

an Interview with Alina Joy on her sweet 16



with @alinaj0y



Gen @drippingmascara interviews Alina Joy @alinaj0y, who turns 16 today! Alina is the prodigious musician who composed and sang "Empress", a song dedicated to Dripping Mascara, which has over 18,000 views, 500 comments, and almost a thousand likes on YouTube. She is currently planning to release an album dedicated to Dripping Mascara after the story concludes. Alina has competed and achieved recognition in several Fine Arts competitions over the last three years and is now participating in musical theatre.

For updates on this superstar, follow @alinaj0y on Instagram and subscribe to "Alina Joy" on YouTube.

ABOUT DRIPPING MASCARA

How long have you been reading Dripping Mascara?
Nearly a year and a half.

What is your favorite season, scene, or chapter from Dripping Mascara?

You'll hate this answer—but all of it! If I had to choose one moment in particular, it would be when Matthew wakes up and his memory returns. Such a chilling and eye-opening scene.

Out of all of the characters in Dripping Mascara, who are your three favorite ones?

My girl Shelley, obviously. I also adore Miriam, and I loved Shannon (#RIPShannon2016)

Do you ship #EMPRESS or #SHARK?
#EMPRESS WILL SAIL!!!!

If you could be with anyone in Dripping Mascara, who would it be?

The Reaper, hands down. I wouldn't want to take Matthew away from Shells PLUS he's not my type, and Mark is kind of a project. Finally, the Reaper is sexy.

Oh, goodness! Well, tell me more about what you mean when you say Matthew isn't your type. I'm sure everyone would love to know!

I know he loves Shelley now, but the way he treated her in the beginning was SO extra. It made me mad. I'm attracted to straightforward guys. I didn't like Matthew's mind games. I love Shelley, but she and I are different. I'm very headstrong and independent. I don't see myself being the one doing the chasing in the relationship.

Gen is slow clapping at that and hopes that everyone else is, too!

ABOUT YOUR SONG "EMPRESS"

How old were you when you released "Empress" for the world to hear?
I was 14.

Why did you decide to sing a song for Dripping Mascara?

Well, I really identified with and fell in love with Dripping Mascara, and I wanted to express that. However, I eventually saw that everyone else felt the exact same way. I wanted to give you something special, something that could make you as proud of me as I was to be your fan. So... "Empress" was born.

That is so heartwarming! I can't describe how touched I am to hear that. Tell us how you composed the song!

Me, my apple earbuds, and the GarageBand app on my iPhone 4! Yup—just that. I didn't have any kind of equipment at all. I can't describe the creative process, but it took me about ten minutes to write it, and forty more to record it.

WOW! I remember learning about that and being shocked when I first e-mailed you to ask if you wanted to put your song on YouTube. Your personal story touched me so deeply because, at the time, your tight-knit family was struggling with finances. I'm so glad to hear that's improved. But back to my point—it was only at Christmas, a few months after you released "Empress" in 2015—that you got a very special gift. What was it?
A BRAND NEW SPANKIN' SHINY MAC LAPTOP from my aunt! The musician in me was in heaven from the potential for greatness!

My goodness! Greatness awaits, indeed! So... an album, huh? How exciting! Tell us more about that. What's going to be different? Have you grown as a musician? If so, how?

I've definitely grown A LOT—in all aspects of my life. I've really started pursuing and growing my talents and natural gifts. And this album is going to reflect a lot of that, as well as many direct themes and elements from Dripping Mascara.

Any themes in the album to look out for?

A lot of it, if not all of it, is written from Shelley's perspective. Her ups and downs, her relationship struggles, etc. And that will definitely be evident in the music.

Can you spoil for us any future song titles to look out for?

Well, you guys have already heard "Apology", a song featured on the album. As for other song titles, I'm still debating about a lot of them. There will likely be a song titled "Breath Away", and you can probably guess who Shelley's talking about just from the title. Send me suggestions at @alinaj0y 🙏

ABOUT MUSIC

What's your history with music like?

I get a lot of it from my dad. Everyone on his side of the family is either a highly trained opera singer, a brilliant classical musician (my Grandma held the double bass spot in the Florida Philharmonic for nearly 30 years), or a jazz performer. I love my mom to death, and she loves to sing, but my musical gifts definitely came from my dad 😊

Wow! What a history! How long have you been singing? Songwriting?

I've been singing since diapers, but as far as legitimate training, probably when I was 12. I started writing songs last year.

That's crazy! What instruments do you play and how long have you played them?

I've been playing the piano for 3-4 years, I have a basic understanding of the drums, and I am currently teaching myself how to play guitar and electric violin.

Did you ever compose music for release before Empress?

I've written worship songs, but never anything secular before "Empress". I love writing about romance and love... but more than anything, I love writing songs about the greatest love of all. The love of Jesus.

