MISSVOGUE

From Disney Actress To Celine-Wearing Popstar – Sabrina Carpenter Is Still On The Rise



hen Girl Meets World was cancelled after just three series in 2017, fans were disappointed that the Disney show's - which dealt with issues such as finance, growing pains and all that comes with being a young woman – legacy would disappear with it. But thanks to a cast headed up by Sabrina Carpenter and Rowan Blanchard, they've now entered the real world. These two young women are rewriting the rules on what it means to have come from the Disney launchpad.

In London promoting her new music, Sabrina explained to Miss Vogue how sometimes the pressure of being a "voice of a generation" and having over 14 million Instagram followers can have an impact. "When you word it like that, it sounds scary," she admits. "It's a privilege in a lot of ways and I strive to always post authentically about things that I'm passionate about. But also, I notice my fans are incredibly smart and witty. They really understand my humour, so I try not to take it so seriously."

At 19, Sabrina is about to release her third album. Singular she explains is about a growth in her own confidence. "I've been writing the record for the past two years and I really just started to get a greater understand of what I was capable of, which then gave me a different perspective," she explained. "I was in a conversation with someone who had listened to the record and they were like 'It's singularly Sabrina. Every song stands alone. It sounds like you. It doesn't sound like you're trying to be someone else but yourself.' And I truly believe that my personality comes through in this album. Each story is my own. I wrote the entire thing, so I just decided to call it Singular because I want it to embody that confidence of being able to kind of accomplish what you want on your own."

Before now, much of Sabrina's work had been led by the head honchos of Hollywood. She was a little cog in a large machine. The largest of them all: Disney, following in the footsteps of a big-name group that includes Britney Spears, Selena Gomez and Ryan Gosling.

"I can only look at it as a compliment when I'm compared to successful people, but it does sometimes feel like I'll be a Disney star until the day I die," she laughs. "The way I have to think about it is that everyone has their own paths. I will never have the same story and journey as them." A launch pad of talent, you might be fooled into thinking that a main role on a Disney show means an easy life from here on in. "I don't feel like it has held me back, but it has made me have to work a lot harder," Sabrina adds. "I think everyone has to work hard but in different ways and I think certain things that maybe come easy to other people have come less easy to me. Which happens in a lot of different ways in our society. You know? So, I look at it like, I'm still very grateful even though I've had hard times with certain situations. Without Disney it would have been a very different journey."

If her music isn't enough to persuade you she's moved on from her Disney days, let her wardrobe be the next thing. The rollcall of labels she's been spotted in recently couldn't read less Disney teen. Off-White is a favourite, Versace features regularly but there's also room for brands like Mary Katrantzou, Vivetta, Prada and Rodarte. (We know.) And then there was that red-carpet Celine moment. Phoebe Philos' Celine might have remained the toast of the fashion community, but it was rarely the choice of a Hollywood starlet.

"That was a month or two after I started working with a new stylist, Jason Boulden. And I specifically remember that fitting where there were a few other things on the rack and then there was the Celine dress I would have never picked up myself," she said. "He convinced me to try it on and it worked. It made me feel like a different woman. I think that was actually one of the first moments that I felt like I could take risks in a mature and classy way."

It's clear that her love of fashion extends beyond stage clothes and the red carpet. Today it's a vintage Chanel jacket and second-skin black jeans, vertiginous Louboutins and a glossy nude lip.

Developing a signature look, especially when it comes to her beauty regime has been part of Sabrina's life since she started acting. "I remember the first show that I did they wanted me to shave my eyebrows and I was 13. I firmly was like 'Please do not.' And when you're young in the industry you're treated like what do you know? And to ever disagree with someone in power is a moment. My beauty secret ever since has been to not touch my eyebrows."

The other essential in Sabrina's life? The perfect pillow. And lucky for her they exist in London. Soho Hotel to be precise, where she has even bought some from them for her own bedroom. However, it's not just these that makes London her favourite place to visit. It's the smorgasbord of clichés, classics and quirks that keeps her coming back, but it's no easy decision. "Well, Brazil's great. The food's awesome in Argentina. Japan has the best fans. So, it's really hard. To pick a favourite. I've been to a lot of beautiful places, but London is a special place."

Home for Sabrina could be anywhere. As long as she's surrounded by people making her laugh and not too far away from a great big stage. For most of us that sounds terrifying, but for Sabrina it's a safe space. A place that she is intimidated by? College campuses.

"My next-door neighbour that I grew up with in Philadelphia who is still one of my best friends is in college right now and I'm terrified to go stay with her. I just filmed a movie in Mexico for a month and we were staying in campus housing. I would go to the gym and there's college kids. I'd go to the pool and there's college kids. And I was like 'Oh my God. I know I am you but I'm also so afraid of you.' I will go stay with her eventually though."

Her hopes with her new album all relate back to the fan reaction. Of course, she'd like a number one and a gazillion streams, but Sabrina is clearly keen that those who've stuck by her find something in the music.

"I hope they feel a weight off of their shoulders. There's a lot more upbeat rhythms to it that I haven't really, necessarily explored before that made me want to scream at the top of my lungs to feel weightless and fearless," she explains. "I keep using confidence and I wish there was a better word for it. But I think the main thing is I didn't want to write songs about being confident. I just want you to hear that confidence embodied through the album, but also know that no one really knows what they're doing. You're going to have victories and you're going to have failures, but you can't get to the victories without the failures."