

Singer, songwriter Janey Neal bares all

Written by Harry Colbert, Jr.



There's a certain amount of pain in Janey Neal's songs.

But there's also a certain amount of hope and love. There's something so real, so raw that as a listener, one is fully captured by Neal's sultry, raspy voice. When listening to Neal pour out her emotions to melody, one can't help but think she's either talking directly to the listener or speaking *for* the listener.

"I'm very emotional," said Neal. "My music is very moody – up and down. I see things very black and white, it's on or off."

There's a reason Neal's music is so hot and cold. Neal is clinically diagnosed with bipolar disorder – a condition associated with mood swings that range from the lows of depression to the highs of mania.

"A lot of people say they can hear that in my music," explained Neal. "People hit me up privately and ask about me being bipolar and they say 'so am I' or 'so is my family member' or friend. I think by me being so open about it, it's bringing awareness to the condition."

Being bipolar is a condition that Neal manages daily, but when it comes to her music and her singing, it's purely a side story, as Neal is a gifted songwriter and accomplished singer. But Neal wasn't always a singer and songwriter. Neal realized her talents while hosting a weekly open mic as a spoken word artist.

"I started meeting people who were saying I should put music behind my poetry, so I started writing songs instead of poetry," said Neal. "I didn't know I could sing. I was always a writer, but I never tried to sing."

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www.janeyneal.com