

## Coco Jones: 'Let It Shine'

A fresh-faced, bright-eyed, Southern beauty, 14-year-old, Hollywood Records recording artist Coco Jones will grace television sets across the world on June 15th when she stars in the Disney Channel original movie "Let It Shine" opposite Tyler James Williams and Trevor Jackson. Coco plays the role of "Roxie," a teenage singing sensation whose music label is sponsoring a songwriting contest at a teen club.

Coco can also be seen regularly guest-starring on Disney Channel's "So Random" and on "Good Luck Charlie." Recently, she has been in the recording studio with Toby Gad, David Banner, and Rock Mafia. One of the hottest tracks to drop is a duet called "Whodunit?" with "Zeke and Luther" star Adam Hick which peaked on the Radio Disney charts at #20.

Born in Columbia, S.C. on Jan. 4, 1998, to former NFL star Mike Jones and talented session vocalist Javonda Jones, Coco was raised in Lebanon, Tenn., where she began singing as soon as she learned to speak.

In 2010, she released her debut CD, "Coco Jones," featuring songs reflecting her platform of positive values and strong self-esteem. Last

year, Coco was one of five finalists in Disney's "Next Big Thing" competition, an achievement which further helped to launch her musical career. And this summer, she will be touring with the "Next Big Thing" talent contest.

**Kam Williams:** Hi, Coco, thanks for the interview.

**Coco Jones:** Thank you, Kam, for having me.



### CELEBRITY INTERVIEW

by Kam Williams

'I am sooooo happy! I have a great family that loves me, a record deal at 14, and I get to do what I love every day'

**KW:** The movie is based on Cyrano de Bergerac. Did you read the original play in preparation for the part?

**CJ:** I read a lot of summaries about the story. I also watched Roxanne, the movie starring Steve Martin.

**KW:** The lead characters' names have been changed slightly from Cyrano and Roxanne to Cyrus and Roxie. Has the story been changed, too?

**CJ:** Oh, yes, they definitely updated the story, setting it around today's music industry, featuring Gospel and Hip-Hop music.

**KW:** The movie is also a musical. How much did you get to sing?

**CJ:** I got to sing a lot. I am singing in five songs from the soundtrack.

**KW:** What message do you think people will take away from the movie?

**CJ:** The main message of this movie that everyone will take away is to believe in yourself. Cyrus learns to have confidence in his writing, Chris has confidence in his performance, and my character, Roxie, learns to be confident in her singing. Another great message that girls will take away from Roxie is to love yourself. All girls my age know about wanting

to fit in. I think that they will watch Roxie trying to do the same thing with her clothes, make-up, and her entire performance. Over the course of the movie, she learns to be herself, to develop her own style, and to not change herself to please others.

**KW:** Harriet Pakula Teweles says: You're only 14. How do you balance the demands of school and career?

**CJ:** Well, sometimes it is hard because my schedule is crazy. I am home-schooled, so my school travels with me. My parents have one rule for me: I can't do any of this if I



Coco Jones

have any C's on my report card.

**KW:** Is your online course work mostly an extension of your performance interests?

**CJ:** Unfortunately, not. It is the exact same work any eighth grader would do.

**KW:** What do you plan to study in college?

**CJ:** I'd love to major in Music. I love what I do, but I want to really understand it, more in depth.

**KW:** The Columbus Short question: Are you happy?

**CJ:** I am sooooo happy! I have a great family that loves me, a record deal at 14, and I get to do what I love every day.

**KW:** The bookworm Troy Johnson question: What was the last book you read?

**CJ:** I have read some great books recently: "Heaven is For Real," "Bud Not Buddy," and my favorite, "Tiger Eyes."

And my next book will be "The Hunger Games."

**"A BREATHTAKING EXPERIENCE THAT SHOULDN'T BE MISSED."**

**A FLAT-OUT MASTERPIECE!"**  
Shawn Edwards, FOX-TV

**"A STUNNING AND EPIC CINEMATIC ODYSSEY."**  
Jake Hamilton, FOX-TV

FROM THE PRODUCER OF ALICE IN WONDERLAND

**SNOW WHITE & THE HUNTSMAN**

UNIVERSAL PICTURES PRESENTS A BIRTH FILMS PRODUCTION "SNOW WHITE & THE HUNTSMAN" KRISTEN STEWART CHARLIZE THERON CHRIS HEAVENSWORTH SAM CLAPLIN IAN MACHANE BOB HOSKINS RAY WINGSTONE NICK FROST TONY JONES MUSIC BY JAMES NEWTON HOWARD COSTUME DESIGNER JAGDEESH PALAK PATEL GLORIA BOBBERS EDITOR JOE ROTH EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JOE ROTH SAM MERCER PRODUCED BY EVAN DAUGHERTY WRITTEN BY EVAN DAUGHERTY AND JOHN LEE HANCOCK DIRECTED BY ROBERT SANDERS

**CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES**

MOBILE USERS: For Showtimes - Text SNOWWHITE with your ZIP CODE to 43633 (43634) No charge from 43633. Msg&Data rates may apply. Text HELP for info.

**Celebrate Our History**

**Join the Fun**

**Freedom Trail Parade**

Grand Marshal Avel Gordley, former State Senator  
Starts MLK Blvd at Jarrett St.  
**Begins at 11am**

**SAT. JUNE 16TH, 2012**

**Free Community Festival**  
Music, Children's Activities,  
Merchant Marketplace

**Legacy Emanuel Field**  
NE Vancouver Ave. at NE Graham St.  
**Noon to 6:pm**

For information, contact 503-764-8836

Major Sponsors: LEGACY HEALTH, PassinArt, LIBRARY, Portland State UNIVERSITY, NW Natural, OregonLive.com, Christopher's Gourmet Grill, The Portland Ice Cream Company