

# Kate Nash

Twenty-eight-year-old singer-songwriter Kate Nash has always had a strong point of view. She's built a career on it: 3 full-length albums, multiple world tours, millions of albums sold. But in the years since her smash debut album, *Made of Bricks*, the famously outspoken Nash has journeyed, incredibly, to an even fiercer expression of self.

Kate Nash has been called "the original misandrist pop star." A fitting *nom de guerre*, for someone who made a name for herself crafting bedroom ditties into scathing indictments of the men she dated. As a teenager, Nash's notoriously raw lo-fi-ism made waves on a burgeoning MySpace and made her a breakout artist almost overnight. By the time she was 20, the singer-songwriter had a record deal, and within a year, *Made of Bricks*, led by the hit single, "Foundations," was wreaking havoc on the charts. It wasn't long before she was being heralded as the new face of British music, dominating the 2008 awards season with Brit, NME, and Q Awards in hand.

Nash's meteoric rise from bedroom songstress to international pop star was nothing short of spectacular. But for Nash, success came at the price of her happiness. "It was all a whirlwind," she remembers. "I'd have these amazing opportunities and be so blasé about them. My team would tell me, 'You're going to the Brit Awards! You're going to perform for this many people!' and I'm like, 'Okay cool, sure.' They'd go, 'Your album went to number one!' and I'd say, 'Okay.'" For all the inspiration she sought to sow into world, Nash could hardly find it for herself.

It's been an eclectic road for Nash since her days putting men on trial in *Bricks*. She's picked up the drums and bass guitar, joined a punk band, and put out 2 more albums. Unsurprisingly, these forays have expanded, wondrously, the scope and sophistication of her songwriting. The material she is churning out has become more lyrically ambiguous, more sonically rich, but still undeniably Nash-ian.

More importantly, perhaps, Nash has rediscovered the power of her voice. She's found solace in being an advocate. It's given her the vision to remember why she started making music in the first place. "I think being pissed off and sort of all the bullshit in the world is really important in triggering inspiration," says Nash. "I've always had a cause. It's really important to stand up for what you believe in. If you are capable of having a voice, then use it. Because there are people out there who aren't. I feel like anyone who has a platform has a responsibility to talk about things they care about – and I care about girls, and feminism, and changing the world."

Now, relocated in Los Angeles, Nash is working on her fourth studio album, to be released in 2016. But music is just the tip of the creative goliath inside her. As an actor, she's appeared in various film and television roles, including the features *Syrup*, *Greetings from Tim Buckley*, and *Powder Room*. She most recently shot a lead role in the Jenji Kohan/Gus Van Sant HBO pilot

about Salem witches. As an activist, she's created GIRL GANG, a content-driven creative symposium for female empowerment and education. She's even ventured into Broadway, composing the music for Andy Blankenbuehler's new musical, *Only Gold*. And that's just the start. Nash's confidence in her newfound purpose is based, in large part, on her faith in her fans. She wants to use her influence to shift gender perceptions and inspire a new generation of women. "It's all about connecting with human beings, really; having opinions and passion and caring and having words that I feel like are important to put out. I'm gonna look back on my life and think: I had a really amazing life, I did what I wanted to do, and I was myself."