



hard and just as difficult,” she said with a laugh. “There is an image difference ... if someone starts on Broadway or starts in a TV show and then becomes a pop artist or a rock artist or a singer-songwriter, people already have this perception of them from what they used to be involved with. So that’s why I prefer starting from originality and then going into [those other avenues] later.”

Step one is already well underway. Brandii had already amassed 6,000 followers on TikTok just from her self-promotion of *People Pleaser*. Then she uploaded a rehearsal clip of her singing “Part of Your World,” from *The Little Mermaid*, which has received 1.9 million views on that platform since it

was posted Feb. 20, and her following has nearly tripled.

Brandii says she’s drawn inspiration from confident, powerful and outspoken women who aren’t afraid to be vulnerable or call people out. She lists Florence Welch (of Florence + The Machine), Alanis Morissette, Brandi Carlile, Adele, Taylor Swift and KT Tunstall as some of her greatest influences. Other influences include David Bowie, Freddie Mercury and The Beatles.

For *People Pleaser*, Brandii focused on channeling that energy, challenging herself to be even more open than she was with her first record, pushing through any remaining fear and discomfort she had in sharing her story. The album is about empowerment and freeing herself from abuse, she said, and her hope is that it inspires others to embark upon that journey for themselves and feel less alone.

“I knew that the way

Chloe Brandii and Josiah Robinson in California Regional Theatre’s recent production of *The Little Mermaid*.

PHOTO BY SHARON DEMEYER

that I’m ultimately going to be able to help people isn’t by putting on a face and being like some nice, cute, fun, perfect, poppy artist,” she said. “I knew that the way I would ultimately make a better impact on people’s lives is by being really down to earth about [my experiences] and speaking out against [abuse] so that other people can relate and feel comfortable doing the same thing and feel comfortable getting out of things.

“Now it’s about healing. Now it’s like, ‘OK, I’m going to move on and I’m going to move forward and leave and get out of all of it, in my brain and in my head and in my soul and everything.’ So I wrote my story, my actual story, without hesitation. That was the most freeing part about the whole experience.” □

Listen:

People Pleaser by Chloe Brandii is available on Spotify, Apple Music, YouTube and more. instabio.cc/chloebrandii

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