Can't Relate - Kayla Rae Interview Episode 291

[00:00:00]

**Smooth:** Yo, yo, yo, what's up? This is the Homeroom with Smooth Podcast. I got with me Kayla Rae.

**Kayla:** What's up?

**Smooth:** What's good? All the way from, well, you live locally now, but you're from Denver.

**Kayla:** So I'm actually from a town called Colorado Springs.

**Smooth:** Colorado Springs, excuse me.

**Kayla:** Which is about an hour from Denver, but I've lived, I lived in Denver for about five years before I moved here.

**Smooth:** Okay. And

**Kayla:** that's where I kind of really got put on and got my start. So I'm, grew up in Colorado Springs, but. Yeah, Denver's kind of home too, so.

**Smooth:** Okay. Okay. Yeah. Yeah. The reason I said that was cause like when I was, when I was doing my, my little homework or whatever. Um, so, uh, one of my friends told me they were like, Oh yeah, she's on the radio out here.

**Kayla:** You

**Smooth:** know what I'm saying? Like I be hearing on the radio. Yeah,

**Kayla:** that's so fire. Yeah. Denver shows me so much love. Like, I feel like it definitely raised me. Like I grew up in Colorado Springs, but I think I definitely developed as an [00:01:00] artist in Denver. And I got a lot of support there. I got to do a lot of shows.

I got on radio and I really think it built me for this next stage of my life here in LA. So all love to Denver

**Smooth:** for sure. For sure. So when did, when did you, when did you get started? When, when did Kayla go, you know what, I'm going to get into music. Like, um, this is what I'm gonna do.

**Kayla:** I think it was decided at birth.

I don't ever, I don't even remember the day I was like, yeah, this is what I'm going to do. I just kind of have always done it. Like I grew up writing a lot, um, as a form of escape, a lot of journals, a lot of poems, a lot of songs. And so naturally. Becoming like a teenager. I think I just gravitated towards people that did the same thing rappers songwriters, singers, and I had friends that made music.

And so I think the first time I recorded a song, though, I was probably 13, and it was [00:02:00] in my friend's closet in his house. He had a little booth in his closet in his grandma's house,

**Smooth:** and

**Kayla:** it was hot as hell. But we love we were just like whatever we're making songs like this is fire.

**Smooth:** Yeah,

**Kayla:** and I made my mom a song for Mother's Day Oh, I remember how it went But I'm pretty sure I was just telling her how much I loved her and stuff and I put it on a little burn CD and I gave it to her and She took it to work and she played it for everybody all the time.

And so I think if there was a defining moment, it was probably that just because I think that showed her that I really loved to sing and to make music. And then that was also the first time that anybody had gotten a piece of my music and I got like an emotional response back, you know,

**Smooth:** that's beautiful.

Yeah, that's real beautiful. So, um, so fast forward, when did you put your actual like first, like record out?

**Kayla:** I would say the first song I ever put out I know I know this. [00:03:00] Well actually, I got into this crazy situation with this DJ in Colorado Springs who Loki stole my first song that ever came out. It's called Self Control.

And he distributed it like on Spotify and Apple and I gave him permission to, but I wasn't aware that he was going to get all of, he basically owned my song for how, how he did it. I don't know. We've had, you know, had me sign a contract and put the song out. And uh, I wasn't aware that you could make money at the time for streams.

And so, um,

**Smooth:** Oh, that's great. That was

**Kayla:** my first time that ever came out, but I don't even own it really. I mean, I do, but, um, As far as streaming goes, you know, that's that's his song, but I think we got it taken down after a few years. Um, But the first song I ever dropped myself was on soundcloud and I think it was a song called wait for you

**Smooth:** Okay,

**Kayla:** and I made it with my friend again in his house Like, you know, I have so many great friends that i've made songs with over the [00:04:00] years And um, so that's how I started dropping my music.

I just Would drop it on SoundCloud one year. I got some studio stuff for Christmas. So I started recording myself and yeah, I was dropping like EPs and singles on SoundCloud and I was making YouTube videos on my laptop and Just grinding it out like that. That's how One of my very first songs got heard by someone at the radio in Denver.

They heard it on SoundCloud

**Smooth:** Yeah, yeah, cuz I could I noticed like for the last like And that's the reason I asked when you guys started because I wasn't sure like because I looked at your youtube channel and I seen like You had a music video out or for something and like it was like seven years ago And I was like, that's like what though

**Kayla:** i've been doing it like since I was a kid like since I knew how to work My laptop and I knew how to work garage band I would just Make the jankiest shit, but it was cool to me at the time, you know, cause that was all I had.

All I had was my laptop and I would, I would like use my laptop to record little [00:05:00] videos on iMovie and I would edit them in iMovie. Um, and then just naturally have friends that do cool stuff like photography and video and we'd collab and make videos. So since I was young, I just, I just love to be creative.

I've just done it ever since I can remember.

**Smooth:** That's dope. That's dope. That's dope. That's dope.

**Kayla:** So I leave all that stuff up on YouTube. I think I've I've privated certain things that are really cringy, but I just cannot watch. But for the most part, I like to leave old stuff up there because I like for people to see the growth, you know, and to see that I'm really about this.

**Smooth:** Yes.

**Kayla:** Yeah,

**Smooth:** yes, I cannot stress that enough that's that's probably like one of the one of my bigger problems with new New artists is like I'd like to be able to go back on people So that's that's what you're able to fall in love with somebody cuz then you go. Oh, they got to hear Yeah, that's what I got to and it's it allows you to realize like oh, man I'm in the ground floor like you don't say I'm like, oh Oh yeah, I'm, I'm one of their fans.

