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Joss Stone

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Started by **GuardianTalk** at 11:58am Sep 24, 2004 BST

Is she any good? She can hold a tune, but is it really soul music? Does it matter?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/arts/fridayreview/story/0,12102,1311090,00.html>

[Temeura](#) - 12:01pm Sep 24, 2004 BST (#[1](#) of 32)

She's the Jamie Cullum of soul music.

[KasperHauser](#) - 12:02pm Sep 24, 2004 BST (#[2](#) of 32)

Is she any good?

No.

She can hold a tune, but is it really soul music?

Yes, probably. But bad soul music.

Does it matter?

Does anything matter?

[Avonlea](#) - 12:03pm Sep 24, 2004 BST (#[3](#) of 32)

The first album is masses better than I thought it would be - I feared another in the vein of Norah Jones/Katie Melua, but she's in a different class.

Still not knock-your-socks-off good though.

I think she's mildly superior to Jamie, **Temeura**.

[Bartlebooth](#) - 12:06pm Sep 24, 2004 BST (#[4](#) of 32)

' Does it matter?'

Who gives a fuck whether it 'matters' or not? If you enjoy it, great. If not, then listen to something else. End of.

[pyxis360](#) - 12:12pm Sep 24, 2004 BST (#[5](#) of 32)

Joss Stone is the new queen of soul. Kneel before her.

[ajthompson](#) - 12:54pm Sep 24, 2004 BST (#[6](#) of 32)

She's a fantastic singer. Her material is questionable.

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[jacobheath](#) - 01:08pm Sep 24, 2004 BST (#7 of 32)

With AJ on that. She needs to tell Everyone who has anything to do with her career to fuck off, go and find some young musician dudes who don't care about The Industry, and lock themselves in a garage for a few weeks. Cause at the moment it's just Tesco soul and you suspect she could do better

[will787](#) - 01:36pm Sep 27, 2004 BST (#8 of 32) | [Delete](#)

What is "really soul music" ?

The new album is more pop but maybe it is a new development for soul music.

The really important question is whether there will be seats in the balcony by the time Joss Stone reaches Exeter. The Great Hall is sold out apparently so presumably the balcony will be open.

My idea is that the White Stripe fans can stand or dance in the main area while the Thom Bell fans can sit down comfortably in the balcony. Devon soul is influenced by old record collections, including the Spinners obviously.

By the way, Hall and Oates have a reasonable cover due out soon. Check their site.

If you think soul music should stay as it was in 1964, maybe you should blame Berry Gordy. He must have realised that going for pop would result in some more people liking it.

Some other locations may still have tickets. The seat concern is just a Devon thing.

[will787](#) - 01:45pm Sep 27, 2004 BST (#9 of 32) | [Delete](#)

The Hall and Oates freebie seems to have gone but there is some news

"On Sept. 28th we will be releasing into the stores a limited edition commercial single of "I'll Be Around". It will also feature Let Love Take Control and You are Everything."

<http://www.hallandoates.com/main.html>

More Thom Bell needed Is this single available in the UK?

Not off topic yet, Spoiled could be a single.

[subsub](#) - 03:13pm Sep 27, 2004 BST (#10 of 32)

I can't believe that she really sings like that naturally.

Sounds like a Janis Joplin Stars in their Eyes thing, and the cynic in me thinks that she was just a fan when she was 12, and thinks that by apeing her, she can create a niche for herself.

[BenSawbridg](#) - 06:35pm Sep 27, 2004 BST (#11 of 32)

Beverley Knight is way better

[will787](#) - 06:48pm Sep 27, 2004 BST (#12 of 32) | [Delete](#)

My own opinion is the best environment for Janis was Big Brother and the Holding Company, pretty much a rock band. I'm not sure the soul approach worked so well.

Joss seems to be starting with soul and expanding as pop. This could go further.

Beverley Knight as what? Is she a rock singer now? Maybe she's the one who

thinks she's Janis.

[will787](#) - 11:46am Sep 28, 2004 BST (#[13](#) of 32) | [Delete](#)

http://www.boston.com/news/globe/living/articles/2004/09/28/on_mind_joss_stone_soulfully_stretches_out/#

This review starts out with some acceptance and sympathy for where the album is coming from.

I'm not sure what the Guardian concert reviewers actually listen to.

[Godwin](#) - 01:33pm Sep 28, 2004 BST (#[14](#) of 32)

age 54 music lover all kinds (but not much country)

Of course she is special, truly a very gifted young woman. Obviously she is in danger of being fuked over in every possible way by the circling predators.

If I could speak to her i would say, hang out with musicians like Cyndi Lauper. people who's integrity shines through.

But to attack the confidence of a 16year old is shameful

[seldomseenkid](#) - 01:46pm Sep 28, 2004 BST (#[15](#) of 32)

The whole Joss Stone thing is really starting to piss me off a bit. My case for the prosecution is that any of her backing singers could do the songs just as well, if not better, but they haven't got a record deal or a load of pr behind them because they're not a pretty sixteen year old white girl from Devon.

A friend of mine who's a journo was trying to interest various papers, to no avail, in doing an interview with Mavis Staples recently to tie in with her new album, which is apparently pretty good. Doubtless they would have been interested in an nth piece on JS.

