

01:00:00

INTERVIEWER: Okay, so Tara, yeah, I was just asking about the video. Did you see "High School Confidential" or something that you can tell us about what you first sort of--

TARA SLONE: I remember seeing the video for "High School Confidential." I mean, videos for me were so powerful. I was a kid at the dawn of the video age, living in a small town in Nova Scotia. So it was this huge event on Friday nights to watch videos. And particularly around that time, actually, there were a lot of very powerful women, Carole Pope included. So I just remember being rocked by her, and continue to be rocked by her absolutely.

INTERVIEWER: And I think just as we got interrupted before, you were just telling us about LUBA and about her voice.

TARA SLONE: LUBA has just got a really cool, unique, deep sort of soulful, scratchy voice. So I definitely remember dancing around as a kid and singing LUBA songs, lots of LUBA songs.

INTERVIEWER: So I mean, yeah, I mean, I mentioned some artists before. It's fine if you don't have anything to say about either Lee Aaron or Alannah Miles, but Alannah Miles was huge in the late '80s, early '90s with...

TARA SLONE: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: ..."Black Velvet," I mean "Love Is," I mean, those songs were pretty masculine. I don't whether you recognized anything in her voice.

01:02:00

TARA SLONE: Oh, yeah, I mean, Alannah Miles is a like powerhouse, belter. And that song "Black Velvet" was so huge. I mean, it's inescapable. And it's such a well-written song that whether it's up your alley or not as a genre, it's a powerful song. I mean, people continue to sing it today, so, yeah, she's an undeniable talent. Lee Aaron, I was not as into maybe stylistically, but again, you know, I mean, I have so much respect for women who enter the Rock world, because it's such a male-dominated genre, and it's so hard to crack, and Lee Aaron did a really great job, so, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: That's great, perfect.

TARA SLONE: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Now what about Quebec artists like Mitsou? I mean...

TARA SLONE: I mean, everybody knows some of the words at least to "Bye Bye Mon Cowboy" by Mitsou. It wasn't my thing particularly, but I still can sing, "Bye bye mon cowboy; bye bye mon rodeo." So you know it's great that you know that a bilingual song can have such a widespread appeal. I mean, I can't think of the last one. There's not too many that cross over that way. So good for Mitsou.

INTERVIEWER: Cool. So where else would you like to go? I mean, who else is sort of somebody that is a you know a Canadian icon? I mean, you were telling me earlier...

TARA SLONE: Yeah, I was thinking about this. I mean, I spent my formative years in Halifax, and so not a lot of people came through there or at least a lot of the huge, huge artists at that time.

01:04:00

TARA SLONE: So I got pretty into the independent music scene and like bands like SNFU, and the Doughboys were huge. I was massively, massively in love with The Doughboys, so like even smaller bands. Like I don't know if you guys are going to feature anything like that, but you know just the bands that would grace the Maritimes with their presence, like the Bourbon Tabernacle Choir from Toronto, Thomas Trio And The Red Albino. That had an impact for me, because that was the first time I was able to experience live music, really. I would sneak into the Pub Flamingo as a high school kid and catch them, so that was really important to me.

INTERVIEWER: I guess one of the most legendary bands from the Maritimes from Nova Scotia is April Wine.

TARA SLONE: I was just thinking about April Wine. I was thinking that my favorite April Wine song was "Say Hello." That's by April Wine, right? I'm pretty sure it is. I love that song. And I was also thinking that in terms of sort of a maritime influence as a kid, I mean, I would watch The Irish Rovers on TV, you know. Television is king. I would watch John Allan Cameron on TV. I loved John Allan Cameron. I watched Tommy Hunter on TV. That was big stuff for me.

INTERVIEWER: Well, as you say, I mean, especially those CTV shows where you know they really gave a forum to regional music.

TARA SLONE: I really miss the age of the musical variety show. I think we should bring it back somehow. It's cool.

01:06:00

INTERVIEWER: What about like a male singer? Like, what about someone like a Bryan Adams? I mean, I think sometimes I know that you know the bigger the artist, sometimes it's harder to find someone to something about a big artist. But there's something I think you said about an artist who has the longevity that he has had as a songwriter and as a singer, too. I think you know as a singer, I'd be interested to know what you think of his voice as a singer.

TARA SLONE: When Bryan Adams first came out, I think I had his first album and then I sort of lost interest. I think sometimes you know when people explode, you kind of turn your back on them, because they're so mainstream. And a friend actually started playing me some old Bryan Adams last year or something, and I was like every song is really good. I mean, he's a tremendously talented songwriter, collaborated with some tremendously talented songwriters as well, and he's a great performer, you know. Like

the reason a band today like Nickelback is popular is because there's that sort of, you know, down-to-earth appeal. It's like that every-man appeal, and Bryan Adams has that, had that, continues to have that, and yeah, he's got a character voice. It's very much his. It belongs to him. So good on him, and he's a great photographer. So there you go.

