DUA LIPA

PRESS KIT
Blow Your Mind (Mwah) Has Officially Entered the Top 40 at U.S. Pop Radio

BRITs 2017 Critics’ Choice Award Nominee

203M single streams
2.2M single sales
151M video views

2nd biggest selling British female this year after Adele for single sales

Face of global cosmetics brand in 2017

BLOW YOUR MIND (MWAH)
50M+ streams
Emerging Artist of the Week - Billboard
#1 Billboard + Twitter Emerging Artist Chart
#1 and cover of Spotify’s New Music Friday all over the world

HOTTER THAN HELL
80M+ Global Spotify Streams
Platinum in Netherlands, Gold in Sweden, Denmark, and Ireland
Top 10 at iTunes UK, Shazam UK and UK National Radio Chart
Most played on BBC Radio 1 for 4 consecutive weeks
#1 Mover at Commercial UK Radio

BE THE ONE
88M+ YouTube views
63M+ streams
12 #1s Around the World
25 x iTunes top 10’s
Double Platinum in Australia, Platinum in Holland, Belgium and Italy

Dua has performed on some of the biggest TVs all over the world:

TODAY (US)
Jimmy Fallon (US)
Taratata (FR)
Le Grand Journal (FR)
HalliGalli (DE)
Schlag Den Star (DE)
RTL Late Night (Holland)
The Voice Final (Belgium)
Che Tempo Que Fa (Italy)
"...she will, undoubtably, win over American audiences. It only takes one viewing of a live performance by Lipa to understand why she's developed such a dedicated following...the girl looks like a Spice Girl, but has pipes like Amy Winehouse."

V Magazine

The singer performed a straight-up version of her house-tinged disco strutter "Hotter Than Hell," a top 20 hit in the U.K. that promises big things for her upcoming, self-titled debut album.

SPIN

"Donned in a black mesh get-up and thigh-high boots, the British singer gave a smoldering performance of the track. The 20-year-old swayed to the song’s infectious beat as she showed off her sultry vocal chops."

Idolator
Get to know DUA LIPA on NPR music’s new series Noteworthy

Watch Dua Lipa’s Noteworthy episode here.

Watch Dua Lipa Perform ‘Thinking 'Bout You’ On NPR’s Noteworthy Series here.
“No thermometer needed - the British newcomer’s tropical-house thumper is pure fire for the season”
Entertainment Weekly

“It oozes desire and temptation, a forbidden apple to send the ignorant crashing to earth before Dua Lipa engulfs them in her flames”
Vulture

“From the fiery, confident themes to the intense house beats, “Hotter Than Hell” is already a top contender for song of the summer.”
Fuse

“’Hotter Than Hell’ Is One Of 2016’s Brightest Shining Pop Moments”
SPIN

“It’s true: Dua Lipa’s new single ”Hotter Than Hell” is a total banger. Now, the track gets a video, and it’s every bit as moody and infectious as the song itself.”
Idolator

“...a record that is perfectly positioned to heat up dance floors across the country”
Complex

“a soaring anthem anchored by Lipa’s smoky vocals”
Cosmopolitan
"If you don't already know Dua Lipa's name...now's the time to learn it"

Cosmopolitan

"The 20-year-old London-born Kosovan comes off like a mini-Rihanna: ballsy, beautiful, and possessing a voice that's powerful one minute and magnetically vulnerable the next"

Noisey

"Elegant pop superstar-in-waiting"

Time

"Songstress Dua Lipa is about to become the music industry's newest obsession..."

Marie Claire

"Dua Lipa's unconventional beats are about to take over the dance floor"

Elle

"Our new musical obsession"

Nylon

"This is all about the 19-year-old's killer vocal runs and that mellismatic chorus that lassos your brain"

Idolator

"It's all carefully arranged to service the track's most crucial asset: the London up-start's humungous voice"

Fader

"UK pop's next big obsession"

Q

"She's both girl next door and a rebel heart"

Notion

"A voice like melted caramel with the power of Adele Behind it"

InStyle UK
DUA LIPA
SIX TRACKS AVAILABLE NOW AT ALL DSPs

BLOW YOUR MIND (MWAH)
“...packs an embarrassment of riches; just after she concludes the main hook by blowing one last kiss, she slides right into a B-chorus that’s just as catchy as the main event.”
Entertainment Weekly

BRITS 2017 CRITICS’ CHOICE NOMINEE
Dua was nominated for the BRITs 2017 Critics’ Choice Award and performed two songs at Abbey Road Studios. Watch “Blow Your Mind (Mwah)” Here and “Be The One” Here.

BE THE ONE STARRING ANSEL ELGORT
“The new video features Hollywood actor, Ansel Elgort (The Fault In Our Stars, Divergent) who stars as Lipa’s love interest in a series of flashback scenes while Lipa drives a car covered in LED lights down an empty motorway belting out the dark and seductive anthem..”
Clash Magazine

HOTTER THAN HELL
“From the fiery, confident themes to the intense house beats, “Hotter Than Hell” is already a top contender for song of the summer.”
Fuse
ROOM FOR 2
Directed by Hunger’s creative director Vicky Lawton, the video sees Dua trapped in a sparse interrogation room, and fuses CCTV footage with relentless editing which, paired with Dua’s siren-like vocals, creates an audio-visual experience befitting one of pop music’s most enigmatic young talents.
Hunger

LAST DANCE
“‘Last Dance’ highlights the British beauty’s strong, sultry vocals, along with her savvy song-writing skills (she penned the song with Talay Riley). Be sure to keep watch on this one.”
V Magazine

BE THE ONE
“It’s an earworm about deep promises, filled with love and light, and it doesn’t disappoint as a followup to her debut single ‘New Love’.”
Fader - 10 Songs You Need In Your Life This Week

NEW LOVE
“...the song’s hypnotic, island-style pulse abruptly, wonderfully pulls back to a slow-jam beat, allowing the underlying power of Lipa’s voice to take the lead in her demand for a more committed kind of love.”
Elle
CONNECT WITH

DUALIPA

340+k views

116+k followers

150+m Views

460+k

180+m
NYLON
Dua Lipa Is Pop's New Hip-Hop Fusion Bird

There's no denying the future for Dua Lipa is bright. Prepare to be blinded by it.

FADE
34 People That Perfectly Capture How Historic The FADER FORT Was This Year

COMPLEX
Artists to Watch at SXSW 2016 Playlist

SPIN
SXSW 2016: The Five Best Things We Saw on Day Three

"Every year in Austin, there's at least a handful of relatively as-yet unknown artists who make their mark on the crowds and go on to bigger things. This year's most likely candidate for the slot is Britain's own Dua Lipa, a 21-year-old pop star with a huge, huge voice."

VOGUE
Alexander Wang and Hot Sauce! How Dua Lipa Took South by Southwest in Style

SXSW 2016 Late-Night Dispatches: Friday

"Dua Lipa hypnotized at her Hype Hotel show on Friday."
Every facet of Dua Lipa’s music - the way she pulls from contemporary hip-hop, classic soul and pop and reshapes them into her own crimson sound - accentuates the visual world that’s naturally building around her. Planet Dua is a mosaic of styles, guided by her magnetic tendency to pull in eclectic influences around her and sculpt them into her own creations. It’s reflected in her fashion and visuals, a haute gypsy amalgam of studded custom leather jackets, dazzling lens flare, long pale dresses, dusky florals, and dreamlike aesthetics. It’s a picture of thrifty youth.

London-born Dua always knew she wanted to be a singer. With her father, also a musician, as primary influence, Dua’s musical upbringing was one of wild contrasts; she listened to Destiny’s Child, hip-hop, Tupac and Biggie, while her dad nurtured her with Bob Dylan and David Bowie. The hefty presence of rock, r’n’b, pop and rap quickly became telling factors, and a young Dua was soon singing with students twice her age at The Sylvia Young Theatre School. At the age of thirteen, Dua’s family moved back to Kosovo, but she longed to be back in London, singing and being surrounded by others who wanted to do the same. Two years later, she convinced her parents to let her move back alone, staying with friends and heading straight back to Sylvia Young. The craziness of trying to make music work at the same time as leading an anarchic, independent adolescent life ended up becoming both a gift and a burden for her writing sessions.

She worked everywhere, from shops to restaurant hostessing to nightclub doors to modeling, and the dramas of every night became something that she wanted to write about. Now at the age of 19, Dua’s deep, smoky voice and rhythmic flow has taken her into studios in London, LA, Stockholm, New York and Toronto, and into sessions with Emile Haynie (Lana Del Rey, FKA Twigs) and Andrew Wyatt (Miike Snow, Charli XCX). The adventure itself has become an inspiration, and her sound has become the pure, impressionable and passionate sound of a London-raised girl consuming the world first hand and then expressing it in her own flavor.
287 BRILLIANT BUYS

MORE DASH THAN CASH

TREND UPDATE
Party-starting looks & front-row footwear

DUA LIPA
Meet pop's new diva

CLEVER SHOPPING AT SMART PRICES
Sitting pretty:
off-duty neutrals
demand a candy hit.
Sugar-pink boots add
fizz to proceedings
Silk top, $145. Topshop
Zara. Faux-leather boots,
Gold-plated earrings, £123.
Multiband ring, £84. Both
Maya Magal, at Harvey
Nichols. Black marble ring,
£20. Whistles. Pinky ring,
£5. H&M. Hair: Philippe
Tholot. Make-ups: Lucy
Set design: William Farr.
Digital artwork: Janvier Paris

Hear my SONG

At 22, singer Dua Lipa has
the fierce focus and first-rate
voice to steal the pop
crown, says Ellie Pithers

Photographed by Laurence Ellis
Styled by Julia Brenard
Fashion's Nineties fixation shows no sign of waning: urban proportions and old-school layering make this Warehouse combination a prized buy.


Frill seeker:
sweeten an autumn sweater dress with a hint of girlish ruffle at the collar.

pop has a habit of recycling its stars. For Shirley Bassey, read Adele; for Kate Bush, Florence Welch. Lula has largely been recast as Pixie Lott. But what about Dua Lipa, newly minted purveyor of “dark pop,” as she describes her music? “I love Pink and Nelly Furtado – the honesty and truth in their lyrics. I also love Kendrick Lamar and Chance the Rapper. I wanted to try to put those two influences together in my music: descriptive, dark lyrics, with the raw elements of hip-hop in the verses, going into a poppy chorus. So it becomes pop with a twist, that element that nobody else has,” she says earnestly, before dissolving into a throaty laugh. “At least, I’d like to think so."

She knows so. But the odd episode of self-deprecation, Lipa is on a course to prove there’s no pop star quite like her. When we met on the Vogue cover shoot, the 22-year-old is fresh off a plane from Helsinki, having spent the last week playing shows in Kosovo, Albania, Sweden and Finland in support of her breakout hit “Be the One” and summer banger “Hotter than Hell.” Tomorrow, she will fly to New York to record a radio show. “It’s nice to get everything going in America. Everything’s been so UK- and Europe-based.” She pauses, before giggling again, revealing a set of perfect pearly teeth, “Sounds so weird to say that.”

