

Emailed to > editor@people.com

I would like to say thank you very much to People magazine for the great article a few months ago about Lee DeWyze (Season 9 American Idol winner) new album Oil and Water and the previous article when he released his album Frames. It was great and I'm so appreciative of People Magazine and I know a lot of Lee's other fans are as well >> <http://www.people.com/article/lee-dewyze-oil-and-water-first-listen>

Lee DeWyze is my fav. artist/singer/songwriter. He is also one of the most extremely, nice, genuine, down to earth people I ever met with such a huge heart and so much talent and I can't tell you how much his music means to me and a lot of other people.

I read the article about American Idol's last season and thanks for all the cool info. about Lee's Blackbird Song from The Walking Dead, some background info, his new album Oil & Water, etc.

I'd just like to clarify a few of the things that were posted that I found quite disheartening. It stated he got kicked out of school and got bad grades and was going down a dark, dangerous path. He got expelled/suspended for fighting because he was defending someone else who was being picked on. Though conventional school wasn't his path, he didn't get bad grades and he esp. wasn't going down a dangerous path. I think it's extremely honorable he stood up for other kids and shows what a stand up, amazing person he really is.

Please check out the video interview where Lee talks about some of these issues.
>> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwLsW54tUuQ>

The article also stated that his low record sales were the beginning of the end of American Idol and I'd like to respectfully disagree as Simon Cowell and that whole staff was leaving and a new crew were coming in.

Lee was the only one in the history of the show to have to sing a cover song when he's one of the best songwriters ever to have graced the American Idol stage so besides the old regime leaving and not caring anymore because they were moving onto other things and the new regime coming in and wanting to start from scratch, I feel that Lee got left in a state of purgatory so to speak. They should have given him the chance to do an original like every other idol ever and that is where things started to go wrong in my opinion.

Instead of letting artists be who they are and truly shine, the record companies try to mold artists into something they're not like with his album Live It Up (which I did really like though but)... and I'm so happy to say Lee has gone back to his roots with his last album Frames and esp. his newest album Oil and Water. You can see his early style on his 2 amazing pre Idol albums from 2007 and 2010, So I'm Told and Slumberland. His first song he wrote when he was 17, Annabelle is unbelievably amazing >>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CyXUD7bUnzE>

Anyway, I would just like people to know that he's an amazing artist and person, that he wasn't going down a dark dangerous path, that he was standing up for others because that's the kind of person he is, that he really did get a great opportunity with American Idol, but wasn't really given the same fair shake as others and that his record sales weren't the beginning of the end; the regime change, the cover song, the change in direction of the show, etc. and esp. after season 9, the spotlight being on the judges instead of the contestants all led up to the show losing popularity throughout the years and other new shows with different formats came into the spotlight, like the Voice. And especially that several other winners after him had much lower sales, but yet so many people still talk mostly about Lee's sales.

I'll always be thankful for Idol because I found my fav. artist ever and I'd like to thank People magazine for supporting and writing about Lee, his albums, his accomplishments, his successes like Blackbird Song and more; and also about other talented people who are trying to get their music out into the world.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Annie Shea