



DeeDee Austin

EMERGING INDIGENOUS POP ARTIST

DeeDee Austin is a 20-year-old Indigenous pop powerhouse and proud member of the Abegweit First Nation on Prince Edward Island. A hybrid artist in every sense, DeeDee fuses contemporary and traditional Indigenous music into a sound that's uniquely her own—vibrant, emotional, and made to move both hearts and dance floors. Her high-energy performances and heartfelt songwriting are earning her recognition far beyond the Atlantic Provinces, with a growing national following.

DeeDee Austin   @deedeeastinmusic

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ABOUT

In **2025**, DeeDee stunned audiences across the country as a standout contestant on **Canada's Got Talent**, receiving **Howie Mandel's coveted Golden Buzzer** for her powerful original song, "**Buried Truth**" which tells the story of her great-grandmother's experience at a residential school. The viral moment introduced a wider audience to her signature blend of raw honesty and polished pop sensibility.

DeeDee's sophomore EP, **Stay Dancin'** (2023), produced by **Corey LeRue** (Neon

Dreams) and **Chris Kitby**, is a bold follow-up to her 2021 award-winning debut **Stepping Stones**. Her recent single, "**Tell Me (Why Am I So Different)**", released June 21, continues to showcase her evolution as an artist who writes with purpose and performs with passion.

Her résumé includes major performances at the 2023 **Canada Games Closing Ceremony**, **North American Indigenous Games Opening Ceremonies**, **Wildfire Recovery Concert** (alongside Classified, Neon Dreams & Matt Mays), **Stan Rogers Folk Festival**, **Granville Green**, and **CBC's Road to the Junos** series in Halifax.

Named **Music Nova Scotia's Indigenous Artist of the Year (2022, 2023, 2024 & nominated in 2026)** and nominated for **Dance Recording of the Year at the 2024 ECMAs**, DeeDee's impact is being recognized by industry and community alike. She's also the recipient of the **Chief Noel Doucette Youth Achievement Award**, **Women in Music Canada Honours (2023)**, and **SOCAN's Young Canadian Songwriter of the Year (2022)**.

DeeDee has opened for **April Wine**, and over the past year, has shared the stage with **Classified**, **David Wilcox**, **Amanda Marshal**, **Michelle Wright**, **Bruce Guthro**, **George Canyon**, **Dave Gunning**, **JP Cormier**, **Neon Dreams**, and **Drives the Common Man**.

"My goal is to touch the hearts of all my listeners through my authentic lyrics," she says. "I pour my heart into everything that I sing and play."

With her star on the rise, DeeDee Austin is more than a performer—she's a voice for her generation, an ambassador of culture, and a force on the national stage.

"I WAS MESMERIZED BY THE ENGAGEMENT AND EXCITEMENT SHE FOSTERED IN HER AUDIENCES."

**- Richard Champagne,
Anglophone School District West**

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SCHOOL PERFORMANCES & EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Passionate about using music as a tool for positive change, DeeDee shares messages of resilience, kindness, cultural pride, and self-acceptance. Her school performances combine dynamic live music with personal storytelling—encouraging young people to embrace who they are and to lead with courage, empathy, and heart.

Songs such as Stay Dancin', Breathe, Create a Life, and Buried Truth serve as powerful entry points for dialogue, helping students reflect on their own experiences while building empathy for others.

DeeDee creates a safe and supportive environment where students feel seen, heard, and encouraged. Her approach invites participation while respecting individual comfort levels, and students often continue conversations long after the performance ends.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Length: 45-60 minutes

Format: Live performance with storytelling, discussion, and optional Q&A

Grades: Suitable for middle school through secondary (adaptable)

Through original songs and personal storytelling, DeeDee explores **themes** including:

- Overcoming bullying, racism, and discrimination
- Mental health awareness and emotional resilience
- Indigenous identity, Truth and Reconciliation, and intergenerational healing
- Kindness, empathy, and creating safe, inclusive communities
- Goal-setting, confidence, and finding your voice

"HER MESSAGE OF STRENGTH, UNDERSTANDING, AND EMPATHY IS EXACTLY WHAT OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY NEEDED."

— Ian Morrison,
Vice Principal, West Hants Middle School



EDUCATIONAL IMPACT

DeeDee's presentations align with school priorities including:

- Social-emotional learning
- Anti-bullying and mental health initiatives
- Indigenous education and Truth and Reconciliation
- Equity, diversity, and inclusion programming

"SHE CREATED AN INCLUSIVE SPACE WHERE INDIGENOUS STUDENTS FELT SEEN AND HEARD, WHILE ALSO ENGAGING NON-INDIGENOUS YOUTH IN MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS." — Sarah Francis, Director, Indigenous Teachings, Anglophone School District West

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