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Profile: Mason McClintock - The Son of a Preacher Man

He's a musician, singer/songwriter, self-taught nail technician, tailor and fashion designer, self-made gourmet chef, UGA graduate and he is only 22.

Mason McClintock is an extraordinarily rare individual trailblazing the streets of his current residence Nashville, Tennessee.

"I know that I am supposed to be in the creative, entrepreneurial space with my career," said McClintock. "All I have ever done has been a result of my self-starting nature."

McClintock's determination of bringing a fresh vista to the world comes wrapped up in a package of long, curly brown hair and bright blue eyes eager to see everything Earth has to offer.

Before moving to Nashville in 2023, McClintock made a name for himself in Georgia as a poster child for America's leading youth development club, 4-H.

In his middle school and high school 4-H years, McClintock wore many different hats as a district board member, state board president, guest speaker for state and national conferences, traveling show choir performer and master 4-H'er in a state-wide vocal competition.

McClintock's accomplishments did not come without a few bumps in the road.

"Being the son of a preacher man from a small town in South Georgia was difficult for a little gay boy with big dreams," said McClintock. "Perspective on the world was very limited."

McClintock grew up in Alma, a very rural town in Georgia with around 2,500 natives who all seemed to have a closed-minded view of the world.

"Growing up queer (or simply different from what is expected of boys from my hometown) in a devoutly Christian home and community derived a great sense of empathy for me," said McClintock.

McClintock's younger sister, Lilah Grace, said the challenges he faced in his community likely had a mixed impact on his success.

"When he came out, instead of support, he got hurtful reactions from people who call themselves Christians and the people he loved most," said Lilah Grace. "That must have been really painful."

McClintock utilized the acceptance, diversity and friendship he experienced in 4-H to his advantage, as a contribution to his success.

“Mason has overcome many obstacles that could have thwarted his success had he not been so determined,” said Ericka Kuck, Admissions Specialist with Middle Georgia, and McClintock’s lifelong 4-H friend.

“Overall, he has made the most of the challenges he has faced, while maintaining a positive attitude.” said Kuck.

The reactions McClintock received after sharing his sexuality were aimed to inflict cooperation with his community’s social norms; but his confidence grew as he realized his unique design, self-worth, and positive impact on the world.

“When I would fail, I was dangerously critical of myself,” said McClintock. “After many years of this and lots of self-reflection, I have begun to recognize and believe that I am worthy of love and acceptance despite my shortcomings and failures.”

Regardless of the adversity McClintock faced throughout his life, he dedicated himself to studying, loving, and befriending others which unintentionally established a congregation of people who support him in every way imaginable.

In separate interviews, both Lilah Grace and Kuck said their favorite thing about McClintock are his hugs.

Currently, McClintock keeps himself busy with various hobbies while hustling to share his talents with America’s music capital of the world.

“I sell jewelry at Swarovski by day, and I perform on any stage I’m allowed on by night,” said McClintock. “I co-write a lot of music with other songwriters throughout the week, and I frequent live shows and showcases to meet other cool people around town.”

Looking forward, McClintock would like to win GRAMMYS, become a business and landowner, get married, travel the world, and have a family.

“I’d love to inspire people to live authentically among other things,” said McClintock. “I want to be happy, but I also want to be fulfilled.”

Sources

4-19-24 interview with Mason McClintock (profile individual).
4-21-24 interview with Lilah Grace McClintock (sister).
4-26-24 interview with Ericka Jean Kuck (admissions specialist).