Lipa is focused, make no mistake. Polite, well-spoken, highly poised, on set she is the consummate professional; she gamely balances a piece of acetate on her head for almost an hour at the photographer’s request to get the requisite moody effect. Between shots she posts a teasing selfie on Instagram (300,000 followers and counting) and checks her emails for updates on the imagery for her debut album, shot by Rankin. She tells me how, at the eleventh hour, she has just pushed back the release of said self-titled album from September to next February, because she didn’t feel ready. “I wanted to put more work into it,” she explains. “I really wanted to put the album out with a bang – do a proper tour, be fully prepared, take it to the next level.”

Her self-possession most likely comes from having spent the latter part of her teenage years unsupervised. Born and raised in London, she moved to her parents’ homeland of Kosovo aged 11, before persuading them to let her return to Britain at 15 to pursue her musical ambitions. She moved into a flat with a family friend in Kilburn and attended the Sylvia Young Theatre School at weekends – it was a formative experience that eradicated the childhood disappointment of being denied entry to the school choir because of her deep, resonant voice. “It was a huge learning curve,” she says, “but I was having the best time.”

Before long she was posting demos on YouTube and gaining a social-media following (alongside waiting tables at Soho’s La Bodegga Negra). The first song she wrote was “Hotter than Hell” – a catchy floor-filler that was well-received when she performed it recently on The Tonight Show to a late-night audience of millions. Her parents accompanied her on the trip to the States – their first. “They think it’s pretty crazy, but they come travelling with me when they can. As much as they wanted me to go to uni, they’ve always been very supportive,” says Lipa. “And you have no idea how excited my mum is about this shoot.”

On that note: a word on Lipa’s finely honed style. “I’m heavily influenced by the Nineties – I love juxtaposing a slip dress with trainers and a vintage leather jacket,” she says. A fan of Marques Almeida and Palace skatewear, as the sun sets in Dalston she looks every inch the off-beat popstar in marabou-trim heels, a frilly MSGM top and Topshop jeans – “with the cut that looks like the Vetements one. Bargain.” Her on-stage persona is more risqué. “For Glastonbury I wore a white leotard with black bees on it, with a long pink mac and chunky boots. That was fun.”

Will success go to her head? “My life is still super-normal. I still have the same group of friends, my family keep me grounded.” Last week in Kosovo she played a gig to 18,000. The ticket sales will go directly to a charity she has co-founded, the Sunny Hill Foundation, aiming to support young people living in Pristina. “I’d like to help as much as I can and this is just the beginning,” she says. “The Kosovo show was pretty special. But I don’t have, like, micro-plugs in my ride or anything, I’m keeping it pretty real.”
Sporting casuals have new mileage when teamed with Mango’s supercharged sequins.

DUA LIPA'S HOT POP EMPOWERMENT

Singer Dua Lipa still remembers being a young girl and discovering pop stars like Nelly Furtado and Pink: “Oh, my God,” she recalls thinking. “I want to be just like them!” Now she’s on her way. Lipa’s first hit, the post-breakup F.U. “Hotter Than Hell,” has drawn comparisons to Lana Del Rey, setting the table for a debut LP next year. Lipa, 21, was born in London and spent part of her childhood in her parents’ native Kosovo, where her dad fronted a rock band. After moving back to London at 15, she briefly did some modeling but quit after being told she had to lose weight. “You have to love yourself,” she says. “Fuck you to anyone who wants you to change.”

B.S.
DUA LIPA
IS FIGHTING TO “BE THE ONE”
BY LAURA MORGAN
PHOTOS BY WILSON LEE

It's not easy being a fiercely-independent young artist hell-bent on starting her own pop revolution. But Dua Lipa is here — and she's ready to take on the doubters.

Her story begins in London where, as a bushy-tailed elementary schooler, she auditioned for the choir. "The music teacher played the highest note, and when I tried to hit it, nothing came out — just air," she recalls, with a hint of lingering mortification. "I never got a part. I didn't have the jazz hands."

Fast forward a decade, give or take, and Lipa is an empowering case study in vindication. Rather than roll up like a burrito — more on Mexican food later — the 20-year-old Kosovan-cum-Londoner is about to go from head scratcher (Who — what — is a Dua Lipa?!?) to household name. Her fiery single, "Be the One," has racked up over 72 million views on YouTube since its release in October 2015, while her latest, "Hotter Than Hell," is already at 13 million (and counting). With a proper debut album expected this February, the world is about to find out just how far the singer's distinctively husky voice and take-no-guff attitude will propel her. (Let's just say it would be ill-advised to bet against her.)

Lipa, the daughter of a Kosovan rock singer father and a mother who worked in tourism, has always bet on herself. Reared on a concoction of Dylan (thanks, Dad) and Destiny's Child, her vision was never limited by genres — or borders. Born and bred in London where she attended the prestigious Sylvia Young Theatre School (like Adele and Amy Winehouse before her), Lipa's parents moved back to Pristina, in their native country, when she was 13. And while she's proud of her heritage (the "Sunny Hill" neighborhood where mom and dad grew up is inked on her arm), it soon became clear that the country wasn't big enough for her ambitions. She didn't want to be a Kosovan star — she wanted to be a megastar. While most world domination-courting teens might sullenly wait it out in their bedrooms, Lipa lobbied — insisted — that she go back to the U.K. And so she did. Alone. At 15.

If that sounds insane, Lipa and her wiser-than-her-years ways was ready for it — mostly. "I'm not sure I really understood what it would be like doing my own dishes, my own laundry. It got pretty bad," she says, recalling the Camden crash pad she shared with theater school friends. She subsisted on modeling jobs ("It was just extra cash for me," she shrugs) and crappy side gigs, all the while working on her music.

"I was a hostess at a Mexican restaurant — and I don't even like Mexican food," she says. "Everyone was drunk and would spill shit all over me all the time."

Nevertheless, she'd stick it out until 2:00 a.m. and then get up by 8:00 a.m. so she could post new cover songs online. "I just
kept on pushing because I was like, ‘I don’t want to be a hostess for the rest of my life.’ I was trying to get out of those jobs and get to where I wanted to be.”

That's her sitting here on a sunny summer afternoon in the swanky Soho Grand Hotel in New York City is a testament to her tenacity. Her "Home Alone" London years are the origin story she'll be able to tell Barbara Walters one day — or the Barbara Walters-like virtual reality robot that will surely take her place. "I f**king love New York so much," says the singer — who didn't get to see much of it this trip. (She pretty much struggled with a broken suitcase and squeezed in one decent Italian dinner between events on her packed promotional schedule). In a half hour, she'll be whisked away to the airport where she'll jet off to Europe to perform at massive, funny-named festivals like Pukkelpop in Belgium. Her life these days consists of hotel rooms, hired cars, recording studios and airports — rinse, repeat, rinse, repeat, rinse, repeat — and she wouldn't have it any other way.

Lipa is, after all, following in the footsteps of her idols — Beyoncé, Nelly Furtado, Pink — the independent women who stared down the music industry's limitations, subverted them and spit them back out. There's inspiration to be found in her songs, to be sure, but not of the shallow platitudes variety. Her insights feel hard-earned, and even a little dangerous: "I’m the realest it gets/You probably still adore me/With my hands around your neck," sings Lipa on “Hotter Than Hell,” her anthemic ode to sexual one-up-(wo)manship.

"Sex is completely natural — it shouldn't be something we're afraid to speak about, especially as females," she says. "We've shied away from so many things, because it was a man's world. But it's not. That doesn't exist anymore."

Beneath Lipa's bravado is a vulnerability that sets her apart from those run-of-the-mill chart toppers that feel more like focus group-tested products than authentic provocateurs. She still gets stomach-churning nervous before hitting the stage, is enough of a kid to collect packs of fruity-flavored chewing gum in every city she visits, and actually cares what strangers think of her. "Things that people say online can be hurtful. And sometimes, I take some things to heart," admits Lipa, who claims over 300,000 followers on Instagram and makes a point to personally interact with her fans.

"Usually, I say, ‘Okay, I'm going to take that criticism and find something constructive in it. I'm going to make that person think otherwise.”

As her battle with her shortsighted elementary school music teacher demonstrates, she's had that fight in her since day one. But she's suffered the occasional kick in the gut. "I've had my ups and downs with body confidence. When I was younger, I was told I had to lose a lot of weight in order to succeed in modeling," Lipa says, glancing downward at her fingers, which are tattooed with happy, squiggly, Keith Haring figures. "I didn't know that not everyone was supposed to look a certain way. Growing up, I wish more artists I admired had spoken about loving yourself for who you are and not trying to fit into what other people want you to be."

Now, Lipa has the chance to be that inspiration to her fans. She believes things are getting better for women in the music industry — is it still obligatory to salivate over how pretty a female artist is and dissect her outfit in a magazine article? — and she knows what she has to offer. "I don't want to be known for my looks, I want to be known for my voice," she says firmly. "That's what's important to me. That is my best feature."

Meanwhile, her new music is shaping up to be more raw, more revealing and more relatable than anything she's ever done before. "I try to be a 100% open book," says the singer, who shares management with Lana Del Rey and a publicist with Adele — and the expectations that go with it. "The running theme is that we all go through the same things. We all have stuff that we're scared to talk about or have trouble letting go of," she says.

"Writing is giving me the opportunity to grow into the liberated person that I want to be — the person that speaks without a filter," she adds. No pressure — only the whole wide world is waiting.
LISTEN TO...

DUA LIPA

Hailing from the UK via Kosovo, this disco-pop diva lands stateside with a self-titled debut and bumpers like “Hotter Than Hell.”

THE NAME GAME  “Dua Lipa is my real name. Everybody actually pushed me to keep it. I thought about leaving it as just Dua, but I love that it’s my full name. It’s pretty surreal when I hear people say it on the radio because it’s not made up.”

FAVE EMOJI  “The unicorn. It could mean I’m excited, here’s a sparkly unicorn or just Hey! There are so many things you can do with a unicorn.”

IN THE WRITE MIND  “I wrote a lot of essays and poetry in school, but I never knew how to write a song. It wasn’t until I started doing covers, sending them out to people, and having a few of them reply that I started really learning the structure and bones of songwriting.”

HIDDEN TALENT  “My go-to karaoke song is ‘Look at Me Now.’ I don’t like rapping my own songs, but I do like to rap. I’m good at it if I’ve got the lyrics onscreen. Maybe I could have another career as a karaoke rapper.” —SERGIO KLETNOY
Dua Lipa's unconventional beats are about to take over the dance floor.
By Bobby Olivier

UK native Dua Lipa is a totally unpredictable singer-songwriter—and that's a great thing. Her first single, the bounding groove “New Love”—which riled the “Who is this girl?” music blog chatter over the summer—zigs where today's dance pop typically zags. Rather than descend into a bass-anchored, thumping chorus, the song's hypnotic, island-style pulse abruptly, wonderfully pulls back to a slow-jam beat, allowing the underlying power of Lipa's voice to take the lead in her demand for a more committed kind of love. On her latest single, “Be the One,” the 20-year-old's rich, sultry tone is equally evocative, pleading for romantic redemption as it plays off a crisp, pop patter.

“When I showed ‘New Love’ to people, they’d say, ‘Oh, I didn't expect that,’” says Lipa, who moved to her parents' native Kosovo at age 8, only to return to London at 15—alone—to find herself creatively. “I loved that reaction,” she continues, “so I went with it.” The rest of her spring EP marries Lipa's childhood pop heroes—Fleet, Destiny's Child, Christina Aguilera—with a recent hip-hop obsession and a flare of deep disco. While her sound is mature, her lyrics are flooded with a vulnerability sprung from love's desperate, longing moments. After all, she's still young enough to be navigating the same emotions as the fans she hopes to inspire. “I just want to perform while people sing my songs with me. That's the feeling I want to have.”
@Play

NEXT BIG THING

Read Her Lips

Listen up: Songstress Dua Lipa is about to become the music industry’s newest obsession with the release of her single “Last Dance” by Andrew Micalet.

