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## Archuleta

Continued from 55

Overall, Archuleta said, "I'm kind of tired of people saying I should know better and [are] still treating me like I have to live according to their expectations and standards, when I'm in a different place of life now."

### The example of Miss Frizzle

Archuleta said after growing up "in a culture that taught me fear is a good thing," he's learned to detach himself from that. He's taking risks — whether with his music, his clothing or other choices.

His inspiration, he said, is Miss Frizzle, the teacher from the children's show "The Magic School Bus" — whose motto was "take chances, make mistakes and get messy" because "that's how you learn, how you discover."

"She doesn't let anyone control her and tell her what to do, and by doing so she's able to live a happy, exciting life where she learns more than anyone else does about how life works," Archuleta said. "A lot of times when you're in a fear-based culture, you're taught, like, if you don't fear, and if you take too many risks, you will put yourself in danger."



Courtesy: Shaun Vidler

David Archuleta pictured on the set of his music video for "Afraid to Love."

Archuleta said he's always waited to speak about things until he's ready. Now, he feels like he is. On his last album, he started doing exactly that.

"I didn't come out until I was ready to accept that about me, and then I had to figure

out how to be OK to talk about it," Archuleta said. The new song, he said, is how he's finally expressing himself.

"Where I was before in my religion, it's not OK to talk about, to be OK with being gay," he said. "That's something people need

to realize, that's why I have to talk about it. Because I'm trying to free myself and give myself the power to love myself and feel good in my own skin, I have to talk about this and I'm going to keep talking about it. ... That's how I find my own voice, instead of letting other people talk for me."

Doing that, through song and through interviews, Archuleta said, is healing for him — and helps him find himself while he's still struggling with confidence and judgment.

Archuleta said he still values a lot of the things he grew up with, and still has friends from the Latter-day Saint community. But "I've been afraid of myself my whole life. I need to stop being afraid of myself, and I'm over it."

"If I write songs that are honest about my journey, and that offends people, then OK that's fine, but it's my life," he said. "All I'm doing is being myself. I'm damn proud of being who I am. That's all I've ever tried to be and it's just sometimes it takes time to figure out certain parts of who you are."

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David Archuleta is scheduled to perform four shows at The Egyptian Theatre in Park City, May 30-June 1. Tickets can be purchased online, at parkcityshows.com.



# utah arts festival

June 28—30 | uaf.org



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