

Pulse

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Is Miley Cyrus a “Detroit Playa?”

Celebrity credits the motor city for her well known transformation

By Sierra Boone

As Miley Cyrus increases her pop culture fame with each controversial song or twerking act, countless people wonder what happened to the Nashvillian, boot-wearing Disney star. According to Cyrus, she exchanged that good-girl image for the new Miley while in Detroit.

In an [interview with Rolling Stone](#) in late September, she said, “Detroit’s where I felt like I really grew up.” The 20-year-old, who became a hot topic after her [twerk fiacsko](#) on Robin Thicke at this year’s MTV Video Music Awards, spent a summer in the Motor City while filming the movie, “[LOL](#).” The movie is a modern remake of a 2008 French movie about romance in the age of social media. Scenes were shot in and around Metro-Detroit. The movie came out last year.

Reigning from Detroit myself, I found it fascinating that the artist claimed to have gotten her current morale from the place I call home. I’ve heard it all: Miley had to grow out of her Disney days. She isn’t doing anything that isn’t already

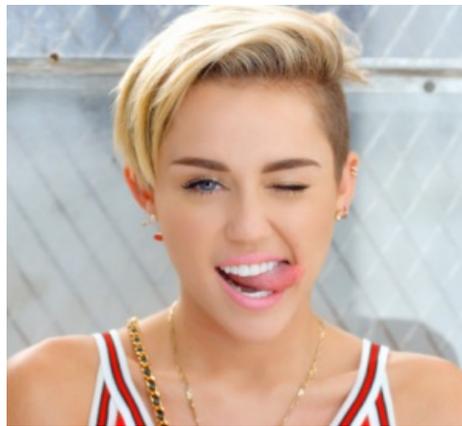
being done by other performers. Everyone’s entitled to behave however he or she pleases. Trust, I have no intentions of attacking her character. To be honest, I find her comments to be pretty interesting. But, growing up in Detroit means much more than coming from a city in southeast Michigan. It often means having to develop a “grind” mentality to get the opportunities your suburban counterparts are often handed. It’s trying to find the positives amidst so many negatives being thrown in your face. It’s expecting those “I’m so sorry” faces from people after being asked where you’re from. It is not, distinctly, spending one summer in the city and gaining its “vibe”.

Sure, there are plenty of good times to be had in Detroit. And the places that provide for these good times add to the flavor of the city. But getting a tattoo on Eight Mile and clubbing downtown, doesn’t grant a person the experience of a true Detroiter- just as eating at Lou Malnati’s doesn’t automatically make someone a Chicagoan. It also takes a lot more than just a month of only “good times” to define having a true Detroiter experience.

The idea that Miley walked into Detroit a good girl and came out as an Urban Hood princess is a false perception if I ever heard one. Is that all that the city is good for? It’s already hard enough trying to explain that walking down a street in Detroit and making it out perfectly fine without getting shot or robbed is possible...and not unlikely.

Who Miley Cyrus chooses to be is totally up to her and she has full right to do whatever makes her happy. However, if she’s twerking, club-hopping and Jordan-rocking now, she more than likely developed that mentality before she even stepped foot in Detroit. Maybe she felt free and uninhibited and let it show while in the city. She did not, however, find this new ratchet persona while there. It’s not a Detroit thing.

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