

## Local artist popular in Panama

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A new song from Regina teenager Meagan Taylor is burning up the charts in Panama. "It's getting lots of radio and television interest," says her father and manager, Doug Taylor. The newly released song, "Rojo Caliente (Red Hot)," is being played on all six of the major Panamanian radio stations up to 10 times a day.

Reggaeton is huge in Panama, which has been called the birth place of the musical style with 96 beats per minute and often gritty lyrics. Meagan, however, has brought a touch of Canadian culture with her and essentially created a genre that's being called reggaeton pop. "It's important to me that my lyrics send a good message to people," Meagan says.

Her video -- while still somewhat racy by Canadian standards with sweaty club scenes and smoldering looks -- is tame by reggaeton standards. "Even a kid could watch a video like that," Doug says. It doesn't have any of the offensive language or nudity common to the genre, and the beat does get your foot moving. But will it be a success in North America when half of it is in Spanish? "We're releasing an all-English album in North America, and remixing an all-Spanish album in South America," says Meagan.

The original will be released on June 9 with quite a bit of fanfare. Meagan's launches so far have been in clubs in Panama where she embraced the South American culture and was recognized for that. "The organizers were very pleased to see a Canadian influenced by Panamanian music and incorporating so much of their culture into the show," says Meagan.

Keep in mind the 18-year-old Riffel student has a lot more on her plate than ensuring the success of her international album. After all, graduation is just around the corner. "The school's been very supportive," says Meagan. It was gaining her own confidence -- fostered by her friends and family -- that has her flying between Regina and Panama releasing red hot albums and landing endorsements.

"We haven't launched the CDs yet, so there have been no sales to this point," says Doug, "but we've been very well received and have some endorsements already."

Delidas Hot Sauce, for instance, is prominently featured in the video and the smaller company beat out bigger sponsors like Tabasco for a simple reason:

"I love hot sauce, and Delidas is one of the best I've tasted," swears Meagan.

The student-turned-entertainer will be very busy over the next few weeks with launches, radio contests, live appearances and remixing her songs to make them appeal more to the North American audiences. But looking at a long hot summer of hard work, she just smiles.

"I love every moment of it," she says. For a preview of the video you can check out <http://www.ifilm.com/video/2849581>.

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