

# AT OUR TABLES (2008)

EVANGELINE RECORDS (US)

## BLOGCRITICS.ORG

At Our Tables, the fourth album from Eileen Rose, was first released back in March 2008, but with a new UK and Europe tour imminent, here it comes with a 7 track "live in the studio" bonus disc, where Eileen and her band, The Holy Wreck, take a turn at seven of the tracks featured on the studio release. Which is a very long sentence, and I apologise for it.

People who know about this sort of thing like BBC Radio 2 disc jockey Bob Harris, have been championing Ms. Rose for quite some time now, and it's easy to see why. She has a fabulous voice and writes great songs. It's as simple as that. But you probably want a few more details, so here we go. It's basically a heartfelt country / folk crossover, almost as if Sheryl Crow had left her leather trousers at home one day, and decided to go properly rootsy on us.

Straight from the opening track "\$20 Shoes," you're ushered into a world of catchy melodies, clever wordplay, and choruses you can sing along to. Which is pretty much all you want from a singer / songwriter album. Of course, it could all fall flat on its face, but Ms Rose has a grit to her voice and an edge to her music that lifts it far out of the world of elevator music and into the realms of timeless musical elegance.

The modern world of Americana and roots music is full of chancers who think that an acoustic guitar and a world-weary lyric is enough to make them interesting. It's not, and this is exactly the kind of album that should put them firmly in their place. Sit them down, play them songs as good as "Blue Moon Words," "The Day Before," and the bluesy "Will-O'-The-Wisp," where she rips your heart apart in a duet with Nick Lucassian from Detroit rock and soul band Shipwreck Union. That done, send them on their way to the Job Centre for a career change.

The second, live disc is where Eileen and her road band get their chance to put a fresh impression on the studio material. She says that she "had to get this band on tape, they're that good," and you're not going to get any arguments from me. She has a voice that can rough it up in a roadhouse on the aforementioned "Blue Moon Words" or salve your soul on "I'm The Only One." An outstanding album that should be feted with balloons and bunting.

## THEIRISHWORLD.COM

Like an explosive science experiment that crosses Chrissie Hind and Polly J Harvey, alt country singer Eileen Rose's fourth album, At Our Tables, sees the remarkable vocalist take her sound to Detroit. The result is a moving record, and its tremulous, breathy celebration of life, love and human nature might just be her best yet.

Each track is haunted with a wealth of experience – you can even hear the influences of the city where it was recorded. Rose is far from her Boston roots here, and deliberately surrounding herself in the in-your-face, rock and roll industrial vibe of the metropolis.

The Holy Wreck is the singer's band, which now encompasses demi-god Rich Gilbert on guitar – one-time collaborator of Frank Black & The Catholics. He may have been adored for his punk rock influences, but by the 90s, Gilbert was moving towards a passion for country. As Rose says; "The Holy Wreck were the core players in the studio. It's one of the things that make this album the most well-realised of all my records".

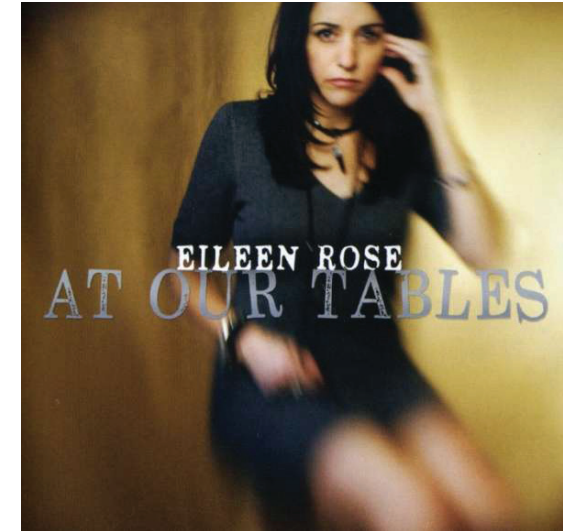
The title for the album happened in Michigan, when Rose picked up a book at a house she was staying in. Entitled "For One More Day" (by Detroit author Mitch Albom), its opening quote read: "The Dead sit at our tables long after they have gone."

