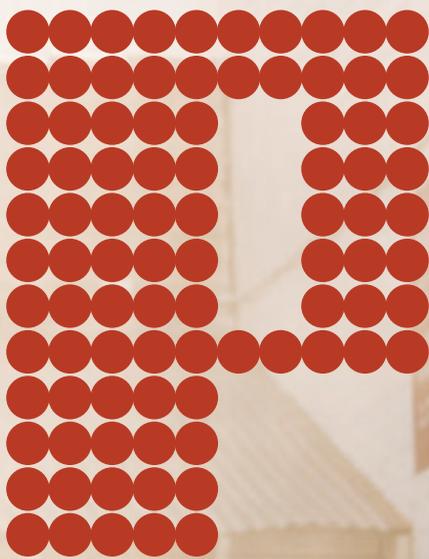


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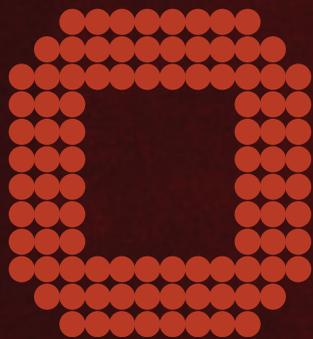




Is Pink an angry pop princess, an outspoken rebel or is she just like you and me? Strut spends some happy time with the multiple award-winning star to reveal her true colours.

By AVA CHISLING





ver the years, Pink has been described as a hard-ass, a diva, a pop princess, a punk princess and an outright punk – the latter in reference to her character and not her music, often used by critics who just want her to shut up. Recently, in the middle of the promotional madness for her latest CD, *Funhouse*, Pink expressed her opinion of Sarah Palin, the gun-totin', animal-shootin', Republican sidekick to John McCain. Pink said she was a yee-ha or a woman hater or an animal killer, or some combination of all three. It doesn't matter what she actually said, because her words are usually twisted into whatever shape will attract the most viewers. What is clear, however, is that Pink said something that made people mad, as she often does. Her opinions have earned her a reputation as an outspoken hothead and a rebel, but is she either of those things? Let's see.

Pink expresses opinions that many of us share – that little starlets are too skinny and have no talent, that the music business prefers big breasts to true grit, that animals are needlessly slaughtered and that gay people should have the same rights as everyone else. As a kid, she fought with her mom and dad. As an adult, she rides a motorcycle, dyes her hair and has some ink. She has insulted young Hollywood by name, had a short marriage to Carey Hart and is often the subject of gay rumours, particularly since she has been seen kissing women in public. These events are a big deal because someone is there to record her every move. But truth is, taken as a whole, Pink's life is our life, just far more public and definitely a lot more fun.

In her videos, Pink plays the clown, the heroine and the angst-ridden teen. She falls off a skateboard, a treadmill and a bar. She lies naked on the surgeon's table ready to be sliced up like a pig, and dances naked like MJ in front of an audience. Pink's work is filled with wink-winks to her fans because she believes they get her. And why not? Her music is good and her lyrics relatable. She is crazy-photogenic, comfortable as the tough girl, of course, but also the vixen and the fashion diva. Pink and her music have remained consistent, sometimes a bit more rock than pop, sometimes the reverse. The first single off of *Funhouse* ("So What") is great, but it's not unlike her other singles. There is a long-term successful Pink formula, but is it filled with real rebellion? Here's our time with Pink. You be the judge.



Hi, Pink.
Hello.

This interview is for our cover story. Do you still find that cool, or are you famous enough to think “Yeah, whatever”?

God no. Definitely cool. No one ever puts me on the cover.

Gulp! We are... Hey, I saw your new video this morning. What’s the longest time it has taken you to shoot one?

We did the videos for “Stupid Girls” and “U & Ur Hand” in four days total. “Stupid Girls” had 17 different vignettes, and “U & Ur Hand” had eight. It was insanity. I had so much fun. All I did was laugh for days. I always laugh at my own jokes. It’s pretty sad.

No, no, it’s not sad. It means you are okay by yourself. You are a cheap date – easy entertainment.

I am totally going to steal that! I like you! Hey, have you ever seen *Vader Sessions* online?

No. Any good?

Oh, man. I feel you might like it. You’re the first person I’ve recommended it to.

Meanwhile, Pink, I had arranged for us to rent Harley Davidsons for this interview. Do you see Harleys? I do not.

[Shouts] What happened? We could have done this on a bike?

Yes, Pink. A bike! What kind of motorcycle do you have?

I’ve got a Triumph Bonneville 650. It is new but it looks like the old English racing bike. I’ve ridden dirt bikes since I was kid, but I just got my motorcycle licence last year. I have also driven my ex-husband’s custom bikes, which are super.

You didn’t wait until you had a licence to ride on the street, did you?

No, no, no. I didn’t wait.

I don’t understand this rebel thing you have going on. Your views on life are really normal. Can you explain it?

It is because I am not diplomatic and I am somewhat aggressive. You know that expression: you catch more flies with honey than vinegar or whatever it is. I have a certain way about me which is sometimes hard to take. I think that makes me automatically a rebel.

Really?

It is such a PC world that all you have to do is speak your mind and you’re a rebel.

But your mind has been on widely accepted things like promoting women’s and gay rights.

Yes. That is not rebellion. It should be the way of the world, but unfortunately it is not the world we live in. But hey, that is why there are crusaders and I am a work in progress. I am just getting started. I know way more active and brilliant people than me. They should be getting all the attention, like Natalie Portman, Isabel Allende, people like that.