What do you think?

Starry-eyed newcomer Dua Lipa, 20, is looking down a gravelly dip in Los Angeles’ Runyon Canyon. Behind her looms the Hollywood Hills, which also happen to provide the backdrop for her first-ever music video “New Love.” The trippy four minutes play out like the dreamy Snapchats of a younger Lulu Del Rey—if you know, Del Rey didn’t take life so damn seriously. Lipa lights cigarettes with birthday candles, gets impromptu (and real) tattoos, and swigs a jug of milk while wandering around a supermarket in a silk kimono.

“Yes, it was,” she admits, navigating a narrow corner. For a moment, she loses her balance. “I nearly fell on a cactus!” she calls out from ahead. I scramble to catch up.

On the outside, Lipa has that whatever-is-clever vibe that appeals to L.A.-born cool kids. Past is, her first stretch of time in the city was just over a year ago when she began recording her debut album, dropping this summer and full of catchy, carefree anthems sung with a sultry-sweet attitude. She grew up toggling between her family’s home in war-torn Kosovo and the UK. One of her earliest music memories was discovering Nelly Furtado, whom she cites as an idol, at age 6. (Her music tastes had evolved by 10: “I was so into G-Unit.”) At 15, when most kids are planning curfew-breaking schemes, Lipa was living on her own in a London apartment and attending music school.

Terrifying, right? “No, I was really excited. I could chill with my friends whenever,” she says.

Things that faze Lipa: that first moment on stage, meeting ASAP Rocky, how Darwinian the music industry can be. Things that don’t: dealing with laundry and landlords—she’s been doing that since before she was even old enough to drive.

A move like that so young inspires big things, like pole—which she has in spades—and small things, like when we reach a fork in the trail and, while I stand there scratching my head, she decisively veers us right. The trail, of course, leads us to the vista we’ve been chasing: the vast spectacle of Los Angeles unfolding below us.

Lipa asks a man nearby to take our photo, and his slack-jawed reaction says it all. She is staring in that “Victoria’s Secret Angel off-duty” kind of way. That’s why it’s no surprise to learn that she worked as a professional model for a hot second after being scouted at a Topshop in London’s East End. But her motivations were a little utilitarian. “I did it so I could meet people in music,” she says. “Then they told me to lose weight, and I was like, ‘No. I don’t care. I love eating too much.’”

The man snaps some pictures with our phones. Lipa thanks him, and we head back the way we came. Along the way, she grubs about a Jean-Michel Basquiat biography, bomber jackets, and, again, Furtado.

Later, I scroll through my camera roll. It’s us in various poses, mugyng and grimacing. In the last, her face is tilted toward the sun and her left arm is spread out to the sky, like a bird. Like she might fly away.
Following a show in Finland, Dua Lipa has just landed back in London for a precious two days in her hometown and the rare chance to sleep in her own bed. A quick scroll through her Instagram reveals that in the last few weeks she's been in Australia, America and across most of Europe, so it's little surprise that two days at home is a treat.

Life on the road is something that the 21-year-old singer has had to get used to though; this year her feet have barely touched the ground. And while she may be everyone's hot tip for pop stardom in 2017, Dua is no overnight success story - she has been honing her craft since she was a teenager.

Dua was born in London to Albanian Kosovan parents. When she was 11 the family moved back to Kosovo, but at the age of 15 she made the move back to the big smoke, solo. "I was singing in school in Kosovo, and it was always something that I wanted to do, but I felt like the only way I could do anything on a more global scale was if I went back to London," she says. "There just weren't enough opportunities in Kosovo." Several years of balancing school with retail jobs and posting YouTube covers later, she wound up scoring a record deal with Warner and sharing a management team with Lana Del Rey - and yes, the comparisons are tired now. Singles "New Love", "Be The One" and "Last Dance" followed, all characterised by Dua's whisky-tinged voice, but it was breakthrough banger "Hotter than Hell" that cracked the UK Top 20 this summer. And with an album on the horizon at the beginning of next year, it's a good thing that Dua's biggest fear is "not being busy", because trust us, that isn't happening any time soon.

Hunger Dua, you've been on tour for a large part of this year, what's been the biggest change to your life in this time?
Dua Lipa: The main one is that my flat in London has just become an expensive storage space because I'm never in it! It's insane though, my whole life I've been dreaming about having this kind of summer. Instead of going to the festivals and watching the artists, now I'm the one up on the stage. Sometimes it's nice to sleep in your own bed, but I'm so happy to be doing this as a job that when I don't get as much time at home I don't really mind.

Does it take it toll on your relationships?
Yeah, it does a bit. I don't get to see my friends as much as I'd like to and my boyfriend and I just try and figure it out. He comes out on tour whenever he can and we find fun things to do together when we are in the same place. But I'm just going with it for now. It does take its toll, but no matter how tired I am, when I get onstage it all makes sense to me. I love the feeling I get - seeing people sing my songs back to me is mind-blowing!

When did you first fall in love with music?
My father is a musician from Kosovo, so I've always grown up around music at home. Whether that's my dad's own songs or Sting, David Bowie, Stereophonics. But the first albums that I fell in love with were Whee, Nelly by Nelly Furtado and Atmendelad by Pink when I was about six. They were significant parts of my life, and I still reference them when I go into the studio now. They hold special meaning for me; they were the first albums that I really knew by heart.

In the beginning I really only liked them because they were fun to sing along to, but as I got older I started to go back and listen to the lyrics, and they started having more relevance to my life. I always wanted to be just like them when I grew up! It was still pop music, but there was a badass twist to it - they weren't afraid to speak the truth and that had a big influence.

How difficult was it for your parents letting you move back to London on your own at 15?
In the beginning my mum wanted to come with me, but I convinced her that I could do this on my own. Instead they found someone for me to live with - a girl they knew from Kosovo who was doing her master's in London - which made them
feel more at ease. But she didn't really give a fuck about what I was doing at all. Sometimes when I felt like I really needed someone to talk to she literally didn't care. The only time she did care was when she went into my messy room while I was at school and took pictures and sent them to my mom to show me up. Who does that? It was such a bitchy thing to do. After that I moved in with friends from Sylvia Young Theatre School.

That sense of being forced to grow up fast?
When I realized that no one was going to tidy up after me or clean my clothes, that was when I thought, "Shit, I'm really on my own here!" I figured it out and, when I learnt how to do the cooking, cleaning and work the washing machine, it hit me that I could try and do music on my own too. I went out, met loads of people, made friends and started posting covers online and sending them to people that I wanted to work with.

Did living on your own develop any teenage rebellion?
I tried to be as good as I could so I could make my parents wouldn't worry, but there were times when I told them I was going to bed and then I'd go out partying with a fake ID. So many weird things happen in London that being around nightlife at a young age can sometimes feel a bit dark and sinister, but I could always hold my own.

Do you think that entering the industry young has made you more mature or occur as well?
Yeah, I think it comes through in the music. There's a childish confidence sometimes that comes across in some of my songs and I think that's completely to blame on the fact that I've lived on my own for so long. I built that confidence by only having to answer to myself. It's a no-fuss, no-given attitude, but so many people have come up to me and said "Oh, I'm so happy that you're so happy with your music now," and I'm like, "I'm not happy!"

Do you worry about being misrepresented?
No, I feel like both sides of my personality comes across. There's an attitude that comes out in the music, and then there's the more intimate side that I don't put out there. I think it comes across in this kind of "I can do what I like" attitude.

Do you think that being in love changes how you make music?
Yeah, I do. I think that when you're in a happy and stable relationship you end up writing things that actually aren't really about love. For me, all the relationship stories that I've sung about so far have been when I was unhappy or when it was someone that didn't make me feel good. That's where my inspiration came from, but now I'm in a relationship that I've started singing about being happy or missing someone. Sometimes it helps to pick a fight because it's good for the writing process.

Dua Lipa's debut album is out in February.
Watch the music video at hupeтвер.com.

"There's a childish confidence that comes across in some of my songs. I built that confidence by only having to answer to myself."

You have a strong image too, do you think that your image and fashion goes hand in hand with music?
Yeah, I've always loved dressing up and expressing myself through clothes. Even at school I always wanted to be a bit different - I like to stand out. Now I get to express myself on stage and different outfits inspire different characters. Juxtaposition is something that I love. It goes for my genre of music and it's something that I think about in fashion too. I could be dressed up as a tomboy but then wearing fluffy heels or wearing a leather jacket with a slip dress.

How will you deal with being labelled a sex symbol if it comes up?
I don't think it's something that has come up yet because I feel like I've got such a baby face that even if I wear a mini skirt it's not overly sexy. I never wear anything that makes me think "oh, fuck, why did I wear that when I get up onstage?" I have to be comfortable in myself. It's empowering for a woman to feel sexy and want to be seen that way, but I don't feel like I've been described as that.

Your fans have described your music as empowering too - is that something you want?
Yes, absolutely. I would love people to feel empowered by my music. I think it's important for me too. When I wrote "Hotter than Hell" it was a time when I'd come out of a really crappy relationship with someone that made me feel like I wasn't good enough, and I wrote that song with a false sense of confidence. It was therapeutic and made me feel better about myself at the time. I made it seem like I had the upper-hand in that relationship. It helped me to feel empowered and even if it doesn't have the same meaning to my fans as it does to me, I think it's important to be able to support your listeners, or at the very least to create an escape route.

Do you think that being in love changes how you make music?
Yeah, I do. I think that when you're in a happy and stable relationship you end up writing things that actually aren't really about love. For me, all the relationship stories that I've sung about so far have been when I was unhappy or when it was someone that didn't make me feel good. That's where my inspiration came from, but now I'm in a relationship that I've started singing about being happy or missing someone. Sometimes it helps to pick a fight because it's good for the writing process.

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You describe your music as dark pop, where does the dark element come from?
I'm a big fan of hip-hop. I love J. Cole, Kendrick Lamar, Chance the Rapper - but the one thing that I've always loved about their music is the rawness and honesty of it. On J. Cole's last album there's that track "Wet Dreams" in which he opens up and sings about losing his virginity in a really no-filter, descriptive way. Most of my inspiration comes from sadness because it's the emotion that sticks in the back of my mind and the easiest way to get things out is through music. Sometimes I'll go into the studio in a great mood and want to write a happy song, but there will always end up being some kind of twist!

Where does the pressure come from for you?
Pressure is a tough word because there are so many ups and downs. I have so many highs doing what I'm doing, but the crashes are never fun. I want to make sure that every time I perform I'm giving one hundred percent. I want to make sure that everybody leaves with a good impression. I've felt the pressure working on the album recently. I thought that I'd be ready to release it in September, but we've moved it because I felt like everything that I've written up to this point was about what has happened previously, but now there's so much going on that I feel like the album needs some element of the current me. I'm going back to LA in September to finish the album, and there is definitely pressure there because after that there's no going back. You only get one chance at making a debut album. It has to be worth the wait.