What or who is your muse when it comes to writing or composing music?

Honestly, it depends. But I think it's always Jesus deep down. That's why I don't curse or write about anything explicit in my music. The love I feature in my songs is pure and true.

Tell us about your creative process. Melody first or lyrics first?

Both! It's hard to explain, but whenever a melody comes to mind, lyrics are always there, too.

What is the hardest part of your creative process?

Not wasting time. I am an extreme procrastinator.

What is the easiest?

Easiest would probably be making the track. I love that part. It's fun and I thoroughly enjoy it!

Do you have any advice for aspiring musicians?

Don't compromise your standards because it's what mainstream media demands. If it's meant to be, then you'll get it for the right reasons.

FAVORITES

What is your favorite subject in school?

Language Arts!

Who is your favorite singer?

Ugh—hard question! My favorite female voice is Ariana Grande, but I love the power in Demi Lovato's voice. My favorite male singer is Justin Bieber or Connor Maynard. But my musical idol is Adele, because she's classy and people love it.

What is your favorite instrument?

Piano!

What's your favorite genre of music to listen to? What about to compose or sing?

Favorite genre is film score/soundtracks, or rock. I love both. As for writing? Probably worship/R&B/pop.

What's your favorite actor or actress?

Jack Black. He's the bomb.

What's your favorite book?

"The Witch Of Blackbird Pond". I was forced to read it for an assignment. I can't believe how reluctant I was to even open it! Now, I love it.

What's your favorite show or movie?

Top three movies? "Forrest Gump", "The Prince Of Egypt", and "Age Of Adeline". Favorite shows are definitely "Stranger Things" and "FRIENDS".

Me, my apple earbuds, and the GarageBand app on my iPhone 4!
Yup—just that.

—Alina Joy
on recording "Empress"

ABOUT YOU

What's one word to describe you?

Original. Or lazy, but let's go with original right now 😊

Any really unique facts about you?

I am homeschooled and proud of it! Just like you were, Gen! Also, I can't whistle. It's stupid, I know.

Too funny! Now tell us about your happiest memory.

For my sixth birthday, my aunt paid someone to bring an actual live pony to my backyard for me to ride. It was lit.

What are your hobbies outside of singing, music, or writing?

Dancing. I'm not very good at it, but I love CIZE. It's an exercise dance workout program that's super hard but SOOO fun.

Do you have a mantra? If so, what is it?

Don't do drugs, kids.

Do you have siblings? How many? Older or younger?

Four younger brothers. I'm the oldest, and the only girl 🙏

What makes you laugh so hard soda shoots out of your nose?

This question! 😂 Seriously though, watching Lizza Koshy on YouTube. She is hysterical.

What do you think of yourself when you look in the mirror?

Who cares if I'm not a size 2? There's more to love 🙏

You go, girl! That is so true. Now tell us about your day job!

I'm a piano teacher, with a few other random side jobs thrown in there. Sometimes I work for a professional clown!

No way! What do you see yourself doing in the next 5 years?

Growing in my faith, developing my talents, and getting into shape. Also, maybe finding that special someone. But only when I'm ready.

What's your relationship status?

Single by choice 🙏

What's the most embarrassing thing that has ever happened to you?

One time, my 17 (now 20) year old neighbor was lighting fireworks (the cheap ones you buy from those tents on the side of the road) in his backyard. After he would set one on fire, he and his friends would jump over it. I thought it was EXTREMELY dangerous (the flames were maybe two feet tall), so I filled a bucket with water and literally dumped it on him mid-air. He was COVERED in water, and his phone was in his pocket... my middle school years were hard.

What do you really, REALLY want more than anything else in the world?

To live my life with purpose. I don't want to take a single day for granted. Also, I want Episode to stop being dumb. Like seriously, stop. We don't want any more "Pregnant by ___" stories.

Oh my! Strong opinions you have there Well, before we leave, Alina, I have one last question for you... what are you doing for your sweet 16th birthday?!

Renting a limo and riding around with my best friends! Everyone is meeting at my house and then we're going to a movie before we drive around and look at lights while eating from Cookout. Finally, we're going to go inside Walmart and have a scavenger hunt! 😂

Classic! I love it! I know that you will have an amazing birthday, you sweet soul! Thank you so much for EVERYTHING! I hope that we meet again in person soon! Meeting you and your beautiful family in April was UNREAL. I'm so glad to have captured the attention of someone as talented, gifted, and humble as you. You are such a beautiful person and I hope you know how loved you are!

On behalf of all the Mascarettes—Happy Birthday, Alina!
THANK YOU SO MUCH, GEN! I'm speechless. Thank you and all of my fellow Mascarettes for the incredible, insane support I've gotten. I never in my wildest dreams thought my music would be appreciated by so many and so fondly. Thank you again, Gen, stay blessed, and I hope we meet again one day, too! I love you so much!