FLORENCIA GALARZA

Q: How do you play for a team for so long? How do you find community in New York City? Within your creative world, within your friends, within you used to always have a good team. Do you see that out in groups? Or do you like to kind of skip that sometimes?

I feel like it's inevitable to find a community wherever you go. So, when I moved to New York it was more of a music fashion community, not so much sport, and just by meeting one person you're immediately pulled into their community. So, when I moved here, it was a pretty easy transition coming to New York and doing the community stuff with fashion kids, and music kids, like the downtown kid. So, it was super ... It was an easy transition.

Q: What inspired you to go from soccer and being athlete to DJ and fashion?

Since I was a little girl ... This is really funny. I knew every single song on the radio, always. Every genre, and my Mom would be like, "You're so annoying. You literally know every single song." Then, when I stopped playing soccer because of my injury, I was like, "You know what? I love music. Let me just go right into that." I had a couple of friends who were DJ's, so I was like, "Can I try this out? I'm super down. I know music. I know every type of music from Latin America, to Hip Hop, to anything. I'm down."

Q: Do you feel like music helped you when you were injured?

When I was injured, I was so sad, and music always makes you happy, even if it's a sad song, so just being able to focus on music and having that not only be my career, but kind of like a therapy thing, it totally kept my mind off of sports for a while, but eventually ... I'm an athlete at heart, so I went right back into it.

When I used to play soccer, I would listen to music before a game, to get me hyped. Before a game, we'd even blast music mad loud on the field, and it was great. It just always ... That's why everything's always related for me.

Q: Do you deal with pressure your daily day life differently having competitive sports?

So, if I don't have pressure in my life I just can't function. If you're not pressured, you'll never know how fast you'll run, or what you can create. It's necessary with who I am. That's just how you flourish, that's how you learn, that's how you create stuff, being pressured.

Q: Is there anybody that create that pressure for you or is there anybody that inspires you to move forward?

I feel bad saying this, because I'm not a narcissist, but I inspire and pressure myself. I have this little crazy person in my brain that tells me to run faster, do better, just in general in life pushes me to the next level. It's really funny, I just wish one day someone could record everything that's going on in my head, because it's so crazy, but its gotten me where I'm at. So, I'm my own inspiration, because I know my limits, and I test my limits, and I push my limits. I'm realistic. I can't compare to myself X sports super mega star. I compare myself to myself, and I try to make myself better every day.

You could always be influenced by other people, and stuff like that, but some people are not totally realistic, and that's when you're let down, and sometimes that let down will take you away from what you're doing because you don't think you're good enough, but you are in your own way. You don't need to be like that person, you need to be you, and that's it.

Q: How do you train yourself kind of remind yourself to be authentic to yourself?

I don't need to remind myself to be authentic. It's just what it is. Since day one, I've always been that way. I don't care who that is, who that is, what she's doing, what she's doing, I'm good. I like what I do, I like what I wear, I like what I say, think, listen to, I feel great. It's fine. Every one should do that. Just be you.

Q: What are three items that you really associate yourself with that you define yourself and that you really enjoy?

So, my Grandmother was the gold chain queen. She did it in a very classy, beautiful way, and I did my Miami flair to it, so I have all her gold chains from back in the day. People who even know me, if they don't see me wearing a gold chain, they're like, "Wait, there's sometimes wrong with Flo." It's funny, because it's a gold chain, but it's something that I grew up seeing my Grandma wear, and she gave them to me, and it's just part of me. It's who I am. The same thing with soccer cleats, which I have over there. If there's not soccer cleats somewhere in the house, in the vicinity, or even a soccer game on TV, I just feel crazy. I'm like, "Hold on." This is also my life, and what else ... I don't know.

Even though I'm American, I'm very Argentinian, so around my house you'll see I have Gaucho poncho right there. That's super dope. It's right there on the couch. Or little things that are from my culture, my family's culture. I need that in my life.

Q: Do you have a big family?

My family is massive. It's unreal crazy, I have a million cousins, 10 000 Thea's and Theo's, and this person in Italy, and this person in Argentina. It's crazy.

So, I've finally understood that my creativity, or when I want to feel free and just do my thing, has always been through clothes. Shoes, clothes, accessories, stuff like that, just being funky with it, and not caring, and it's such a release and freedom when you just create what you're wearing and not looking at other people to see what they're wearing. Just do your thing. Grab your thing and go out and do it, and for some reason its always been my creativity. Just through clothes.

Q: Finish the sentence. I’m a \_?

The first thing that comes to mind is I am a fighter. So, I am a fighter. Whatever it may be, I'll fight for myself, I'll fight for my team, I'll fight for women, my family, but I am a fighter. That's it. Facts. I'm a fighter. I'm not like a fighter, I'm not going to punch you in the face, but maybe I'll give you that death stare, but I'm a fighter like I won't ever give up.

Q: How do you describe your personal style?

My personal style, I think it's very classic, but also I'll add some funky tips to it, make it my thing. It's always been a classic kind of chic, with a bit of street sport to it. It's a whole mix of stuff, but it works.

Q: In your DJ career, what is that associates? This is the scene: within all male DJ creatives, female sports?

So, when I started DJ'ing with all guys with my little DJ collective called Been Trill, at first it was so dope, because, me in my perspective, we were all brothers. That's it. That's how its been also when I played soccer with all the guys back in Miami, we're brothers. I was one of the guys. But then, as it started to evolve, I never got any recognition at all, and I DJ'ed 80 percent of the time, and then everyone else was just faces. Then I'm like, "That was me. I played that song." So, it got kind of super competitive, and it wasn't so much of a family. I have a different experience, so that's why I had to disassociate, because I'm like, "I do stuff as a family. I'm competitive, but if this is my crew, this is my tribe, we're going to do this together."

Q: What about for soccer?

Well, soccer, you have to play it as a team or else it's not going to work. I grew up playing with guys. The first person who taught me to play soccer was my guy cousin, and I play like a dude, I dress like a dude on the field, so it's totally different. I earned my respect since day one playing soccer. DJ'ing, I was new to it, and I got into a mix where it was real musicians, real DJ's, so it's a little bit more difficult, and a sport isn't so much about being cool. A sport is about playing sometimes that you love, and there's little differences.

The reason why I did well with DJ'ing was because of my taste levels, and my song selection, but it's different. You can't compare it. They're two different worlds, and I was not lucky. It's just who I am. I guess I have good taste when I do stuff, from picking out clothes, to playing a ball, I have good taste in making a play to picking out music to play at a club or whatever. It's totally different. Totally different. When you're on a team, again, it doesn't matter. You're not trying to impress people, you're trying to win, and when you're playing music, or in a collective, or whatever, it's all about, "Oh, is that song tight? Is that the new song? How do you look? Are those the headphone-" All this extra-ness that kind of takes away from the beauty of the music, almost. That's my experience. I'm not speaking for everyone. I'm a very natural person, so when it gets super extra like that, I'm like, "I'm out." I can't.

QUESTION: Who do you like to collaborate with? And why?

I've always wanted to collaborate with the women who are running their industry, whoever it may be. From a musician, to a politician, to an athlete, so they can use their platform just to make us women so much more greater, and speaking out for us, and just fighting for us, because there's so much more to be said than just, "Look at the way that I dress, and buy these products." It's something more substantial. So, whoever that person is in your industry, if you have that vision to actually change the world, for real, and that's who I want to work with. I don't care about what you're wearing. You're down to actually be in it, and change stuff, and have a voice, and speak up, then I'm down. That's what I want to do. That's who I want to work with.