INTERVIEWER: And he's done a [Inaudible].

TARA SLONE: Yeah. He's done great shots [Inaudible].

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

TARA SLONE: So yeah, I'm trying to think of...

INTERVIEWER: Do you know Lisa Dal Bello?

TARA SLONE: Yeah, I'm not all that familiar with her. I remember, like, maybe her one huge hit, but I know that Lisa Dal Bello is an amazing songwriter. And you hear her voice everywhere, spoken and sung.

INTERVIEWER: Here's a sort of an odd-ball one, but maybe you have something to say. Jane Siberry?

01:08:00

INTERVIEWER: It's okay. You can pass it.

TARA SLONE: No, no. It's good to be reminded. Yeah, I remember being very struck by the daring of an artist like Jane Siberry or Mary Margaret O'Hara; and again, have sort of have more appreciation as I get older, you know how out-on-a-limb they went musically. So I have so much respect for artists like that, and I wish I had the balls to do such a thing.

INTERVIEWER: So let me see. Who haven't we touched on? Is there anyone else that comes to mind?

TARA SLONE: I know...

INTERVIEWER: I mean, this has been great what we've done so far, but I'm just wondering if there's someone else.

TARA SLONE: Because BT I was a little bit...

INTERVIEWER: Sarah McLaughlin?

TARA SLONE: Sarah McLaughlin went to my high school. And we had the same voice teacher apparently, but I don't know her. Again, I think that she is extremely daring, and she really led the way for a certain type of female singer/songwriter using you know an obviously classically-trained voice in a pop context is an amazing integration. And I think she's an amazing talent and seems like a very nice person. And she's from Halifax, so I think that's really cool.

INTERVIEWER: And of course what she did with Lilith Fair?

TARA SLONE: Yeah, it's always been hard to be a woman in Rock, and Sara McLaughlin took it upon herself to make it happen. She obviously didn't want to take no for an answer, so Lilith Fair broke things wide open.

01:10:00

TARA SLONE: Yeah, she's at the vanguard of the women in music movement or whatever.

INTERVIEWER: Great. Okay, well, I'm running out of...

TARA SLONE: I guess Sloan is in the '80s.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, yeah. Sloan comes into the...

TARA SLONE: I guess the late '80s.

INTERVIEWER: The late '80s, early '90s, right? (CREW CHAT)

TARA SLONE: Well, I grew up in Nova Scotia for the most part, so Sloan were, you know, local legends. I actually worked in a record store with Jay Ferguson.

INTERVIEWER: Old Dan's Records?

TARA SLONE: Sam the Record Man.

INTERVIEWER: Sam the Record Man.

TARA SLONE: I worked at Sam the Record Man with Jay Ferguson, and they just closed. It's really sad. So yeah, Sloan, local heroes and I love them to this day. I mean, I think each and every one of them is an amazing songwriter. And you know, they've kept it together miraculously, like what a strange marriage. And yeah, I love them. I have a really, really fond spot in my heart for Sloan.

INTERVIEWER: Now do you have a sense of what it is? I mean, you say, "What a strange marriage," but do you have a sense of what it is that makes them special?

TARA SLONE: Well, I think that a band with four songwriters is an anomaly. I think usually there are a couple, but they write individually, and I was in a band that did that, and it was hard. And I don't know. I mean, I don't know them well enough personally to make a guess. Well, no, I will make a guess. I think they are really good at keeping their private lives separate and then coming together when it's time to do music. So there's a good balance for them. But who knows?

01:12:00

TARA SLONE: You know, what was the magic with The Beatles? It was just because they were who they were. Sloan are four guys that work well together. So...

**TRANSCRIPTION SAMPLE**

Interviewee ID  
January 25, 2012

INTERVIEWER: You probably have your favorite Sloan song, but I'm wondering if you can say anything about you know their first couple of sort of breakthrough songs. "Underwhelmed" comes to me.

TARA SLONE (SINGS): She was underwhelmed  
If that's a word  
I know it's not  
'Cause I looked it up  
I love that song. I love that song. I still play Sloan all the time. And yeah, I don't know if it's cool or not for me to say, but I think that's my favorite song by Sloan. I mean there are so many fantastic Sloan songs, but that was just an anthem for me. It just came along at the right time, so I love it.

INTERVIEWER: Great. (CREW CHAT)

THE END