Coming from a tight family, this immediately struck a chord. "Our circle of folks sitting around the kitchen table... is getting smaller. But still, it feels like everyone is still there. In many ways for better or for worse. These songs are full of conversations, pleas, compliments, explanations, rebukes, white flags, inside jokes, thank-yous, last words, and apologies to both the living and the dead."

So the album is about people; people Rose knows, has known, will never know. It's both sad and celebratory, pissed off and grateful, soft and gritty. It's an album that deserves to make this rhinestone cowgirl a huge star.

# EILEEN ROSE

PRESS ARCHIVE



## REMARKABLE VOCALIST.

THEIRISHWORLD.COM

## EILEEN ROSE RELEASES DARKLY BEAUTIFUL NEW ALBUM.

SHELLEY MARSDEN

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### GET READY TO ROCK MAGAZINE [HotDigits.co.uk](http://HotDigits.co.uk)

Fourth album by Eileen Rose whose earlier releases have been mainly in the alt country field. This new album does have some moments of alt country but musically it is much wider in scope. Songs like 'Bird Of Youth' are in the folk genre and Eileen Rose sounds like the late, great Kirsty MacColl on this one. '\$20 Shoes' and 'Doesn't Mean A Thing' plough a more up tempo rock route and it is to Rose' credit that she can change her vocals to suit the music. 'I Am The Only One' will delight lovers of well crafted female singer songwriters and unlike some female singers who go to wispy on the vocals Eileen Rose keeps her voice nice and strong throughout even the quietest moments. This album also includes a live disc and she sounds as good live as she does in the studio. The set list covers this new album plus a few older songs.

There are a lot of female singers out there in the alt country and singer/songwriter fields but Eileen Rose is worthy of your attention as she has the songs and most importantly the voice, to make you sit up and listen.



### TOXICPETE.CO.UK

Wow, cop a load of this then you lot!! 'At Our Tables' is the latest album from Eileen Rose & The Holy Wreck; steamin' friggin' hot and leaving bloody great blisters on anything it touches, 'At Our Tables' is a work of modern genius, a 'sound-track' of distinction, a piece of twenty-two carat gold modernistic nu-country/indie rock. Yep, 'At Our Tables' is rock-on, rock-solid - fanbloodytastic! But, don't just take my word for it, get yer arse out there and get yourself a copy of this remarkable work!

Rose doesn't simply blur genre, Rose bends genre, manipulates the rules, knocks down and crushes ideology, sets new standards - she just does it her own way - and, what a way it is!! Think what Stevie Nicks would sound like if she had a more robust delivery and a darker intonation to her voice. Then think what

Nicks' Fleetwood Mac would've sounded like had they really taken the trouble to err on the country blues side of light rock. Now think twenty-first century blues-tinged nu-country and you'll be getting somewhere close to Eileen Rose's blissfully beautiful musical world.

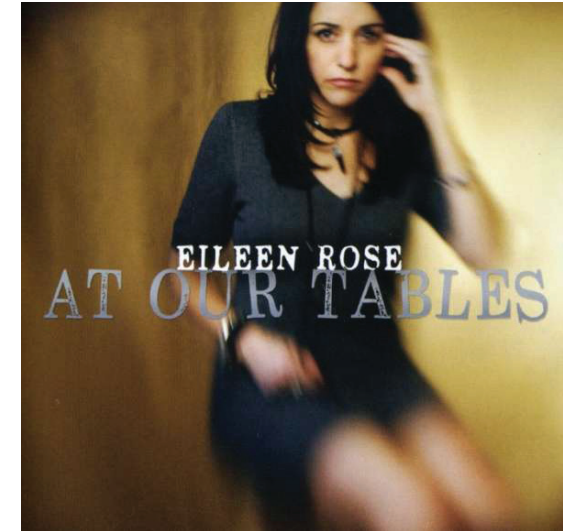
Rose delivers her songs powerfully but manages to maintain just the right degree of emotion and believability. This is one hell of a 'singist'!! Rose has a distinctive voice and delivers her songs with true female balls something along the lines of an impassioned P J Harvey. This lady knows how to emote, this lady understands emotional vocal dynamics, this lady is pretty much as good as it gets!! And, don't think that Eileen Rose is only a pretty face and a great vocalist. Oh no, this lady is a songwriter of the highest calibre and she quite obviously knows her way around a guitar and a piano. Eileen Rose is the complete package. And, to give herself the kind of support she deserves she's pulled together a whole shed-load of stunning musicians to assist here - the result is a very special album of breathtaking nu-country songs, performed with total commitment and true professionalism.

