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edex YOUR LIFE COACH

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The number of years that Nadisha has been performing music and musicals on stage



SOUND PARTY

Ask her what her phobia is and the Karaoke Jockey tells us that she's scared to bits that her music will be rejected and that she won't be able to make a living off English music in India!

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FOR NADISHA, LIFE IS ONE HAPPY SONG!

When you have a continuing affair with the stage like Nadisha Thomas does, you tend to go through life with a song on your lips, says **Blessy Mathew Prasad**

When she's on stage, she's the star. Her powerful soprano and absolute voice control can give you the goosebumps or even intimidate you. But meet her off stage, and she'll probably run to you and give you the warmest hug ever. Chennai-based singer Nadisha Thomas, who's all of 26, admits she can behave like a grandma sometimes. A sweet grandma, not the nosey kind!

From recording with the likes of legends like AR Rahman, Ilaiyaraaja and GV Prakash to touring around the world with *Kolaveri* star Anirudh Ravichander to conducting stellar musicals, Nadisha has done it all. But when you have grandmothers and great grandmothers who were 'fabulous opera singers' in their time, I guess, singing comes naturally.

The 26-year-old who doesn't want to reveal her middle names because 'they are too hilarious and well hidden' says music is in her blood. "My mum made us listen to records and watch musicals when we were toddlers, so that was a big part of growing up. Being the youngest, I acquired my taste in music from my

elder siblings. Michael Jackson was my brother's favourite so I naturally listened to a lot of him. I loved him so much that I used to dream about him! And even find solace in his music. It was mostly pop, Jim Reeves or Englebert (dad's fave) or Whitney Houston/Tina Turner and the likes for my early years."

At the age of four, Nadisha made her first stage appearance, but all she can remember is the 'Hawaiian outfit she had to wear and one line of the song! The graduate of Fine Arts from Stella Maris College was also trained under the stalwart Augustine Paul and went on to complete her ACTL.

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I faced a lot of challenges because I was training in western classical and I was singing everything else ranging from rock to jazz. So that used to come in the way of my training

Nadisha Thomas



voice over



SET LIST

A Night At The Musical done by Stagefright Productions in 2009

Jesus Christ Superstar done by The Boadwalkers Theatre Foundation in 2010

Atita - Into The Unknown, an originally scripted musical done by The Little Theatre Trust in 2013

Aladdin - A Musical Journey staged by 9th Step Entertainment in 2014

Les Miserables staged by The Kuku Company in 2014

"There were funny vocal exercises of course! I faced a lot of challenges because I was training in western classical and I was singing everything else ranging from rock to jazz. So that used to come in the way of my training and I even had to stay away from certain rock shows during my prep for ATCL!"

The Chennai-based singer has sung for numerous movies, half the names she doesn't even remember. "I still haven't gotten the chance to sing a full Tamil song (although I have a new collaboration that is coming out and will be singing with a UK based Tamil singer," she says. She has also been the vocal director for a few musicals in the city.

When asked what her biggest fear is, she says, "I have this phobia that my music will be rejected. I still have to release a few tracks that I have been working on. I'm nervous and excited at the same time! I also fear that English music will die out in India and that I won't get work!"

Nadisha currently hosts the karaoke nights at 10 Downing Street, Chennai and has three tracks to be released soon.

And this is what she loves about her job. "I get to pour my heart and soul out into a song and feel what I sing. Sometimes you try to put yourself into that songwriter's shoes to understand the song better and then one day you are in the same place and you totally get it."

Drawing influence from a variety of artists like Alicia Keys, Adele, Whitney Houston, Tina Turner, Barbara Streisand, Jewel, Alanis Morissette, Beyoncé, Kimbra, Jill Scott, Coldplay, Ed Sheeran and Rihanna, she says, "I like different kinds of music for my different moods- I'm quite a moody person - I guess that comes with being a creative person."

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