

INDEPENDENT MUSIC

Electric Valentine: More Than Just a Musical Project



Tearing up dancefloors across the country with their catchy electro-pop sound, this duo doesn't want to give you just a musical experience, but a total experience.

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GENIUS PRODUCT

Jewelry Designer Captures Moments in Time



A dream—in the literal sense—started Tina Steinberg on the path of creating unordinary pieces of jewelry that are all about the person who wears them.

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GENIUS KID

A Frou Frouey 11-Year-Old Kidpreneur Named Alice



What started out as a Mother's Day gift and a desire to make a difference has turned into a successful community service project that has generated thousands for charity.

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With the diction and maturity of a woman thrice her age, 11-year-old Alice is anything but your typical 11-year-old.

Like most 11-year-olds, Alice loves slumber parties and hanging out with her friends. What makes Alice extraordinary is the fact that at age 11 she is a business owner—and has been since the age of eight.

Alice is owner/operator of Frou Frou Flip Flops—a community service project she founded in 2005 to support charity. She decorates custom ordered flip flops with ribbons and flair and sells them online or at charity events, donating 90% of every sale to a designated charity.

And they are fabulous! You can wear your Frou Frou Flip Flops with as much pride and love as you do your favorite pair of Manolo Blahnik's or Jimmy Choo's—and they won't hurt your feet nearly as much.

Alice is as focused on the world around her as she is herself. She lives by a philosophy that she was taught in kindergarten: treat others the way you want to be treated. "If someone falls down, you help them back up—and if you can help people back up, you can help them with so many other things," says Alice. "You can help them walk, you can help them eat." Alice believes that this philosophy is one that can change someone's day, week, month, year—and even change the world .



Orange Bamboo Frou Frou Flip Flops by Alice

It all started shortly after the devastating Tsunami hit the coast of Thailand in 2004. A then eight-year-old Alice wanted to do something to help raise money for storm victims. Alice approached her mother to start a lemonade stand, but her mother discouraged her—not because she didn't want Alice to help, but because a lemonade stand didn't promise to generate enough revenue to make it worth her while.

A few months later, Mother's Day came. As a school project for Mother's Day, Alice and her classmates decorated flip flops with a variety of ribbons as gifts for mom. When Alice presented her gift to her mother, her mom immediately suggested the flip flops as a product to raise money. Frou Frou Flip Flops was born.

Fast forward three years. Alice has sold over 100 pairs of custom made flip flops and has donated a few thousands dollars to a variety of her favorite charities.

Alice feels it important to spread the love around by supporting a variety of charities rather than just one. Her criterion for choosing a charity is that they must need the money. "My main thing for charities is that I like to help [those] that are new or don't have a great location or aren't rich," says Alice. "I'm interested in supporting charities that need the money."



Rainbow Frou Frou Flip Flops by Alice

I asked Alice where she gets her inspiration to help others. She's fortunate enough to be surrounded by a constant force of people who have taught her the value of compassion and social responsibility—specifically her parents and school. "I get half my inspiration from school," says Alice. Alice says the rest comes from her parents who have instilled in their children the importance of helping others through donating from home. Alice also says that she's inspired by her mother. "My mom started her own business, and I always thought that was really cool."

Alice also counts Dr. Seuss as one of her role models, especially in the book *The Lorax*, which has helped inspire her to do good with her life. She also is a fan of Shel Silverstein, loves math and runs cross country. "It helps me to relieve stress and that really helps to keep me focused," says Alice.

Another thing she likes to do to help keep her focus and motivation in check is to write songs. Her subject matter is none other than herself. "About once per week I write these little songs that are all about how awesome I am," says Alice. "I'll sing them for a little while and then I'll forget about them."

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Alice's genius doesn't stop with being a kidpreneur and understanding that she needs to nurture and care for herself to be successful at supporting others. She is also an aspiring writer. She is currently working on a young adult science fiction novel for kids. "A lot kids in my grade like science fiction stories and a stories that are full of action that make kids love reading, that's how I got the idea. And when I was little, my little sister never liked to read and I was always trying to get her to read...I wanted to write a book that was interesting for kids who don't like to read," says Alice. And she has every intention of having the story published.

Alice is also a member of the Spirited Women Blogger Team—a community that is all about empowering women. "A few years ago when Alice was nine, I asked her, "Why do you feel that you are a Spirited Woman?" She replied, "I

feel that I am a spirited woman because I like to encourage people to follow their dreams and I like to encourage me to follow my dreams and not listen to what other people have to say about them." Call her a Spirited Woman, call her a Spirited Kid—her answer pretty much sums it up," says Nancy Mills, founder of Spirited Woman.

And just when you thought that Alice's genius was all channeled she decided to start another venture: a cooking show. Alice stars in her own online cooking show at OneMessyKitchen.com—inspired by Rachel Ray and her own love of cooking. While cooking one day with her mother, Alice told her mom that when she gets older she wants to have her own cooking show and she would call it "a messy kitchen." Her mother said, why wait? Why not now? That's all it took and OneMessyKitchen.com was born (see Alice's recipe for gingerbread pancakes in our [Culinary Genius](#) section).

Alice offers some advice to kids who may want to start a business or charity but might be afraid to do it. "First off all, you need to be responsible. From there, I would say you need to start out locally. Basically, you really need to follow your heart and do what you love to do, because if you don't love it then you're really not doing it for the right reasons. You shouldn't do it because your mom wants you to do it." It's advice that we can all take to heart.

Eleven-year-old Alice of Frou Frou Flip Flops and OneMessyKitchen.com: One Genius Kid!



Alice and Friends: 2008 Team Pinkalicious for Relay for Life

Where to find Alice

You can order your own fabulous and frilly Frou Frou Flip Flops online at www.froufrouflipflops.com. Alice only takes individual custom orders and also sells pre-designed flip flops left over from charity events on her web site. Please do not contact Alice for wholesale orders. With school, cross country, cooking and writing, Alice can only accommodate individual orders.

You can find Alice—the culinary genius—at www.onemessykitchen.com. You can find her recipe for gingerbread pancakes in our [Culinary Genius](#) section.

You can also find Alice's Blog at http://www.thespiritedwoman.com/go_blog_blog_blog/the_spirited_kid/.