A wondrous piece of work that you'd find it difficult to criticise or find fault with.

'At Our Tables' by Eileen Rose & The Holy Wreck comprises ten stunningly delivered studio tracks and a second disc re-visiting seven of those tracks in the live 'theatre'. And, disc two, the live one, really gives you the feel of what this fantastic artist can do and you'll be amazed just how good she is 'in the flesh'! The whole thing's beautifully assembled and impressively packaged - what crackin' value and what a stonkin' album - one that would grace any collection anywhere! 'At Our Tables' by Eileen Rose & The Holy Wreck is a superb album, surely a 'must have' work for anyone who appreciates 'proper' modern music. Absolutely bloody brilliant!!!

# EILEEN ROSE

PRESS ARCHIVE



*A SUPERB ALBUM,  
SURELY A 'MUST HAVE'*

*ABSOLUTELY BLOODY  
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[TOXICPETE.CO.UK](http://TOXICPETE.CO.UK)

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**PENNYBLACKMUSIC** Reviewed By: Malcolm Carter

I missed out on Eileen Rose's debut 'Shine Like It Does' so it wasn't until 2002's 'Long Shot Novena' that I heard her for the first time. It was a good, solid album, so much so that it made me shell out for her follow-up in 2005, 'Come The Storm'. Again that was a solid collection of songs but it's telling that in the few weeks that I've had 'At Our Tables' it's already been played more than both those earlier albums have over the last few years. In fact I think I'm in love (again).

If this had been my introduction to the music of Eileen Rose then I'd be hailing her as the best female singer to come out of America in the last decade. The fact that I'd heard those other good but so-so albums before stops me short of making such claims, but if Eileen continues making music of this calibre then it won't be long before she, not only starts shifting shed loads of albums, but starts gaining more praise along those lines. Bob Harris has been in her corner since the beginning and with each album Eileen has been adding more and more admirers to her fan-base, but surely no one could have predicted that on her fourth album she would turn out such a strong set of songs.

It makes me smile a little, check out her web site or reviews and you will see that Eileen has been compared to almost every female singer from Ani Di Franco to Stevie Nicks taking in Chrissie Hynde, Lucinda Williams and Sheryl Crow along the way. But listen to the vocal on track five, 'I'm The Only One', and tell me who she really sounds like. She sounds like Eileen Rose and she sings on this very song "I'm the only one who's ever been like me." While I appreciate she didn't write the song with her vocals in mind the words are very fitting particularly as Eileen makes one of her best vocals of all time on this song. From the opening line of "Shut your mouth and hold me, why don't you?" she holds your attention and for the next four and a half minutes your world, your very existence belongs to this Boston girl. She has a voice that is both seductive, innocent and knowing and which could wipe the floor with most of the above female singers (Lucinda being the exception).

You want more proof? Try 'Bird Of Youth', a smouldering vocal performance that is enhanced by superb backing from her band. Eileen has left the alt-country leanings of her previous albums behind with this album and while, especially on this song, those country touches are not far from the surface they are now mixed with pinches of pop and soul which make a much more interesting and satisfying collection of songs than we are used to from Miss Rose.