[00:06:00] Like I'm part of the core fan group and that's where they start to identify themselves with you. And like, they start to say, I'm like your fan. Yeah. I feel

**Kayla:** like we kind of have got lost in the opposite of like, people want to look so polished and like they've got it all together and like they didn't, you know, have to struggle or really didn't start anywhere.

They put up a song and it went viral and now they're, You know, bigger than, larger than life, but it doesn't happen like that for most people. And I think that it's important to realize that when you really love something, most of us are working from the ground up. And like, you know, I did start, um, when I was young and going viral at the time wasn't really a thing unless it was like on YouTube.

Yeah. You know what I'm saying? Right, right, right. And still I feel like going viral is a lottery ticket. It's still very few and far between, but then it was even harder. But now we see it and we just assume that that's where people start and there's no groundwork, but no, it's a [00:07:00] real thing. Like there's really some of us out here that just.

Started so long ago and I feel like that's why there's really no such thing as like an overnight Success. It's just one day. You don't know about somebody and then the next day you do Yeah, yeah, and then you have all that history to go back on and listen to their Their music and watch their videos and stuff.

So

**Smooth:** facts big facts big facts. Um, you know, um What I want to say, oh, yeah, so when it okay, so I know you have pressure Were there any projects before pressure? Like so so what it's no, but I mean, yeah, obviously. Yes, the answer is obviously yes, but what's what's I? Guess still readily accessible. What's what's the one you would point them to?

Did you say? Okay, this is this is me

**Kayla:** I would point people to pressure

**Smooth:** okay,

**Kayla:** I will point people to pressure because I have, um, so the very [00:08:00] first project I put out was called The Ceremony, and I think years ago that's probably where I would have directed people, but listening now, it's such a younger version of myself, such a clueless version of myself, um, but still very raw, and you can find it on SoundCloud, you can find it like in the description.

In the attic.

**Smooth:** Right.

**Kayla:** So if you really want to know who I was when I was like 20, you could go listen to the ceremony.

**Smooth:** Mm hmm.

**Kayla:** But, pressure is really where I feel like I started to find my voice as a young woman and as an artist. And, yeah. I just, I made it in COVID. Like I was having fun. So there was no pressure.

There were no expectations. I wasn't trying to be anything or trying to impress anybody. Cause it was a COVID baby. Like it's what I did when I was bored. And it's, I think one of my best pieces of work. So I would definitely have people listen to pressure. I would say, listen to practice my very first single, like, [00:09:00] I guess that you could probably find on DSPs, but then listen to pressure.

Because it tells a little story if you listen close

**Smooth:** Hmm,

**Kayla:** it does. Yeah.

**Smooth:** Okay. Okay. Okay. I'm gonna have to i'm gonna have to give them a re listen in order like that I'm gonna have to i'm gonna give them a re listen in order because I I went through your I went through your stuff like Originally, I just listened I listened to every song And then I went back and then I listened to pressure.

Yeah, so I guess I so I guess I I should have listened to pressure first and I should have listened to it in sequential.

**Kayla:** So

**Smooth:** then I got that picture.

**Kayla:** Yeah, you got to listen in order because it's, it's a short project, but it's, it just tells a story of like where I was at the time of my life and my expectations for myself and also my expectations for love, like how I showed up in relationships and how that changed who I was as a person as well and how that affected my art.

So It's [00:10:00] good. It's really good. I still listen to it like it's somebody else, which is crazy.

**Smooth:** No, no. And that's what I wanted to tell you. Like you have a good sound. Like you are, you were easy to listen to. Like, it's not, it's not abrasive. It's not like I could take your music, throw you in a playlist, hit shuffle.

And then if one of your songs came through, I'm not going, what is this? Like, it just, it just slides right in. I love

**Kayla:** that.

**Smooth:** Yeah, you just slide right in. Thank you. And it's not to say you sound like anybody else, or you sound like everything else. You just sound good.

**Kayla:** Thank you. I appreciate that. I think that I am at a point now where I do want to maybe start taking more creative risks and trying things that maybe don't fit in so easily.

But I do love that. I've just been able to find a flow where it is easy to listen to because When I put on music to clean the house or to cook or to drive That's the [00:11:00] kind of music i'm looking for. It's like easy music. I don't really listen to like a lot of hype shit or Anything kind of crazy unless i'm in that mood like unless i'm going out or that's my vibe, but for the most part my mood is very just I just want something I could like sing to or something that's just pleasing to the ear.

So You I like to hear that. Thanks.

**Smooth:** You're welcome. You're welcome. You're welcome. Yeah, um, because, uh, like, not, not to derail here, but It when I go back to my previous interview or whatever like Christina was like, yo No, you got to go listen to my friend and you need to start here. You know say Cuz I could I asked her what was her favorite collab?

Yeah, you know and she's like, oh, yeah I love working with her. You know I'm saying she's like I love working with you and Yeah, and When, uh, when I, when I started there, when I heard your stuff there, that's when I went and I got [00:12:00] into, when I was interviewing her and doing my homework, that's when I got into you because I was like, I was like, hold on.

Then I went into your music and I was like, oh, there's another collab here and I was like, wait, I'm like, oh, she's good.

**Kayla:** Yeah, we have, I think her and I have two out. We have no hose and observant. Yeah. Um, but we have, um, I think like three more that nobody's even heard and they're good, but we just never got around to putting them out.

But yeah, we love making music together because you know, she's the same as me. Like she just likes to have fun with it. And like, she'll take a lot of risks. She'll, she'll go and make a song. If it's fire and she likes how she sounds on it, she'll do it because she's just, she's a creative person. Like she just loves that fun.

