

BETWEEN LAW AND MUSIC:

JuLā DuCré Enjoys a Legal and Singing Career

By Dean M. Shapiro, Senior Editor

Her full name is Juliette C. DuCré but on a professional level - as a performing artist, businesswoman, entrepreneur and visionary - the name she goes by is JuLā DuCré. She is also a litigation paralegal and a justice of the peace on the North Shore of Lake Pontchartrain.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JULĀ DUCRÉ

“I have this thing I call a JU LĀISM,” she explained during a recent interview. “For me it’s being in complete alignment with myself and the universe for the first time in my life. I can see where I want to be and how I want to live the rest of my life. So that’s my JU LĀISM, aligned and focused.”

Born in New Orleans and raised on the North Shore, JuLā describes herself as “a small-town girl with deep cultural roots and a powerful artistic lineage.” Being descended from Italian, French, Spanish and Native American Creole heritage – Cherokee on her mother’s side, Choctaw on her father’s side – JuLā takes pride in the multicultural conglomeration that shapes her identity.

JuLā’s parents, John Melvin Ducre Sr. and Dianne B. Ducre, were married for almost 59 years until he passed on August 28, 2019. “My dad was the storyteller and family historian,” JuLā said. “He was a hardworking and extraordinary man who influenced my work ethic. A creator and good at building things with his hands.”

On her maternal grandmother’s side, she notes that “Music and tradition were ever-present.” Her grandmother, Lydia



JuLā Ducre with Gregory Williams, co-founder of Switch

Atlow Batiste, played the harmonica and banjo. Her mother was a soprano vocalist and violinist who also played the saxophone in her high school band.

“My mom once aspired to become an international performer but instead she chose family over fame,” JuLā divulged. “When people asked her why, she simply answered, ‘Because I loved my little children too much to leave them alone.’”

JuLā’s late, older half-brother was also a gifted singer, songwriter and guitarist, adding to the family’s musical heritage.

“And I, as a young girl, coming from a musical family, I love singing,” JuLā said. “When I was in third grade, I knew I wanted to be a singer. My vision started with winning third place in a talent contest at Bayou Lacombe Junior High.

“I wanted to be a Diana Ross when I was a kid,” JuLā continued. “The singer who I loved and who really changed me was Donna Summer. ‘Last Dance.’ And also Teena Marie. ‘Casanova Brown.’ And Chaka Kahn from Rufus. ‘Sweet Thing’ and ‘Tell Me Something Good.’ Those were my mentors.”

As a career, JuLā chose to go into the legal profession, earning her B.A. Degree in Paralegal Studies from Southeastern Louisiana University. She worked in downtown New Orleans in the office of one of the city’s most prestigious law firms.

“I was a litigation paralegal, involved mostly on the defense side,” she explained. “I worked on insurance defense cases, malpractice, class actions and even some toxic tort cases. I loved it and I loved being a part of the voir dire process, picking juries and finding experts to give testimony. I was the go-to person. Whatever the managing partner needed, I got it done.”

Among her outside interests, music and food reign supreme. She founded and manages JuLā Creole Cuisine, a catering company serving authentic French Creole and Italian foods for private and corporate events, including her own business, LeFit Creole Specialty Shop in Pearl River, Louisiana. She is also the owner of Julliette

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PHOTO BY PON DIXSON

C. Ducre Notary and Legal Services in Pearl River.

Additionally, JuLā has also opened Get BIGGAA Studios, a recording studio, opting to reserve it for special use only.

From 2010 to 2019 JuLā also served as executive producer and host of a musical talk show focusing on an independent approach to broadcasting that aimed to “make radio cool again.” She interviewed many prominent recording artists from the 1950s to the present, among whom were Little Anthony, Howard Hewett of Shalamar, Ken Knox of The Chairmen of the Board, Gregory Williams of Switch and others. Her work from this era is available on platforms like YouTube and Spotify, allowing the content to reach an audience beyond the initial broadcast.

“I framed this experience as a foundational part of my professional background, which now influences my work as the owner of RTBG Radio, an internet radio station and media company, and my upcoming podcast projects for the JuLā Ducre Show,” she explained.

As President of Big G Artists Agency LLC since 2011, JuLā continues to merge creative vision with business leadership through a boutique-style entertainment services company specializing in branding and strategic positioning. Her extensive experience in intellectual property, licensing, publishing and copyrighting further distinguishes her as both an artist and an advocate within the industry.

As a mezzo-soprano vocalist, JuLā's recording catalog includes such works as "Low Down Dirty Blues" and "Christmas 365 Days." She also released a cover of Larry Graham's 1980 Billboard Top 10 hit "One In a Million You," along with other self-written and produced music videos.

Over the years of her music career, JuLā worked alongside a number of people who were influential in helping shape that career. One of those she cited was Jay Crutti, the station manager and engineer with whom she worked at Crescent City Radio and who gave her a glowing reference when she applied for a position with another station.

In his reference letter, Crutti wrote, "She always produced her show with professionalism and a great talent for improvisation and keeping an interview moving along in an engaging and interactive way."

Another major influence on her was Pete Peterson, the former chief financial officer for Motown Records when they moved to Los Angeles from Detroit. As she recalled, "After he retired from Motown he founded another label and reached out to me to not



JuLā DuCré with Brondae Branch holding up a Cloud microphone T-shirt

PHOTO COURTESY OF JULĀ DUCRÉ



Al Ancar in studio at JuLā DuCré Show PHOTO COURTESY OF JULĀ DUCRÉ

only book guest artists on the show I had going on at the time, but also represent these artists as their talent booking agent."

Other endorsements started coming her way as well, as her popularity spread over the airwaves. A huge endorsement came from Rodger Cloud, the namesake head of the company that designed and manufactured top-of-the-line microphones for singers, deejays, and other public speakers. She had interviewed him twice and he called her one day and said "My team listened to our interview and they just love you."

Cloud explained to her that his company, after studying her voice, would be hand-designing a new microphone specifically tuned to her voice and she, along with Mike Kasem – son of renowned TV and radio music host Casey Kasem – would be the first recipients of the new and improved Cloud mic. She also received other products the company manufactured as well.

"This was such a great honor to have someone literally studying me, listening to the tone in my voice, and wanting to bestow such a wonderful gift upon me," JuLā proudly stated. "It was like nothing I'd ever experienced in my life and I'm telling

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you, I am so grateful and so humble."

Musically, JuLā describes her tastes as being "very eclectic."

"I try not to put a label or a genre on myself," JuLā explained. "I really don't define myself as being in a specific genre because I can sing many genres and that's the way I like it," she concluded.

JuLā can be followed on Facebook and Instagram.



PHOTO BY PON DIXSON