

INTRO: the first time I interviewed **RIHANNA** (set visit for Battleship) I have to admit she beside being literally overwhelmed by her beauty and sensuality (can't touch/deny that!) I was mostly struck by how kind, cordial - she even told me to call her by her real name, ROBIN - and above all normal, she was, the exact opposite of the IT GIRL we see on the covers of hundreds of magazines all over the world. The same RIHANNA, who sold 53 million albums, 200 million digital songs, 7 Grammys & 13 #1 singles (just like Michael Jackson). The same girl who with more than 5,5 billion visualizations & 19 videos, is the most seen artist on Vevo/YouTube, and one of the most visible on Facebook, with more than 90 million friends. The same Rihanna who is sponsoring 5 perfumes, 2 Armani time capsule collection, 4 River Island's; the first afro-american to be a Dior testimonial, together with MAC, Viva Glam...I saw her again in numerous occasions (movies & records press conferences), the last one at the Rose Bowl Monster Tour with (2014) and NOW, here she is with Jim Parson & Steve Martin for the presentation of her next Dreamwork movie, called **HOME**, in ITALY...

**WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT THIS ROLE?** "I immediately identify with the story and with Tip. She is someone close to me, someone to respect and to recognize as one of us. Anyone can feel - at a certain point in their life - like a ugly duckling, push to the edge of the world we live in.

**Why doing it?** I had never done an animation film, on which I have to say I did learn how to manipulate my emotions nonin front of a camera, but in front of just a screen, a microphone, where everything is concentrate on the abilities of the actors. And let me tell you, it is not easy. Especially when you have a Barbos accent.

**You did more than just act in this movie, you did write some of the music** "Yeah, in an animation movie, the music is extremely important. When you watch Tom&Jerry you might not realize that they NEVER speak.

Music becomes one of the characters...IU worked very hard on the songs I did write because I want them to be truthful to the audience. I want them to go straight to their hearts.

**AS a kid, what kind of music you listened to?** "reggae, R&B, Whitney Houston, Mariah Carey, Destiny's Child, I also like to mix hip hop & rock,".

**And for you, where is HOME?** “The Barbados islands, my family, friends, food, my culture...it’s where I feel safe & protected. Best thing ewver, my mom’s chicken curry, really, really good.

**What else you like to eat?** “Don’t like very much vegetables ...but love – although I have to watch out - pasta, especially Giorgio Baldi’s aglio olio & peperoncino, my favorite Italian dish”.

**You are often referred as a strong woman, sure of herself. Where does that come from?** My father, I owe this specific trait to him. I also give him the fishing, the running, the swimming, the fact he thought me how to defend form bullies when I was in school. Without his teachings...i would have never survived show business.

**What kind of relationship you have with your mother Monica?** She always tells me to stay away from bad people. ..just like any other mom. She always tried to bring us up in normal environment, she often spoken against what i was wearing, my make up, my clothes etc.etc.. Now she is more relaxed and actually sometimes she picks clothe for me...that I cannot believe she chose. (laughing) Lucky to have a strong family, brother included. We are very close, even though I left the nes when I was only 16. I guess, being away from them, strengthen our relationship.

**Does fashion influence your music?** Absolutely. A lot. When I go shopping zi choose items that I am going to wear in concert or on stage. All the time. Fashion, like music, conveys emotions, statements, likes and dislikes, just like a perfume, that gets right away in your head, in your brain.

**It is known your passion for shoes.** “You are right, I have way too many shoes. Sneaker over high heels, especially when u traveling on an airplane. I have to be honest...the fact that I work closely with Puma, gets me lotsa of sneakers... lotsa of them

**Your favorite ones?** I can recall one of my favorite: white Puma with Jamaican flag’s colors..I wore them till they die.

**What about your next record?** A SECRET... I can only tell you it’s coming out this year.