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You are wearing too open
I try and give away as much as I can but it naturally happens that you hold a few things back. But that's okay because there are still more songs to be written!
IN her early teens, Dua Lipa had a setback: she was snubbed by the school choir. "My teacher said I couldn't sing. I was heartbroken," says the 21-year-old. Shows what they knew. Today, the British model-turned-singer has a BBC Music Sound Of 2016 nomination in her name, a better in the charts ("Hotter Than Hell") and racked up around 70 million YouTube views for her 2015 hit, "Be The One.

Darker, more smoky than a voice and fresh of sound (she gives old school rap and pop a tenebrous twist), it's no wonder Lipa is grabbing attention. "I love the darkness rap gives, but I want there to be a pop chorus so people can dance," she says. "It's like Jay-Z meets J. Cole," crossed with Nelly Furtado.

Lipa's debut album, out this autumn, will be a "lucky dip in the memory box", playing out mini-narratives about love and heartbreak. "I want to be as truthful as possible," she says. "The club shit can come later."

Eleanor Hall
Dua Lipa

A pro-European pop relationship we can really get behind

DUA LIPA ISN'T A household name, but if she has it her way that state of affairs won't last much longer. The one-time model and actress turns 21 in August and, having answered her calling as a musician, is poised to become a dangerously exciting pop star.

Born in London to Kosovar-Albanian parents, Lipa relocated to Kosovo with them in 2008, but returned to the UK solo two years later. Aged 15 and looking to kick-start a music career, she began uploading covers of Nelly Furtado and Pink tunes to YouTube. Next thing you know she's been scouted and signed by Lana Del Rey’s people.

Comparisons between the pair followed. They both have darker-than-average vocals, but if Del Rey's music is made for self-pitying on California's Venice Beach, Lipa's is built to be spilling out of tents and clubs across Europe.

Last year's trippy, soul-tinged ballad 'New Love' made heads turn, but it was the release of Euro-pop banger 'Be The One' in October that got people all giddy and it shot to the top of the charts in Belgium and Poland. Her follow-up – playful R&B-house belter 'Hotter Than Hell' – was even bigger and landed in the UK Top 20.

A debut album is due at the end of this year with, as she told Spin earlier this month, 160 tracks written for it over two years of recording sessions. They've been whittled down and it's ready to blow. This year, it seems, is Dua Lipa's for the taking.

Thomas Smith

“Dua Lipa is poised to become a dangerously exciting pop star”

FOR FANS OF

Katy Perry
Charli XCX

Best Track

'Hotter Than Hell'
A sultry and steamy pop scorcher fit for the devil's disco.
Beyoncé, Rihanna, Adele, Taylor, FKA twigs... the list of solo female artists dominating the charts is formidable. Their record sales and social followings are in the millions, and their hits are the soundtrack to our Saturday nights. The music industry as a whole contributes over £4.1bn to the UK economy* and new streaming services from Apple Music, as well as Spotify and Tidal, mean artists are garnering the power to reach more people than ever before. In short: music has never mattered more. That’s why ELLE is bringing you a regular round-up of the hottest new artists and the latest releases, alongside daily music news and playlists on elleuk.com. So you’re the first to know about new music, we’ve launched a series of exclusive performances hosted at Tate Britain that you can watch online (check out singer-songwriter Rosie Lowe’s intimate sessions now). The women celebrated in these pages cross genres from R&B to indie, and are about to shake up the charts like never before.
DUA LIPA
This Londoner, 19, is firmly in a new music genre: 'Dark pop'. It's a mixture of hip-hop and pop with influences from all the music she grew up around from Tupac, to Bob Dylan, to David Bowie. Her hypnotic choruses, husky vocals and that sultry look have landed her a spot on the BBC Music Sound Of 2016 shortlist. She's working with some of the biggest names in the game, including producer Emile Haynie (Lana Del Rey, FKA twigs), so we know she's going to be major.

FILE NEXT TO Charli XCX, Iggy Azalea
STANDOUT TRACK Be The One
LISTEN TO On a Saturday night with a large campari and soda

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW
1 She's lived on her own since she was 15. I was born and raised in London, but my parents are from Kosovo. They went back when I was 15, so I lived with my friends. It was fun, and I became independent but the cooking and cleaning was a nightmare.

2 Songwriting is like therapy for her. You get put into a room with a producer and you have to open up about everything. I've cried and told my deepest, darkest secrets. But I hope it means everyone can relate to the songs.

3 She has five tattoos. They're all by one artist in Los Angeles called Sean From Texas. One is the name of the neighborhood my parents grew up in while in Kosovo, and I got a palm tree after I'd been in LA for a month.

4 She's an excellent spell. It's one of my hidden talents. I can spell pterodactyl without looking it up. It really comes in handy for texting.

5 Life is split between LA and London. I've been travelling between the two to write my album, as well as New York and Toronto. It took me a while to warm to LA - I still don't get the whole you can't walk anywhere thing, and my Uber bill is huge, but I can't complain about the weather.

Dua's debut album Be The One is out later this year.
**Her single Hotter Than Hell is a chart hit and Dua Lipa is lapping up the love, she tells David Smyth**

The weather is on song as it rampantly throughs below for an appearance with Dua Lipa. It really is hotter than hell.

We've probably had the 20-year-old's song of the name. Hotter Than Hell has a steady wave delivered in her smoky, low voice, where it paints a picture of a young woman's feelings for her man.

Dua Lipa's 15th week number one, One Dance. When we meet, though, Dua is far from frustrated, more excited that she's about to be on the latest New Times: What I Call Music compilation. Number 46. She's looking forward to her date night with her mum to buy her a new album in Woodside's as a kid.

"The charts are a bit stuck but to be honest I didn't expect to go as high as I did," she told me, "I'm just on the map. To be heard as a new artist is everything. "I'm really excited. I set myself up for the next single and I'm ready to go again.

For this is a singer with a long term plan, one conceived in primary school age when the Camden girl would spend her Saturday mornings trawling the Stevie Young Theatre School to sing. While she's no star on one-off dance floors, her fans are currently rubbing up against Drake, Calvin Harris and Adele on the top of the charts. Lipa is the only one who looks as though she has the face for it. It's all so new.

She's been working on some of the top hits with Jack Garratt, the only debut album of 2016. It's the top 100 bestselling albums list of the year. It doesn't count for Dua Lipa. Maida Vale's not about it. We've had a proper new one. "It's really tough, especially with so many big artists knocking on the door," says Lipa.

"I feel like I haven't been able to get across properly. I want people to get to know who I am first."

However, she was back in London without the family at the hotel, in time to do her Qantas, realising that this was the best place to pursue a singing career. "It was a great experience," she says, "I learned a lot from her. We had a great summer in London and it was allowed to do a lot more things. I could go to the city centre with my friends."

The choir with a story to tell. The love for the music. The song she wrote for the music magazine. "The music I wrote for is a bit too deep," she says, "I'm ready to go again."

While she's ahead, does that make sense?" she continues. "I want to have a long career. I never want to stop. I know I have one chance at this and I want to be the best it can be. It means so much to me." Pep's newest star is too tight now but her 2020 could be even better.

**London Evening Standard**

**Sound of summer**

Hot tickets! Dua Lipa, above, and below in concert at this year's Wireless Festival in Finsbury Park.
10 New Artists You Need to Know: September 2016

Blackpink, Noname, Dua Lipa, Young M.A and more

Dua Lipa and Serpentwithfeet are two artists you need to know in September.

By Rolling Stone
1 hour ago

Once again, we talked to 10 of the hottest artists who are climbing the charts, breaking the Internet or just dominating our office stereos. This month: Chance the Rapper cohort Noname, K-pop trap crew Blackpink, “Ooouuu” hitmaker Young M.A and more.

Dua Lipa

Sounds Like: A sleek and trendy party without an exclusive invite list

For Fans of: Amy Winehouse, Nelly Furtado, Jessie Ware

Why You Should Pay Attention: “Hotter Than Hell” is a hit in the U.K. and the Warner Bros.-signed synth-popper will be touring with Troye Sivan soon. At 15 years old, Dua Lipa moved back to her hometown of London on her own after living with her family in her parents’ hometown of Kosovo. “That was just when I really decided to take my fate into my own hands and was like, ‘Okay, I’m actually going to try and do this,’” she recalls. Thanks to a manager she found through social
media. Lipa spent five days a week in the studio in between a job as a restaurant hostess. Now, the 21-year-old is ready for the release of her self-titled debut album in February 2017. "[I remember] being like, 'I really want to get up on stage and perform these songs. Now I'm currently living that and actually doing what I always wanted to do.'"

She Says: Lipa's music fuses together everything from soul to EDM but there is one genre that has always had her heart. "I've always been such a fan of pop music," she says. "The first album I was given when I was quite young was the Whoa, Nelly! album by Nelly Furtado. After, I also got the Missundaztood album by Pink. That's when I was like, 'Oh my god, I want to be just like them!' I love the way Pink has especially grown in her career. I admire her a lot. I feel like whatever they do or put out, I'm a fan of. I'll always listen to it. I think because I loved them when I was so young, that has left such an imprint that really inspired me in what I do right now."

Hear for Yourself: "Blow Your Mind (Mwah)" is a sassy kiss-off. Brittany Spanos
Girls, Make Some Noise
Five new female artists and groups worth singing along with now.
By Alexandra Schwartz

Dua Lipa
She's not your average pop singer—the 20-year-old's vocals are deeper, her lyrics moodier—but she still gets you dancing. Now out on a world tour, she drops her debut album this fall. Her own favorite lyric: "As my kiss goes down you like some sweet alcohol, from my single 'Hotter Than Hell,'" she says. "I love singing that particular lyric live. I wrote the song quite a long time ago, so it was exciting to finally put it out there!"
SYNTH-POP BANGERS AHoy!

**Dua Lipa: UK pop’s next obsession**

Dua Lipa is currently basking with crafting her debut album ‘The House That Fell On The Witch’. "The house is me," she explains. "I’ve always had a fantasy of being that house. Anything that happens, I can stop happening. When I see myself as the house, I feel like I’m the one that can make things happen.”

In fairness, she’s already scheduled to hood on 16’s pop scene, a combination of ideas. Last year saw the 20-year-old singer pick up early fans by drip-feeding a series of low-key releases, like brilliant synth-scape ‘Be The One’, along with atmospheric, personality-laden videos. "The point," she says, "was to be myself, not to change. I mean, I’m not me. A worthy aim, but it’s now all about unleashing the squirrelly-away videos.

Recorded with #4A’s producer Emily Haynie and Mike Snow’s Andrew Wyatt, tunes such as dramatic, full-throated banger ‘Hotter Than Hell’, which packs the kind of choruses Gaga would fall for – position Dua Lipas UK pop’s next big obsession.

She has the personality to back it up, too, combining Marina & The Diamonds’ 90s-meets-80s style with Rihanna’s get-out-of-my-way attitude.

Raised in London, she moved to Kosovo with her family in her early teens, then back to London at 15 to live with friends. After working the door at nightclubs she turned her attention to TV, her breakthrough came when she signed with the management company that guided Lala Diallo to fame. Ever since, she’s been working on songs that depict "a stronger’s life – but the real thing, because sometimes you have to talk about the shit stuff." "So Hotter Than Hell is a fuck you to someone who hurt me", while ‘Bad Together’ sounds like a cross between Pink and Neneh Cherry and the new Moon’s "about finding common ground in a relationship, regardless of what bad things someone’s gone through. I’m coming back, easy to find. "Well," she adds, "it’s about having great sex.”