[Manofcole](#) - 09:22pm Sep 28, 2004 BST (#[16](#) of 32)

JS takes over rated to new levels, she has no soul, a mildly distracting voice but all too much like that woman who sounded like she was pooing a pineapple from a mid 90's band who I have fortuitously forgotten the name of.

[BenSawbridg](#) - 09:22am Sep 29, 2004 BST (#[17](#) of 32)

Beverley Knight as what? Is she a rock singer now? Maybe she's the one who thinks she's Janis.

will787, sorry I have no idea what you're talking about.

Beverley Knight is a far better, less hyped (British) soul singer than Joss Stone

[Diablo74](#) - 09:28am Sep 29, 2004 BST (#[18](#) of 32)

I liked the album of covers she did but I'm not impressed with her own stuff. Good voice and cool person but I don't think her song writting's up to much yet but then again she is only 16 so no doubts she'll get better

[tarsier](#) - 10:04am Sep 29, 2004 BST (#[19](#) of 32)

I think she needs a bit of mentoring, by Beth Gibbons say.

[ajthompson](#) - 10:52am Sep 29, 2004 BST (#[20](#) of 32)

That new Beverley Knight single is great. Can't see why anyone would compare Joss Stone's voice with Janis Joplin - surely the most overrated singer in

history?

[CaroleBristol](#) - 11:00am Sep 29, 2004 BST (#21 of 32)

Personally, I rather like Joss Stone. OK she isn't Aretha Franklin or Mavis Staples but she is at least listenable. What she is doing is better than the average and she isn't just a pastiche.

Janis Joplin was a better rock/blues singer than a soul one but coming from Texas that is hardly surprising really.

I can think of a load of second rate black acts that Joss Stone is an improvement on but we seem to be back in 'Can blue men play the whites?' territory with this thread.

[Northlandpanels](#) - 11:01am Sep 29, 2004 BST (#22 of 32)

I think she needs a bit of mentoring, by Beth Gibbons say.

What, get her on 60 fags a day?

[will787](#) - 11:19am Sep 29, 2004 BST (#23 of 32) | [Delete](#)

Bensawbridg

Has Beverley Knight changed style just a bit recently? Actually I'm not sure if rock or pop are suitable words. No reason she should stay as 'really soul' whatever that means.

[raisinbran](#) - 11:46am Sep 29, 2004 BST (#24 of 32)

don't like Joss's voice (reminds me of Heather Small); don't like the music she sings. I turn over as soon as she comes on the radio.

[titicamara](#) - 11:50am Sep 29, 2004 BST (#25 of 32)

hear hear rb

[will787](#) - 02:25pm Sep 29, 2004 BST (#26 of 32) | [Delete](#)

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4048671>

sound interview with Mavis Staples

based on new CD

One aspect of Soul sessions etc is that people will check out other records

No concert planned for Exeter though.

[macnurse](#) - 06:55pm Sep 29, 2004 BST (#27 of 32)

I like Joss Stone's voice and many of the covers on the first album. Saw her singing her good single live on telly the other night and was impressed by her confident performance. She is, of course, from "the village of Devon, England" so I am obliged to treat her as kin and defend her from uncharitable contempt, which I really don't think she deserves.

But her second album is not good, the single aside. I did only listen once and it was on very low as I was at work, but wasn't impressed on first hearing.

[salvmaca](#) - 09:15pm Sep 29, 2004 BST (#28 of 32)

I can think of a load of second rate black acts that Joss Stone is an improvement

on but we seem to be back in 'Can blue men play the whites?' territory with this thread.

Well said **Carole**. One of the criticisms of Joss Stone when the first album was released was that there were endless numbers of better young Black singers who wouldn't get as much press. The problem with this point of view is that most of those other singers want to be the next Beyonce Knowles rather the next Betty Wright. Personally I think Knowles is the single most overated vocalist that I've heard for quite some time, and I would far rather listen to a Betty Wright wannabe than yet another rapid-fire Beyonce wannabe.

Unfortunately Stone's latest single is by-the-numbers R&B and strays too close to Beyonce territory, but much of the new album is very listenable and is a nice progression from the cover versions. I still think her version of *The Choking Kind* is one of the best I've heard, with maybe only Mavis Staples bettering it.

CaptainBlack - 10:16am Sep 30, 2004 BST ([#29](#) of 32)

The constant references to 'soul' get on my nerves. If you have to draw attention to it, you ain't got it.

pelethar - 02:25pm Oct 1, 2004 BST ([#30](#) of 32)

Why does she have to put on that ridiculous American accent? It gets right on my pecs.

BenSawbridg - 08:32am Oct 4, 2004 BST ([#31](#) of 32)

The constant references to 'soul' get on my nerves. If you have to draw attention to it, you ain't got it.

nice soundbite but meaningless

will787 - 12:20pm Oct 12, 2004 BST ([#32](#) of 32) | [Delete](#)

Last Friday chart page claims Joss Stone 'used to be a backup singer for Britney Spears'.

Did the Guardian just make this up? any other source?

Why do they say such things? Was it intended positively?

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