



Samantha Jade 'MEN DO N'T ASK ME OUT'

THE CHART-TOPPING X FACTOR WINNER
AND FORTUNE HAVEN'T BROUGHT HER
REVEALS FAME
EVERYTHING...

It's been a long way to the top for the pop princess, but Samantha says she's learnt from her experiences, good and bad.

She's the golden girl of the Aussie music scene, and since taking the crown on *The X Factor* three years ago, Samantha Jade has become one of our brightest stars.

The pop princess has wowed on the small screen as Kylie Minogue in Seven's mini-series *INXS: Never Tear Us Apart*, as well as supporting megastars One Direction on their Australian tour earlier this year.

And next up, she'll be hitting TV screens as she joins the cast of *Home And Away*. But Samantha, 28, doesn't have it all.

Blessed with good looks, it's easy to assume she would have her choice of eligible men – but that's not the case.

'I don't know what it is,' she moans. 'I'm pretty friendly, but then I'm also pretty shy until I get to know someone.'

'I never get approached when I go out, to the point where I'm like: "Is there something on my face? Is my hair sticking up?" But to be honest, I'm happy being single. I'm focusing on my work and my family, so it's OK.'

Of course, as her fame grows, the songstress has learnt to be wary of strangers' motivations.

'I never had to think about that and now I do when I meet people,' she admits.

Thankfully the Perth-born

star has a strategy in place to weed out any potential undesirables: her two younger brothers, Alex and Thomas.

'They can see through people straight away, so I'll always bring one of them. One of my brothers is actually my PA, so they're with me pretty much 24/7,' she says.

Since their mother Jacqui passed away from brain cancer in June last year, Samantha has become a mother figure to her

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brothers – who show an aptitude for singing. Will they be tempted to follow in her footsteps?

'They're both great singers and I had no idea. Who knows if they'll get into the industry,' she answers coyly. 'But if they do, they've got a good role model in me and I'll keep them grounded.'

For down-to-earth Samantha, it's all about the music. 'Fame has never been something that's driven me to do this. If I'd wanted to be famous, I would have just tried to date a footballer or become a party girl. I just wanted to be known for my music,' she says.

Indeed, her eyes light up when she talks about her most recent single, *Shake That* – a girl-power

anthem featuring vocals from US rapper Pitbull.

'I feel like this song is about standing your ground. You don't want girls to feel like when they get dressed up and look a bit sexy that it's an invitation – it's not,' she says. 'Men have to work for it, they can't just have whatever they want.'

The song is telling. In an industry dominated by men, her journey hasn't been easy. The petite singer reminisces about recording sessions in all-male

studios where she worried about not being 'taken seriously'.

But with almost 15 years of industry experience, Samantha has earned her stripes. She first landed a record deal in 2004, relocating to Tinseltown with her family.

'When I first got signed when I was very young, I was flown to LA with my family and lived in a house in the Hollywood Hills,' she recalls. 'I worked with big names, went to the AMAs and gifting suites – I had this life that was crazy!'

Then things turned sour. After being dropped by her label, she returned home to work for her dad's business in Perth.

'The saying: "Be nice to people on your way up because you'll meet them on the way down," is very true. I've been in both places and it has made me very humble.'

But if her mother's death has taught Samantha anything, it's not to sweat the small stuff.

'I've got a new lease of life,' she says matter-of-factly. 'After everything that happened with my mum, I have a totally new way of thinking.'

'I used to set goals for myself, but you just don't know what's going to happen – things change every five seconds. I just hope I'm happy, number one, and that I'll always have my family around me.'

'You never know what life's going to bring or who it's going

to take from you. My goals and priorities are a bit different now.'

With her new role as the mysterious Isla on homegrown soap *Home And Away*, Samantha is fulfilling a lifelong dream.

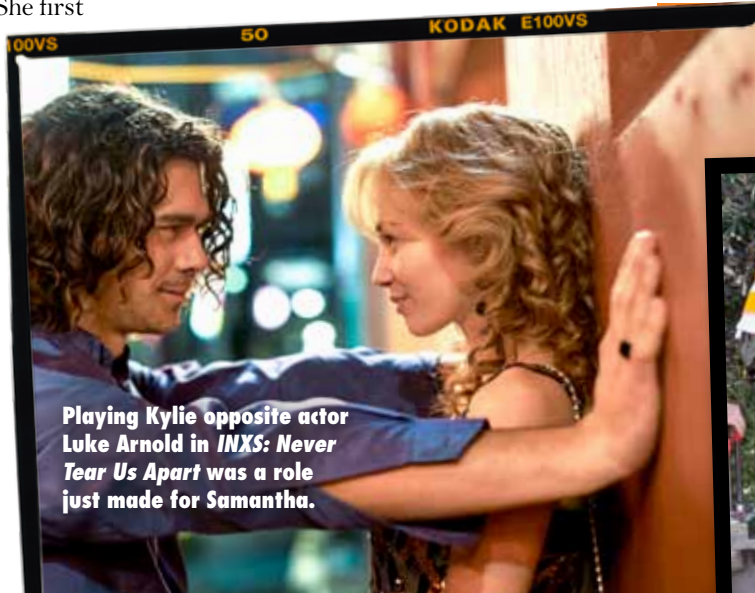
'It is really exciting. I've wanted to do more acting and I wanted to do something unexpected and different, and this is very, very different to Kylie [Minogue],' she said as she elatedly announced her new gig to *The Saturday Telegraph*: 'I am coming to the Bay!'

Though her arrival is being kept under wraps and she won't be onscreen until early next year, Samantha has dropped a few hints about her character.

'She comes to the Bay with bad intentions,' she says. 'She has a bit of a past and she falls for one of the favourite boys on the show.'

By Paul Ewart **NI**

Samantha is performing as part of Nickelodeon's Slimefest at Sydney's Olympic Park on September 25, and at Melbourne's State Netball and Hockey Centre on September 27. Tickets are available at ticketmaster.com.au.



Playing Kylie opposite actor Luke Arnold in *INXS: Never Tear Us Apart* was a role just made for Samantha.



Shaking up the Bay!



After the success of the *INXS* movie, Samantha is spreading her wings with a role as bad girl Isla on *Home And Away* (below). The singer says losing her beloved mum Jacqui (right) last year made her reassess her priorities and take life as it comes.