Dua Lipa is now finishing the LP and preparing for her first live dates. As for her ultimate goal? "World domination," is the answer. "I’m joking," she adds, but the look in her eyes gives it away. PETER ROBINSON
DUA LIPA MAKES ENDEARING POP MUSIC THAT'S ABOUT TO BE IMPOSSIBLE TO IGNORE

NOISEY NEXT

By Alexandra Hayward

Welcome to Noisey Next, our series dedicated to bringing you our favorite new artists on the verge of blowing up, breaking ground, or otherwise worth giving a damn about.

Dua Lipa is wiggling her "dancing thumbs," decorated with delicate Keith Haring drawings, in my face. The 20-year-old singer had her digits inked by LA tattooist du jour Sean from Texas while shooting the video for last summer's "New Love." She might have the late NYC artist's iconic figures branded on her skin, and she'll readily profess a love for Haring's contemporary Jean-Michel Basquiat, but this nascent pop idol's interests cut across the artistic spectrum. She swerves without pause to gush in appreciation for Pink and Nelly Furtado before dropping the most uncool name in pop's recent canon: Joss Stone. "My God, I loved her. She had the muthafucking hits when I was growing up!" she exclaims. It's endearing.

Minutes earlier, Dua Lipa (pronounced Leepa) had sashayed in, all Bambi eyes, plump pout, and six-inch buckled platforms. Wrapped in a disgustingly fabulous, floor-length, magenta faux fur coat, she greeted me warmly before collapsing on the couch backstage ahead of soundcheck. It's late November, and the 20-year-old is taking the stage for the first time—in front of 500 people at Konzulat in Berlin, Germany (she was supposed to make her live debut in Paris the week of the terrorist attacks). A heady summer of steadily increasing buzz off the back of the disarming pop of "New Love"—a song about ditching a tired romance—turned hotter this fall when she released the glossy anthemic "Be the One." Since that video was uploaded barely three months ago, it has accrued three million plus views on the force of Dua's pleading voice and the powerful, cavernous production. She's the perfect example of a Generation Z, internet-reared star-in-the-making, a singer whose husky confident tones bely her years and whose songs have taken flight online before they've been tested by the rigors of the road.
Born in London, Dua returned briefly to her parents’ native Kosovo (Dua translates as love in Albanian) at 13. She came back to her hometown just before her 16th birthday, with a promise to her parents that she would stay in school. Working shitty jobs to pay rent, she attended the Sylvia Young Theatre School, whose famed alum include Adele and Amy Winehouse, part time. There, the precocious teen began her first forays into music, following in the footsteps of her father, who was also a musician. Where budding singers in the mid-2000s made a beeline for MySpace to upload songs in the hopes of being discovered, at 14 Dua was logging onto Instagram, developing a presence she continues to studiously maintain.

A self-confessed magpie with an eye for the most colorful garments, she shares bright snapshots of her own while admiring the eccentric style of fashion’s favorite nonagenarian, Iris Apfel. These days her sartorial flair is distinct, girlie with an added edge, carefully documented through candid selfies, glossy photoshoots, and behind the scenes snaps of Dua in glimmering tiaras, shiny dresses, ornately adored jackets, and thigh high boots.

“I lived and breathed London and hung out at Camden Market buying dodgy fashion like everyone else,” says Dua of her early fashion influence. “But when I was first uploading YouTube videos of me singing naff Joss Stone covers, I wasn’t too aware of how I looked.” But like any savvy singer these days, how you present yourself is entwined with your appeal, and she cottoned on quick.
When not singing covers into her webcam, Dua networking her butt off as a teenager, working the door at Mayfair nightclubs and fearlessly thrusting demos at anyone who would listen. Next came a fortuitous stroke from the X Factor brush: Without having to go through the ups and downs of actually being a contestant, she ended up starring in the 2013 commercial for the tenth season of the series. This hustle led to wider exposure for the little known singer, and she was swiftly snapped up by the same managers who rep Lana Del Rey.

Since then Dua’s spent a lot time in the studio, honing her songs with producers like Emile Haynie (Eminem, Lana), Mike Snow’s Andrew Wyatt, and Koz (Kendrick Lamar, Madonna). It’s been a whirlwind year for Dua; this one night stop in Berlin follows endless trips to and from LA and to Sweden for studio sessions, promos, and shoots. But it’s paying off: With just a few songs to her name right now, Dua has already caught the attention of authorities like the BBC, who named her to the longlist for their closely watched Sound of 2016 award, and “Be The One” even snuck its way onto Billboard’s Emerging Artists list upon its release. Her debut album is set to arrive this fall.

While her music is all bouncy, perfectly mixed radio fodder on first listen, Dua’s tunes are, on closer inspection, fierce, red-blooded, and a little racy. Her lyrics are sexual and self-aware: The currently unreleased “Bad Together” talks about about great sex, while “Hotter than Hell” dissects a toxic relationship. And her voice offers a casual, easy emotiveness that draws listeners in. On the straightforward “Be the One,” a desperation crawls into her voice as she intones, “I was wrong / Come back to me, baby, we can work this out. Dua herself highlights the honesty of her music, drawing a comparison to Nelly Furtado’s debut record.

“Furtado said it straight up: look at ‘Shit on the Radio’ right before ‘I’m Like a Bird’ on that first album!” says Dua. “The sex and the attitude was always there, way before ‘Maneater.’ No matter what people say, whatever Nelly Furtado or Pink put out, I will always love it. I admire Debbie Harry, Anna dello Russo. I like unafraid women.”

As for her own fans, Dua says they’ve been, “very sweet. They’re all my friends.” It’s one of a handful of comments she makes that is perfectly sincere and yet perfect official fanbase gold-dust. Her openness toward and enthusiasm for her fans is reciprocal: There seems to be a small legion of them already. At the Berlin show as the clock edges towards 10 PM, they wait impatiently and excitedly. When Dua eventually takes the stage, she’ll talk to them as though each is her best friend, lying next to her in bed.
Theatricality plays a part in her performance, and she's not afraid to show off her commercial appeal: The impact of her dabbles in drama school is apparent, and her show is not only soulful but outrageously streamlined and cozing confidence. It also bears an air of nonchalance and improvised candor. She speaks openly to the intimate audience in a kind of purr. She's seductive in her relaxed manner—less frantic and eager to please than her Kosovan counterpart Rita Ora, yet still exuding polish.

Dua Lipa - Last Dance (Official Audio)

The set draws to a close with a song called “Last Dance.” The latest single off her forthcoming album, it's an ode to homesickness that bear traces of Rihanna in its swagger and tone. There may have been a wistfulness in the music as she sang the words “holding nothing back like it's our last dance,” but they also carried a hint of prophecy: Dua Lipa's putting herself out there with plainspoken appeal. That's clear when we're hanging out backstage and I ask, in true pop star magazine style, who she would kiss if she could kiss anyone.

“Is it weird that I've got a little crush on Ricky Gervais?” she asks me back. “I'd give him a kiss.” Just when you're intimidated by the girl with niche art-inked thumbs, she brings it back down to earth. But that's reflected in the way she handles the idea of meeting her idols: “What if it never pans out the way you'd hoped?” Dua Lipa shies away from pop that intimidates and embraces pop that relates, that fascinates instead.

*Alexandra Hayward is a writer living in Berlin. Follow her on Twitter.*
cost and pants by Calvin Klein Collection, top by La Perla, bra by Calvin Klein underwear, choker by Littlebya worn throughout, lipa's own jewelry worn throughout.
rising pop act dua lipa looks fierce in pre-fall’s wildest prints. photographed by bella howard. styled by lorenzo posocco
top and pants by blumarine, gloves from rokit.

opposite page: coat by rochas, shoes and sunglasses by acne studios, tights by emilio cavalli, stylist's own gloves.
dress and boots by dior, tights by n°21, sunglasses by acne studios.
EVEN OVER A TRANSATLANTIC PHONE CONNECTION. Dua Lipa sounds elated. The British-Kosovan vocalist is calling from Sydney, Australia, where she’s just wrapped a performance on a local television program. (“Everything makes sense after you do a show,” she declares.) But there’s also a hint of nerves in her voice as she describes what’s next: releasing her debut album this fall. Even though it’s 99 percent finished, and she’s pleased with the genre-bending results, Lipa admits that sending her art into the world is making her anxious. “I just want it to be the perfect representation of everything I’ve worked on for the last year and a half,” she says of the record, which is inspired by the likes of J. Cole, Pink, Kendrick Lamar, and Nelly Furtado. “I’ve kept it so close to my heart, but now it’s time to put it out there.”

These jitters are only natural, as the album represents the realization of a lifetime goal for the 20-year-old artist. The daughter of Kosovan rock star Dukagjin Lipa, music is not only in her blood, but in her soul. So strong was her resolve to become a professional singer that when her family relocated from London to Kosovo, Lipa returned to the U.K. a year later on her own at 15 to concentrate on building a career. “Don’t give up on your dreams, work hard, never have a plan B, and don’t let boys be mean to you,” she says with a laugh of the guiding principles she gleaned during that time.

Shortly after finishing school, but before starting college, Lipa got her big break: “I found a manager and I told my parents that my gap year turned into a gap life,” she recalls. “I’m never going back.”

Lipa’s still-untitled album follows in the footsteps of her four released tracks to date—including her hit “Be the One”—which pair her sensuous alto with electro-pop riffs and R&B beats. On the surface it’s the perfect club music, with sticky hooks cutting through moody melodies. But underneath, it tells a different tale. “A lot of the stories, they’re not happy,” she explains. “I find the darkness in everything. You’ll dance along to it, but when you listen to the lyrics you’ll be like, ‘Oh shit, what is going on in her head?’”

Lipa remains pragmatic about the fairy dust that’s been sprinkled on her career to date, but confident that this is the job she was born for. “I believe in fate,” she adds. So do we.

LAURA STUDARUS

jacket and sweatshirt by mcq alexander mcqueen, tights by emilio cavallini, lipa’s own boots.

hair: anna cofone at the wall group using oribe. makeup: francesca brazzo using m.a.c cosmetics. stylist’s assistant: margherita alaimo.
WILL SHE BE THE ONE?
DUA LIPA IS PREPARING TO LAUNCH INTO THE POP STRatosphere WITH HER INSANELy CATCHy NEO-SOUL MUSIC IN HER FIRST MAJOR INTERVIEW AND COVER SHOOT. THIS DOWN-TO-EARTH SONGSTRESS TELLS PHILIP GOODFELLOW ABOUT HIP-HOP, OPTIMISM AND STARTING YOUNG.

PHOTOGRAPHy BY ANDREW WOFFINDEN
FASHION DIRECTION BY THEA LEWIS-YATES
Whiskeytown’s new album seems slightly formulaic, but it can be a natural progression to assume we’re being presented with less of an artist, more of a product. Such criticism would be misplaced with Dan Lipa, however. The young singer-songwriter has said her debut and is deservedly poised to reap the rewards.

Born in London to Albanian parents, Dua came to love music through her father, himself a musician. “I grew up listening to my dad singing his own songs and listening to songs that he liked,” she explains. “That’s kind of where my love for music stems from.” When it came to developing her own musical tastes, it is perhaps unsurprising to hear that Dua found herself drawn towards strong, distinctive female artists. “The first album given to me was Nelly Furtado’s ‘Who,’ ‘Nelly’ and it’s still one of my favourite albums. Then Pitbull’s ‘Missed Calls’ album. Those two were my favourite artists, growing up. Then I started getting into hip-hop. I’m a super-obsessive hip-hop fan – Kendrick Lamar, J Cole, ASAP Rocky, Artesian Liason – and I like to try and mix hip-hop into my own music.”

