



BLOG, FEATURED ARTIST, MUSIC

Featured Artist: Casely

Posted by AMBER SHANNON on MAY 2, 2016

About a week ago, I had the privilege of sitting down with nationally known recording artist, Jean-Carlos Casely. Jean-Carlos, who goes by Casely, was born and raised in Miami, FL. [Casely](#) is a singer and songwriter, who also plays guitar and piano. He often records with Scott Corbin, owner of local guitar center, [The Jank Guitar Store](#). The duo make up the group [Casely and the Jank](#). Recently, they collaborated on a music project that resulted in the production of their latest music video featuring their single, [Tick Tock](#). The music video opens in St. Charles, with initial scenes shot right in the city's downtown area.



What brought Casely to Illinois, particularly St. Charles?

A few years ago, while preparing for a show in Miami, Casely needed a guitar player and was introduced to Scott Corbin through mutual friends. "Scott is an exceptional guitar player," says Casely, "which is what I needed for the show. We share a mutual bond of respect for music. [Meaning a] deep love for music. It's not something done as a hobby or just for fun, it's taken very seriously."

Early Years

Casely got into the music industry after receiving constant support from his parents. As a child, wherever he was, in the car or in the shower, Casely was always singing. At age 9, while in summer camp, Casely started doing community theatre. Throughout his childhood years, he was involved in local, musical productions. Casely played many notable characters such as Pippin in the musical *Pippin*, Joseph in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde in *Jekyll & Hyde*, and more.

Writing Music and Finding a Sound

Casely started writing music when he was 14. He says, "its always been very important to me to be as authentic as possible... the initial approach to music should be writing to get deeply connected to the music." As an adolescent, Casely met an aspiring music producer and the two began to collaborate together. They would spend hours holding jam sessions that included playing music, writing songs, and singing. Initially, Casely played R&B music then eventually transitioned into pop. The artist says he evolved out of pop because he has "a love for a variety of music genres... I love the digital, synthesized sound of pop. I love the electronic sound. I have such a love for the 1980's era of music."

The Tick Tock Music Video

Casely's pop song *Tick, Tock* combines R&B undertones with electronic styling. Casely chose St. Charles as the opening setting for the *Tick, Tock* video because "St. Charles is beautiful. It's untapped in terms of showing beauty because it's a town that not many people know about, on a national scale" says Casely.

As you watch the music video, Casely is found traveling via train from St. Charles to Chicago. Casely shared that his "vision for the video was to show, through time and different places and scenes, that love will never stop. Love will always be there, no matter where you are in life." The video includes real musical elements, such as the ticking of a clock...



Advice for Young Music Artists

I asked Casely if he had any advice to share with the younger generation of kids in elementary and secondary school. He said, "pick up an instrument. Following your dreams is a given. If you dream it, work at it, go after it. Pick up an instrument, practice and hone your craft. If you love it, it will be fun while you're doing it."

According to Casely, music is his career, and has always been his career. He wants to present music that people will enjoy, and be able to experience both a new side of Casely, and a new side of music. So what's next for Casely? He says, "the music industry is very singles driven, but an album is coming."

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