So we relate that way a lot when it comes to music. And I think life too, there's like really nothing hurting. I wouldn't. We just have a lot of fun together. So music, it was just natural that, you know, we collabed and it was fun and we liked what we did.

**Smooth:** Right. Awesome. She's

**Kayla:** so [00:13:00] talented.

**Smooth:** Yeah. And so are you.

**Kayla:** Thank you.

**Smooth:** And so are you. And so are you. So, To bring us more to, I guess, to present day. So I noticed with blue, there was a theme, like when, when you got ready to release blue, like even a little bit before blue, like there was a theme leading into blue, like, could I notice like the braids were already there.

They were blue. Like I seen, I seen the theme, the artistic expression. I was like, I was like, okay. So she was literally letting people know subtly that blue was coming and it was blue, and then it was like, The transition, like, so what, what was, what was, what was the inspiration behind blue?

**Kayla:** So it actually started.

Okay. So the hair, the whole blue hair thing, I actually started that, I think like in 2018, I was just looking for something fun to do with my hair that summer. And I found this really pretty blue color at the beauty supply store. So I put the braids in my [00:14:00] hair and it just did something to my mood. Like it just, I don't know, it went with all my clothes.

It, I loved how it made my skin look. I loved that people, always complimented it. Everybody was like, your hair is so beautiful. So it really just became a part of me. And when the song blue came around, um, I actually received it from Stargate. They were like, we have a song that, you know, well, we have a few that we think you would be great on.

And they played me blue and it wasn't finished at the time. It was very skeleton, but I think I related to it not only because I was in this blue era of my life, but I just loved how it felt so nostalgic, but it still sounded very current. Like

**Smooth:** I

**Kayla:** listened to it and I was like, this is cool, but it's kind of pop.

Like it's cool though. You know what I mean? And I was like, I have to do this. And, um, I was like, [00:15:00] And then obviously it being blue, it just felt like the song was destined to, to be mine. Like it just felt right. It just felt right. And you know, it made, it made complete sense with the branding and then also just loving the song and relating to the song so much.

So it was kind of like a no brainer for me. Um, and I realized that there was like, A lot that I still hadn't expressed in my music, you know, like a lot of heartbreak and a lot of pain. And so blue just felt like a good starting record for that. And it just came out perfect. It came out perfect. I love it so much.

**Smooth:** Yeah. Yeah. I felt the emotions when I was listening to it. I was like, oh, she's she's like she's getting in her bag here. Yeah. She's getting into herself.

**Kayla:** Mm hmm. Which is which I feel like I guess I've always felt vulnerable in my music. Like I've never felt like I was ever pretending or trying to cover anything.

I always felt very uncovered in my music when I write. [00:16:00] Um, but I realized that the more real that I get with my lyrics and my storytelling, the more real it is for me and for everybody else listening. And I did at one point. I was kind of like censoring myself in the studio or with what I put out and like feeling like I had to play things safe or feeling like I couldn't exactly say what I wanted to say, how I wanted to say it.

And those are always the songs that are the hardest to perform or like I wouldn't want people to listen to cause it just doesn't feel, it just doesn't feel as authentic as I know my other songs do. Um, but that's one of the ones that I feel like I I'll perform that forever.

**Smooth:** That's dope. Yeah, that's dope.

That's dope. That's dope. Okay, and then after that What's basic right? Mm hmm. Yeah. Yeah, so basic, um I mean because yeah, you dropped you dropped the you dropped a little tease you dropped the teaser video [00:17:00] on instagram first and then and then you actually dropped it and um I remember like I remember watching the teaser video, but then the next time I saw it You It was like you reposted it on your story, like, because it was like getting reviewed by somebody.

I don't remember the name or whatever, but like it was getting reviewed. And I was like, hold on. I said, I like this download. I went straight to Apple. I said, download. Yeah.

**Kayla:** You like basic.

**Smooth:** Yeah. Yeah. I was like, this is a good song. Like, this is good. I'm like, I sent it. I sent it to my to my homegirls. And I was like, I'm going to I'm going to test it.

I'm going to vibe check.

**Kayla:** Yeah,

**Smooth:** I sent it. They're like, Oh, this is good. Who is this?

**Kayla:** Yes. I love that. That's why, um, you know, like we were saying earlier, um, when you find somebody and you get to like, do your research and dig a little basic is one of those songs that I can't wait for people to find and be like, damn, like the world slept on this low key.[00:18:00]

Like I don't, I don't ever trip because I know that certain songs people are just going to fall in love with all over again. And that was one of the ones too, that. I just fell in love with, I couldn't stop playing it as soon as I made it. And so I love that when, whenever I talk to people about it, it's the same.

They, they tell me how much they love it.

**Smooth:** Yeah.

**Kayla:** And now when I just made by myself in the house, I was alone. I had the lights down and, um, . Yeah. I like took some shrooms and I was just vibing like I was my own little world . I was just chilling.

**Smooth:** Oh my God.

**Kayla:** And it came to me so fast and I was like, damn, this shit's a vibe.

Oh my God. I was like, I gotta, my God, I gotta put it out. You know what's crazy too is Mm-Hmm? . When I made it, I was like, uh, I always have this thing where. I don't know when songs are going to come out or how they're going to come out. And it's almost like a very sad thing because I make so many songs [00:19:00] that I love and I just never know.