Dua attended secondary school in Camden, but it was Saturdays spent at the Sylvia Young Theatre School that helped her blossom as a singer. “It was great fun and really helped me with my confidence. In primary school, a teacher told me I couldn’t sing and would never let me in the choir. When I started at Sylvia Young, my teachers there told me, ‘You can sing, and don’t let anyone tell you what you can and can’t do’ That really helped me, it opened my eyes. I was really young and didn’t have to listen to anyone else if I believed in myself. I might have given up but my parents believed I could sing and said I should try theatre school. I’m glad they did.”

Dua’s route into music is a lesson to anyone with similar aspirations – put yourself out there and never give up. “When I was younger, I was working at a wedding and singing to people, saying: ‘If you want to work with me, listen to my covers on YouTube’ – really low-key covers where I was like ‘Hi, I’m Dua, I’m 15 years old, listen to my cover of...’ really casual. Then I started getting into commercial and modeling work, which I thought might help me meet people in music, and I got a commercial with a producer who offered me a publishing deal. I had to get a lawyer to go through the contract – I had no idea what that meant – and he was like ‘Let me help you find a manager before you sign anything.’

Dua was subsequently snapped up by Lana Del Rey’s management team. Whereas Lana revels – to great effect – in the dark beauty of depression, Dua’s music offers us a reminder that there is beauty to be found in hope and optimism. “Everything should have a happy ending,” she suggests, “and sometimes, it is
This page:
Jacket and brooch: Chanel
Opposite:
Shirt, shirt, polo and bag: Nina Mio.
Shoes: Chloé Ferragoli
doesn’t, you’ve still got to keep going. It’s not the end. I try
to get across that there’s always an upside to a downside,
not all problems are bad, that crying and being upset and
showing your emotions doesn’t show weakness.” It would be
missing the point, however, to simply label Dua’s music as
“upbeat”; there is a genuine depth to the music, to the
lyrics and – perhaps most notably – to Dua’s utterly
gorgeous voice.

Being labelled the Next Big Thing inevitably brings with
it a weight of expectation. Dua seems prepared for that,
though, as long as she can keep her own expectations in
check. “I feel like the most pressure anyone gives me comes
from myself. It’s a lot about making sure I put out what
I feel is right and that I’m happy and proud of it. I guess
there’s always pressure, regardless of what you put out –
it’s like a constant battle. But so far, so good. In music, you
always want to keep momentum going. It’s difficult, you
know? Making the right decisions, choosing the right next
song. I have a plan, though.”

A key part of that plan is Dua’s debut album, due for
release this autumn. The list of producers who worked on it
with her serves as testament to how seriously she is being
taken, including as it does Emile Haynie, who’s worked
with the likes of FKA twigs and the aforementioned Lana
Del Rey, Andrew Wyatt, perhaps best known as lead singer
with Mike Snow; and Nick Gale, aka Digital Farm Animals,
co-writer – along with Lucy ‘Pawws’ Taylor – of Dua’s recent
single ‘Be The One’.

“I feel like I’ve done the rounds. I haven’t just worked with
one particular person for the whole album because it’s
been so much nicer and way more fun to work with loads
of different people. You also get to know people and you
become good friends; they get to find out things about you
that other people don’t really know, because it’s basically
like a therapy session. You have to tell them your deepest
secrets.”

So what advice would Dua bestow on young artists looking
to follow in her footsteps? “Never have a Plan B. Just keep
going and be very, very confident in everything you do. If
you believe in yourself and you’re proud of what you do,
never let anyone tell you you’re doing it wrong. The second
you feel like you’ve got something to lean on, that’s when
you can lose your focus. I never had a Plan B because, if I
had, I would always have had it in the back of my mind that
I had a backup. There’s still a lot to come and we’ll see if it’s
worked but I’m really hoping I can stick to this, because I
love it so much.”
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10 Reasons Why Dua Lipa Could Become The Next Big Pop Star

Liv Buli, CONTRIBUTOR
I use data to decipher the business of music.

FOLLOW ON FORBES (37)  
Opinions expressed by Forbes Contributors are their own.

FULL BIO

LOS ANGELES, CA – FEBRUARY 15: Singer Dua Lipa arrives at the Warner Music Group’s celebration for the 58th annual Grammy Awards at Milk Studios on February 15, 2016 in Los Angeles, California. (Photo by Matt Winkelmeyer/Getty Images)
1. I don’t immediately know how to pronounce her name.

Is it “dwa”? “duwa”? The name is Albanian and means “love.” Regardless, I am still not clear on how to pronounce it, but I am certain that someone far cooler than me can set me straight when I inevitably say it wrong at some party in three months.

2. From what I’ve heard her music is up there.

It’s pop. Not bubblegum, but pop nonetheless. And there is nothing wrong with that. It’s catchy, with a dabble of swagger. One solid ear worm (a la Alessia Cara’s "Here") and she’ll be off to the races, and her latest release “Last Dance” gets pretty darn close.

3. Can’t stop, won’t stop – not with numbers like these.

Dua Lipa first hit the Next Big Sound chart last December, riding solid numbers all the way to the top slot. Currently classified as in the Promising stage of her career, over the last half year the amount of activity (new followers, streams etc.) Lipa has been seeing is more comparable to that of Mainstream artists. The typical Promising artist is adding roughly 240 new Instagram followers over the course of six months. For Established artists that number is closer to 5,700, and Lipa raked in about ten times that. Since her debut on Pandora on February 1, she has already been spun more than 80,000 times, with activity rapidly increasing week over week, and has now hit more than 10 million views to her music videos on YouTube.

_Dua Lipa has been swinging out of her league these past six months, with behavior more comparable to that of Mainstream artists than the Promising stage she is currently in. Graphic courtesy of Next Big Sound Industry Research Report._
4. She has one of those effortlessly cool Instagram accounts.

A colorful collection of selfies, promo snapshots and videos, Dua Lipa has been cultivating her fan base on Instagram for some time now (it helps that she is ridiculously stylish with a modeling background). Last September was a tipping point of sorts for Lipa, when her follower count started really taking off. She’s now amassed more than 70,000 fans on the platform.

5. She’s an international kid and crazy independent.

Lipa was born in London, but her family calls Kosovo home (hence the Albanian moniker). Having lived in Pristina for a short while in her teens, Lipa moved back to London on her own at age 16 to pursue her career in music. There is something to be said for the worldliness and maturity that lends her at just 20 years old.

6. She’s already being recognized for some pretty major awards.

Dua Lipa has already had a big year, ranking as one of 15 artist in the running for BBC’s Sound of 2016. Jack Garratt ended up taking home the prize.

7. Warner snapped her up and she’s recording her debut album with them.

No official date for the album has been announced, other than that it will drop this year.
8. That could eventually mean big things for Lipa.

Just last week we heard that Charli XCX is following in Ed Sheeran’s footsteps and launching her Vroom Vroom label under the Warner umbrella. Of course there is nothing new about artists getting in to the business side of things – from Michael Jackson’s publishing outfit (ATV, now part of Sony/ATV) to Drake’s OVO Sound label (to which The Weeknd is signed) – Lipa certainly finds herself at a label open to these types of ventures. This could spell big opportunities, not to mention a bigger cut of revenue down the line.

9. She’s way cooler than Lana Del Rey.

Lipa has been getting the Lana Del Rey comparison a lot, probably because the two share management.

10. And finally – she’s wearing boots in this video that I couldn’t maneuver in my wildest dreams. That’s the kind of thing pop stars do.
It’s hip to be square this season. Singer/songwriter Dua Lipa shows why beauty has gone all sexy nerd
Remember Velma from *Scooby Doo*? She knew a thing or two about preppy chic. It's a primness that belies a subtle ('Who, me?') sexiness – which is why she was all about that roll-neck and miniskirt. Freckles do the same for your face, offering a sexy naivety that's less overt than a smoky eye. 'Freckles are great for everyone,' says Zoe Taylor, celebrity make-up artist for Chanel. They're a more modern way of adding colour to your face than bronzer. She suggests applying a light-reflecting base, such as Chanel's Healthy Glow Foundation (£36, boots.com), then using three different eyeliner colours for realistic-looking freckles. 'Dot where the sun would naturally hit – on the bridge of the nose, centre of the forehead and chin,' she adds.

Top, £120, Lacoste (lacoste.com); hat, from a selection, Blitz (020 7377 0730); earrings, £195 each, IAM by Ileana Makri (net-a-porter.com)
SMART SCULPTING

It doesn't take a bruit to know that contouring is a bit "in" now. "What's new?" Fashion expert here, according to Taylor. "It's all about using a good sculpting pencil in a bronzer rather than a cream. Taylor started with a layer of foundation, then added bronzer followed by blush. To the high points of the face, she then used a touch of highlighter over the top to bring the look to life, before adding some of the same bronzer along the outer edge of the cheekbones. Finishing with a subtly sculpted look, Taylor is keen to keep everything about as full as you can, while keeping the inner corners..."
The most modern brow shape is still big and boyish, but that doesn't mean the thinner arched among you need miss out. 'There's nothing better than a strong, super-glossy brow set against slightly matte skin,' says Taylor. 'If yours are sparse, start by filling them in using a waterproof felt-tip brow pen. Once you have the desired shape, brush them up and apply a generous amount of gloss — I often use a high-shine hair gel on shoots.' According to Taylor, it can knock years off you, but keep the rest of your eye make-up pared back to avoid overkill. Simply curl your lashes, and if you really can't do without it, push a little brown mascara into the roots.

Blouse, £353, Toga (net-a-porter.com); hair bow, stylist's own
You’ll need a pair of glasses for 2016. Once you have your eyewear sorted (black is the most modern and androgynous, as any geek will tell you), you need to think about your make-up. ‘Avoid heavy, overly complicated eye looks,’ says Taylor. ‘Coloured mascara is a great way to add a flash of interest. I chose purple for Dua, as it’s flattering on pretty much everyone. Start by applying black mascara, then just layer the colour on the underside of the lashes – the chunkier, the better.’ A word of warning: as the frames of your glasses can cast a shadow under your eye, only coat the top lashes to lift the face and avoid looking tired.

Sweater, £1,961, and glasses, £264, both Chanel (chanel.com); earring, just seen, £195, Ileana Makri (net-a-porter.com)
MATHS TEACHER EYES

Although blue can be a little '80s TV fitness instructor', if you get the shade right, it's the quirkiest (and most wearable) way to do eye colour. 'There was a lot of blue on the catwalks, but I like the idea of a slightly off-kilter hue,' says Taylor of the chalky turquoise she applied to Dua's top lids. 'Choosing a tone with lots of white in it makes it less intimidating. You don't have to go as heavy as I have here, but skip the mascara to give it a modern zinginess.'

