



John Cabot University *ALUMNI PROFILE*



Odette Albani

BA, Business Administration, Class of 1993

Founder and Singer-Songwriter, Marbles Records

London, United Kingdom

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What was your career path after graduating from JCU?

After graduation, I moved to New York and worked in semi-conductor trading for one year. I then entered Columbia Business School, where I was a member of the Beta Gamma Sigma honor society and completed my MBA. From there, I went to London, working first as a Management Consultant for AT Kearney, and later as Head of Business Development/Vice President at MTV Networks Europe. While I was working at MTV, people in the music industry spotted my talent and encouraged me to follow my dream, so I went back to doing what I really love; I founded Marbles Records and began to produce my album as a singer-songwriter.

Tell us about your new album, "Just Me."

I believe that there is an army of people out there craving and demanding new music that evokes the strong emotions they got from the music they listened to as kids. These people just go out and buy more from the same bands and singer-songwriters that they have always loved. My album uses “old fashioned” live instruments and acoustic sounds combined with elements of today’s UK indie rock and US country-rock music to give these listeners an experience that is both nostalgic and new at the same time.

What do you like most about working in music?

I started playing the piano at age five, writing poems at nine, and writing songs at 14. As a teenager, I played keyboards, sang in a girl band, and signed my first record deal as an artist and songwriter. Music seems to be as important to my core/soul as eating and breathing is to my body. I spent years hindering my business career by trying to drown the impelling need to do music, only to understand finally that this is who I am, above anything else. I love writing music, recording it, and performing it! It’s also great to have my own record label, as I think I would like to develop other artists going forward and write songs for established acts.

What is it like living in London?

London is incredibly vibrant and varied. I love living here and have been here 13 years now. You can eat amazing food from all around the world, listen to top quality music in live venues, meet people from all over, and still feel at home.

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would that be and why?

London from April to June. Laguna Beach, California in July and August. Rome from September to November. Seychelles from December to March. That would be amazing, and I would never get bored.

What do you miss most about Rome?

Cornetti and supplì – you can’t get good ones here in London. Hanging out in Trastevere at Santa Dorotea and around Piazza Navona in the evenings. Shopping near Piazza di Spagna.

What was the last good book you read?

“A Thousand Splendid Suns” by Khaled Hosseini. I think it is incredible that realities like that can exist in our modern world. It made me feel very lucky.

What are some of your favorite websites?

My favorite is my own record label site, www.marblesrecords.com, which shows everything I’m doing at the moment. I also like www.reverbnation.com, and social networking sites like MySpace, LinkedIn, and Facebook.