Which ones are going to be shared and so I was it's so in love with basic but part of me was sad cuz I was like Oh, there's probably never gonna come out and then it was the next one that I knew So, yeah Yeah,

**Smooth:** that was that's really good. That's that's really good like it even even the way it's it's like it's structured and the way it It ends and starts like the moment it ends it can just start right back up It's like the beat where it drops that it picks back up and then you're like right back listening Yeah, I was like, I like I like this shout out to

**Kayla:** plesnia.

He's a great producer Yeah him and jackie rye. I think did that one and it was one of my favorite tracks. It was

**Smooth:** well well done

**Kayla:** Thank you.

**Smooth:** Very well done Very well done. I was like, yeah, this needs more Traction more eyes y'all need to go listen to basic

**Kayla:** go listen to basic Expeditiously asap. It'll get it'll get the love it deserves very [00:20:00] soon.

I believe that.

**Smooth:** Oh, yeah for sure For sure for sure and then you had um Wtm and i'm only saying that because I don't quite remember what wtm stood for Right now like huh?

**Kayla:** What's the move?

**Smooth:** What's the move? Oh, oh, okay What's the, yeah, no, yeah, you're

**Kayla:** trying to slide. Yeah, you're right too.

**Smooth:** I blinked out in the moment.

Like I'm in the moment. I'm like,

**Kayla:** well, because the title of the song is WTM and it's all caps. So I think when you see it, that's what you read. It's like WTM. You don't read what's the move in your head. So yeah,

**Smooth:** yeah.

**Kayla:** It's understandable.

**Smooth:** Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. So then that was next. That's a good record too.

**Kayla:** Thank you.

**Smooth:** Um, And then, uh, the one after that is, um, Let's see if you remember. Oh my god. Cause, no, cause, Bounce, and then there's that one. Yep. There's that one. [00:21:00] Oh my god. Dang, is

**Kayla:** it not memorable?

**Smooth:** It's not that it's not memorable. It's just, I, I don't, Okay, I'll put it this way. And this is, this is just, this is me being, I Fully transparent.

**Kayla:** Yeah,

**Smooth:** it's not me that that one's not me.

**Kayla:** Mm hmm

**Smooth:** like as a guy like don't that was just not me

**Kayla:** Yeah, it's called caught up

**Smooth:** caught up. Yeah.

**Kayla:** Yeah, it was definitely it was definitely more. It's a woman's

**Smooth:** record

**Kayla:** Yeah, it's definitely for the for the vulnerable girls.

**Smooth:** Yeah, it's a yeah. Yeah. Could I remember I listen to I said, this is good Women will like it.

It's not me.

**Kayla:** Mm hmm. I feel that

**Smooth:** Yeah,

**Kayla:** I feel that and I love that song. Um, that's not one of the ones that I like listen to just regularly You know, like I have songs of mine that i'll still just listen to that one I don't really listen to regularly, but I like performing it because I feel like vocally it feels really good to sing out and I also like um I like lyrically what, what I did with that song, but I can understand why.

Yeah. It's not from most of the guys . [00:22:00] Yeah. Yeah.

**Smooth:** On, on a, on a technical level. Like Yes, it's a good record. Uhhuh like you, you sung. Well, thank you. Like it's structured well. It just, as a guy, I was just like, okay.

**Kayla:** That makes sense. Yeah.

**Smooth:** Yeah. Did you

**Kayla:** like bounce?

**Smooth:** Oh yeah. Yeah. Yeah. I like bounce. I like bounce.

I like bounce. Bounce is my favorite. Like, and I, I'm a toss up between basic and bounce. Mm. That's, that's a toss up for me. That's true. And I, I, Bounce is too recent for me to really compare it to BASIC, so I gotta give BASIC some time. I mean, not BASIC, I gotta give Bounce some time and go, Okay, like, let me, let me sit with Bounce for a second and see if I really do like it more than BASIC.

Because BASIC, I know for sure, like, I'm like, yes sir.

**Kayla:** What do you like about BASIC? Other than how, how you feel like you can start it and stop it over again.

**Smooth:** BASIC, it just It just felt just so, just like, just real, like it just felt like real life. Yeah. It felt like real life, [00:23:00] how you really feel about somebody.

Yeah. You know what I'm saying? How, you know what I'm saying? How, um, a situation, even though how small and insignificant it could look to somebody else. You know what I'm saying? It's really not a basic situation. You're not a basic woman. Yeah.

**Kayla:** I love that.

**Smooth:** You know?

**Kayla:** Mm hmm.

**Smooth:** You know, you really, you really love this person.

You really vibe with this person.

**Kayla:** Yeah. And

**Smooth:** they really vibe with you back. Like it's, it's a real thing.

**Kayla:** Mm hmm. That's dope. I'm glad you took away from that, what you did. Cause yeah, it's one of my favorites and it is just, it really is. That's just the gist of it. Like really vibing with somebody and just kind of putting it out there in the atmosphere that like I pray this don't get basic, you know, I pray that this is always going to be extraordinary and it's always going to feel one in a million.

Like, I think we all feel that way. We know when you, when you start liking someone or you start loving someone or you start dating or living with someone, you're just like, I pray that this just doesn't turn into something redundant. [00:24:00] Please let this always feel like fireworks.

**Smooth:** Facts. Yeah. Facts. Big facts.

Big facts. Um, But, but I do want to talk about bounce though, because like bounce is fun, bounce is fun, bounce is fun. And that, that's another one. That's another one. I heard it. I said, yep. Send it to the group. They're like, yes. I was like, I was like, I was like, cool. I'm like, it hit again. Like, I'm like, I'm like, I know it.

I'm like, I knew it. I knew it. I'm like, this one, this one's another one where it's like, it's like, this is, This is, this is all, all the time. There's no, you don't need a mood for it. You don't need to move for it. It's just a good record. You

**Kayla:** can just play it.

**Smooth:** Yes. You can just hit play. Fine.

**Kayla:** I love, I love bounce.

It is fun. And it's one of the more fun ones that I put out this year. I feel, um, that was the intention too. When I heard it, I was like, I don't really, I was like, I don't, I don't, There's nothing [00:25:00] deep that I want to say on this record I was like, I just kind of want to have fun and there's like a little vocal chop There's a little thing in it.

