



Musicians By Night by Linda Lombroso for The Journal News, LoHud
Sunday, July 17, 2011

Even as a little girl, Nishi Rajan wanted to be a lawyer and a singer-songwriter.

Tall orders, but Rajan has been able to do both. From 9 to 5, she works as counsel for a Manhattan law firm, then devotes her nights & weekends to music.

"I've been writing songs forever, and I knew I wasn't completely fulfilled without being able to give in to the creative aspects of my life," she says.

Rajan, who moved to the United States from New Delhi when she was 5, describes her music as "rock pop alternative and dance, with all my dance [music] being very Indianish."

Her band, Nishi and the Nights, has performed in bars and nightclubs all over Manhattan, including Alphabet Lounge, in the East Village, and Fat Baby, on the Lower East Side.

For Rajan, the best part of a live show is seeing the impact of her songs on the audience. "It's suddenly seeing something change in their eyes, where they're moved by the music, the words, and if it's a really great fast song, when I see them start tapping their knees and moving their feet, I'm like 'Oh my God, they really like this,'" she says. "It's the most gratifying experience any artist can have."

In May, Rajan debuted her new single, "Release Me," at a Bollywood-style dance party in Washington, D.C. She's currently in the studio working on her second album, "Master of My Fate," due out this fall.

Her music conveys a range of emotions, she says. "The dance songs are all about love and the experiences associated with that, but I do have a lot of serious songs about heartache, about life, about loss & I guess about the strength of the soul and the human spirit."

Her biggest fans, says Rajan, are probably women in their 20s and 30s. "They love Indian music, but they also like independent music," she says. "And music that's actually fun to listen to that's not just sugar pop."

Although she devotes most of her free time to her burgeoning music career, Rajan has other interests: She's starred in several children's theater productions in Manhattan, appeared on TV in a recent episode of "Blue Bloods" and has the lead role in British director Babar Ahmed's next film, "Sid's Paralysis," due out later this year (she filmed her scenes in one weekend).

As if music, acting and a full-time job weren't enough, Rajan is also the founder of the Leading Light Foundation, an international nonprofit that reports on human-rights abuses. "My real passion as a lawyer is human-rights law," she says.

No matter how many directions she's pulled in, however, Nishi Rajan will always be a musician.

"It's my soul's calling."

Listen to the music: Learn more about Nishi Rajan, and keep track of her performance schedule, at www.nishimusic.com.

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.