

RISE TO FAME

Dylan Hyde

Dylan Hyde is often described as a “retro-inspired pop crooner.” His emotion-filled singing style captures the allure of youth dipping into another era.

“It fits me,” says 15-year-old Hyde. “Classy just defines me more than being a skateboarder and wearing what I used to wear and singing what I used to sing.”

On being compared to Justin Bieber, Hyde says, “I don’t have a problem with that. I respect him a lot. [We] are just two different artists.”

My 10-year-old daughter, Eden, and I were lucky enough to be able to visit with the up-and-coming star and his family at home in San Diego. We got a firsthand look at what it takes to break into the music biz.

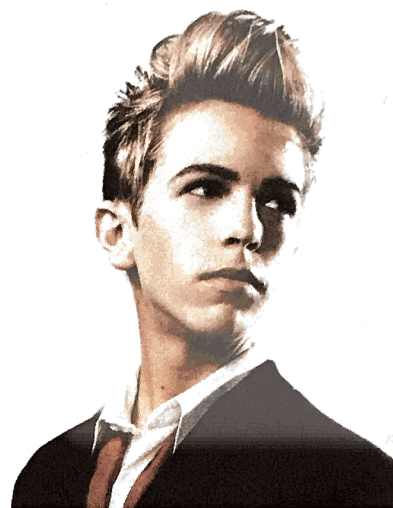
Hyde began piano lessons in the fifth grade. He learned scales and taught himself how to play the guitar later on. His great piano playing blends with his love of writing meaningful songs.

“I like to sit down at the piano and write ballads,” Dylan explains. “My thing is writing about how we need help in the world. I really like putting those in my songs lyrically.”

Dylan’s song “Love Is” expresses how love is the answer to many of the world’s problems.

“Love is the cure,” Hyde sings out to us as he plays his piano. I realize quickly that he is a natural performer and that sincerity like his is hard to come by at such a young age. I ask Dylan about his dream.

“Obviously I want to be legendary,” he says. “I would like, when I’m older, when my career has taken off, to make a record label and run my own company. I’d want to get young artists because I’ve been there and I think I could do right by them.”



Dylan has mature ambitions, but we all laugh when Dylan and his mom reminisce about what he wanted to be when he was younger.

“I totally thought I was going to be a superhero. I was going to have super speed. I was going to go save everyone,” says Dylan. What he’s currently doing is not that far off from his childhood plan. His music and simply his way about him are refreshingly positive.

Dylan is an inspiration as well. He has undergone several surgeries, beginning when he was 5 years old, to correct hearing loss. Unfortunately, tubes that were supposed to fall out on their own created permanent holes in his eardrums that led to more involved surgeries. Although he still has 40 percent hearing loss in his left ear, he somehow still manages to sing well.

Dylan is now homeschooled, allowing for plenty of time in the studio. Social media has become his main outlet for connecting with friends and fans.

“Instagram, Facebook, Tumblr,” Dylan’s manager Richard Allen lists. “You have to make it personal. They just want to feel a part of your life.”

DylanHydeMusic.com
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My daughter Eden, asks how Dylan feels about the possibility of giving up his childhood for his singing dreams.

“I don’t really think of giving up my childhood,” he answers.

“This is something I want and I’m going to stick to it.”

Dylan says he’s ready to mature into an adult. He admits he has always enjoyed time with grown-ups. Most of his family members sing and they regularly host karaoke night complete with an outside stage and sound system.

He also has plenty of fun making his web series “Amazed” that his manager writes and produces. Dylan stars as himself and friends, Allegra (Disa Power) and Cassidy (Harley Henderson), round out the cast. The group sets out to solve unexplained occurrences on Coronado Island in a style that is comedy meets

suspense. Several episodes contain Dylan's original music. Watch episodes at www.amazedtv.com.

Dylan's mother, Tiffany Call, has advice for parents whose children express an interest in performing. "First nurture their talent and their interest in this field, and let them try. Encourage them to try different instruments. Give them opportunities to get into vocal lessons. Even if they don't end up being a big actor, it brings a positive sense of self and the kids who are involved have more confidence."

Eden chimes in again to ask Dylan how he would feel with ten thousand fans.

"That would be awesome," he says with a big smile. "Right now I would love that. It's definitely what I'm working up to."

I can't help but wonder if he ever gets nervous.

"The second I get on stage, I forget who I am," says Dylan. His manager recalls his terrific recent performance at the San Diego County Fair, and Dylan chuckles. "I can't dance to save my life," he says. "I just have fun."

Having fun is a successful formula for this young man and it translates into an energetic and authentic performance. Dylan wants to continue learning as much as he can, but tells me his back up plan if fame isn't in his future.

"Either I'm super successful or I live on a farm and no one knows my name," he says. "With my accordion," he promptly adds, making me like him even more.

Dylan's trademark hair is tucked up under his hat on this warm afternoon and he sits surrounded by a view of the mountains. He's relaxed, warm and friendly. I can't help but think that his future is indeed bright. I ask him for any last advice for fellow aspiring young singers.

Dylan responds with conviction. "Be yourself. The fans will care and love you more if you're just yourself. We already have our Justin Bieber, but we don't have the next you." ♦

Laura Pardo and daughter Eden, of South Park, had loads of fun teaming up to interview this teen pop sensation.



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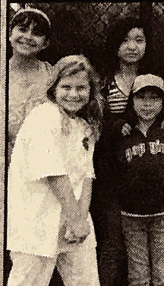


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