

= Bianca Ryan =

Bianca Taylor Ryan ( born September 1 , 1994 ) is an American singer , songwriter , musician and actress from Philadelphia , Pennsylvania . Ryan was the first winner of NBC 's America 's Got Talent at the age of eleven . She auditioned for Talent in 2006 and amazed the judges with her big voice . Singing two Broadway show tunes along the way , Ryan was announced as the winner of season one on August 17 . Her eponymous first album was released later in 2006 , followed by two Christmas albums . Two singles followed in 2007 and 2010 ; also in 2010 , she made an acting appearance in a music video by The Wrecking . The video for her first new release in four years , a cover of the John Legend song " All of Me " , was posted to her YouTube channel in March 2014 . Her original song " Alice " was self @-@ released in May 2015 .

In 2012 , Ryan joined the cast of the independent film We Are Kings , portraying one of two down @-@ on @-@ their @-@ luck teen musicians who are guided by an angel to save an elder bluesman from freezing to death . The film premiered in September 2014 , and the video for her single " Broken Down House " was released in October .

= = Early life = =

Bianca Ryan is the second of five children of Shawn and Janette Ryan , who moved from New Jersey to Philadelphia when Bianca was three years old . Her father , a fan of The Rolling Stones , named her after Mick Jagger 's ex @-@ wife . She has an older brother , Shawn , and three younger siblings , Isabella , Jagger and Evangelina . Ryan is " mostly " Irish and calls herself a mix of Japanese , Irish , Italian , German and Cherokee . " I 'm basically just America ... the melting pot . "

Ryan 's singing talent came as something of a surprise to her family , given that she was an award @-@ winning tap dancer as a child . Ryan said she did not even attempt to sing until she was eight years old and started enjoying LeAnn Rimes and country music . Shawn Ryan started sharing his record collection with his daughter , and Bianca " fell in love " with rhythm and blues and soul music . She convinced him to take her to an audition for Star Search , where her performance of " Think " impressed the judges and shocked her father . " I 'd never heard her sing like that . " During the Junior Singers competition , Bianca Ryan lost to Spensha Baker . Ryan later won Amateur Kids Night on Showtime at the Apollo .

Ryan has sung the Star @-@ Spangled Banner for several professional sports teams , including the Philadelphia Eagles , the New York Knicks and its Westchester affiliate , and the New York Mets .

= = America 's Got Talent = =

In 2006 , Ryan learned that American Idol judge Simon Cowell was serving as executive producer for an upcoming competition titled America 's Got Talent , and the tryouts in New York were happening on the same day as a family outing in the city . Ryan almost left without performing when she looked at the other contestants and saw a lady with a beard " probably about , like , two feet long , " juggling torches . She decided to stay when her father told her the grand prize was US \$ 1 million . For her televised audition , she chose the Dreamgirls show tune " And I Am Telling You I 'm Not Going " , surprising the audience and the judges with her powerful voice . The video of her audition performance quickly became popular on YouTube .

For the semi @-@ finals of the show Ryan performed " Piece of My Heart " . The judges praised her performance , but they did not think the song was right for Ryan . She rebounded for her finals performance , singing " I Am Changing " ( also from Dreamgirls ) ; judge David Hasselhoff called her " the best " in the competition , while Piers Morgan predicted she would win . During the finale results aired on August 17 , 2006 , 11 @-@ year @-@ old Bianca Ryan was announced by emcee Regis Philbin as the winner of season one of America 's Got Talent .

Ryan made a brief appearance during the show 's season two finale in 2007 . In a video recorded during Live Nation 's Nextfest tour , she wished good luck to the top two finalists .

= = Career = =

= = = Music = = =

= = = 2006 ? 09 : Bianca Ryan and holiday albums = = =

One week after her victory , Ryan announced on her website that she had flown to New York to meet with representatives from a record label and some of the recording industry 's top songwriters . The Northeast Times reported the same day that Ryan met with Grammy Award @-@ winning producer David Foster and was being managed by Peter Rudge .

Ryan signed a five @-@ album record deal with SYCOMusic as part of Columbia Records on September 18 , 2006 . She was the first U.S. artist to sign with SYCOMusic ; during the press conference , Simon Cowell called Ryan " potentially one of the best singers I have ever heard in my life . " The following month , Ryan was in Los Angeles to record her first CD . The self @-@ titled debut was released on November 14 , 2006 , featuring cover versions of " The Rose " and " I Believe I Can Fly " , and original songs like " I Wish That " and " Pray for a Better Day " . Eight days later , the album debuted at No. 57 on the Billboard album charts , showcasing " her gargantuan chops and sweet charm " . Matt Collar of AllMusic added that the arrangements were " grandiose " for someone of Ryan 's age , but they were " more than matched by her truly impressive vocal talent . " Los Angeles Daily News reviewer Sandra Barrera wrote that Ryan handled the songs " like the old pro that her big , powerful voice makes you think she is " .

