



Interview with Samantha Hudson ▶ Next May 14th she arrives in Andorra la Vella as part of the

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Samantha Hudson is a singer, actress, performer and artist. A person who leaves a mark wherever she goes, as well as being the most powerful young voice in the current panorama of queer representation and activism. Next Sunday, May 14th, she arrives at the Andorra la Vella Convention Center to participate in the talk «Queer cinema and its representations», which is part of the Ull Nu Festival and where she will talk about the representations of the LGBTQ community in the audiovisual and the need for art as a mechanism to fight against prevailing oppression.

—You were considered the «great icon of Generation Z». Do you really feel that way?

—I consider myself very iconic, but I don't know if this has any kind of real impact on my environment. It is true that the audience loves me a lot, but imagine having an audience that was the complete opposite, it would be a resounding failure in my career. I always say that for me my generation is more of a reference than I am for them, because in the end if what I say or the things I do is necessary in some way in this new wave of young people that is coming ahead is not because I'm exceptional, but because luckily or unfortunately I'm given a speaker that most people don't have. And I decide to use this speaker in the best way possible, because if we are here, why not take advantage of it. I also have to say that it bothers me a little that they say the term «generational icon of Generation Z», because I think that my target audience is all the mothers and grandmothers who are watching TV at six o'clock in the afternoon. And if there is one thing I am, it is a person who likes to every mother in the country. So, a benchmark for Generation Z? Well, if a journalist has said it, I'm no one to deny it, but I would qualify by saying that I'm more of an intergenerational icon.

—Your speeches on the paradigms of gender, sex and freedom of expression have crossed the networks and have even come to star in political gatherings. Does it take its toll on to show yourself in such a clear way in front of society?

—In some way I suppose you expose yourself. The repercussion may also come from a change of government, with some party that does not match the interests or ideals that I promulgate. I won't deny that this has an impact, but, in any case, if I'm where I am now it's because I'm honest with myself and don't keep anything quiet. Therefore, if I suddenly changed my strategy I would end up becoming a fool and that is a position I am not prepared to assume.

—To what extent is the public prepared to have dissident voices like yours among its ranks?

—This is a fact that scares a lot of the general media and the people who



S.H.

Samantha Hudson

SINGER, ACTRESS AND ARTIST

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are responsible for programming content. I think we have to put an end to the condescending attitude that treats the general public like real idiots or old-fashioned people. There is nothing more modern than a lady like Samantha Hudson and the general public who do not yet know her are more ready to take on as much the things I say as my aesthetics or the totality of my being. Many times, my colleagues or the people who place them as dissident characters are condemned as if we were monsters or were going to scare people for the mere fact of being too controversial. There are many controversies worse than seeing Samantha Hudson on prime time or participating in a television competition, but people don't take them with the same rigor or manner. The world is very ready for people like me and it also needs a renewal, to bet on different profiles and really see diversity. Not an imposed diversity as they want us to believe, but a tangible diversity that is on the street and in the reality of every house and corner of Spain, which is the country where I live and of which I speak.

—It could be said that, in a way, your career began in 2015 with the publication of the controversial video clip in which you denounced the vexation and abuse by the Church towards the LGBTQ community. Eight years later, what is your view of all that? Was the media impact it caused justified?

—I suppose that everything has a justification and an explanation, but of course this should not be used as an excuse. When this topic is discussed, there is also a factor of recrimination, where I am accused of being the cause of all the controversy, as if I had sought it out. I was given a high school thesis and I fulfilled the academic requirements that were asked of me: make a video clip, with specific plans, a free theme... so I fulfilled everything and I don't broke no rules. Besides, I was exercising the right to freedom of expression, so I neither committed a crime nor was

I some kind of terrorist as they suggested at the time. Blasphemy? Well, what do you want me to say, talking about blasphemy these days seems impudent to me. It's funny how the focus and attention is always put on the person who subverts or who transgresses, but the other side is never talked about. They always ask me what it is about Samantha Hudson to make society angry, but what I ask them is what it is about society that makes me angry. That's where I think the focus really needs to be. As I told you, I did not seek that controversy, but it was the Catholic Church, the defender of the minor and all the right-wing and ultraright parties that started a tremendously unfair campaign, attacking a minor and saying authentic barbarities in all media.

-Is this controversy still persecuting you today?

-Rather than persecute me, I would tell you that I am proud of it, as it really is a very good story. Sometimes you ask an artist what his background is or where his name comes from and what you get are mediocre and bland stories. I am lucky and privileged that my life path and the moment when my music career began is a story worthy of a movie, therefore I am tremendously proud of my origins and continue to defend the same position as then, despite the fact that I have never criticized people who have a specific spirituality. My criticism and complaint were directed towards a consolidated institution.