Sweater, £245, Esq (esqcashmere.com); watch, £9,400, and ring, £9,625, both Chanel (chanel.com).
Hanging your eyebrow threader will always **** you up’, laughs Dua Lipa, the super-hot singer/songwriter who people seem to be getting very excited about right now. Lipa’s dreamy hipster-meets-girl-squad-leader vibe – she’s been signed by Lana Del Rey’s team – is set to send her stratospheric. Her impressive voice – think Miley Cyrus crossed with (fellow Kosovo) Rita Ora – and her unique brand of dark pop is winning her fans. Today, she’s championing the whole geek-chic vibe for our beauty shoot and confirms she’s totally into it, saying, ‘I LOVE the freckle look’. As she prepares to munch her way through a plate piled high with pitta bread, hummus, veggies and chicken, we talk hip-hop, Harry Potter, and hanging out with Harry Styles...

What brings out your inner geek?

‘I geek out on weird things like Harry Potter, and I’m obsessed with buying stickers – I’ve got stacks of My Little Pony ones at home. I like to stick them on my face when I’m going out. I’ll put a star or a love heart on my face. It’s a great conversation starter, although my boyfriend thinks it’s weird!’

So, you’re pretty experimental with your make-up?

‘I love trying new stuff. I’m really into pink eyeshadow at the moment. I bought a whole palette of neon colours, but pink looks the best.

I love the freckle look from today’s shoot – I felt a bit like a sun-kissed Pippi Longstocking, it was so cute. I love that natural look; Jennifer Lawrence and Bella Hadid do it so well, they just keep everything really simple.’

Tell us your biggest beauty secret...

‘I use old mascara and a toothbrush on my eyebrows instead of a pencil. I don’t know where I got it from, I just started doing it. Whenever they started looking a bit crazy, I just thought, “If I put mascara on them, maybe they’ll sit still.” It works, but it’s so awkward – every time I do my make-up in front of people, they’re like, “Is that a toothbrush?”’

Who do you love listening to?

‘I’m obsessed with everything Chance The Rapper does – his realness is what I aim to include in my songs. My music is sort of like dark pop with loads of hip-hop influences, so I listen to a lot of rap. I love songs that have rap lyrics at the beginning, then explode into a big pop chorus. I grew up listening to Pink and Nelly Furtado, so if it ever came to sitting down and writing a song with them, that would be the dream. They’re always welcome to come and say hello!’

We love your thumb tattoos. Got any others?

‘I’ve got my dancing thumbs, which are also my party trick because no one lets me do karaoke. Then I’ve got “Sunny Hill” on my arm – that’s the neighbourhood in Kosovo where my parents grew up – and a palm tree on the back of my arm, which I got in LA. My thumbs only took five minutes to do, but they hurt the most!’

OK, we have to ask about that video of you with Harry Styles that went viral...

‘I was having drinks with a producer and he said his friend Harry was coming to join us, so I was like, “OK, cool.” I go to the loo, come back, and it’s Harry Styles. We ended up having dinner and jamming, then drove from London to Surrey together. I tried to get an autograph for my sister, but we didn’t have a pen so I just asked him if he could do a video instead. I haven’t seen him since, though, so I wouldn’t be surprised if he doesn’t remember me!’

Dua Lipa’s new single Be The One is out now.
For a newly 20-year-old, Dua Lipa seems like she has her life together. The singer-songwriter has been living on her own since she was 15 years old and pursuing her career in music full time for the past four years. In 2012, she quietly released her first demo on SoundCloud. At the time, she was only 17, but her voice sounded incredibly mature. Fast-forward to this summer when her debut single, "New Love" was released. The song was produced by Andrew Wyatt and Emile Hayne, who has collaborated with breakout artists like FKA twigs and Lana Del Rey.

Lipa describes her music as dark pop. When I met up with the singer at the Nomad Hotel, she was decked out appropriately in a black mesh dress underneath a black leather jacket with a black ribbon tied around her neck. She has five tattoos on her body by Sean From Texas, including Keith Haring drawings on her thumbs that she got while filming the "New Love" music video. (She later tells me that she really likes art—Haring, Jean-Michel Basquiat, and Jeff Koons are her favorites.) Fifteen minutes into a conversation with Lipa, and you'll realize that while she may have a bad-girl image on the outside, she's a total sweetheart on the inside. She's not afraid to be a pop singer, and she thinks that right now is a good time for women in music to take charge in the industry.
Despite the comparisons that have been made between her and singers like Del Rey—they actually happen to be under the same management—Lipa's heart beats for hip-hop. It's one of her biggest musical influences, and some of her favorite rappers right now are Schoolboy Q, A$AP Rocky, and Chance The Rapper (listen to her cover "Cocoa Butter Kisses"). Get to know Dua Lipa more in the interview, below. For the record, her name really is Dua Lipa—it's not a stage name, it was given to her at birth and it means "love" in Albanian.

Could you tell me how you first got involved with singing and songwriting? What's your whole musical background?
I've been singing my whole life. My dad was a musician. I'm originally from Kosovo, but born and raised in London. I guess I kind of listened to my dad sing his owns songs and other people's songs. I was brought up on a lot of music that—I mean, it's great music, I love Bob Dylan and Bowie and stuff, but it was never something that I was really obsessed with. And then, when I [was] given my first album it was Nelly Furtado, that album kind of changed my life. I was so fucking obsessed, like, "How the fuck do I become that?" It was always a thing that I just loved—to sing—and I just kind of felt at home doing music.

In primary school, I was told I couldn't sing because my teacher was like, "Oh, you can't reach the high notes, you can't be in the choir," and all this bullshit. I was like, "This is shit." And I always had this whole thing where I "couldn't sing," and then I went to theater school and [that] kind of boosted my confidence more. That's kind of what pushed me to what I was doing and why I wanted to sing.
You said you listened to Bowie?
Well, that's the kind of shit that my dad [listened to]—he listened to Bob Dylan and Bowie and Sting and the Police. They were the kind of tunes that I would listen to on the way to school, because my dad would love it so much. But for me, I liked my girls. I liked Nelly Furtado and Pink. They're my favorite, I love them so much. I'd like to think that kind of sound helped me mold mine, or helped me understand what I like and how I like it to sound, and the whole "badass bitch" thing—which, to me, is so much fucking fun just to do. Then Destiny's Child came out and that fucking changed my life.

I heard you moved out when you were 15... Could you tell me about that, because I know I could not even take care of myself at 19. How did you do it?
It's fucking nuts. I was born and raised in London, and then I moved to Kosovo—my dad was working there—and then when I was 15, I was like, "Yo, there's nothing here for me I want to move back". And I was like, "I want to do music." And my mom was like, "Okay sweet, as long as you stay in school." Once it happened—the move—and I started living with friends, my mom would be calling me the second I woke up, the second I left home, the second I got to school, when I left school, when I got home—everything! I was a 16-year-old when I wanted to go out, but I had to be home by like, nine.

It was great, I feel like I went really independent really early. But the whole cooking-and-cleaning thing was a fucking nightmare. It came to the point where I wouldn't wash my clothes, I would just put them in this massive cupboard and buy new ones—my mom would come over and surprise me and see how I was doing. She would open this cupboard and there'd be a bunch of dirty laundry and she'd be like, "You need to sort your life out." Now I'm really good at it all, because I've had enough time trying to learn.

What have you been working on for your debut record?
We dropped "New Love," we just whacked it online. It did kind of well, which is good. We're dropping another one at the end of this month called "Be the One," which is just another thing for online. And then in January, we'll do a proper video with a full concept and we'll actually go full throttle on it. It's something exciting to look forward to in the new year. And then the album comes next year, hopefully, if everything goes to plan. But yeah, it's been exciting. It's been a year now that I've been writing for the album. It's been constant, like five days a week writing songs.

I'm literally so jaded right now. I go into a session and I'm like, "I don't even know what to write about." I don't have time for life to happen because I'm literally working on this, but I'm really excited. It's been the best year ever. For the first time, I got to come here and then L.A. I've now been to L.A. four times this year, which is fucking insane. It's just been really fun. I'm really looking forward to what else is going to coming.
What was it like working with Emile?
He’s amazing. He’s super, super talented. It’s not even that, his talent just comes naturally. He just sits down on the fucking piano and he comes up with crazy shit. And Andrew Wire is fucking sick. He’s like a wordsmith. But I think the most important thing when I worked with him was that we had such a great vibe. It was so chill. There was no rush to try and get a song. We would chat about what was going on in our lives and how we felt—sitting, ordering food. It was all a very organic process, I’d like to say. And every time I’ve worked with him, it’s kind of been the same. No rush, and all three times we got three good songs.

I think vibes are super important.
It’s so important. I mean, writing a song is pretty personal, especially if you want to write about everything that’s going on in your life. ‘Cause I feel like now, after writing about so much that’s happened to me, now toward the end I’ve kind of become a good storyteller. I can make up situations that have either happened to me before or are really relevant to my friends, you know? You have to really open up to someone, so going in you don’t really want to open up to everyone and you don’t really feel that way, so the vibe is super, super important.

What are some of the experiences that you wrote about for the upcoming record?
“Last Dance” comes out in January, I wrote that when I first went to Toronto. I had already been away for such a long time, and it just came to the point where I was literally so fucking homesick and so upset. I was like, “Ugh, this sucks. I just want to go back to London, I’m so over this!” I was doing two or three sessions a day. That day, “Last Dance” was my third song of the day that I was writing—we were literally just writing and writing. When I left I was like, “Oh, this is going to be shit!” because I was just so tired but when it came through, I was like, “Wow I really felt that. That was shit that came from my heart.”

“Hotter Than Hell”—which is one of my favorite songs—is also one of the first songs I wrote. It was about an old relationship I was in. This was before I [signed with my manager] and I was in a really shit and toxic relationship. It was like, in every relationship as a girl, you want to be wanted. And that guy, he would make me feel like I wasn’t good enough for him and it was just really shit. In “Hotter Than Hell,” I twisted it. It helped me get over the relationship. The whole wanting to be wanted, I made it seem in the song that he really wanted me, that he could have, like, died for me. That’s the story behind it, and it was really therapeutic for me to be able to write about something like that.

There’s just so many now that I’ve written that I can’t even think of. What else? “Bad Together,” that’s just about great sex. We’re still in the process of what the singles are going to be, so as they come out, it’s still very new and very exciting.
The “New Love” music video looked like so much fun to film. Was it based on a day in the life of you? It seemed very authentic.

It was loads of fun. I wrote the treatment for it. It happened really accidentally, because I was supposed to shoot a video for a completely different song and then it got postponed because we decided it wasn’t the right thing to go with. I was having dinner with my friend Nicole, who’s a photographer, and I was like, "Oh, I’m so pissed off about this, I was really looking forward to it!" She was like, "Yo, why don’t we just do something together? A sick, free video, so down." So, I texted my manager like, "Hey, me and Nicole are going to do this video," and he was like "Cool, cool, come up with a treatment." This was around the time when I could do whatever I wanted because there wasn’t a massive budget involved where I need everyone’s approval—I can literally do whatever the fuck I want because it’s just fun.

So all these things are just stuff I love doing, like eating food. The whole milk and popcorn thing is a really big thing I do. It’s really weird. I drink milk with everything—popcorn and milk, crisps and milk—so that was like a weird thing. What was crazy with the slide—we were driving around in a car and there was a slide in Melrose and we were like, "Fuck it." I was like, "Nicole, bring your camera." And I put this blue outfit on and said, "Let’s just film this before someone starts charging us." And I slide down the slide, and I didn’t know there was water at the fucking bottom of it—I was just so glad I didn’t have my phone in my pocket, I would’ve been so pissed.