That's like bounce bounce bounce And I don't even know if that's actually what she's saying, but it sounded like bounce to me And the record was called bounce. So I was like, well That's what we're gonna make it about.

**Smooth:** Yeah, it sounds like you're right It does sound like bounce, but now that you're mentioning it Now i'm questioning like is that what it said?

But is

**Kayla:** that what the actual sample is saying?

**Smooth:** That

**Kayla:** It is saying bounce.

**Smooth:** Yeah. Yeah, it has to be. It has to be saying bounce.

**Kayla:** And it's just fun, like, it's fun. And after, after the fact, I had, um, I had Plizz add in like this little squeak, the little bed squeak. Yeah. You know, like, I just wanted it to be fun.

And I just, I wanted to feel like a girl, like dancing and getting ready. Like, I want to really where I'm at is like, When I'm on Instagram and I'm, I'm posting stories or pictures, or I'm making videos or [00:26:00] I'm out with people, I want to make the songs that go behind my videos and my posts and stuff. Like I want the vibes and it's like, cause sometimes I can't find it.

I'm searching and I'm like, there is no vibe for me to put with this right now. And so I'm like, I just want to make the vibes for myself and for like the other girls. And um, I just want to, I want to keep it fun. I mean, at the end of the day, like, I'm an artist and I'm just always gonna say what's on my heart, but I'm like, where the vibes at?

Like, you know, there's some cute stuff I want to post. I ain't got no music to post behind it. So I'm, I, I, you gotta love your own stuff as an artist. And it's like, if you don't fuck with your music or, or you're an artist, but all of the music on your page is from other people, it's like, do you even really like what you're doing?

**Smooth:** I've always wondered that. Yeah. I've always wondered that.

**Kayla:** It's like, you gotta, you gotta like your own shit. You know what I'm saying?

**Smooth:** Yeah.

**Kayla:** Like, I get it, there's certain posts that's understandable, or there's certain things you wanna, you know, you wanna show love to other artists and [00:27:00] things like that, obviously.

But, I'm like, There's nobody, there's nobody else on my page repped harder than Kayla Ray. Like I rep myself the hardest because I really do love my shit. And I feel like a lot of people don't even really fuck with what they're doing. They're just doing what they think other people want them to do. And it's like,

**Smooth:** bingo.

**Kayla:** Are you even, do you even like this?

**Smooth:** Yep.

**Kayla:** Do you even like it?

**Smooth:** Yeah, no, no, you're absolutely right. You're absolutely right. You're absolutely right.

**Kayla:** I won't put out another song I don't love. I've done that before. And it's just like, I just won't do it.

**Smooth:** Yeah, and that's, that's the main thing. And when you're in a space where you're creating content in general, whether it's music, art or whatever, like you have to love it first.

**Kayla:** Yeah.

**Smooth:** If you don't like it, if you don't love it, then it just shouldn't exist.

**Kayla:** It shouldn't exist. And nobody else is going Like nobody else is gonna love it It goes all the way back to like respect if you don't respect yourself Nobody's gonna respect you if you're not out here pushing what you do If you're not [00:28:00] talking about what you have going on, like it's the best thing Then nobody else is gonna believe that they're gonna be like, oh, how's that little?

How's that little thing you're working on and then you get mad cuz they disrespecting your shit But it's like you're not you're not talking about it as if it really is Important to you like it has to be that way you have to have pride in what you do

**Smooth:** Yeah, and I'm very

**Kayla:** proud of what I've done this year.

So it's like you can't tell me different, you know

**Smooth:** Facts facts that never mind that reminds me what I was talking to my um, one of my homeboys about I was like I was like, yeah, my page is like Like yeah, I don't post a lot of anything too much anymore besides like my podcast or whatever like so like that's all you're gonna get That's all you're gonna see or you're gonna see stuff that i'm doing on my youtube channel You're gonna know that i'm a content creator Flat.

**Kayla:** Yeah,

**Smooth:** like that's what you're gonna know

**Kayla:** people should definitely know what you do Just like with one look at your social media stuff and if they're questioning like Are they this are [00:29:00] they that or what's you know? You I mean, really, depending on what it is you're dipping into, like, it's okay to be a bunch of different things if you're good at them.

I think that that's totally fine, but if you want to make it clear that you're something and from the outside looking in, people can't tell, then you're not doing a good job at making it clear what you do.

**Smooth:** Thanks.

**Kayla:** And I think that just goes with like living in your truth. If you're just doing what you think is cool at the moment or what you think might get you a lot of money or a lot of fame, whatever, you know, you're not being true to yourself.

And then it's going to be obvious because people aren't even going to be able to identify who you are, what you do. So it's like, you got to live in like, what's true to you. So

**Smooth:** big facts, big facts. So what, what's, what's, what's next for Kayla Ray?

**Kayla:** Uh, what is it next?

**Smooth:** Okay. I'm,

**Kayla:** I'm so excited for next year because, um, My big goal is [00:30:00] to start touring like with COVID and all that finally being over and like I've just had the urge to be on stage more like I was doing it so much before um pressure and before everything shut down and when I made pressure and I put it out it really broke my heart that I couldn't perform the songs like I couldn't get on stage and sing them for people so I really want to start touring this year.

And I just have a lot of music coming. I have a lot of music coming. I'm still deciding if I want to package them up into EPs or if I just want to keep releasing singles, but it's just going to be a whole lot of what you've been getting. A lot of music. Yeah. Yeah.

