

Something 'Yummy' this way comes

By MIKE CHAIKEN
EDITIONS EDITOR

It looks like the American pop music scene is about to take on an Israeli flavor as all eyes and ears turn to pop diva Meital Dohan.

Meital just released her debut single in America (produced by Rami Afuni of LMFAO), "Yummy." With an accompanying laugh out loud video being tapped as "Buzzworthy" on MTV and MTV U, Meital is laying the ground work for success as she preps her first ever full-length album, "I'm In Hate With Love."

She's not entirely a new face in teh states. You may have seen Meital on TV in "Weeds" and "Woke Up Dead" in the U.S.

And Meital has already built up a name for herself back at home in Israel.

She is a two-time Ophir Award nominee (dubbed the Israeli Oscars) for her scenes in the films "God's Sandbox" and "Giraffes." She also won an Israeli Tony for "Most Promising New Actress" for her work with the renowned Cameri Theater and was principal star in the Israeli Emmy Award-Winning "Ugliest Esti" – the Israeli version of "Ugly Betty." Her most recent film, "Monogamy," co-starring Chris Messina and Rashida Jones, won the Best Narrative Feature at the Tribeca Film Festival.

The Observer caught up with Meital via email to talk to her about what's on tap for her music career as she sets sail for American success?

Observer: First of all, after being an actress, and a pretty successful one from the looks of your resume, what led you to try your hand at music?

Meital: I've always been interested in music. In Israel, I had a show with famous Israeli singer Ivri Lider. We both sang and acted, but I never really pursued it because I was always focused on my acting until I met Che Pope (Lauryn Hill, Eminem, Dr Dre) who just sort of had instant faith in me. It takes



Meital Dohan is a new pop star from Israel who has just released her first U.S. single, 'Yummy.'

that sort of synergistic, inspirational push to take something you love and make it something you do. From then on it was just, go go go. No stopping.

O: The first track out is "Yummy." How much does that reflect who Meital the musician is all about? Why did you like that track as the first one to announce to the world... here's Meital.

M: Are you asking if I think I'm yummy? Yes, I think I'm quite yummy. I think the song is a get-up-and-dance-and-forget-your-problems kind of song. It's the kind of song you pump up to the highest volume and just sing along to. You listen to it and you feel excited and on top of the world. I want my music to empower people so that's why I thought this was the right track to put out right now. It's not all of me. It's not all I can do. But it sure does say, "I'm here." Generally speaking the album "I'm in Hate with Love" will compile different genres of music- it's all electro-pop— but some of the tracks are more dancey, clubby and some would be more quite lounge-y.

O: The video for "Yummy" is pretty funny. When you saw the completed video, what did you think of it?

M: I thought WTF? I realized I had this idea for the video, which I am getting up in the morning and running around punching people, but only after I saw it did I realize how funny and crazy it was. Besides being funny, the song is speaking to the idea that women can strip themselves of all conventions of being a woman, and just let loose and be who they want to be.

O: There also appears to be a good deal of humor in your persona as a recording artist. Why is it important for you and your fans to have fun with your music.

M: I think my background as an actress in comedy, theater and film is something that definitely informs the humorous, performative element of my music. I think humor is a way to address things that are more serious. I think with humor there's an opportunity to reach people without hitting them over the head with philoso-

phy and ideologies behind it. I think this humorous aspect of myself also allows me and my music to be more relatable. There's something about jokes and making people laugh that really brings people together. It's a shared experience, don't you think?

O: (The video has) also gotten a lot of attention in America, via YouTube, and MTVu. How does it feel to know that your music and vision has able to connect with new fans?

M: Have you met my pet Tiger Charlie (<http://youtu.be/YanWn29-WfU>). He is pretty stoked about it. The truth is that the whole point of art and performance is to communicate and deliver messages, and the larger the audience the greater the opportunity to do that. Whether that's through YouTube, MTV, or through your mother's best friend's ex-boyfriend, I'm lucky that the word's gotten out there and people want to hear more.

O: You yourself have also gotten some attention by being tapped as a Maxim It Girl, how does it

feel to receive such a salute from that mag?