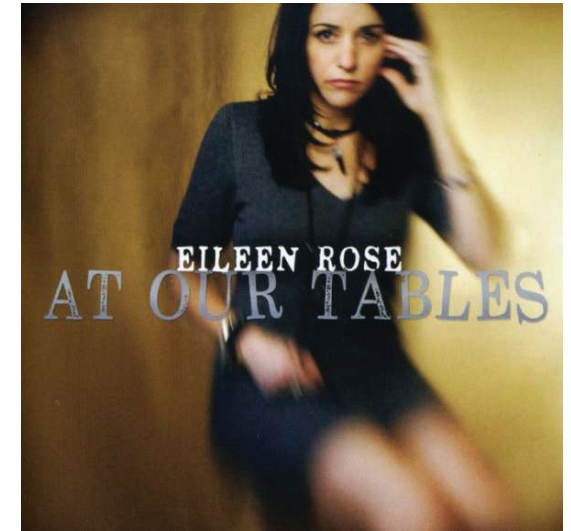
But it's not only those vocals, Eileen, on this album, proves time and again that when it comes to writing unforgettable melodies then there are few singer / songwriters that come close to her today. Take a listen to 'Jeannie Steps Out' and try to get that melody out of your head. It will stay with you all day and so it should. It's simply sublime. Add to that those vocals and you're transported away from the humdrum of your daily routine to that place where you want to be.

As if giving us eleven original songs which rank among the best we have heard from any artist this year wasn't enough Eileen also adds a seven track CD of live versions of songs on 'At Our Tables' to the package. Recorded with her band the Holy Wreck in June 2008 it shows that Eileen and the band can cut it live as well as in the studio.

This is a career high for Eileen Rose and can't be recommended highly enough. In an already overcrowded market here is a woman who is currently holding first position in the female singer / songwriter genre. This is an absolutely stunning album and one which stands head and shoulders above the competition.

And I didn't even mention that this double CD comes in a cover that must rank as one of the year's best...

**EILEEN ROSE**  
PRESS ARCHIVE



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**PENNYBLACKMUSIC**

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### ADRIANDENNING.CO.UK

I like the title, it's taken from the book 'For One More Day' by Mitch Albom. 'The Dead sit at our tables long after they have gone'. Post 9/11, Eileen put things into perspective and spent time with her family. This, her fourth album, was cut with her band 'The Holy Wreck' and she's been touring around and about, trying to finally get people shouting from the rooftops for her that isn't just Bob Harris on Radio 2. 'At Our Tables', originally released in March has now been reissued with a seven track live CD. It's an attractive package with a cardboard sleeve and nice pictures with an informative set of liner-notes, lyrics included.

Describing her sound isn't easy though, she plays something in-between the boundaries of country/folk/rock/indie - without fitting comfortably into any of those categories. Occasionally her voice reminds me of Kate Bush yet she'll then twist a word by ending with a firmly American twang. All of these things are present on one of the standouts, the beautiful, thoughtful piano-ballad 'I'm The Only One'. Soft acoustic caresses against the falling piano-chords and she gently swoops in and out of the melodies.

'£20 Shoes' and 'Old Time Reckoning' make for an upbeat, hook laden start to the LP, 'Failure To Thrive' is an utter gem and songs like this and 'I'm The Only One' see that she's not afraid to poke fun at herself whilst writing an excellent song at the same time. 'Blue Mood Words' returns the album to uptempo fare at just the right stage after a number of ballads and cliché I know, but 'At Our Tables' just gets better and better the more you listen to it. What at first seems professional singer/songwriter/roots fare ends up being far more than that. She's got a way with a melody that's a rare gift these days.

**8/10**

### THE BEAT SURRENDER

At Our Tables is the fourth album from Eileen Rose and it sees her stepping even further away from her alt country roots as she brings a more polished sheen to her tracks, this though doesn't weaken her sound in anyway shape or form.