And then when we went up in the hills—those guys in the white suits were really up there taking pictures and I was like, "Would you guys dance for my video?" And they were like, "Sweet!" It was so embarrassing.

It was all like renegade shit that we just came up with and had fun. I’d like to think it’s like a life in the day of Dua Lipa, I’d love to think that. That’d be great. But, it’s not. That’s not every day. It’s studios every day.
Popping Up: Dua Lipa

Carl Williott  @cwilliott | October 30, 2015 - 10:00 am

Popping Up is our recurring look at new artists making noise on the music landscape. Because, hey — Beyoncé and Miley were once unknown, too.

Maybe it’s the “left her parents at 15” backstory, or the casual grittiness to her voice, or the Lana-but-happy lo-fi aesthetic of her debut video “New Love,” but London-via-Kosovo singer Dua Lipa gives off an American pop vibe. Which really just illustrates how she’s part of the post-geography internet generation. It’s a generation that thrives on cross-cultural pollination and is increasingly candid about the teen/young adult experience, while still engaging with social media’s “show your best and hide the rest” gauntlet.
Along with singers like Alessia Cara, Halsey and Clarity, Dua Lipa’s songs are honest, emotional and empowering. These are not the cultivated teengirl fantasies depicted by Britney Spears in the late ’90s or peddled by Justin Bieber during his “Baby” days. These are pop’s anti-“it” girls, and Dua has managed to join that circle with just two songs to her name. “Be The One” is less than a day old, and it’s just as effervescent as her Emile Haynie and Andrew Wyatt-produced debut track, but it’s even bouncier and catchier, signaling she’s no fluke.

A couple weeks before she premiered the new video, which you can watch below, we spoke to Dua Lipa in New York about her globe-trotting past, Nelly Furtado’s impact and more. Read on to get to know the rising singer.

**HOMETOWN**: London. “I was born and raised in London. My parents are from Kosovo. I went to school in London until, I dunno what age, but I moved to Kosovo for a bit, and realized there was nothing really out there for me,” she explains. “So when I turned 15, I just kind of decided I was gonna move back to London... And for some weird reason my parents let me do it. But my mom was like, the second I woke up I had to call her, the second I left the house I had to call, the second I got to school, the second I got home. They were really worried about me. And now my sister wants to do the same thing. She’s 14 and my mom’s like ‘There’s no way I’m going thru that stress again.’”
OLD SOUL: “Moving out at an early stage in life, it’s made me a bit more mature,” Dua says. “I guess that’s how it reflects in my music, where I feel like I’ve lived a lot more than I actually have.”

INFLUENCES: A pop chameleon, Dua Lipa can exhibit shades of Rihanna’s mischievous swagger, Amy Winehouse’s raw soulfulness and Zola Jesus’ bewitching darkness. At times there’s a certain free-spirit, earthy feel to her music, and that probably goes back to one of her early favorites.

“As a kid I listened to [my dad] sing his own songs and other people’s songs. Stereophonics, Bob Dylan, David Bowie, Sting. I grew up around all that and I loved it so much, but he also let me develop my own taste,” she recalls. “I got given the first Nelly Furtado album, Whoa Nelly!, and I freaked out. That’s like the most amazing thing. I was singing those songs when I was little, ‘Shit On The Radio.’ I still have the CD actually. It’s stuck with me, she’s so fucking cool.”

Hip-hop plays a big role in her current musical vision as well. “I like to put that feel into my music. I like to have more of a flow in the verses and then a pop chorus.”

BETTER THAN THERAPY: “For one song I wrote, I had just gotten out of a really terrible breakup,” she recounts. “And I got to the studio and I just didn’t want to write a sad song. So I wanted to channel it like, ‘Oh he just couldn’t get enough of me.’ And it was a really therapeutic ‘fuck you.’”

NEW LOVE, NEW INK: Those scenes of her getting a tattoo in the “New Love” video? That’s real. “We shot the whole video in L.A. in a day and it was more just for fun. It was like a bunch of things that I was like ‘OK this video’s for free I can literally do whatever the fuck I want, so I’m gonna do all the crazy shit I’ve always wanted to do.’”

WHAT’S NEXT: Dua Lipa’s official live debut is in Paris on November 25, then she has two shows in New York and two in L.A. in January. And she’s eager to literally get this show on the road. “You find out a lot about your songs when you sing live. A lot of it speaks to you.”
Born and raised in London in 1995, Dua Lipa is fully engulfed in British culture with a very inherent reflection of her parents' origins – Prishtina, Kosovo. A breathtaking beauty that neither the fashion or music industry can stop talking about, Dua's career has been extremely exciting from the offset. Most intriguing about the artist is her devout passion for music, demonstrated by moving away from her parents at the age of fifteen (her parents had moved to Kosovo for work) in the pursuit of a music career. Her independence is prevalent in her music, her look and personal expression – a beautiful youth with a strong mind to boot.
"I FEEL LIKE I'VE ALWAYS KNOW THAT THIS IS THE ONLY THING I'VE EVER WANTED TO BE - AN ARTIST."
HOW HAS LIVING IN LONDON INFLUENCED YOUR SOUND? I feel like growing up around London has made me who I am. I feel like there is a lot of London in my music and it inspires me every day.

WHAT INSPIRES YOUR WORK? My thoughts! Things that happen in my life and things that happen to everyone around me. A lot of the travelling and being away from London really inspires me, being in new places always bring new stories.

YOU’VE HAD A GREAT DEAL OF SUPPORT FROM THE INDUSTRY – HOW DOES THAT FEEL? It’s amazing! I only dreamt of such amazing support and now it’s basically a dream come true. It’s nice when people like your music and are as excited as you to release more. I feel like there’s a lot I still have to prove but it’s a great feeling to know that people are listening.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN PURSUING MUSIC? I’ve been singing since I was 4. My father was a musician so growing up around him and being surrounded by him really inspired me. I feel like I’ve always known that this is the only thing I’ve ever wanted to be - an artist. I only took it seriously at the age of 15 when I decided I’m just going to get out there and start doing covers and try to do some demo’s, write some songs, see how that goes and never have a plan B!

CAN YOU DESCRIBE HOW YOUR FIRST BREAK CAME ABOUT? I was very lucky to have been introduced to my manager through a friend. And after I had a meeting with the whole team, I was in the studio every day.

HOW DO YOU PREFER TO CREATE? It really depends on the day. Some days I have material written already (or a starting point at least) and some days I just like to write to chords on a piano.

HOW IMPORTANT IS CREATIVE CONTROL TO YOU? Very important. I also have a lot of control over the visuals. I’ve written all the treatments to my videos and I feel like if I don’t have a lot of control over my project it won’t be one hundred percent from me.

HAVE THERE EVER BEEN SITUATIONS WHEN YOU’VE HAD TO STEP BACK AND SAY ‘HANG ON, IS THIS RIGHT FOR ME?’ There are loads of things that you get offered and you just have to decide yourself and think about it yourself. As to, if and how this will help you move forward and progress and if you have an instant gut feeling that something isn’t right, you’re probably right.

WHAT DO YOU DO TO CHILL OUT? I love going to art galleries and hanging out with my friends. But if I’m feeling a bit lazy then I love a good bubble bath followed by a Netflix binge for sure!

WHAT IMPACT DOES FASHION HAVE ON YOUR DAY-TO-DAY LIFE? I love dressing up. I feel that fashion is a way for you to speak out and represent yourself without having to say a word.

DO YOU HAVE ANY ICONS? 90s Madonna, Drew Barrymore and Courtney Love.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR LATEST MUSIC – WHAT CAN WE EXPECT? My current single ‘Be the One’ is out nowwww and you guys should check it out!

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT MESSAGE WE SHOULD LEARN FROM YOUR MUSIC? That we all go through the same things and that it’s all going to be okay.

WHAT ELSE DO YOU HAVE PLANNED FOR 2016? Loads more shows! More new music, new videos and my debut album.

*Dua’s new single ‘Last Dance’ is available now through Warner Music*
Emerging singer/songwriter Dua Lipa has only 20 years on her, but with her deep voice and easy confidence, she seems too wise to share a birthday-age with Gigi Hadid. Then you see her baby-brown eyes.

Perhaps it has something to do with leaving her parental home at only 15 to live with friends. The north London-bred beauty decided that then was the time to “take my future into my own hands... it was about independence.” Lipa began covering songs, posting videos on YouTube (Justin Bieber launched his pop career this way, too), and gaining the attention of friends and followers with her soulful voice. Two years down the line, she started working with sought-after producer Emile Haynie (Lana Del Rey, FKA twigs), and has just released her newest single, the marching beat-driven power ballad, “New Love”.

Before the digi-hits and the hookups, Lipa was a student at Sylvia Young’s theatre school in London. “I always wanted to get into the highest group with all the kids who could sing proper musical theatre,” she sighs. “But I never could because I couldn’t reach the high notes, and I didn’t have the right tone, and I didn’t have the whole jazz hands and shit. I guess I had to figure out that that wasn’t gonna work for me. It was a blessing in disguise.” Another drama school Disney kid she certainly isn’t.

“People are always really sceptical of the word [“pop”], because they are scared of being put in the genre of cheesy bubblegum stuff,” she observes. “But I like to think it’s cooler than that.” Lipa’s music is, anyway. Lipa’s fast-paced rework of Jamie XX tune “Good Times” is high on feel-good factor. It showcases Lipa’s love of good, sturdy nineties- to-noughties urban chart music – ASAP Rocky and Destiny’s Child are favourites. Expect more of this from her upcoming album, she promises. “Pop and soul with loads of influences of hip-hop in there.” No jazz hands necessary.
Here Dua Lipa bounced playfully into the pop world, doe-eyed, party-lipped and generally lush. If you've watched either of Dua Lipa's Nicole Nodland-directed videos: fiery ‘New Love’ or lively ‘Be the One,’ you may have felt a twinge of green-eyed envy. Her life looks like one big party. She set out to bring us something I would have looked at and thought it looked like fun to be involved with... Mission accomplished, Dua!

With ‘Be the One’ the Kosovo-born, London-raised brunette beauty, cruises by in an open-top limo, dressed like a model in a Guy Bourdin photo, all sequins and fur. For ‘New Love,’ you'll find Dua strutting around an American supermarket in a home movie-style montage. She flows in kimono; she lights a cigarette from a birthday cake; she sits between two guys blowing bubbles in a scene which feels stolen from a David Lynch film. Basically it's 3 minutes of rotating Tumblr pages from the coolest girl ever. "It was so renegade," Dua says coolly about ‘New Love’ – and she wrote the treatment for both videos herself.

If you were to paint-a-pop-star-by-numbers, Dua Lipa would definitely fit: big eyes, long dark hair and the face of a model. Her beauty is backed up by pure talent: her powerful, smouldering voice which can move smoothly from a sexy drawl (hear her cover of Jamie XX’s ‘Good Times’) to delivering deep, full-bodied choruses. She's both the girl next door and a rebel heart, managing to come across as seductive and unthreatening at the same time. Girls and guys will succumb to her charms.

If that doesn't convince you yet, Dua also has the support of a bunch of pretty fantastic creatives, partially responsible for the career-defining work of some of the biggest female pop stars in recent years. Under Tap MGMT, the same management as Lana Del Rey, and whose roster boasts a select few names, she's been working with a core team including producers Andrew Wyatt and Emile Haynes, and the photographer behind behind Del Rey's 'Iconic Born To Die' cover, Nicole Nodland.