

ON TOUR



Gina Villalobos

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She has been dubbed the new queen of country rock, and seemingly out of nowhere, the exotically-named Gina Villalobos has rapidly established a growing cult following in the UK for her melodic but edged rock music. Though she's been knocking around the music business for a number of years, it wasn't until she released the widely acclaimed ROCKNROLL POSY a couple of years ago that Gina made that all-important international breakthrough.

With an endorsement from BBC Radio 2's Bob Harris, the album became a must-have commodity leading to Gina making her UK debut in early 2005. Since then she's been back again and again, building a substantial fan base

around the growing number of listening venues. Gina returns again this spring, this time to promote MILES AWAY, her third solo album, due for release in early May on Laughing Outlaw Records.

The album features nine originals, and a stunning reinterpretation of the BeeGees' penned Yvonne Elliman hit *If I Can't Have You*. Revealing a deeper, darker, more soulful and reflective side to Gina, MILES AWAY provides yet further evidence of her burgeoning talent.

In many respects Miles Away is an apt title for the album, as this past year Gina has been many miles away from her California home with not only extensive touring across the UK, but also the Netherlands, Spain, Australia and New Zealand. She tells us in the CD booklet that many of the songs were written in

the numerous Travelodge rooms she stayed in whilst touring across the UK. Obviously touring and songwriting go hand-in-hand for Gina as the quality of her new songs is at times far superior than those on her previous albums.

In talking about the new album, Gina says: "I always want people that listen to my records to feel something. Whether that feeling is happy or sad or points between, it's all fine with me. In terms of production, instinctively I'm always striving for a pop song, but even more than that I try to stay close to how a song wants to organically form itself. One supports the other, it's primarily an intuitive process, but not everything that comes out is always the right song for the album. I started out with 18 songs, here's a reason why only ten made the record. I feel there are definitely some strong songs that didn't make this

record. It just didn't make sense to put them on MILES AWAY. I can compare it to a movie. It would be totally random if a character was just inserted into a scene half way through. It would make no sense. They would disrupt the entire flow and message of the movie. I think it's important to show restraint. Restraint in terms of production, restraint in terms of choosing your final songs for your story. It helps to clarify. I like to avoid the soup effect and just put as many songs as I have on a record. It just turns into an ego fest at that point. I am a firm believer in less is more." **Adrian Cooke**

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