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ET ONLINE / September 20, 2013, 11:39 AM

# Billy Ray Cyrus defends daughter: "She's just Miley"



Miley Cyrus and father, Billy Ray Cyrus, arrive at the U.K. premiere of "Hannah Montana: The Movie" held at the Odeon, Leicester Square on April 23, 2009, in London. / TIM WHITBY/GETTY IMAGES

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After riding a wrecking ball naked, twerking on Robin Thicke at the MTV Video Music Awards and making out with a sledge hammer (yes, we had to bring that up again), Billy Ray Cyrus told Piers Morgan on Thursday night's CNN show that Miley Cyrus is still his little girl.

"I'm her daddy. I come from that school of as a singer-songwriter, as a musician, that it starts with a song. And it's that magic moment when a song finds the right artist, the right singer, and it becomes a synchronicity of that moment in time," the 52-year-old "Achy Breaky Heart" singer explains. "Miley harnessed into something very special. She's just Miley. She's an artist, she's real."

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As for her highly sexual, tongue-wagging new persona, he says, "I think that's what's happened over the years, Miley has been reinventing her sound. She's evolving as an artist herself. I think that it's all of what everyone is calling controversy now. That's still my Miley."

Cyrus also has an interesting reaction to the 20-year-old "We Can't Stop" singer's **VMA performance**, telling Morgan, "Miley again, you know, I think she could've went out and sang the song in a flannel shirt and a pair of jeans, and it would have still been just as strong. Would we have been here talking about it? No way."

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Continuing to defend his daughter, Cyrus adds that he thinks this change of character is what she needed to break out of the mold of being a Disney star. "Miley's smart enough to know that to come out of the shadows of 'Hannah Montana,' it really takes something extremely drastic, which when you go to that level, it creates passion, and passion is either love or hate. But there's no middle of the road for passion."

He continues, "She has risen to a whole new level. I thought I had seen it all -- until these last couple of weeks."

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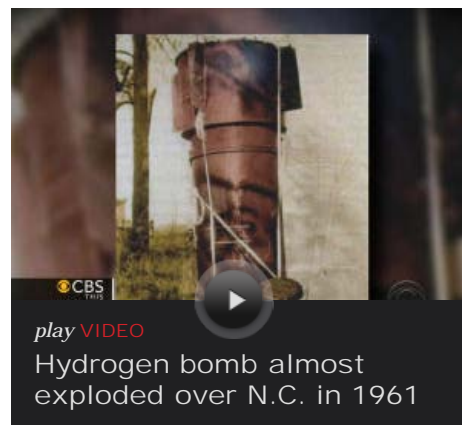


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...but she does have talent.

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Good for him! I'm sick of seeing everyone hate on her for this! She is an adult now and I don't recall everyone acting like that over Rhianna, Beyonce or Madonna!

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NIRAK2-2009 says:

I don't think much of Billy Ray Cyrus as a father I would die of shame having my daughter behave the way Miley does.

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LOVETHEUSA2 says:

A good father would help his daughter. Miley is in trouble and it is quite clear to all the public. She is 'acting out' as the mental health people would say. Miley's

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Dad needs to grow himself a backbone and help his troubled daughter out; money does not matter...family does.

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HM8432 *says*:

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The 'Dad of the Year' has spoken!

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I guess Miley thinks what she did at the VMA's was good for all the pre teens that look up to her a role model.

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