M: It's not hurting my self-esteem. I had the pleasure to be on the cover of the Israeli Maxim magazine and I am happy to be an It Girl in America. Maxim is a big magazine and I'm happy to be a part of it.

O: With your success in Israel from your other endeavors, why have you set your sights on America for the next conquest in your career?

M: Israel could fit inside New Jersey. I know that size doesn't always matter, but in this case, it does. I love Israel and it will always be home to me in many ways. But there was just more territory in this world for me to cover. The truth is I get to travel all the time between New York, LA and Tel Aviv so I'm never really too settled in one place. I like to cover a lot of ground, literally.

O: The album will be coming out in the summer. What can fans expect from it? How is it progressing?

M: The album is still evolving and I'm really exciting about the direction

it's going in. I think fans can expect to be surprised. It's not an album that can be pinned down to one genre or one thing because it embodies many parts of me. I think fans can expect a lot of yummy music, and that's really what's important. I want to have an album that is diverse compilation of music that you can dance to and some of the songs you can listen to during the day and some you can listen to after a heart break and cry. Sprinkled with Meital on top.

O: The album is called, "I'm in Hate with Love." How did that title come about and what does it mean to you?

M: It's about the times we're living in, a time where capitalism trumps love. Everyone is so busy and self-centered; the habit of loving yourself has superseded the love of others. People have forgotten about relationships and what it means to really love each other. Monogamy is becoming less and less prevalent. I think that the value of relationships and love is on trial here, and if not on trial, it's definitely a question we should all be asking ourselves. That's the journey I'm on here in creating this album and where the "I'm in Hate with Love" comes from.

O: What are some of your favorite artists you listen to and why them?

M: I like to listen to so many different kinds of music. Music that makes me dance. Music that makes me think. Music that makes me zone out and forget it all. Right now on the iPod I'm going between Kanye, Jay Z, Portishead, Dinah Washington, Nina Simone, The Killers, and Air. I like artists that create something wholly original and true to them.

For more information on Meital, go to www.meitaldohan.com. To see Meital Dohan's "Yummy" video, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a4JWVzAvXlk>

Foxwoods offers opportunity to audition for 2nd season of 'X Factor'

Foxwoods Resort Casino welcomes guests brave enough to face Simon Cowell to unleash their inner rock star and audition for the second season of "The X Factor" with a chance to win a \$5 million dollar recording contract with Sony Music. FOX's hit singing competition series is shaking things up with a revamped audition process to feature more talent than ever before.

As part of this expanded auditions process, MyStudio HD Recording Studios will be open across America. New England's only MyStudio HD video booth is located at Foxwoods Resort Casino outside the Hard Rock Café. Auditions begin Friday, March 9 and run through Sunday, April 15. Hopefuls can showcase their musical talents with a two minute audition video created sole-

ly in the state-of-the-art booth to submit to The X Factor online at MyStudio.net.

"The X Factor" discovered such diverse recording artists as winner Melanie Amaro, and finalists Astro, Chris Rene, Josh Krajcik, Marcus Canty and Rachel Crow, who have all signed major deals with Sony Music, and the second season makes this opportunity available to more hopefuls

than ever before. In addition to the MyStudio HD Recording Studios, the series reopens its invitation to all of America, ages 12 and over with no upper age limit and for the first time artists with pre-existing management contracts will be allowed to audition.

But the fun doesn't stop once the audition period is over. The MyStudio HD Recording Studios will become a mainstay within

Foxwoods' diverse entertainment offerings. Guests can enjoy a slew of exciting applications both personal and professional including: auditions, business ads, dating service, karaoke and much more. With thousands of background beats and music tracks to choose from, the possibilities are endless.

Videos can be viewed, emailed, posted on the MyStudio website, entered

into contests, downloaded to a cell phone, posted online, shared with friends on Facebook, or ordered free of charge as a DVD or mp3. Videos remain confidential until made public by the creator, visit MyStudio.net for more details.

Visit www.MyStudio.net for audition information and audition details.