**Smooth:** And it's good. Like,

**Kayla:** thank you.

**Smooth:** Yeah. I would say at least give us one.

If you can, I'm not going to, I'm not going to force it on nobody. Like I get it as an artist, but like, I, if you can, if you can give us one more EP, like that'd be, that'd be [00:31:00] ideal.

**Kayla:** Oh, you don't even have to ask twice. Yeah. I love making projects. I love making bodies of work. Just the way that I've been releasing music.

I'm just trying to figure out, excuse me. I'm trying to figure out the most efficient way, but at the end of the day. I'm also trying to just forget about all that and just be like, okay, what do you want to do? and so Yeah, i'll definitely put i'll definitely probably a couple next year. You'll probably get a couple eps

**Smooth:** Yeah, I bet I like it I like the work ethic though,

**Kayla:** thank you

**Smooth:** I like the work ethic.

I like I like seeing consistency out of people Yeah, and that's like that's like one of my main things in like Deciding whether or not like, okay, like do I want to like interview this person? Is this person going to keep doing it? Are they going to keep going? Like then I look back and i'm like, well, they they've been doing it.

So There's no reason for them to stop.

**Kayla:** Let's do another one. Let's do another one. Um next december

**Smooth:** Okay. Yeah Next december next next [00:32:00] june next whatever like yeah,

**Kayla:** I was gonna say when I drop, you know An ep we can come back and talk about it. Oh, yeah for sure Um, but yeah, i'm actually Putting out a remix to bounce very soon.

So that's next

**Smooth:** nice

**Kayla:** and we are Working on a video too. So

**Smooth:** yeah Yeah, yeah because

**Kayla:** i've got a little bit of content for it, but I really just wanted to see how people would respond because the videos take a lot of time and effort, you know I do them myself. So um I want to make sure people are really fucking with the music um And they really love bounce so

**Smooth:** Yeah.

**Kayla:** Yeah.

**Smooth:** Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Bounce is hidden. Thanks. Um, so what, um, I'm trying to think how do I want to, how do I want to phrase this? But I guess, well, I guess one thing I can ask off rip, um, when, when you, when you go to the, when you go to the studio, [00:33:00] cause I meant to ask this earlier, when you go to the studio and you actually like.

What, what do you do to get yourself like actually like ready? Like, or are you just like, I'm, I'm here, I'm, I'm going, or do you like, kind of like prep yourself before you,

**Kayla:** it depends on which studio I'm going to, um, also like what mood I'm in. So usually I'm recording at the house. So, uh, basic, um, what's the move, bounce.

I've recorded at home. Um, and when I'm at home, the vibe is the light's gotta be low. Um, and I like to be alone. Like I do. I, when I'm in the studio, when I'm in a bigger studio and I'm with people, I actually enjoy people around when I'm actually creating and writing a song because I need that energy.

Like sometimes I get [00:34:00] stuck or You know, I just need other people's input, but when I'm actually like recording and I'm finalizing like a song, I like to be alone. Cause I really, I already know how I want it all to sound in my backgrounds, all my harmonies, like all my ad libs, I know exactly how I want it all to be done.

So I just like to be alone so I can get it done. And then, and then like, just to visualize like me on stage or the video, like, it's just gotta be very, you know, um, And sometimes when I'm writing too, I prefer to just be alone so I can just kind of like not think about anybody's opinion or judgment or anything like that.

Um, but if I'm going to the studio, um, and I know I'm going to be there with like friends or other producers, sometimes I like to drink a little bit, like something light. I like to have like a white claw or I like to have Just to feel sexy and to get, you know, a vibe. [00:35:00] Um, and that's really it. Like, as long as the studio doesn't look like an office building, or a dentist, you know what I'm saying?

Like, you gotta have some LED

**Smooth:** lights.

**Kayla:** You gotta have, you know, some candles. It's gotta be a vibe. And it's not because I'm, you know, trying to be bougie or anything, but I have to feel, you know, the mood has to feel good. Like, I got to feel cozy. If I don't feel cozy, then I'm just waiting to get out the studio.

**Smooth:** Right.

**Kayla:** So I just like it to be cozy and I like the energy to be good. People that, there that I know I'm going to make something good with.

**Smooth:** Yeah. But I

**Kayla:** like to, I like to drink a little bit.

**Smooth:** Ain't nothing wrong with that. Yeah, some wine

**Kayla:** maybe. Something warm. Mm hmm.

**Smooth:** And then along with that, my, my favorite parts are when I'm, when I'm actually drinking, like I have, I have a little drink, like it's, I don't know, it's something about it.

You just get, you just get, you're just chilling. Like, yeah,

**Kayla:** because I feel like creativity also flows when you're just [00:36:00] really relaxed. I mean, even, I mean, sometimes it can be the opposite. Like it can flow when you're really upset or when you're pent up or when you're like really sad, it just depends. But, um, sometimes it is fun to just kind of like let your walls down a little bit.

Yeah. And you don't have to drink there can be other things people can do to relax, you know You could smoke if you want you could do some yoga before But just to get yourself in like a very flowing kind of state

**Smooth:** Yeah, yeah, yeah as or How do I like to put it like as close to self as possible You know i'm saying as close to yourself because sometimes you know through through whatever like you end up through your day You end up like kind of like Not becoming somebody else, but being the self that has like a wall of protection, you know?

**Kayla:** That's very true. And you can't really have that block when you're being creative.

**Smooth:** Right.

**Kayla:** Yeah. You have to be like really open and just there as close to self as possible. I [00:37:00] like that.

**Smooth:** Facts, facts. Yeah. Okay. So what's something that you want, that you want the people to know about yourself?

