

The next Ed Sheeran?

In front of the museum Tate Modern, a big group of people were sitting on the floor, listening to the voice of the twenty years old Irish guy with his guitar. His name is Imralis and I had the chance to talk to him afterwards. He talked about his passion and why he doesn't set himself any goals.

By Annina

Since when have you been playing on the street? And why have you started?

I have been playing on the street for nearly two years. I started because I was working in a fishmonger. Every day you smell like fish, it's horrible. So I didn't want to do it forever and I had a guitar and in my breaks I would go out and play and I was making more money than in the fish shop so I thought about doing this for a living and so I quit.

How much money do you get in a month?

I don't know, it's like between 70 and 100 pounds a day.

Who's your inspiration?

Glen Hansard. Most people don't know him, he's an Irish guy. He doesn't have a very nice voice, like a very beautiful voice but he has a lot of passion and I try to do the same thing.

Do you have a favourite band or artist?

I don't listen to bands, maybe Twenty One Pilots. But I'm a big Ed Sheeran fan, obviously, I'm playing a lot of his songs. Also Damian Rice, another Irish guy, and



Imralis in front of the Tate Modern.

kind of Passenger but his last album was a bit shit. I was very disappointed.

Has someone ever reacted badly towards your performance?

Oh yes, all the time.

Why do they react badly?

Because I scream and not everyone likes that. A lot of people like a nice, beautiful voice and I start screaming and they think, what are you doing.

And what did they do? Did they say something?

No, they just pass by and shout something back. They never stop.

On the other side, what was the best experience you ever had while you were singing?

Someone proposed to his girlfriend in front of me. That was really cool.

What do you like most about busking?

No one has to stop, so when they do stop, it means they like you. If you're in a pub and people are already there, they kind of have to clap otherwise they are not very polite. But everything on the street is very genuine and there is no barrier between you and the people. So you can come and chat after and do interviews (laughs). It's all very natural.

You also write your own songs which are on Spotify and your YouTube channel but where do you get your inspiration for these songs?

My songs are all really personal. Which is good and bad. But I can't write if it's not a real experience. So when something happens, I write it down and sing it. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't.

What's your dream and where do you see yourself in five years?

I don't want to have like a set dream because I think when you hit that you'll get comfortable and you stop, but I just want to play bigger and bigger shows. Right now I play pub gigs and no one comes, it's just the bar staff. Which is nice but I just want to keep moving on slowly. And I don't know if it will be five years or fifteen years but I think if you keep trying it eventually gets you somewhere.

When asked if he had any quote to end the interview he just smiled and said he wasn't that inspirational, he was only twenty years old. When he is forty then he'll give quotes. And maybe someday Imralis will play on stages as big as Ed Sheeran does.