-Since then, your career has not stopped growing and you have accumulated awards such as the Rainbow from the Spanish Ministry of Equality, an Idol for Best Content Creator, an ODA award for Person of the Year... Overwhelmed by so much recognition?

-Against all odds, I am a very sensible person and it is a very premeditated decision to be so spontaneous. I don't look before your leap, and I guess that's what makes me more prepared to be in the media spotlight. It's been many years, many controversies... all this makes you win, but I would tell you that I have them even before I started being Samantha Hudson, when I knew that what I was doing had absolutely nothing bad or negative nor was it a reason to endure and tolerate all the disqualifications to which I was subjected. I suppose that the first step is to be very convinced of who you are, what you do and who you address, and this is possibly what has served as a shield for me to deal with day-to-day life, with all the annoyances that this implies.

-During this month you will present your new EP, AOVE, both in digital and physical format. What can you tell us about it?

-Music is the thread that unites my entire career and also my main financial support. At the moment, I have no plans to retire at the age of 23, so given the possibility of continuing

to perform my function as a singer, I thought of making an EP, which is a format that is on the agenda. AOVE consists of four songs, full of electrifying sounds, machine rhythms and many references to rave culture, the 90s and the Ruta del Bakalao. It's like a very dynamic musical sequence, with very frenetic timbres and a lot of bumping. It's my most ambitious and professional work to date and offers a renewed and more electronic Samantha Hudson than ever before.

-Why did you decide to focus on this new concept?

-I think it is the result of my life experiences throughout this year and the last few months, where I have been able to witness in Madrid, the city where I live, the opening of a new club or new underground parties. My friends and I pride ourselves on enjoying the parties tremendously and this year I went to many parties in parking lots, in the polygons and with all these machine sounds that are living a second life again. Without going further, artists like Aitana are in their more «ravera» and electronic era.

-Now you arrive in Andorra with the conference «Queer cinema and its representations». What can the public expect from this talk?

-I can give you a hint, but that's what I always say. If the audience thinks they're going to see a funny Samantha then maybe I'll give them a sadder one, and vice versa. In short, what they will see is a 100% Samantha Hudson, talking about queer cinema and being myself, which is the only thing I have to offer and the most affordable for the public.



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«The best thing is to let people tell their own stories and offer them the opportunities and resources to do so»

-Do you think there is really a fair representation of the LGBTQ community in audiovisuals?

-Audiovisual is a very broad area and there are occasions when things are done well and others when they are not. I'm in favor of inclusion and that at least the people who are in charge of casting or getting the equipment that makes up the figures and the extras worry about having a cast as diverse as possible, since this brings palpable diversity to the big screen despite what some might call forced inclusion. I think we are on the right track, but we need more dissident people at the top: to write scripts, to be directors... Many times it falls into a reference to a fact that you may not have touched closely and it ends up becoming in the blink of an eye it can go wrong, then the best thing to do is to let people tell their own stories and give them the opportunities and resources to do so.

-Is there really any way to deal with the oppression that seems to prevail in our society?

-I don't have the exact formula, but I guess the only way is to keep raising our voices, criticizing the things we don't like and trying to offer from the loudspeakers that we are granted a wide view as possible. To me, all the debates that arise on social networks or the controversies that are generated when a racialized person will star in the remake of some Disney movie seem very good to me. These types of debates enrich the discourse and bring to the table very important issues that, despite everything, we should not be addressing in 2023.

-Beyond all the professional projects you are in right now, what will be

next? How far does Samantha Hudson want to go?

-At the moment we have this tour in which we will present EVOO, which we will premiere next May 19th at the Ochoymedio Club in Madrid and, then, with a very special show at the Sónar Festival in Barcelona, on the night of June 17th. We will also continue touring with the previous show and we have also added to our offer a piano show that we premiered last weekend in Avilés. They are three very different musical proposals, but for the moment I want to focus especially on EVOO's EP. After the summer we'll see if I release a deluxe version, a reissue adding a theme... the possibilities are endless when it comes to a girl as ambitious as me.

-How is Samantha Hudson like once she leaves the stage or the cameras are turned off?

-I think that in the end life is a theater and we are all playing one or two roles, since personality is a script subject to change. The only thing I have that is different from when I act or I am in a television program is that I decided a long time ago to become the writer of my own scripts. All of them are equally real or equally fake, but I don't think there is a difference between the real thing and the pantomime. Drawing a line between the person and the character is absurd, or maybe when you are at a birthday and at a funeral you behave the same? The human being is multifaceted and having to cling to one of these facets or faces as the most authentic version of yourself seems very restrictive to me. I'm already very tired in my day-to-day life and I don't feel like putting this kind of restrictions on myself, honestly. ≡



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