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Nikki McKibbin (born Katherine Nicole McKibbin on September 28, 1978 in Grand Prairie, Texas, USA) is an American singer who finished third in the 2002 debut season of American Idol. Prior to American Idol, McKibbin was one of the top twenty finalists in the first season of Popstars.

Early Life

An only child McKibbin's mother has stated that Nikki always wanted to sing, she would sing and dance all around the house.

In high school, McKibbin was a cheerleader. Growing up people would tease her for her style. After American Idol she would remark how she thought it was funny that she got praised for her originality on the show but made fun of for it in Texas. After high school she went to and graduated from cosmetology school. She also joined the business world and founded Angelfire Productions, a karaoke company, which did very well for her until she sold it in 2005 to focus on her music career. She would often sing at the Dallas Coyote Ugly Bar.

McKibbin has a son named Tristen. She never married his father, but had a brief marriage which ended in early 2002. She has struggled with money, and at one point was a stripper. She said she's not ashamed of this, and did what she had to do to take care of her son.

American Idol

In 2002, Nikki auditioned for the show American Idol, earning a spot in the finals. According to the American Idol archives, McKibbin was the first finalist to sing rock in the competition. While on American Idol, McKibbin escaped elimination on several occasions. However, her performances of "Mary Jane," by Alanis Morissette, and "I'm the Only One," by Melissa Etheridge earned the plucky red-head praise and a spot in the final three with eventual winner Kelly Clarkson and runner-up Justin Guarini. Nikki also set a record by being in the bottom three or two five times, a record that still stands as of 2006.

Post-Idol career to Present

Immediately following her stint on American Idol, McKibbin signed with 19 Management and RCA Records. They urged her to record a Country album, but she was determined to stay true to her rock roots; she rejected the idea saying that her fans had known her and voted for her on the show because she was a rocker not a country singer. The creative differences resulted in no releasable recordings being produced.

In 2004, she appeared on the holiday CD Christmas in a Fishbowl with several other reality stars for Fishbowl.com.

In 2005, McKibbin appeared in several reality shows, including a special "Reality TV Stars" episode of the NBC series Fear Factor, and the sports competition show Battle of the Network Reality Stars in which her team won. She also appeared in the E! Entertainment reality show Kill Reality which documented the filming of The Scorned, a television movie with a cast comprised of reality television stars. McKibbin plays a singer in the film. The movie premiered Oct. 31, 2005. After The Scorned McKibbin was accepted into the Screen Actors Guild.

In May of 2005 McKibbin joined Dallas rock band Downside. They did several shows together including a sold out show at the Hard Rock Cafe in Dallas, but due to creative and personal differences Nikki left the band in Septemeber of the same year.

The Music

Recording began with manager/producer Joe Cannizzaro in December 2005, starting with a cover of "To Be With You" by Mr. Big. The single "The Lie"/"To Be With You" and a limited edition behind-the-scenes DVD can be ordered from her official web site. You can Download "The Lie" and "To Be With You" from Burnlounge.com

McKibbin is represented by manager Joe Cannizzaro of Chenoa Music, Inc. in the U.S. Her producers include Cannizzaro (who also handles U.S. A&R for Chenoa Music Publishing) and Chenoa Music recording artist Annica. RCA A & R Stephen Ferrera contributes 3 song productions, including a song he wrote called "Unleashed"! Stephen's successes include Carrie Underwood, Kelly Clarkson, Rubeen Studdard, and Clay Aiken.

Nikki is currently back in Texas working on her album.

Performances on American Idol

- **"I Will Survive" (Gloria Gaynor) (Audition; Spring 2002)
- **"Unchained Melody" (The Righteous Brothers) (Pasadena Auditions; June 2002)
- **"Total Eclipse of the Heart" (Bonnie Tyler, 1983) (Semi-finals; July 2, 2002)
- **"Ben" (Michael Jackson, 1972) (Motown week; July 16, 2002) (Bottom 3)
- **"Piece of My Heart" (Janis Joplin, 1968) (1960s week; July 23, 2002)
- **"Heartbreaker" (Pat Benatar, 1979) (1970s week; July 30, 2002) (Bottom 3)
- **"Hard-Hearted Hannah" (Ella Fitzgerald) (Big band week; August 6, 2002) (Bottom 3)
- **"Always Something There to Remind Me" (Naked Eyes, 1983) (Love songs week; August 13, 2002) (Bottom 2)
- **"Mary Jane" (Alanis Morissette, 1995) (1980s & 1990s week; August 20, 2002) (Bottom 2)
- **"I'm the Only One" (Melissa Etheridge, 1993) (1980s & 1990s week; August 20, 2002) (Bottom 2)
- **"Black Velvet" (Alannah Myles, 1990) (Choice selections week; August 27, 2002) (Bottom 2; voted off)
- **"Edge of Seventeen" (Stevie Nicks, 1982) (Choice selections week; August 27, 2002) (Bottom 2; voted off)

Discography

Singles

#"To Be With You (Digital Single)" (2006)#"The Lie" (2006)

Others

#"American Idol: Greatest Moments (2002)#"Christmas in a FishBowl (2004)
External links

*Nikki McKibbin official site

*www.Myspace.com/NikkiMckibbin

*"American Idol" profile of Nikki McKibbin

*Be"With You A Nikki McKibbin fansite

*Nikki McKibbin Forum

*[<https://www.burnlounge.com/nikkirock> Nikki's Store on Burnlounge.com]

Check out Nikki's MySpace Page [Click Here](#)

Check Out Her Website By [Clicking Here](#)

Sign up to the site and join the rest of the fans in the live chat.

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