'American Idol' Performer Qaasim Middleton Says, "My Girlfriend Has Been a Huge Impact in My Life!"





By Rebecca White

We haven't seen the last of Qaasim Middleton! The performer has been a busy actor and musician since his first appearance on television in 2007. With fame and fortune still to come his way, he keeps himself grounded with his faith and his girlfriend. This week, he was eliminated from the reality TV show American Idol after being in the bottom two with his performance of "Stronger" by Kelly Clarkson. But don't worry: In our celebrity interview, he says he has "so much in the

Qaasim Middleton Talks Relationships and Love

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Middleton first got his start in the Nickelodeon show *The Naked Brothers Band* and is the guitarist of the real band of the same name. Still, his busy lifestyle hasn't stopped his relationship and love life from flourishing. He says that he's had a girlfriend for about a year and that she's been a "huge impact in my life!" He doesn't like to talk about his girlfriend very much because he wants to focus on his work instead. However, he does say that being with her has been "a great experience."

Middleton was in the bottom two based on his performance of the famous break-up song "Stronger" by Kelly Clarkson. During the performance, he wasn't thinking of a past relationship and love though. Instead, he was thinking about "my *Idol* save and how I came back strong from that." With the new fan save element introduced last week, he had to fight for his life on the show for the second time (as he received the judges save earlier in the competition). He sang the song "Hey Ya" by Outkast, which ultimately resulted in his elimination.

Post-*American Idol* Plans for Eliminated Contestant

While most eliminated contestants discuss their album plans, Middleton is thinking even bigger. He has a video game in the works, likes to MC, is a producer, and, of course, will be writing more music. "Being a versatile artist helps with the

professionalism and the craft," he explains. "I'm going to do some big stuff. The game is about to be completely changed." He plans to be the "next big stadium artist" and is excited to start boosting his career.

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Although we've all come to know and love the energetic and lively performances from Middleton, he says that's all new to him. "I've been singing and playing guitar since I was 10, and I just started doing the dancing thing in December," he shares. "This is all new to me. I was experimenting with how good I can do and be, and I found out that I'm pretty good at singing and dancing." It's clear the 19-year-old is starting to find himself and his comfort zone. We can't wait to see what new things he has to offer!

You can keep up with Qaasim Middleton on Twitter @QaasimOfficial!