A real rebel could take on all three Jonas brothers in a fight. Could you?

I think I could probably take them. I scared the shit out of them at the VMAs [in September]. I had nipple tape on and I was kind of exposed. They didn’t know where to look.

Do you find all the attention paid to you maddening? You don’t strike me as a gal who needs everything done for you.

Sometimes. I give my tour manager a lot of shit. He is the most amazing man in the world, but from time to time I show up and say, “Guess what? I dressed myself this morning. And I got out of bed by myself.”

And that’s what bugs me most about us not being on Harleys...

I know. If I had known about it, we would be biking through the wilderness right now. But the truth is, every little thing I do scares them so...

Over the years, your music has been sad and reflective and party-ish. What kind of mood are you in now?

I am bemused. Or amused.

Does this new mood match *Funhouse*?

If I had to match the CD directly, my mood would be schizophrenic. And unpredictable.

Hmm. What are the schizophrenic sides to you?

Pretty much peace and serenity and complete fucking psychosis.

That describes the last 10 minutes of my life! I knew I would like you. I find it tough to look at my teenage pictures in my mom’s photo album, and your whole adult life is on TV. Do you find it easy or hard to watch?

The VH1 *Driven* show that they did about me made me really sad. There are certain parts of your life that you shouldn’t be forced to live again.

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But you watched it anyhow?

Only half. And then I was done. It was particularly hard for my mom because she has a lot more regrets than I do. She is one of my closest confidants. We are now more comfortable with each other. She was my date at the VMAs this year.

Does it calm you down when she is around?

Hell no! Absolutely not.

Is it possible to explain to us lovely, kind Canadians what in the world is going on in your country? Are you guys blinded by religion?

I don't think the [recent presidential] election has been as much about religion as it was in the last couple of elections. Now it is just complete confusion. People looked at this election as a race and gender thing instead of a politics and policy thing.

But you guys are losing your homes.

We are losing our homes. We are losing our minds. We are losing our soldiers. No one knows where anyone stands. Everybody changed their story. And unfortunately, we don't find out until it is too late. I think Sarah Palin was a big fuck you to Hillary Clinton, and I was a huge Clinton supporter. Call me judgmental, but I think it is insane that we considered a 73-year-old man for president and a woman behind him who has absolutely no experience and really old-fashioned views that don't reflect any of us in 2008.

She can see Russia from her house, though.

Yeah, I heard that. And yet she is not ready to talk about Iraq.

Let's talk seriously now. You've been Pink for a long time now. If we forced you to change your name to another colour, what would it be?

I would choose aubergine.

Is that because you are eggplanty?

[Laughs] I don't know. I just feel like that would be a good colour.



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What is your most embarrassing onstage moment?

When I fell off the stage into a pool of water.

Where did that happen?

That's a really good question. I don't know. I was drunk.

Could that have been part of the problem?

Ooh, I am not even sure I was there.

What is one profession you would like to try for a day? And don't say what I think you're going to say.

What do you think I am going to say?

I'm not telling. Answer the question.

I would be a kindergarten art teacher. "Today, kids, we are going to make pipe-cleaner people!"

That is so not what I thought you would say. I figured you would say prostitute.

Oh, god. Why would I want to do that?

Hey, for one day?

I already get paid in different ways...

That's our cover headline right there! Thanks. Describe *Funhouse* in 10 words or less, and no cheating.

It's fun, and nothing is what it seems.

That's pretty deep. How am I supposed to know what that means?

You don't. That's why you buy the ticket [to the funhouse]. And then you're scared and you want to leave, and then you go back again.

Umm, okay. Describe a tattoo that is on someone else that you wish was on you.

To me it is not about the look of a tattoo, it's about the meaning. And I want to keep it that way so I never regret them. They represent chapters of my life.

What are the three best words to describe the paparazzi?

Bottom feeders. Mystery robbers. Unfortunate.

I have a theory that celebrities lose their minds when people stop paying attention to them. One day you're out buying coffee and there are 20 photographers around, the next day no one knows who you are. That can be tough. Do you agree?

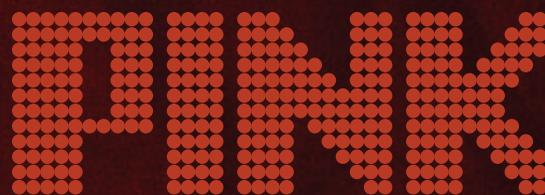
I am not that way. I like the quiet moments.

Will you be happy if there comes a day when people don't know Pink?

Absolutely. I have days like that all the time. I've got my dogs and the beach and my friends, and at any given dinner party the acoustic guitar will come out and we just jam.

And that will happen whether or not you are on the cover of *Strut*... or at least you hope so.

I do... but I like being on the cover! ☺



IN SHORT

- Albums sold: 23 million
- Albums released: 5
- Grammys won: 2
- MTV Video Awards won: 5
- Top-10 singles so far: 8
- Title Pink wanted to use instead of *Funhouse*: *Heartbreak Is a Motherfucker*
- Number of songs to hit #1: 2 ("So What", "Lady Marmalade")
- Number of non-US locations for the recording of *Funhouse*: 2 (London and Stockholm)
- Number of Google hits for the word "pink": 522,000,000
- Number of Google hits for the word "aubergine": 5,090,000
- Number of Google hits for her ex, Carey Hart: 380,000
- Number of people in Pink's entourage during this interview: 1