One month later , the EP Christmas Everyday ! was released as a promotional giveaway . She then joined several artists in a televised 2006 Christmas performance for President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush at the National Building Museum to benefit the Children 's National Medical Center .

Ryan 's first concert tour took her across the United States as the special guest artist for Nextfest in 2007 . That August , she released the single " That 's Not Me " .

In 2008 , Ryan left SYCOMusic / Columbia Records ; she released her second holiday @-@ themed EP , True Meaning of Christmas , on November 3 , 2009 , on the indie Music Forever label . This second collection , co @-@ written with Anthony Marinelli and Siedah Garrett , included updated versions of " The Christmas Song " and " Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas " ; the title track featured a duet with gospel pop singer Brent Jones .

= = = 2010 ? present : Singles , videos and upcoming EP = = =

In 2010 , Bianca Ryan wrote and recorded a song inspired by Twilight : New Moon called " In My Head " . The single was released digitally on August 21 through the indie label Tuned In Music and Media , followed by performances at Trump Plaza in Atlantic City , New Jersey .

Ryan was asked in October 2012 about the differences between her debut album and her future projects . She said she didn 't get to choose what songs went on her first CD , and while the experience she gained by working with people like David Foster and Kara DioGuardi was amazing , " I didn 't feel like it was really me . ... You can relate to songs that you write . " Ryan spent much of her teen years out of the spotlight . She explained in 2014 that she had put her career on hold to go back to school even though , as it turned out , she hated high school ? besides " a couple of stalkers " , she was mostly ignored by other students and didn 't make any friends until after school was over . Nevertheless , she " wanted to live a life , and have purpose and things to write about " due to her passion for writing music . Ryan told fanlala.com in February that she was working with industry veterans like Quincy Jones on a new EP featuring her own work , which she called more " mainstream " than anything she had written before . Ryan described her musical style as a blend of neo soul , R & B and pop .

She also went back to work on her YouTube channel in 2014 . Her cover of " All of Me " was uploaded in March .

In 2015 , Ryan created a music video for " Alice " , an original song she had written years earlier . The video was funded in part by a Kickstarter project and was self @-@ released in May 2015 . It features dancer Chloe Lukasiak , who called the video her favorite project since leaving Dance Moms . The single was released via Ryan 's own label through iTunes , Google Play and ReverbNation . Her cover of " God Bless the Child " was released on iTunes in July .

Ryan plans to go on tour in support of her upcoming EP . She was a featured performer at the Hollystock Music and Arts Festival in Mount Holly , New Jersey , in August 2015 . Performances in November included the Macy 's Christmas Window unveiling and the 6ABC / Dunkin ' Donuts Thanksgiving Parade , both in Philadelphia .

== = Acting = = =

Ryan made several early attempts to be an actress , trying out unsuccessfully for such projects as Camp Rock and Hannah Montana . She made her acting debut in a walk @-@ off appearance in the 2005 film 12 and Holding ; her character is shown at a school function singing the final line of " Oh ! Susanna " , thanking the audience , and leaving the stage . She returned to acting five years later , playing the lead role in the music video for " About to Fall " by The Wrecking .

In 2012 , Ryan joined the cast of We Are Kings , an independent , crowdsourced feature film . She portrayed one of two homeless musicians who join up with a runaway rapper to help an elder bluesman raise the money he needs to save his comatose wife and their repossessed blues club . Ryan and her co @-@ stars wrote their own original songs for We Are Kings . Her first single from the film , " Broken Down House " , was released in November 2014 .

Upon the film 's release , LA Weekly called Ryan , Long and Pryce " so bursting with talent that it 's impossible to pick a favorite " while the Los Angeles Times looked past the " discordant " acting to praise the " palpable , soulful authenticity " of the music . " I could use an acting coach , " Ryan admitted , " but , see , I 'm honest . "

== = Discography = =

== = Albums and EPs = = =

Bianca Ryan ( 2006 )

Christmas Everyday ! [ sic ] ( 2006 , 2007 )

True Meaning of Christmas ( 2009 )

== = Filmography = =