Backed with her band the Holy Wreck she crosses Sheryl Crow style country pop with an edge that you would get from our own Polly Jean Harvey on her more melodic output. The tracks get easily under your skin and lyrically she's got a real knack of getting your empathy rising to the surface with each and every word she sings.

I'd love to see her live next time she tours to see if there is even more intensity when she performs live, something that would have given the album that little extra kick.

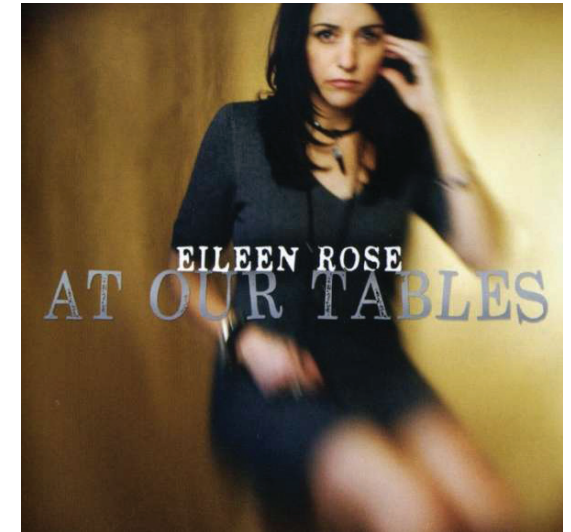
### SUBBA-CULTCHA

For those of you who haven't come across Eileen Rose before, this is her fourth album. Eileen made somewhat of a name for herself with her first two albums, written and recorded in the UK. Her brand of pop tinged alt.country, more accessible than the likes of Wilco or even Ryan Adams, saw her come to the attention of Alabama 3, who she joined on the single 'Wade Into The Water', before returning to the US to write 2005's Come The Storm, expanding her palette with intense emotions and wide angle soundscapes. Now, her voice shaped by a lifetime's worth of experiences, Eileen and her band (The Holy Wreck) have decamped to Detroit, it's tough industrial atmosphere reflected on the tracks here, from catchy first track '\$20 shoes' through emotional ballads like 'Seven Winds'. This is an album that really reflects the life of its writer, giving a window into Rose's life so far. If you can, pick up the version with a bonus live disc, to get a real flavour of just how powerful Eileen's live show is!

**8/10**

# EILEEN ROSE

PRESS ARCHIVE



*'AT OUR TABLES'  
JUST GETS BETTER AND BETTER  
THE MORE YOU LISTEN TO IT.*

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ADRIAN DENNING

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**EILEEN ROSE**  
PRESS ARCHIVE

### **DAILYMUSICGUIDE.COM**

#### Review of 'Doesn't Mean A Thing'

(At Our Tables album track)

Championed by Bob Harris on Radio 2, Eileen Rose is emerging as one of the US's top female artists at the moment. 'Doesn't Mean A Thing' is taken from her fourth album At Our Table, marking her breakthrough into the mainstream.

With a voice that sounds like a creamy cup of hot chocolate, mixed with a sprinkle of acoustic and electric guitar that resonates through the soul like that first throat-burning sip, Eileen serves up a song of lost love, full of swagger, resilience, and brilliance.

Beginning with a beautifully slow intro, it blossoms into the epic chorus before gracefully mellowing out. Her voice is full of grit and power, which compliments the electric guitars perfectly, taking influences from the likes of Pat Benatar and Stevie Nicks.

Whilst it may not appeal directly to the commercial music industry, (let's face it, songs that are as mature and alternative as this never make it to the top of the UK Top 40), for those who love and respect the independent scene, full of rich material such as this, it's an essential addition to any music lover's catalogue, and a good solid taster of her album.

*Smooth as cream, yet warm as a cup of coffee,  
'Doesn't Mean A Thing' is a very tasty little number.*

Rating: **5/5**

*EILEEN ROSE, Best Songwriter You've Never Heard Of.*

Mark Beech August 2008

