroes?***

When I was very young and first started singing, every day I would come home and sing to Taylor Swift so I kind of grew up admiring her and her determination to never give up and to see her become the international star she is today is so amazing.

■ ***What is your most treasured possession?***

My cat. I'm definitely a crazy cat lady. I even have cat slippers! :)



■ ***Dream gig to do?***

Perform on the West End at any of the theatres.

■ ***What makes you stand out?***

What surprises many people is the fact that I sing in many different genres. I grew up training classically so I am quite versatile when it comes to singing in different languages and styles like opera.

■ ***Nicknames?***

Haha! My name is long and it's not easy to find a nickname, we've tried.

▣ ***If you were not a musician, what would you do?***

I would go into business if I were not a musician.

▣ ***Pick five words to describe yourself?***

Humble, determined, caring, motivated, sensitive.

▣ ***What song changed your life?***

"Don't Rain on My Parade" by Barbara Streisand from the musical, *Funny Girl*. When I was 14, I auditioned to be part of the *Born To Perform* showcase at the Lyric Theatre in Johannesburg.

At that point, I knew I wanted to sing and I knew as soon as I stepped on that stage that music was what I wanted to pursue in my life.

▣ ***Favourite fashion garment?***

It's definitely not fashion, but I love sweatpants.



▣ ***Your greatest achievement?***

I've been fortunate enough to have had amazing opportunities so far.

When I was 15 I performed in *Supreme Divas* at the Joburg Theatre, alongside Tima Reece, Lelo Ramasimong, Elizca Coetzer and Tracey-Lee Oliver and it was an incredible experience that I will always remember.

I've also had the privilege to perform alongside Kurt Darren, Jonathan Roxmouth, Samantha Peo, the winner of *The Voice SA* season one Richard Stirton and *Idols* 2017 winner Paxton.

Two years ago, when I was 16, I made it to the semi-finals of *SA's Got Talent* where I placed third in my semi-final and, at the end of last year, I competed in Galleria's Got Talent in Kloof, Durban where I came first. I've never won a competition before so this was so exciting! And to make it even better the prize was a trip for two to Los Angeles!

I've also performed with the Johannesburg Youth Orchestra who are incredible musicians and ones that I'm always so happy to work with.

▣ ***What is your fear?***

I am so scared of dentists and I have to get sedated before I go into my appointment.

▣ ***On stage, I tend to?***

I use my hands a lot when I sing as a means of expression and it's become an inside joke that I can't my hands still when I sing.

▣ ***Where would you like to be right now?***

I'd like to be lying on the beach and not thinking about school; grade 12 is not fun.

▣ ***Do you do charity work and, if you do, what do you do?***

I've done charity work at the Husky Rescue centre, at baby homes and renovating underprivileged schools.

▣ ***Wishes and dreams?***

To be healthy and make a success out of what I am doing and be able to always put food on the table.

Social media links

Instagram: [Marianthe_Panas](#)

Facebook: [Marianthe](#)

Twitter: [@MariantheSA](#)

ABOUT MARTIN MYERS

Co-owner at Triple M Entertainment, founder Music Exchange, manager Sipho Hotstix Mabuse

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