**Kayla:** Hmm. Um, I have a really big heart and I have a lot of love for people.

Um, and I have a lot of love for music for what I do. Like, I'm really serious about this. This is my life. There was never a plan B for me. Um, but I love it more than anything. And, um, Always gonna do it as long as it's making me happy. And I'm just really grateful for the people that have embraced me and supported that.

Um, and I want them to know that like this music is not just for me, it's for y'all. And so to see it received with open arms and to see people loving it, even to see people hating it, like just talking about it. That's cool [00:38:00] too, but I put a lot of my heart into it. to my music and it's so personal for me sometimes too personal to where I can't even make logical decisions about what to do next what to put out or you know what you know what is next and so having so much of myself in my music I just want people to know that it means a lot when they listen or you send it to your friends like you said like all of that it just it means the world to me so I really appreciate that.

**Smooth:** Oh, you are welcome. You're welcome. Anytime I can share good music that makes me feel good. You know? Um, so what message do you want to leave your fans with? You know what I'm saying? As we go to get up out of here, what you want to leave your fans with, what you want to let them know.

**Kayla:** Um, excuse me. Don't be afraid to say what you want and [00:39:00] to have what you want.

Don't be afraid to actually have it. Like, I think that our minds can be so limited sometimes and we forget that our reality is literally everything that we create ourselves and it starts with being honest with yourself about what you want but then being honest with people around you and one thing I'm learning every day but a lot this year is to just speak up And to just say what I want and if I don't want to compromise, I don't have to compromise.

Like you can have what you want and people that love and support you and care about you should want you to have what makes you happy as well. There should never be a, you know, as long as it's within good reason and it's for your, you know, you're okay at the end of the day, people that love you should always support that.

And so. Just don't be afraid to speak up for yourself and [00:40:00] to go after what you want. And um, you know, your dreams are never too big. Like if you think they are, then they probably are, but whether you believe you can or you can't do something either way, you're right. So just do what you want to do. That's what I would say.

**Smooth:** Big facts, big facts. I love that. I love that. Yeah. I love that. What would

**Kayla:** you leave the people with?

**Smooth:** Me? If, oh man, if it had to be me leaving the people with something, I would say just go for it. Yeah. Like, just go for it. Like, just, just go for broke. Like, you, if you fail, at least you fail forward from where you were at.

And then when you do fail, just, Pick back up because if you if you don't pick it back up You're walking back to where you were and that means all the work that you put in every effort that you put into failing Was for nothing. Yeah, make it for something make it worth your while

**Kayla:** really really failing is just giving up As long as [00:41:00] you're still going, you're not going to fail.

Like, I feel, I feel like we all have this idea that failure, some moment we come to when everything has just fallen apart and our ideas were wrong. And there's a bunch of, I told you so's and, but that most of the time doesn't even happen. Like the failure is when you stop trying. It's like when you give up.

And so even if you. You know, I, and I, I feel, I just feel like now everything people's success is so measured by numbers and views and clicks and all that. And it's like, people see it as a failure if they don't have, if they don't reach a certain expectation of likes or whatever. And it's like, that's not, that's not how it works.

What measures your success. And as long as you allow that to, then you are failing, like, because you are going to give up one day. Cause the numbers are never going to be good enough for you. So it's like, you don't feel unless you give up, you got to just keep going. That's why you got to love what you do You got to live in your truth because if you're not then you are gonna give up one day [00:42:00] you like this shit It's terrible.

Why do I even? start this

**Smooth:** Big facts, and that's why self reflection is Important yeah reflecting back on where you were at now. You can't do it all the time. Otherwise, you won't move forward However, occasionally it's good to just sit there Maybe quarterly look back at where you were last quarter and you'll go man I'm actually, I move forward.

**Kayla:** Yes, that's so important. It's so important because the day to day can be hard. Like, it can feel like you're not doing anything. And then you do, you look back and you're like, Wow, I've really done a lot. I'm really proud of this person. I went hard and you're going to have moments where you probably feel like you were doing better than you are now and that's normal too, but you got to use that as inspiration.

Like that was me though. That was me putting in that work. I did that.

**Smooth:** Yeah.

**Kayla:** And even if I don't feel like I'm, I'm her today that I, you know, that was, I did that. So it's like, let me just [00:43:00] be my own goals and just keep going. Yeah. Cause I have moments like that sometimes where I'm like, damn, was I killing it more at this point than I was where I'm at now?

And then I'm like, no, maybe not. Because your mindset was different too, you know, but also if you were okay, then take that as inspiration and do it again. But do it double that.

**Smooth:** Facts, facts. And there's so many extraneous factors that come into it. Whether it be like what was going on in the world at that time.

Yeah. Um, or like how they changed the algorithm at this particular time and you didn't know that they changed it. Like there's so many different things that happened. Like, so I wouldn't even, I wouldn't even blame yourself. Just keep going. Just keep going just go for it. Like I can't I can't even stress that enough just yeah, just go

**Kayla:** for it and don't overthink Don't overthink I'm reading.

I'm reading this book called When I forget the title you uh It's like [00:44:00] end your suffering or oh, no, it's called don't believe everything you think

**Smooth:** Mmm,

**Kayla:** don't believe everything you think let me make sure that's the title yeah by Joseph Wynn and um, it's so good because It talks about how thoughts and thinking are two different things.

Um, thoughts just come to us, right? And the more we elaborate on them in our minds, that's your thinking. Right. And more times than not, your thinking is always going to be negative. Like, it's just always what it is. That's why when people are like, think positive, think positive. You can for a second, but your thinking, the longer you, you know, Literally sit and think about something the more negative it's going to get and that's why we suffer because we think so much and it's like life is about just doing like Stop thinking about all the ways that you know You can't start your business or or how much money you're going to need to do it or what?

