

## ESP's Sarah Tempest chats to Rebecca Ferguson, our cover star and all round 'superwoman'...



Sarah Tempest

With a string of hit singles under her belt and about to release her third studio album, Rebecca Ferguson stands alongside Olly Murs, One Direction and JLS in proving that it's often the runners up that go on to be the real winners of the X Factor. But, rejected in the early rounds TWICE before her eventual break on the 2010 series of X Factor, as well as rejection from P Diddy's American show Starmaker, it's been a long and arduous journey to success, both personally and professionally, for the Liverpool singer.

"No-one was interested!" she says of her early attempts at a singing career.

*"I was always writing and trying to be discovered and I kept going for auditions and being told 'no' but, thankfully, I believe everything falls into place when it's meant to so maybe it just wasn't my time. I did get offered an audition for a big West End show and had interest from an agent but I'd just found out I was pregnant with my first daughter. I don't know what would've come of it but, with the baby, I just couldn't be in two places at once."*

Becoming a mum to Lillie-May and Karl in her teens, and splitting from their father, meant following her dreams and pursuing success was even more of a struggle for Rebecca. "Having my kids young did hold me back," she admits, "but I think if you really want something, you can make it work."

Now 30, Rebecca went on to have another daughter, Arabella, who's nearly 2 but a "horrible, messy break up" with the father (who walked out whilst she was pregnant) led to more heartache and dark days. "It's been tough," she confesses. "One of my friends said to me 'I thought that would be the end of you, I genuinely didn't think you'd build yourself back up' but I've got my mum and tough Jamaican and English nans so I come from really strong independent women. Maybe it's passed down."

And it's a measure of those tough genes that Rebecca was able to channel that heartbreak to write her new album. "I've called it *Superwoman* because I just felt I'd overcome a lot. I felt so strong and I thought, you know what, I am a bit of a superwoman! The whole album is about feeling empowered. When you go through a break up, you always think that you're never going to get over it so I tried to make an album that makes you feel better. It goes through all the different emotions but overall it's really positive and hopefully it will help people."

With all the knocks she's experienced, Rebecca has some important life lessons for her daughters. "Be independent," she laughs. "Where I'm from, you're encouraged to find a man that'll look after you but, unfortunately, it's in the culture now that relationships are so replaceable so I'd love to teach Lillie and Arabella not to be reliant on a man for anything. Also, my mum taught me that 'there's good in absolutely everyone' and I wish she hadn't because it's not true! We live in a lovely world with lots of lovely people but there are some that just aren't good and it would have saved me a lot of heartache looking for it in people that were just bad!"

Writing the album was clearly a hugely cathartic experience for Rebecca and she admits she can't wait to take it on tour. "I'm confident, happy and in a really good place. I just want people to come and have a really good time. I've realised that life is short and you need to get up there and chase your dreams and enjoy life!" And from the excitement in her voice, it's clear Rebecca Ferguson intends to do just that!

Rebecca's single *Bones* is out now, the album *Superwoman* is set for release on **October 14** and full details of her tour which kicks off on **October 23** can be found at [www.rebeccaofficial.com](http://www.rebeccaofficial.com)