You know how many people you're going to need to know to network with like stop thinking about all that and just start doing it [00:45:00] and You will suffer less like the more we think the more we suffer

**Smooth:** Yeah.

**Kayla:** So, don't overthink anything actually. Just do it.

**Smooth:** Yeah, I've, I've embraced my negative side. I think very, very negative.

Like, all the time. But I just, I just. We all do. Yeah, I, I just embrace that as like. Yeah, it's okay. That's just a part of myself. Like, I'm just a negative person. Like, sometimes. But, at the same time, it's not that I'm just negative. I'm very like, I would almost call it like, realism. Like, healthy realism. Mm hmm.

Like, it, it's good, it's good to ground yourself a little bit. So, then you can go, okay. Realistically, this is what I'm gonna do, but I want to be here,

**Kayla:** but what is realistically though if you really want to do something like Like was it was it realistic for someone to go on the moon You know, not such a that's such a general like topic, but like yeah, you know what I mean?

It is important. I guess [00:46:00] I guess I get it like some people want to be realistic, but That really isn't even like a thing.

**Smooth:** So I, I'll put, I'll put it like this. I'll put it like this, right? Like when you go, when you go back to like, let's say you go, you do some stuff or whatever and you go look at your week, right?

And you're like, okay, this is what my business did, you know, is, and then you go, Oh, well I wanted to do this, but your baseline is. Well, what I did right now, this was good. This was actually good for my business. This was realistic. You know what I'm saying? Like that's, that's what I mean by realism. It's not like, Oh, like I don't think I can do more.

It's if I get that more, that's good because I put in the work to have more. But if I land, like, I liked, I liked the phrase of shoot for the moon and land in the stars. You know what I'm saying? So I shot for the moon. But I'm in the stars right now. Yeah, I'm way closer to the moon than I've ever been.

[00:47:00] Yeah All I have to do is just keep going forward You know i'm saying so i'm not in a bad place. My realistic place isn't bad.

**Kayla:** Yeah,

**Smooth:** you know i'm saying

**Kayla:** your reality Like where you're really at is not bad But I even think shooting for the moon isn't realistic and it shouldn't be like you should just you know you should just go for it because it's like There's so many things that people have done over the years that were not realistic to some people and then they did it and it was like, how the hell?

Because they were brave enough to think that they could do that. And so it's like, you just got, you just, you just got to. And if you believe you can't, then that's okay. You just can't like, you're probably right then. You know what I mean?

**Smooth:** Yeah. Yeah. No, I get, I get your, I get where you're coming from. I get where you're coming from as well.

I think, I think. I think it's more so of. It's more so how we both look at the same, the same place.

**Kayla:** Yeah.

**Smooth:** You know what I'm saying? It's not, it's not like [00:48:00] we're disagreeing at all.

**Kayla:** No, no, no. I don't think so. Yeah. You just said, I got to be realistic. And I'm like, I don't know. Whenever people say that, I'll be like, but what is that, though?

That's really what I like.

**Smooth:** Yeah. Yeah, I.

**Kayla:** Realistic to who is, I guess, the.

**Smooth:** Oh, I only deal with me. I only deal with me and I only talk about me like anybody else. I don't care.

**Kayla:** I only deal with me

**Smooth:** Yeah, I only deal with me. I don't care. I don't care what your what your thought process was How you thought it should be?

Nah, and I would tell that to anybody that's being creative Only worry about yourself and what you want it to be. Set your own goals, set your own timetables, set everything for yourself, and then adjust them as you need to for yourself.

**Kayla:** Mm hmm, because you're the only one at the end of the day that can be held accountable for it going wrong or it going right.

Like, at the end of the day, you're the driver, so it's like

**Smooth:** And, at the end of the day, you're the only one that can be you. Mm hmm. [00:49:00] Like, there's only one you. Yeah. Yeah. So if they could make another one, they would have done it, but they can't. There's only one you.

**Kayla:** Exactly.

**Smooth:** So, whatever you are doing, you are the best at it.

Yes. Because you are the best you.

**Kayla:** Mm hmm. I like that.

**Smooth:** Yep.

**Kayla:** That's how you clear a bitch.

**Smooth:** For sure, for sure, for sure. Alright. Well, Kayla Ray, I appreciate you.

**Kayla:** Thank you. I appreciate you too.

**Smooth:** I appreciate you coming, coming through. You know what I'm saying? It was a joy to have you.

**Kayla:** This was fun. Thank you.

**Smooth:** Yeah, I've been, I've been looking forward to this for a while.

**Kayla:** Yay. You

**Smooth:** know what I'm saying? I'm glad we

**Kayla:** got to do it. Yeah, same. Thank you for reaching out.

**Smooth:** Same, same. So y'all make sure y'all go check her out on her, uh, her YouTube page, which is Kayla Ray music.

**Kayla:** Yep.

**Smooth:** Boom. Uh, her Instagram page, which is also Kayla Ray music.

**Kayla:** Yep.

**Smooth:** Okay. Um, is the Tik Tok also Kayla Ray music or am I wrong?

It

**Kayla:** is. [00:50:00] Hey, let's go. I'm consistent baby. Let's go. I'm consistent. Let's go on

**Smooth:** three for three. All right, y'all make sure y'all go check her out. The links will be in the description of this video, just down below. So just click down there. Boom. Go check her out. Uh, Bye. Yeah. So we up out of here. Thank you for watching.

Go subscribe to her. I'm out. Bye.